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*LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL*

*PARISH COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER*



**MAY 2011**

[www.levington.org](http://www.levington.org)

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Dear Villager and Subscribers

Hello and Welcome to the May 2011 edition of the Parish Council newsletter. A warm welcome also to any new residents in the parish.

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### **MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH CHAIRMAN (David Long)**

After the 5<sup>th</sup> May Parish Council elections, I had hoped to be able to confirm a full complement of parish councillors (6 for Levington and 1 for Stratton Hall) to take us forward for the next four years. However, that has not happened as you will read on the next page. Only five residents stood for seven seats. Under electoral laws and rules, under which elections are held, appointment of councillors without an election is permitted when there are insufficient candidates. If there are not enough candidates to fill the remaining vacancies the Representation of the People Act 1985, section 21 allows the elected members to co-opt members to fill the remaining vacancies.

The first meeting of the new council and AGM was held on 10<sup>th</sup> May and the new team are ready to take on the challenges ahead. It will be without doubt a difficult and challenging time for local government and public services. Parish councils and their councillors will continue to be at the heart of communities delivering much needed representation and services at significant value for money for residents. The current Localism and Big Society agendas and commitment from the coalition Government to unlocking the potential of the first tier of local government creates a significant opportunity for our own local community. We will continue to aim to run the parish council democratically, professionally and efficiently.

At the Parish Council meeting, I was honoured to be voted back in as your Parish Council Chairman for another year term so I can continue to sign off as.....

*[David Long - Parish Council Chairman]*

## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Unlike, in previous parish council elections, this time around we have not been able to fill our quota of 7 councillors (6 for Levington and 1 for Stratton Hall). Despite encouragement in our March newsletter for villagers to come forward to stand for election, in the event only five of the existing Parish Councillors stood and they have been duly returned unopposed to serve the parish of Levington.

They are: Ian Angus, Nick Hopkins, David Long, David Pryke and Pat Pryke

There are now two vacancies - one for Levington and one for Stratton Hall and the new Parish Council, elected for the next four year term are now tasked to co-opt for these two vacancies. Ruth Payce and Linda Sharpe decided to step down and did not seek re-election. Through this newsletter we place on record and publicly thank them for their contributions and time spent supporting the work of this Parish Council. We wish them well for the future. We are sure they will continue to keep a keen interest in parish affairs. As a small gift from their fellow parish councillors, begonia plants were presented to them at a briefing meeting recently.

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### THE SIR ROBERT HITCHAM'S ALMHOUSES IN LEVINGTON



The Trustees would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in becoming a resident in the Levington Almshouses. *Please contact:* the Clerk to the Trustees, Louise Overbury, 659712, or Trustee, Jo Wenham on 659509.

The very attractive Almshouses on Bridge Road were founded by Sir Robert Hitcham and were eventually completed in 1654. Sir Robert was born in 1572 at Burnaville Hall, Levington. The almshouses today, with their flowers, paved courtyard and gardens remain a very attractive feature of our village and an extremely pleasant place to live.

### **MONTHLY LUNCHEON CLUB**

The Lunch Club team has been serving wonderful meals for over 17 years in the village and at the same time hardly repeated the same menu twice! Quite a feat! In April everyone sat down to lemon chicken, followed by fruit crumble. In May the menu was Meatballs in tomato sauce and Queen of Puddings - yum!

### **BETH REACHED HER 93<sup>nd</sup> BIRTHDAY**

It so happened that Beth Beaumont, who resides in our one of our Almshouses, had her 93<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the same day as Luncheon Club in April in the village hall. Her fellow members thus surprised her with a warm rendition of Happy Birthday and a cake with lighted candles to celebrate this occasion.



Happy 93<sup>nd</sup> Birthday to Beth



## REPORT OF THE LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB MARCH MEETING



The speaker for the March meeting was Mr. Alick Barnett from the Ipswich Transport Museum. His talk was entitled 'Wheels of Ipswich - 200 years'. He showed digital images (many vintage) of local transport by road, rail and water and how Ipswich had developed over the last 100 years and the role that transport had made in that development. He also went on to tell of the evolution of the Ipswich Transport Museum. This museum is devoted principally to the history of road vehicles as represented by those used or built in the local area. The museum collection was commenced by the Ipswich Transport Preservation Group in 1965. In 1988 it obtained the use of its present premises, the old Priory Heath trolleybus depot in Cobham Road, Ipswich and it has been opened to the public since 1995. Its collection of more than 85 vehicles includes trams and trolley and motor buses from Ipswich Corporation Transport, the Eastern Counties Omnibus Company and other local operators. They also have commercial vehicles, fire apparatus, mobile cranes, bicycles, biers, horse-drawn vehicles, prams and wheelchairs and many exhibits from Ipswich manufacturers Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies and Ransomes and Rapier.



## THE 50th ANNUAL PIN MILL SAILING CLUB BARGE RACE

The date for this year's sailing club barge match is:

**SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

You will need to watch the local press for tides and start times nearer the time.

The **SMACK RACE** for 'Smacks' and ex-working craft is scheduled for:

**SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE**



The sails of the 'Smacks' are usually red ochre in colour which makes them a picturesque sight in large numbers on the River Orwell.

You can get a good view of both these races locally either on the Levington foreshore or near the Loom Pits the other side of the Marina.



## LEVINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, WI members voted on two resolutions which will eventually be debated and voted on at national WI level.

They were:

- (1) **'The Closure of Local Libraries'** *urging the Government to maintain support for local libraries, as an essential local educational and information resource and*
- (2) **Proposed Mega Farms** *the practice of factory farming particularly large animals such as pigs and cows and urging the Government to ensure planning permission is not granted for such projects.*

After discussion and listening to both sides of the issues, members determined to vote 'yes' to 'The Closure of Libraries'. They were undecided on 'Proposed Mega Farms' and felt the resolution could have been better worded. They have asked the 'delegate' to use her discretion regarding the voting at the National AGM. Both resolutions will be dealt with at the National Federation of WI's AGM in Liverpool in June. Every WI in England and Wales will have debated and voted on these before then and voting decisions taken to the AGM. If passed NFWI will be campaigning at government level in Westminster. Pat Pryke will be the local group delegate at Liverpool taking the votes of Levington, Nacton, Bucklesham, Brightwell and Foxhall and Kirton with her. President Pat Owen will also be going having successfully obtained a place on the trip. So the two Pats much look forward to a very interesting visit to Liverpool and the AGM and not least the enthusiastic singing of Jerusalem by 4,000 + WI members in the huge Echo Arena in Liverpool!

After the serious discussions of the resolutions, to finally lighten the evening, the competition was making 'A Vegetable Head'.



**FELIXSTOWE AND DISTRICT**  
**SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM**

The Safer Neighbourhood Team for the rural villages around Felixstowe, including Levington, meets every 3 months to discuss any initiatives that need to be made to reduce crime in our area.

The latest meeting was at Waldringfield Village Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> April. Sgt. James Harper explained a breakdown of the crime figures for the area and the priorities that were in place to reduce them: he was able to report that the overall number of crimes continues to fall. The Police are, however, very concerned at the instances of houses, cars and other property being left insecure. To combat this they have instigated a "DON'T BE A LOSER" campaign. Householders are visited and given security packs, then property is marked with security pens and photographs taken of any high value items.

The Police visited Levington on 29<sup>th</sup> March and 17<sup>th</sup> April and the service has been well received. This campaign will continue over the summer months.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT WE DO NOT HELP THE BURGLAR:  
LOCK UP!**

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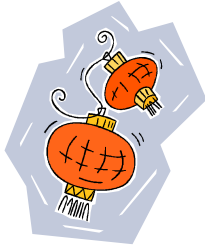


**ANGLIA IN BLOOM 2011**

Levington has been entered into the 2011 Anglia in Bloom and, again, this will be spear-headed by Bob Hardwick. Bob will do whatever he can to ensure a good entry but he would be grateful for some help. Are any of the previous 'Bloomers team' available this year? Or could anyone else in the village spare a little time?

Please contact Bob on 659631 for more information. Can we make it three Silvers in a row or even a Silver Gilt!

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## CHINESE LANTERNS - A CAUTIONARY NOTE

Chinese lanterns don't cost a lot to buy, are easy to use and can be thought to look very pretty when lit and set off into the night sky. In effect they are like mini hot-air balloons as they are composed of paper, wire and flame.

In many areas of the country they are becoming increasingly popular to set off at parties, music festivals and weddings etc. There are reports that they can travel as far as 30 miles in the air kept upwards by the heat of the flame until it burns out and falls to the earth. Yes they look pretty! But farmers have been urging people to think carefully before setting off these lanterns into the countryside. What harm can they do? It has been reported in articles and the press that there has been a rise in livestock being killed by eating wire from degraded lanterns which have accidentally been picked up by farm machinery and put into cattle feed. In fact, the National Farmers Union wants them banned. The RSPCA has also warned that the wire could cause "extreme discomfort" to cattle if ingested. Farmers with arable crops have warned that dry, hot fields of crops can be ignited by lanterns.

Lit lanterns travelling out to sea have also caused unnecessary call-outs for the Coastguards as they have been confused with distress flares.

Although Chinese lanterns have been around for a long time being a symbol of good wishes and used for celebrations, their popularity in this country is increasing thought to be traced to the aftermath of the 2002 Bali bombs when they were released to pay tribute to the 182 dead.

But a cautionary tale and note as the summer approaches and our local fields become very dry during hot weather.



## OBITUARY - DAISY DICKIE



*[Photo contributed by Bob Hardwick]*

Daisy – how we will  
remember her – always  
laughing and with a  
smile on her face

Family, friends, Parish Councillors and many in the village were saddened to learn of the recent death of Daisy Dickie who had lived in Levington's almshouses for several years.

Daisy had led a long life and was active in the village especially helping out at Lunch Club every month. Here she cajoled everyone successfully to buy raffle tickets to help boost funds. Her smiling face will also be missed at the village annual Flower Show where she regularly ran the ice-cream stall. Daisy also enjoyed attending the Monday morning coffee hour in the Village Hall and some will remember her when in her earlier days she worked for Jo and Len Wenham as a waitress at The Ship. Daisy will be much missed. Her cheerfulness and smile will not be forgotten.

We extend our sympathy and thoughts to her family and friends. June Langford in the village (Daisy's niece) and her brother, within six days, not only lost their father John but also their aunt, Daisy.

A joint funeral was held for John and Daisy (brother and sister) at Seven Hills Crematorium on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April and was full to capacity with around 130 family, friends and villagers.



## HERE DID YOU WATCH THE ROYAL WEDDING?



The wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton was the highlight of April for many albeit others made it a non-TV and radio-free day! Some were determined not to miss anything on the day and prepared their lunch sandwiches the night before, breakfast laid out and coffee made and in a flask in readiness to watch the day's event on TV from 8.00am (and that was just your Editor!).

Here's how one local patriotic couple celebrated the occasion! Stratton Hall residents Barry and Caroline Young were in Canada on the day of the Royal Wedding. With the time difference, to watch the wedding on TV, they had to get up in the middle of the night.

Caroline and Barry report: To watch the wedding we had to get up at 3am! Still in our pyjamas we drove to our friends who live about one and half miles away. When we arrived they had coffee brewing and a champagne breakfast on the counter in their open plan kitchen/living room.

We all sat watching the wedding and watched the sun rise over the mountains on the Quebec side of the river. Canada was absolutely enthralled with the wedding and excitement had reached fever pitch the day before. Whenever we watched TV, it was the sole topic of conversation, even outdoing all the hype of a general election which took place on Monday. The day after we were still reeling from drinking champagne in the middle of the night!

## **CHURCH NOTICES – coming up ...**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

**11.00am Morning Prayer (with Roy Tricker)**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**10.00am All Age Worship (with Stephen Harvey)**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May (Rogation Sunday)**

**Benefice Rogation Walk Along the River Orwell Shore – Start  
10.00am Nacton church – end 11.45am at Levington Church  
(a combined event for the villages of Nacton, Bucklesham,  
Kirton and Falkenham and Levington)**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (Ascension Day)**

**7.00pm Holy Communion at KIRTON CHURCH**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

**10.00am Family Holy Communion**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June (Whit Sunday)**

**6.30pm Evensong**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

**11.00am Morning Prayer (with Edna Collins)**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

**10.00am Morning Service led by Levington WI celebrating  
their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

**10.00am Family Holy Communion**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July (Sea Sunday)**

**6.30pm Evensong**

**EVERYONE WELCOME TO JOIN IN THE SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S  
CHURCH, LEVINGTON**

## PARISH NOTICES – coming up ...

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Every Monday 10.00am – 11.00am **Coffee Hour** (Village Hall)  
(chat, refreshments and home-made produce stall)

#### **VILLAGE EVENTS**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm (Village Hall)

**GARDENING CLUB** – ‘Gardening Crime Prevention’ with Pc Smith

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm (Village Hall) £3 on the door

**‘Levington WI’** ‘Town Crier’ with Robert Needham

NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 12.30pm (Village Hall)

**LUNCH CLUB**

(Booked places only – contact Jo Wenham on 659509)

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June (**meet 7.00pm** at Scotts Horticulture)

**GARDENING CLUB** visit/tour of Scotts Horticulture, Levington

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm (Village Hall)

**LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB**

Speaker: Mark Mitchels with ‘THE SUTTON HOO SHIP BURIAL’

ALL WELCOME. On the door £3 non-members; £1.00 members. To include refreshments

Saturday/Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> June (St. Peter’s Church)

10.00am to 5.00pm

**CELEBRATION FLOWER FESTIVAL all weekend to celebrate  
50 years of existence of Levington’s Women’s Institute**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 10.00am (St. Peter’s Church)

**MORNING SERVICE with Levington Women’s Institute**

members taking part for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 7.15pm (Village Hall)

**PARISH COUNCIL meeting**

## **SUMMARY OF PARISH COUNCIL AGM 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2011**

The Chairman welcomed the County Councillor Patricia O'Brien, PCSO Andrew Hillman and one villager.

There were no matters raised at the pre-agenda meeting. In the Open Forum, resident Bob Hardwick, who had observed the business of the Council meeting, said he was pleased to hear how much was being done by Parish Councillors and thanked them.

### **County Councillor's Report (Mrs O'Brien).**

Mrs. O'Brien reported on recent events at the County Council. Mark Bee became the leader-in-waiting of the Conservative group on Suffolk County Council following the resignation of Jeremy Pembroke. Mark is likely to be appointed leader of the County Council at the formal meeting of the County Council on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May. The Chief Executive is currently on 'extended leave' whilst an independent review takes place following complaints received by county councillors. Anna McCreddie, the Interim Director for Adult and Community Services, is covering the role in Andrea Hill's absence. Mrs. O'Brien reported briefly on the latest situation regarding the financial constraints of this year's budget and the cost savings needed to balance the books. She mentioned that some communities had expressed an interest in taking on the running of their libraries. In the case of school crossing patrols there is a re-look at the areas where crossing patrols are most needed and they will not now be stopped unless or until a suitable alternative arrangement can be found.

### **District Councillor's Report (Mrs. Falconer).**

Mrs. Falconer was unable to attend due to other commitments that evening including other parish council meetings in the area. The Parish Council noted Mrs. Falconer had retained her District Council seat in the recent local elections and congratulated her as they also did Mrs. O'Brien.

**Police Report** (PCSO Andrew Hillman attended) Crimes reported since the March parish council meeting. (1) In February a weather station system was stolen from a boat at the Marina. Offenders came back in March to steal the weather bracket it was attached to. (2) Overnight 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> April unknown person entered car left insecure on driveway. Untidy search made of centre console and glovebox but nothing taken.

Andrew reported on the very successful 'Don't be a Loser' visits to Levington by the police SNT team where they gave advice and security marked household equipment on request.

<b>Election of Chairman and Vice-chairman</b>	David Long was unanimously elected as Chairman for the coming year. David Pryke was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman
<b>Election of Committees and Officers</b>	<p>The following were elected:</p> <p>Planning committee: Ian Angus, Nick Hopkins, David Long, David Pryke, Pat Pryke</p> <p>Finance Advisory committee: Ian Angus, David Long, David Pryke and Marian Rose (Parish Clerk).</p> <p>The Responsible Finance Officer remains the Parish Clerk.</p> <p>Internal auditor (Heelis &amp; Lodge); external auditor (BDO)</p> <p><u>Representatives for:</u></p> <p>Suff. Assoc. of Local Councils - David Long &amp; Pat Pryke</p> <p>Village Hall committee - David Pryke</p> <p>Coasts and Heaths/Footpath Warden - Nick Hopkins</p> <p>Tree and church field warden - David Long</p> <p>Almshouses - Ian Angus</p> <p>Public Transport - Pat Pryke</p> <p>Emergency Planning - Parish Councillors</p> <p>Editor of the Parish Council newsletter - Pat Pryke</p> <p>Port of Felixstowe Local Authority Liaison Committee - Ian Angus, David and Pat Pryke</p> <p>Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Group - David Long and Ian Angus (now Chairman)</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - Bob Hardwick</p> <p>Church Field Management WP - David Pryke, David Long, Nick Hopkins + Bob Hardwick as adviser</p> <p>Nacton Primary School - Ian Angus</p> <p>Operation Stack Steering Grp - David Long &amp; David Pryke</p>
<b>Finance</b>	<p>Councillors noted &amp; agreed the Annual Return of accounts for year ended 31/3/2011. Noted £2,750 had been received being the first half of the 2011/12 precept.</p> <p>Payments were agreed inc. the Clerk's salary &amp; expenses and annual donations to the Church and the Village Hall.</p> <p>Noted the Annual Accounts to be formally approved by 30<sup>th</sup> June and External Audit booked for 22<sup>nd</sup> July.</p>

<b>Planning Applications</b>	(1)  (2)	C11/0090 - 2-storey extension at 1 Keepers Cottage, Levington [ <i>District Council granted permission 11/5/11</i> ]  Parish Councillors met with Martin Price of Suffolk Coastal District Council on 5 April following an official complaint that plans were being changed without recourse to the Parish Council by SCDC. A report of this meeting was given at Parish Council. The Parish Council now awaits a formal response from SCDC.
<b>Lay-by for Almshouses</b>	The County Councillor holds a 'Quality of Life' fund on which modest grants of say £2k could be drawn on for highways related initiatives. The Parish Council has suggested the Almshouses lay-by project. An estimate has been obtained for providing a 20m long layby of £3,750. This estimate from the County Council Highways Dept. would allow for kerbing around the layby; grassgrid as the surfacing and macadam strip to the road edge. There would be no administration charges for designing and arranging notices and traffic management and organising the work. The County Councillor will now assess the project and if a grant is given the Parish Council will then consider how the balance of the cost would be met. Parking for carers, Almshouses tenants/visitors is needed and it is hoped that joint-working will enable the funding to tidy up the verge for the benefit of all and the village environment.	
<b>Correspondence received</b>	63 items of correspondence had been received since 3 March plus various newsletters/bulletins etc. All correspondence can be viewed by the request of the Parish Clerk.	
<b>Councillor reports</b>	Cllr. Pat Pryke reported on the new bus service and the last Port of Felixstowe Local Authority Liaison committee. Cllr. David Pryke reported a draft application form for lottery funding had been completed for the proposed extension to the Village Hall was in circulation with Trustees for comments. Cllr. Angus reported on the vacancy at the Almshouses & maintenance to the houses proposed. He also reported that the School has received good applications for new pupils for next year and that it was SATS week. Cllr. Hopkins reported no known problems with footpaths.	



## TIPS FOR KEEPING HOME HEATING OIL SAFE from Suffolk Constabulary

- Screen your tank with Fencing or Hedges.
- Close and Secure any perimeter gating
- Conceal/Cover any external oil pipe work/fuel lines
- Install Dusk to Dawn security lighting
- Regularly check your fuel levels, Consider installing a sensor that is monitored from inside the home.
- Consider installing a tank alarm/security device (consult your tank supplier)
- Join a NHW scheme & keep an eye out—telephone immediately if you see anything-suspicious 999- Note vehicle Index Numbers and descriptions of suspicious persons.
- Further advice ring Suffolk Constabulary MAIN switchboard number 01473 613500 & ask for the Crime Reduction Officer for your area, further help on Crime Reduction can be found by logging on to Suffolk Constabulary Web page which is--- <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/Crime+Reduction/>
- Please note because some storage containers are metal and some are plastic -any security measures that directly affect the Tank or Pipe work should be done in consultation with your Heating Oil tank supplier
- Please do not purchase Oil from anyone other than a bona-fide supplier

Crime Prevention advice is given free, without the intention of creating a contract. Neither do the Police Service nor the Home Office take any other legal responsibility for the advice given.

**theWI**  
**INSPIRING WOMEN**

COMING UP ....



**A WEEKEND FLOWER FESTIVAL**  
**in St. Peter's Church, Levington**  
including a Sunday Morning Service to celebrate 50 years of  
Levington Women's Institute

**Flower Festival in church SATURDAY/SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup>/26<sup>TH</sup>**  
**JUNE**

**From 10.00am to 5.00pm**  
(displays and refreshments)

plus the local WI members will be taking part in the **Sunday**  
**morning service at 10.00am on the SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**COME AND SHARE IN OUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**  
**CELEBRATIONS!**

## LEVINGTON - Still an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

After the Foreshore clear-up on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April the area is even more outstanding! However the majority are definitely relying on the minority for this to remain the case. Only six residents were willing to offer their services, but they worked really hard and, with the help of the biggest tractor you have ever seen, the foreshore is once again litter free. (I had an argument with one non-local dog-walker, who said that he refused to clear-up the mess made by his two King Charles spaniels. He claimed that they didn't 'go' on the paths! Would that everyone's dogs were so well trained, because we cleared endless dog-mess on our tour of duty.)

All walkers, with or without dogs, should be especially thankful to Ian Willstead and Mick Sheppard who even went down to the Foreshore again on the Sunday, to cut up wood that was too big to move all the way back to the collection site. Long live the Community Spirit.

Ian Angus

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## SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Message from Ian Angus: The supermarket school vouchers schemes are now finished. If you were collecting them or have some you would like to donate then please let Ian have them as soon as possible. Pop them through the letterbox of Walnut Tree Cottage next to the church.

Many thanks to the many of you in the village who have been involved in the collection of these vouchers which will enable our local primary school at Nacton to obtain some very useful sports equipment.



**LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB**  
*(Next Event - not to be missed!)*

**Well known lecturer MARK MITCHELS**  
visits again with a talk entitled:

**'THE SUTTON HOO SHIP BURIAL'**

In 1939 Mrs. Edith Pretty, the owner of the Sutton Hoo estate, decided to excavate the mounds which overlooked the River Deben. She employed a Suffolk man, Basil Brown, and by the end of that summer Britain had a discovery of international importance, the British Museum had a collection of treasure which for both beauty and value has never been exceeded and the historians had a completely new view of our ancestors - the Anglo Saxons. Mark's illustrated lecture will tell the story of that excavation and will attempt to recreate the moment when a remarkable people sent their leader on his final voyage. *SO HOPE TO SEE YOU at*

**7.30pm on THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE**  
*in the Village Hall*

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

On the door £3.00 non-members  
£1.00 Local History Club members  
(to include refreshments)

**PARISH CLEAR-UP - SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

A beautiful morning saw a select band of 8 parishioners meet at the Village Hall to be given the necessary equipment and a road to clean! By 12.30 we had managed to de-litter all the roads in the parish including the Old A45. So impressed was Paul Elliott of the Eye Marine (Gunshed) at the dedication of the workforce that he kindly sent a donation of £100 to go to a good cause within village. The Parish Council has suggested that it is put towards new equipment for the Village Hall. It is very encouraging for the work of the enthusiastic volunteers to be recognised in this way: **thank you Eye Marine**

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## SUNDAY 1 MAY 2011 THE 41ST IPSWICH TO FELIXSTOWE HISTORIC VEHICLE RUN

We know one couple that didn't and one photographer - but did you miss the spectacle of over 500 cars, motor cycles, lorries, buses and militaries travelling along the old A45 at Levington on 1<sup>st</sup> May?



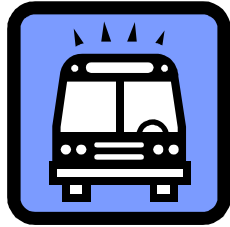
They were motoring from Ipswich to Felixstowe where they parked up on the promenade during the afternoon. Don't worry if you missed it - there are sure to be some images of them to be seen in next December's Christmas Film Show!!

## NEW VILLAGE RECORDER

Louise Mann of Bridge Road, Levington has agreed to take on the role of Village Recorder from the end of June. Derek Girling has formally notified the Suffolk Records Office.

We are sure you will share the Parish Council and Derek and Rosanne's pleasure with an able volunteer taking on the duties they have carried out to such a high standard for many years. We wish Louise well for the future and thank her for willingly taking on the role which will ensure the records of Levington life continue into the future.

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### TROUBLE ON THE BUSES?

If you experience any problems when travelling on the bus please refer them to Councillor Pat Pryke immediately on tel. no: 01473 659554. She will take any problems up with the bus operator who will speak to the drivers concerned if it is necessary.

We'd like to know what you think about the reduced service from Levington to Ipswich. Are you still using the bus service? Are you finding the timings convenient? Have you experienced any problems or are you happy with the new arrangements?

Likewise, we'd like to know if any of you have taken advantage of the 'Felixstowe Feeder' service and what was your experience of it. Don't forget you only have to book a place during the week before you wish to travel - ring the Felixstowe Area Community Transport office on **01394 270339** between the hours of 1.00pm and 4.00pm Monday to Friday. The FACTs vehicle will pick you up from home and transport you to the old A45 where they will wait with you until you transfer onto next available no. 75 or 76 to Felixstowe. Same on the return visit as necessary.



## REPORT ON THE LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB AGM - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Local History Club members met on the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> April for their AGM. Jane Timmins was unable to continue as Chairman and the new Chairman is Louise Mann who very ably chaired the AGM in Jane's absence. As he remarked he was getting the hang of it now, Max Ralph agreed to continue in the Treasurer's role! Seriously though, Max has been 'Treasurer' for so many local organisations over so many years he is in fact well and truly qualified! Pat Pryke and Margaret Angus agreed to share the secretarial role and, with Louise, have met to plan an interesting programme for the next year/18 months. *[So watch this space].*

After a very positive and encouraging AGM with lots of ideas floated for speaker evenings, projects etc. it seems that Levington Local History Club will continue to thrive and stay a feature of this village in the future. In 2012 a 'Bygones and History' Weekend is being proposed *[again watch this space]* led by Derek Girling with help from the village organisations.

Members are always pleased to see guests and visitors at their meetings and you will see an advert for the next event elsewhere in this newsletter - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm in the Village Hall - the well-known Mark Mitchels with a talk on 'The Suffolk Hoo Ship Burial'. On the door £3.00 non-members, £1.00 members.

Do think of joining the Club - apart from Club evenings in the Village Hall, a yearly subscription of £5.00 (payable of course to Max) entitles you to cheaper entry to speaker evenings and the opportunity to go on Club outings and visits to interesting places. There is to be a members' guided tour of Sutton Hoo burial mounds, Tranmer House and the Exhibition Hall as a follow-on from Mark Mitchels talk. So don't miss out - consider joining Levington Local History Club.

*Pat Pryke*

## YOUR LOCAL HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRES (Felixstowe/Foxhall etc.)

### *New opening hours from April 2011*

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 the new opening hours for the County Council's household waste and recycling centres will be:

- **April to September** - 9am until 5pm Monday to Saturday.
- **October to March** - 9am until 4pm Monday to Saturday.
- **Sundays and bank holidays** - 10am until 4pm all year round.

The sites will close on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

All of these recycling centres accept:

- Glass, Cans and tins.
- Aerosol cans.
- Paper, cardboard and Yellow Pages
- Green waste.
- Plastic packaging and plastic bags
- Tetra Pak and other paper-based food and drink cartons.
- Textiles.
- Wood.
- Scrap metal.
- Bicycles.
- Fridges and freezers.
- Electrical and electronic equipment.
- Lightbulbs and fluorescent tubes.
- Cooking oil and engine oil
- Car batteries and household batteries
- Mobile phones.

## ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD CLEAR UP MORNING Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April



*[photo contributed by Marian Rose]*

*Some of the group enjoying a well-earned drink at the end of the morning after their labours in the churchyard*

The day after the successful 'Friends of St. Peter's AGM', lawnmowers and strimmers, loppers and secateurs, shears and rakes and a man/lady power of fourteen were all in Levington churchyard on Saturday morning 9<sup>th</sup> April.

The churchyard has now had its Spring tidy up and looked fantastic in readiness for the Easter weekend. An enormous thank you is due to all those who kindly gave their time. Our churchyard looks lovely!

*PS. An article and photo even appeared in the local Press after a press reported turned up at the churchyard in the morning!*

## LEVINGTON FLOWER SHOW SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



Don't forget to put this special date in your diary! The success of the Show depends on you. The Levington Flower and Produce Show gets nearer and will be staged in the Village Hall and open from 3.00pm.

The Show is eagerly anticipated by many and is always a feast of colour. Not only will you see some superb begonias, roses and other flowers but you will be amazed by the local grown vegetables and enthralled by the children's exhibits.

There will also be some delightful flower arrangements and mouth watering cookery classes and some incredible handicraft and what's more this can all be washed down by a cup and home-made cake provided by your local WI.

There is a class for everyone especially the children. Flowers, fruit, veg and many classes for cooking, art and craft work are all included. Do take part and keep this traditional part of village life alive and well.

Flower Show schedules will be dropping through your letterboxes in due course so do consider entering a class (or classes) to help make this year's Show as interesting and colourful as ever. For exhibitors, your entries should be at the village hall between 9.30am and 10.45am as usual.

Seeds have already been given out to the local children to pot up in time for the Flower Show.

## SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL RECENT ELECTIONS

At the recent district council elections both Patricia O'Brien (Conservative) and Veronica Falconer (Conservative) held on to their seats with a large majority of votes and are thus elected for the next four-year cycle.

Over the past four years Patricia and Veronica have worked closely with the Parish Council and have attended almost all of the parish council meetings despite their heavy local government workload. They were both very supportive of this village's successful entry into the Village of the Year and yearly donations from Patricia's Locality Budget have benefited the parish in many ways. Parish councillors look forward to working with them and through the community to enhance the quality of life within our beautiful parish.

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## SUFFOLK SHOW DAY - WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE



*[photo contributed by Marian Rose]*

The horse-drawn mail coaches coming through the village last year on the first day of the Suffolk Show were spectacular. So don't forget to come out again on Bridge Road (best vantage point opposite the Village Hall) to watch as many as 10-12 coaches come through again this year. Have your cameras at the ready and be out on Bridge Road just before 2.00pm as they leave the Showground at 1.55pm.

## REPORT ON THE ANNUAL PARISHES MEETING held Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April

This meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> April and the Parish Council would like to thank those representatives from village organisations and others who attended to give their annual reports and to the attendance of the County and District Councillors and our local Police Officer Paul Smith. It was much appreciated. The Parish Council chairman gave a summary of the parish council activities over the past year.

It was obvious by the end of the evening that there remains the nucleus of thriving clubs and organisations in our village and the Village Hall, since its renovation, is being hired out more and more. The 'Friends of St. Peter's' remains a successful organisation and weekly services in St. Peter's Church are still maintained.

At the meeting a 'wish list' for the Village Hall was started, as many of the village organisations have sound finances and are always keen to help with any projects. Not all the organisations were represented but, from those who attended, the following items were mentioned as being needed. Others, can be added as and when notified:

- More crockery;
- New tea cloths and hand towels;
- New kitchen tools;
- New waste bins for the toilets;
- Some small tables.

If any one or any village organisation would like to support the purchase of any of these items, please contact Cllr. David Pryke (a parish councillor and Village Hall trustee) in the first instance either in person or by phoning 659554.



**MONDAY MORNING  
COFFEE HOUR HAS STARTED UP  
AGAIN FOR ANOTHER SEASON**

Thanks to the willingness of Mags Pilgrim, Jo and Len Wenham villagers can look forward to another year of Monday morning coffee hours in the Village Hall. Coffee hour started up on 25<sup>th</sup> April and will probably through until the late autumn and is 10.00am to 11.00am every Monday morning, including Bank Holidays.

The regulars will be there but if you haven't popped into the Village Hall for a chat, a coffee and shortbread and the chance to buy excellent home-made produce from the food stall to take home with you then do think about coming along. We all sit at large tables so there is always someone to sit with and talk to. And everyone is welcome.

**LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB -  
WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY  
7.30pm in the Village Hall**

On the important subject of:



**'GARDEN CRIME PREVENTION'**

**With our own local Safer Neighbourhood team Police  
Constable (Pc Paul Smith from the village)**

[How to stop garden thieves, i.e.' natural protection; what you  
can do; advice about fences, sheds and garages etc.]

£3.00 on the door to include refreshments  
Raffle on the night

AND

**LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB -  
WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

Gardening Club event with a difference!

**A VISIT TO SCOTTS HORTICULTURE research station in  
the village**

**PLEASE NOTE: Meet at Scotts near Levington railway  
bridge at 7.00pm for a guided tour of their site.**

Cost £3.00 each

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*The next*  
**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

*is in the Village Hall on*

**WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011**

*[pre-agenda forum between  
7.15pm-7.30pm]*

*[Council meeting from 7.30pm]*

*[Open Forum at the end]*

*[ALL WELCOME]*

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**PARISH COUNCILLOR DETAILS**

David Long (Chairman) 659342  
David Pryke (Vice-Chairman) 659554  
Ian Angus 659249  
Nick Hopkins 659273  
Pat Pryke 659554  
Parish Clerk - Marian Rose 659638

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Mrs. Patricia O'Brien (County Councillor & District Councillor) 01394 448228  
Mrs. Veronica Falconer (District Councillor) 01394 448263

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Village Hall Bookings (David and Mary Wake) (01473) 659627  
Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator (Bob Hardwick) (01473) 659631  
Area Police Beat Officer Pc Paul Smith (01473) 613500  
Safer Neighbourhood Team/Sgt. James Harper (01473) 613500

*Published by Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council*  
*[Member of SALC -the Suffolk Association of Local Councils]*