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LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL

***PARISH COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER***



MARCH 2010

Calor England Village of the Year 2008

www.levington.org

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Dear Villagers and Subscribers - Hello and Welcome to the March 2010 edition of the Parish Council newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH CHAIRMAN (David Long)

I had hoped to say the arctic weather we experienced in January seems a dim, distant past now but only recently it has snowed again! For many days in January those who had to get out of the village for work, shopping or other reasons had a trying time of it. The Parish Council did lobby hard to get more help for all of us with extra gritting/ploughing on the back roads when Operation Stack was on and gritters/ploughs were seen coming through. The Police relented and allowed locals access in and out of Levington via the old A45 during Stack. Similarly, after successfully lobbying the Police our local businesses were asked if their staff would wait in groups at the access points to be escorted through Stack. We could so easily have been cut off here in Levington without these concessions. Even so during this time some people did have to abandon their cars on the back Nacton/Levington road due to not being able to make the hill and at times the Stratton Hall back road was only passable if you had a good 4 x 4!

Thanks to everyone who kept an eye out for our elderly or vulnerable residents or who just gave help when they saw a need or took the trouble to make a phone call to see if someone was alright. If there is one thing this community is good at, this is it!

Thankfully, turning now to Spring, the snowdrops and aconites are out in Trickers Wood. At last perhaps soon things will be warming up, birds singing and flower and shrubs blooming and here it seems most appropriate that residents Mike and Nancy Matthews are coming to Gardening Club on Wednesday 17th March with a talk on 'Our organic garden'.

Our next Parish Council meeting in May will be the AGM meeting plus the Annual Parish meeting. I do hope I shall see some of you there at these important meetings.

[David Long - Parish Chairman]



PARISH COUNCIL AGM AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2010

The May Parish Council meeting will be the AGM and also the Annual Parish Meeting.

Date: Tuesday 11th May

Time: From 7.15pm

Venue: Levington Village Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for local village organisations and groups to report on their activities and plans. Further reports will be received from our Village Recorders, County and District Councillors and local Police officer.

All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an annual parish meeting at this time each year. The purposes of calling this meeting is so that the Council can explain what it has been doing over the last year and the Parish Chairman will be giving his report. It also enables the electors to have their say on anything which they consider is important to the people of Levington and Stratton Hall.

So do come along and support your parish councillors and those people who run organisations etc. in our village. Without them perhaps the parish would not be so well run and we would not enjoy the many and varied meetings and events that we do.

This will be the last of these meetings for the current Parish Council as elections for a new Council will be held in early May 2011.



CHANGES TO OUR LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM (SNT)

Changes to the post of Sergeant in charge of our local Safer Neighbourhood Team (Felixstowe and District SNT) have taken place again. The third such change since the inception of the Team in March 2007. Sgt. Peter Street has now left Felixstowe SNT and moved to the Kesgrave SNT. We had got to know Peter well and had built up an excellent relationship with him. We would like to thank him for his efforts and interest in our parish and its residents. We welcomed his visits to the parish. He had been very approachable and we were able to contact him when necessary. We wish Peter every success in his new post.

The new incoming Sergeant is Sgt. James Harper. James started his career as a patrol constable before becoming a Detective Constable with Ipswich CID. He was then promoted to the role of Neighbourhood Response Sergeant based at Felixstowe before now becoming the Sergeant in charge of our local Safer Neighbourhood Team. We look forward to meeting Sgt. Harper at the earliest opportunity.

It was good to see two of our local PCSO's popping in to meet residents at Luncheon Club in the Village Hall on Tuesday 9th February.



LEVINGTON FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW **Saturday 17th July in the Village Hall**

We hope you all have the 17th July date in your diaries for this year's Levington Flower and Produce Show starting at 3.00pm. We can announce that Peggy Cole has accepted the invitation to open this year's Show and to present the prizes. The schedules will drop through your door nearer the time but do start to give some thought about entering the various classes especially the vegetable and flower and handicraft ones. So start planting, nurturing those pot plants or getting those knitting or sewing needles out now! We'd also love to see another show full of wonderful children's exhibits.

This will be the first year of the new trophies, so try to be the first name on any one of them. There will be an overall additional trophy for the entrant who gains the most points in the Show.

Again, so you can be out and about with your cameras if necessary, the three subjects for the photographic classes for this year's Show are:

(1) A Fruit

(2) A Suffolk Winter Scene

(we are expecting some good entries in this class after all the snowy weather we've had this winter!)

(3) A Country Cottage

Happy snapping and good luck. And there's more! Look for details elsewhere in this newsletter of another special event coming up (**an evening meal for St. Georges Day**) hosted by the Flower Show committee in lieu of the cancelled Harvest Supper.

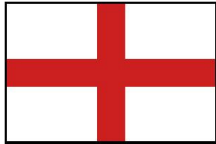
theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

*LEVINGTON WOMEN'S
INSTITUTE*

The March meeting is 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10th March - Speaker from the British Trust for Ornithology on 'Garden Birdwatch'

We welcome visitors and new members.

In lieu of the cancelled HARVEST SUPPER last Autumn, the Flower Show Committee invite you to COME AND ENJOY A



ST. GEORGES DAY SUPPER

in the Village Hall
7.30pm FRIDAY 23rd APRIL

EVERYONE WELCOME

Tickets will be available from Rosanne Girling (659720) and Doreen Ralph (659398) at a cost of £6.00 adults: £2.00 under 12s

Bring your own drinks - Proceeds towards Flower Show funds.

THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE'S DECISION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SUFFOLK

The Parish Council has received a letter from Government (from the Department for Communities and Local Government).

It informed us that the Secretary of State announced on the 10th February that, after consideration of the Boundary Committee's advice, the representations made and all the other relevant information available, he has decided that:

- the Boundary Committee's proposal for a unitary county council in Devon should not be implemented and the original proposal for a unitary Exeter should be implemented;
- the Boundary Committee's proposal for a unitary county council in Norfolk should not be implemented and the original proposal for a unitary Norwich should be implemented; and

(BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY REGARDING SUFFOLK the Secretary of State goes on to say

- we will invite all the Suffolk councils, with their Members of Parliament, consulting other stakeholders and through a county constitutional convention, to reach a consensus on a unitary solution for that area.

For the Parish Council's part we see this as further procrastination and delay in reaching a decision for the long term.

According to BBC text, "the government is asking Suffolk councils and MPs to reach a consensus on what unitary solution they would like in their county".

ADVANCE WARNING OF LOCAL A14 ROAD WORKS

Birse Civils Ltd, are the principle contractors to the Highways Agency working on the A14 Corridor Traffic Management Scheme. This consists of installing an Automatic Queue Warning and Signing system on the A14 Trunk Road, using Variable Message Signs [VMS]. The majority of the work is being carried out at night using lane closures to minimise delays to the travelling public. In order to carry out this work it will be sometimes necessary to have overnight closures of sections of the A14 in one direction only. During the closures, diversions will be in place. The contractors have met with managers from the Highways Agency and Area Highway Managers for Suffolk County Council in order to ensure they minimise any disruption and to discuss ways of informing road users and local residents. In East Suffolk they expect to commence the closures during this summer. In some cases they will close a section of the A14 between several junctions in order to minimise the number of closures needed by working in several sections simultaneously. They will be installing the overhead VMS signs and cutting loops in the carriageway during the closures.

One such closure will be between Junction 59 [Trimley Interchange] and Junction 58 Levington Interchange. There will be closures in both west and east bound carriageways, but not on the same nights. The closures will be from 9-00pm and the road will reopen by 6-00am. The diverted traffic west bound will leave J59 Trimley Interchange C370 Howlett Way [Trimley St Martin] U3124 High Road, Morston Hall Road, U3219 [old A45 Levington] A1156 Felixstowe Road [Nacton] and rejoin A14 at Junction 58. The east bound diversion will be by leaving the A14 at Junction 58, A12 northbound [Foxhall] C356 Newbourne Road [Brightwell] C375 [Buckleham].

The date for closing J 58 to J59 east bound is 1 night on 15 June 2010.
The date for closing J59 to J58 west bound is 1 night on 28 June 2010.

Businesses along the route will also be informed of the road works.



The emblem of one of the most famous groups of women (the WI) has had a makeover! The old 'tree' logo is out and there is now the more modern style logo above. This is an attempt to attract new, younger members by adapting to the needs of modern lifestyles and by modernizing its activities. It has been received with mixed reaction - the tree logo had been so familiar for so many years - but they say you must move with the times!

Locally, several members of Levington WI made the short distance to Trinity Park on Tuesday 2nd March for the Suffolk East WI Federation Council meeting. It promised to be a day of fun and learning and it was. The guest speaker was Adam Henson well known to viewers of BBC's Countryfile programme. He is the farmer from the Cotswolds Farm Park which has many rare breed animals. Some of his animals are in demand in front of the camera and he has supplied animals for various Natural History programmes and period TV dramas such as 'Emma'. Adam told about the trials and tribulations of modern day farming, rare breeds and their management and a little about working in the media. Other speakers included Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk Greenest County and Suffolk Police with information about a consultation survey along with the WI Federation speakers that kept everyone up to date on forthcoming plans. This event always guarantees a great day out and the agenda is packed with interesting and thought provoking items. Additionally there was the opportunity to buy lovely hand crafted items at reasonable prices and things from the Gift Stall plus the always well supported Country Market stalls packed with home made cakes, pies and savouries to take home for tea or the freezer! An excellent day out and yet another event to enjoy if you belong to Levington WI.

BT PAYPHONE - CHURCH LANE, LEVINGTON



The BT payphone that was situated on Church Lane next to Trickers Wood was recently badly damaged and had to be removed. BT is of a mind not to replace the phone box and is in consultation with the District Council who has 90 days to object. BT advise the Payphone has been cashless for quite a while and there had been no calls at all from this call box in the last 12 months.

If you have any concerns or strong views on BT's intention not to replace the phone box please send them to Marian Rose, the Parish Clerk at 11 Red House Walk or email: merosepc@virginmedia.com

THEFT AT ORWELL STORES, NACTON

Not reported in the Police report to Parish Council but we have heard that Orwell Stores in Nacton was recently broken into and the till and cigarette dispenser were taken.

NEWS FROM NACTON CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2010

Flagship School celebration

The school is very excited at being one of only two primary schools in Suffolk chosen to be a Flagship School for the Foodforlife Partnership. The national partnership is sponsored by the Soil Association, Garden Organic, Food in Focus Campaign and the Health Education Trust with the aim of promoting food culture (children growing, preparing, cooking and enjoying good food).

The school will be regarded as a beacon of excellence. We were one of the first schools in the country to achieve the bronze award. Our school has the highest take-up of school meals in Suffolk, with 89% of our children and staff regularly enjoying a school lunch. Our vegetables are supplied by Home Farm, Nacton, which has been named as Tesco 'Organic Grower of the Year 2009': this contributes significantly to our continuing success.

OOCL support

We thank OOCL Ltd. in Levington for their very generous support in raising funds towards two more vegetable planters. OOCL has also been matching our efforts to go green by recycling cartridges and phones. Once our planters are established with spring vegetables, we will be able to say that we go green by eating our greens!

Elizabeth M. Ditton
Headteacher

THE VILLAGE DIARY

Tuesday 9 th March	12.30pm LUNCHEON CLUB (Village Hall) (Booked places only – contact Jo Wenham on 659509)
Wednesday 10 th March	7.30pm WI ‘Garden Birdwatch’ with the British Trust for Ornithology (Village Hall)
Thursday 11 th March	7.30pm LOCAL HISTORY CLUB ‘Houses and Estates on the Banks of the Orwell’ by John Blatchy

MOTHERING SUNDAY Sunday 14 th March	10.00am MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE (St. Peter’s Church) [with distribution of posies]
Thursday 17 th March	7.30pm GARDENING CLUB ‘Our Organic Garden’ by Nancy and Mike Matthews (Village Hall)

Sunday 21 st March	11.00am MORNING PRAYER (St. Peter’s Church)
Thursday 25 th March	7.30pm FRIENDS OF ST. PETERS AGM (Village Hall)

PALM SUNDAY Sunday 28 th March	10.00am PALM SUNDAY SERVICE with distribution of Palm crosses (St. Peter’s Church)

EASTER SUNDAY Sunday 4 th April	11.15am EASTER FAMILY COMMUNION (St. Peter’s Church)

Sunday 11 th April	3.00pm EVENSONG/CHURCH AGM (St. Peter’s Church)
Tuesday 13 th April	12.30pm LUNCHEON CLUB (Village Hall) (Booked places only – contact Jo Wenham on 659509)
Wednesday 14 th April	7.30pm WI ‘Wildlife & Botanical Illustration’ with Sandra Pond (Village Hall)

Sunday 18 th April	11.00am MORNING PRAYER (St. Peter’s Church)

Sunday 25 th April	10.00am ALL AGE WORSHIP (St. Peter’s Church)

Sunday 2 nd May	10.00am FAMILY COMMUNION (St. Peter’s)

Sunday 9 th May	6.30pm EVENSONG (St. Peter’s Church)
Tuesday 11 th May	12.30pm LUNCHEON CLUB (Village Hall) (Booked places only – contact Jo Wenham on 659509) 7.15pm PARISH COUNCIL AGM & ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (Village Hall)

SUMMARY OF PARISH COUNCIL 3rd MARCH 2010

The Chairman welcomed the County and District Councillors and PCSO Amy Clarke and one villager who observed the business of the Council meeting and participated in the village forum at the end.

County Councillor's Report (Mrs O'Brien). Mrs. O'Brien reported that the Secretary of State response to the Local Government Review has been fielded back to the Suffolk local authorities. Because there was no overall agreement for either One Suffolk or Felixstowe/Ipswich and Rural Suffolk, the Secretary of State wants county, borough and district councils to get together and come up with a unitary solution by holding a 'Constitutional Conference'. These authorities have decided that this will not take place before the General Election. Mrs. O'Brien attended the recent Operation Stack Steering Group (report on this elsewhere in this newsletter). As a member of the Police Authority, Mrs. O'Brien reported that the police budget had been set for 2010/11 and the increase in precept will be 3%. The Force has introduced efficiency savings which inevitably require organisational change. Joint working with Norfolk, within a Major Investigation team, had resulted in £600k savings.

District Councillor's Report (Mrs. Falconer). Mrs. Falconer reported that the increase in Council Tax for the Suffolk Coastal district will be 2.9% e.g. £191.89 for Levington and Stratton Hall Band D properties – a rise of 8p per week for District services provided. Mrs. Falconer had attended a 'Selection meeting of the Parliamentary Candidate' - John Gummer MP had indicated he would not stand for re-election at the General Election. Therese Coffey was the successful candidate to replace him. Mrs. Falconer had been much involved in the Local Government Framework process. It was thought likely Suffolk Coastal District's Full Council meeting on 18th March would agree the 2000 houses proposed for Martlesham (adjoining BT Adastral Park site) and this would be submitted to H.M. Inspector.

Police Report PCSO Amy Clarke reported the crimes which have occurred since the January Parish Council meeting (5th January). Between 17th and 20th January offenders forced their way into a boat yard at Levington Marina and removed two outboard motors from boats in for repair. Enquires are ongoing. During the morning of 23rd February there was an incident in which a motorist sped through the village and past a horse and rider. An altercation took place between the motorist and the rider which led to the police being called. Between 28th February and 2nd March a Yamaha outboard engine was stolen from a tender boat which had beached after breaking from the yacht it was attached to. The offender used a hacksaw to cut the locking device. Enquiries are ongoing.

Finance Issues	<p>The finance report for the first 11 months of the financial Year (1/4/09-28/2/10) was discussed</p> <p>The Parish Clerk's expenses and salary were agreed.</p> <p>A donation of £350 to Village Hall and £150 to St. Peter's Church was agreed. A donation to the local school will be given further consideration.</p>
Digital Projector for Village Hall	<p>A digital projector has been purchased for use in the Village Hall. The cost was £943. A welcome donation of £250 from KPMG was received towards the purchase. The profit from the sale of Levington DVDs (£333) was also used along with the proceeds (£245) from Derek Girling and David Pryke's village hall slide show in December 2008. Thus this useful piece of equipment was able to be purchased without having to resort to the use of parish precept funds.</p>
New Bus Shelter	<p>The provision of a new bus shelter and groundwork foundations for the westbound carriageway of the Old A45 at Levington railway bridge is currently underway. The bus shelter and ancillary works are to be fully funded from the County Council's bus route improvement project.</p>
Telephone Box Church Lane	<p>The BT Payphone situated on Church Lane next to Trickers Wood was recently badly damaged and had to be removed.</p> <p><i>[Please see article elsewhere in this newsletter].</i></p>
Local Development Framework	<p>The draft LDF, which includes proposals for 2000 houses at Martlesham, will be considered for approval by the full Council of SCDC on 18th March. The Parish Council Chairman intends to attend as an observer.</p>
Local Footpaths	<p>At the request of the Parish Council, the County Council's East Area Rights of Way Manager has agreed to look at the public footpath down to the foreshore and along the cliff top path as this has been very muddy in places. She agrees this is a high priority, well used path.</p>
Stour and Orwell Estuaries Strategy	<p>The Parish Chairman had attended the launch of this Strategy. The most significant actions were re. 'recreation' and concerned disturbance.</p>

Planning Issues	The erection of stables on land between Red House Walk and White House Farm is being followed up by the District Council. The District Council has advised the Parish Council that they have been in contact with Orwell Park Estate who own the land and who are seeking professional advice.
Highways Issues	Cllr. Angus continues to pursue the change in speed limit on Bridge Road with the County Council. County Councillor Patricia O'Brien has £10k available for local 'Quality of Life' schemes and has invited parish councils to let her know of projects that would be suitable for consideration. The Parish Council will submit a proposal for funding of road bend signs on Stratton Hall Drift. The Parish Council noted a pothole that needed attention on the back Levingtonh/Nacton road near Bunnifer's Hill.
Reports from Councillors	Cllr. Angus reported that the nest boxes made by local young people were to be put up weekend of 6 th /7 th March with the assistance of Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Mr. Rackham. Cllr. Angus also reported on the Almshouses and that there was likely to be a vacancy due to a resident, through ill health, not being able to return to her almshouse. <i>[See further article elsewhere in this newsletter].</i> Cllr. David Pryke reported that grant funding was being sought for the Village Hall extension project.
Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)	Public consultation of the draft SMP is 15 March to 18 June. The nearest public drop-in session is Thursday 25 March 2.00-7.30pm at Felixstowe Town Hall, Undercliff Road West.
Correspondence	Correspondence received: Letter from parishioner re. disagreement with driver of a contractor's vehicle working for Levington Hall. Owner of LH copied his response to the Parish Council; received County Council's Draft Fire Action Plan - public consultation on draft Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2010/11; email from the Suffolk Coastal District Council Investigation Unit re. fraud Awareness and posters for display in the village.

VILLAGE FORUM

A resident raised three issues:

(1) Telephone Box

Concern was expressed at the proposal not to replace the damaged phone box as, in the event of loss of landlines, mobile reception in this area was too poor to be relied on. *[See note elsewhere in this newsletter].*

(2) Operation Stack

The resident said he objected to the police forcing people round the back roads in the snow and ice of the recent Operation Stack days but was pleased that they later relented and convoyed people through the Stack area.

(3) Village of the Year

The resident remarked that the village had been presented with winning metal plaques on 2nd December 2008 but these had still not been put up even though the wooden backing plates had been made some time ago. He had also offered to make a new banner. *[The Parish Chairman replied that fixing the plaques were on the 'To Do' list along with a number of other jobs. It was regretted that a design for a new banner had not been sorted out quickly enough and thought that too long a time had now passed for this to be pursued.]*

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Cllr. Ian Angus has agreed to be proposed to take over the Chairmanship of the Colneis Area Tasking meetings which form part of the Felixstowe and District Safer Neighbourhood Team meetings. These meetings were previo

The next Community Panel meeting has been moved from Bucklesham to Levington Village Hall.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Lock it or lose it We are fortunate that in our area crime levels remain relatively low. However, of late there have been further incidences of theft from motor vehicles reported in this vicinity. In almost all cases the vehicles entered have not only been left insecure but have had valuables left on display inside such as Sat Nav's, wallets and other items. Remember - lock your vehicle when it is unattended and remove articles of value, otherwise someone else might do it for you!

Contacting Suffolk Police If you need to contact the police there are several methods of doing so, depending on circumstances.

By 'phone, for general and non-emergency calls: 01473 613500

Minicom users, (for those with hearing difficulties): 01473 611160

Online, to report theft and criminal damage using an online form:

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/Services/Report+crime+online/>

This will open a link for completion of a form in addition to providing other useful police information. The completed form will be sent to the Central Crime Desk (open 8.00am to 12.00am). On submission of the form you will receive a unique reference number. If you are the victim of the crime, a letter will be sent to you from Suffolk Constabulary, detailing the crime number.

IMPORTANT - if **yes** is the answer to anything below - **DIAL 999**

- The crime is happening now.
- The offender is still there or nearby.
- Evidence has been left at the scene.
- Vulnerable, elderly or young victims are involved.
- The crime is of a violent or sexual nature.
- When life is threatened or people are injured.
- An immediate police response is necessary.

[Contributed by Bob Hardwick Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator]

THE SIR ROBERT HITCHAM'S ALMSHOUSES IN LEVINGTON

Robert Hitcham was born in Levington at the end of the sixteenth century. He was a distinguished scholar and knighted when he was made the King James I's Senior Sergeant at Law in 1616. In his will of 1636 he made several bequests including the founding of a school in Framlingham and almshouses in both Framlingham and Levington, all of which exist today.

The Almshouse in Levington was originally for "six female persons of the poorest and impotent of Levington and Nacton". They eventually fell into disrepair but a new charity was set up in the 1960s to repair and improve them, turning the original six into four. Improvements continued throughout the twentieth century and each small almshouse now has central heating and a living room, kitchen, bathroom downstairs and a bedroom upstairs: in the last few months each dwelling has had further improvements. Residents share a common courtyard but each house has its own small garden.

The Trustees would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in having their names, or the names of friends or relatives, included on a list of potential residents. Applicants should be aware, however, that no warden is on site or on call and no care facilities are provided. Preference will be given to applicants with connections to the villages of Nacton and Levington.

Please contact the Rev. Geoffrey Grant (tel. 01473 659232) or Jo Wenham (tel. 01473 659509).



MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library w

16th and 30th March; 13th and 27th April; and 11th and 25th May



LEVINGTON WI

MONTHLY COMPETITIONS 2009

Marian Rose and Pat Pryke tied for first place for the most points obtained in last year's WI competitions. They both received a Marks and Spencers voucher for £10 and will share the WI Rose Bowl for six months each.

DIGITAL SLIDE SHOW

A note to apologise that the Digital village hall slide show promised for the early part of this year has not materialised. Many of you will know of the serious illness that has beset our daughter and a lot of our time has been spent helping and supporting her and her family over the past few weeks.

[David Pryke]



OPERATION STACK



Operation Stack has now been with us for 2 years, since first being announced by Suffolk County Council [SCC], in the local media, as a 'temporary' arrangement to park HGVs when the Port of Felixstowe was closed to road traffic due to poor weather conditions.

During this period the Parish Council has worked hard, with the Police and others, to try and lessen the impact on residents and employees of our local businesses. We follow-up on any problems encountered by anyone after each Stack with the aim of improving arrangements for the next time.

Whilst doing this, we have repeatedly contacted SCC with the aim of achieving some progress on the long term solution. We have eventually had success as the Operation Stack Steering Group met on 25 February 2010 [the first time this Group has met since the initial meeting on 3 July 2008].

The latest meeting was attended by representatives of many organisations involved in the operation of Stack and by elected representatives of some local councils. David Long and David Pryke represented our Parish Council, along with our County Councillor, Patricia O'Brien.

The Steering Group received a report on options for a long term solution;

- Innocence Farm - near the Trimley/Kirton Road
- 2 options around the The Orwell Crossing Lorry Park
- 2 options involving Levington
- Container drop off area

The report also included planning and financial [public/commercial] implications for each option.

The report, which is only the beginning of the process for future Stack arrangements, was received at the Parish Council meeting on 3 March. As we need time to consider the report in fuller detail, we will be undertaking our own option-appraisal in the coming weeks to apply our knowledge and experiences of Stack over the last 2 years.

THE NEXT FORESHORE CLEAR UP MORNING - COME AND BE A VOLUNTEER PICKER



ADVANCE NOTICE Do come along and help if you can spare an hour or two to clean up the creek area and river foreshore in our beautiful, familiar and much loved AONB area.

**Meet at 9.30am at the Creek car park on
SATURDAY 24TH APRIL**

Everyone is welcome. All you need is lots of enthusiasm and willingness to get stuck in! Gloves, pickers, bin bags provided. This event is part of the regular series of clean ups held to improve our creek and riverside. Rubbish will always wash ashore, or blows in or is tossed aside by unthinking people. We'd love to see more volunteers come and help tidy up our local area.

WE AWAIT A SNAZZY NEW BUS SHELTER!

The Parish Council has been pursuing for some time with Suffolk County Council the provision of a second bus shelter, on the westbound carriageway of the old A45 Levington road near Levington railway bridge.

Some months of work later, the bus shelter foundations are now in place. The bus shelter has been ordered from the manufacturer and as soon as the County Council have final confirmation that all of the groundworks are complete they will arrange for delivery and installation.

Sensibly, your Parish Council requested a 'closed' type shelter to protect those waiting for buses from splashes from passing traffic during periods of rain and for protection from the wind in what is quite an exposed to the elements area. The shelter will have a handy seat on which to rest (although perhaps not the most comfortable) which will be a great boon for older or less able travellers.

Parish Councillors are pleased to report implementation of this new facility for the parish has been made without cost to the parish. We obviously applied at the right time as the County Council was able to finance the bus shelter from a budget set aside for the Ipswich/Felixstowe Route Improvement Project which included funds to upgrade bus stops. The requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act are to provide equality of access to services and therefore the bus shelter project has provided raised kerbs (160mm) to access the buses at the bus stop via a wheelchair.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES coming up



PALM SUNDAY 28th March:

Distribution of Palm Crosses at
10 a.m. Family Communion service.



EASTER SUNDAY 4th April:

11.15am Family Communion

You are very welcome to join the congregation at St. Peter's Church for these special services.



FRIENDS OF ST. PETER'S 2010 AGM

The Friends of St. Peter's will be holding their AGM at 7.30pm on Thursday 25th March in the Village Hall. The AGM business will be followed by a speaker and a finger buffet and drinks to end the evening.

LENT SUPPER - TUESDAY 30TH MARCH

St. Peter's Church congregation will be holding a Lent Supper again this year in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 30th March. A Lent Supper is an agreeable and collective way of enjoying each other's fellowship by sharing a meal. So in the spirit of things, rather like a pot-luck, the meal is provided by the participants. The Rev. Canon Geoffrey Grant will be there to lead suitable contemplation for the Lent and Easter period. If you would like to attend or find out more please contact Churchwarden Diana Hawtin on 659946.



LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB
(A Reminder of the Next Event)

DR. JOHN BLATCHLY on
'Houses and Estates on the Banks of the Orwell'
at

7.30pm Thursday 11th March
in the Village Hall

and for your diaries the following meeting is:

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEMBERS
INTERESTS' EVENING**

7.30pm THURSDAY 13th MAY
in the Village Hall

EVERYONE WELCOME

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



KENNETH MOWER

Sadly, we report the passing of another Levington resident, Kenneth Mower of 'The Ridings', Bridge Road. Kenneth, with his son David, had lived quietly in Levington for some time. We send our thoughts and condolences to David who had cared so well for his ageing father over many years.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Service in St. Peter's Church



10.00am

Sunday 14th March

Especially for families but everyone welcome
to this special afternoon service
[Mothering Sunday posies will be handed out]

SOME OF US LOVED THE RECENT SNOWY CONDITIONS!!



Pictured here are two of our local young people having a great time sledding after the recent large falls of snow. Several others also joined in the fun! We hope they all made the most of it as we haven't experienced this amount of snow here in Levington for a very long time!

The Annual  **Keep our parish tidy**

JUST A REMINDER
that the parish spring litter pick starts at
9.30am outside the Village Hall
on **Saturday morning 27th March**

If you can spare an hour or two do come along as more hands make light work!



ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD CLEAR-UP

The village churchyard Spring clear-up morning is planned for:

SATURDAY 10th APRIL from 9.30am 'til approx. 12 noon.

As in previous years, volunteers to help with cutting the grass, trimming back shrubs; weeding etc. would be very welcome. Please bring garden tools if you have them. Mid-morning refreshments are provided and several will have a thirst quencher in The Ship afterwards.

[Marian Rose Tel: 659638 Friends of St Peter's]



**FUNDING TOWARDS THE RENOVATED LEVINGTON WAR
MEMORIAL**

The Parish Council has now received the County Council's cheque for £400 from the Locality Budget, courtesy of County Councillor Patricia O'Brien. This was awarded to help fund the renovation of the war memorial which of course has already been done at a cost of £759, excluding recoverable VAT. The Parish Clerk has written to Patricia to thank her for her support for this project.



LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB
NEXT meeting



7.30pm Wednesday 17th March
in the Village Hall:

'Our Organic Garden' by Levington residents
Mike and Nancy Matthews

DON'T MISS THIS INTERESTING EVENING

Members £2.00 and non-members £3.00 incl. Refreshments

LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB
MAY MEETING

Also advance notice of the May Gardening Club meeting night
with speaker being local personality - 'PEGGY COLE'



7.30pm Wednesday 19th May - in the Village Hall



Well it's the beginning of another month. The weather is still not sure what it is doing and to top it all we are to lose an hour of sleep. **Remember to put back your clocks one hour Saturday night 27th March.** But on a positive note the nights will be drawing out giving some of you more of a chance to get out into the garden with the gardening tools.

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The next
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
AGM AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

is in the Village Hall on
TUESDAY 11TH MAY 2010

[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
Linda Sharp 659771
Parish Clerk - Marian Rose 659638

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

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

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