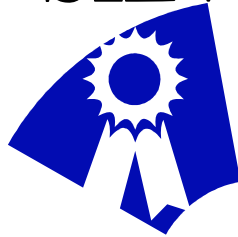


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*LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL*

*PARISH COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER*

It's a SILVER !



**NOVEMBER 2009**

Calor ENGLAND Village of the Year 2008

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

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

Hello and welcome to the November 2009 Parish Council newsletter. A special welcome to any newcomers to the parish.

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**WE WELCOME A NEW PARISH CLERK and say GOODBYE and THANK YOU to Jean Ruthen**

At this month's Parish Council meeting we welcomed Marian Rose to the Parish Council as our new Parish Clerk. *[More elsewhere on this further on in this newsletter]*. The Parish Clerk is chosen by the Council, whenever a vacancy arises, by a formal process of interview and appointment. The position of Parish Clerk, has certain legal obligations attached to it, and acts as a focal point for all official correspondence. There are responsibilities for recording the minutes and the keeping of the Council financial records. Also the Clerk assists the Council on matters of protocol and provides procedural information, advising the Council discussions on what can be done within the areas of Parish control.

At the same time it was time to say 'goodbye' to Jean Ruthen our outgoing Parish Clerk. Jean has served this parish well since taking on that role in May 2003. She has ensured that council meetings are well serviced and that notices are always on noticeboards by their due date. She has written numerous letters to authorities, agencies on your behalf and has also been the Finance Clerk.

We wish Jean a happy retirement. Gilly, her husband, also retired recently from his job at the Port of Felixstowe and here we must thank him also for his support of Jean in the Parish Clerk's role. He often delivered post to parish councillors, and placed notices on noticeboards. He has been our odd-job man when the Parish Council needed some maintenance work done, say, to the village noticeboards. So thank you Jean (we couldn't have managed without you!) and thank you Gilly. Keep in touch and we wish you both a happy, healthy and long retirement.

*[David Long – Parish Council Chairman]*



**LEVINGTON in ANGLIA IN BLOOM**

**YES - It's a SILVER award for Levington!  
AND A SPECIAL NOMINATION FOR THE LEVINGTON  
PARK (OOCL/BDK and Scotts) one of only 5 nominations in  
the whole of the Anglia Region**

You did well! At our first attempt Levington received a **SILVER AWARD** at the Anglia in Bloom Awards event at Gorleston on 16<sup>th</sup> September. What else can we say but WELL DONE to Levingtonians for such an excellent result. The village certainly looked at its best when the judges visited on 10<sup>th</sup> July due to the efforts of everybody.



At the Awards were *Marian Rose, Chairman of Levington Gardening Club and some of the 'Levington Bloomers' team, Bob, Barry, Pat and Caroline and David whose photographic help was invaluable when in came to the Village Hall display on Judging Day. Sadly, unable to attend from the 'Bloomers' team were Diana Hawtin, Diane Willsteed and David Long (all away from Levington) and Linda Sharp (at work) all of whom helped the rest of the team enormously in the preparations in the village before and on Judging day.*

So what did our two Anglia in Bloom judges have to say about Levington? Out of at least 14 judgings they did around the Anglia region, they put the Levington Business Park area forward to receive a special nomination. This nomination, with four others, competed for the top award which eventually went to Sarah's Tearooms in Gt. Yarmouth. They considered the OOCL shipping company's area had some marvellous facilities as well as lovely floral beds and were awarded a Special nomination Certificate. With the immaculate grassland looked after by Scotts and OOCL's gardener, the whole area gave a superb well cared look and created a very attractive 'gateway to the village'. *[The 'Bloomers' team would like to thank all the businesses at Levington Park, their gardeners and staff and especially Matthew Austen at OOCL for agreeing to be 'interviewed' by the Judges. Well done for the well deserved special nomination].*

As for the village, the judges considered the **Areas of Achievement**:

- The floral displays on entry into the village and around the village and the gardens of OOCL
- The floral displays in the church - simple but effective
- The floral display in the telephone box
- The landscaping around Red House Walk
- The roadside planting in Church Lane and Bridge Road
- The management of the conservation area (the church environs)
- The organised Litter Picks
- Absence of litter and dog fouling along the judging route
- An enthusiastic 'In Bloom' team made up of volunteers from local organisations
- The Parish Council newsletter with information on the 'In Bloom'.

As for **Areas of Improvement** the judges have suggested:

- Establishing more drought beds for drought loving plants as Levington is sandy soil *[Already in hand. This type of planting will replace the floral displays at village entrances this autumn]*
- Interpretation boards on conservation sites and information boards/leaflets on bird and wildlife for children and visitors
- Encouragement of wild flower areas in any future landscaping of the conservation area

## GOODBYE TO JEAN and a BIG THANK YOU

At the November Parish Council meeting our retiring Parish Clerk, Jean Ruthen, was applauded by her fellow Parish Councillors on her 6 years service and her dedication to them, the parish and its residents during that time. She had never missed a Parish Council meeting in all those years.



In appreciation for all Jean had done for the village and the parish council her fellow parish councillors, County Councillor and District Councillor presented her with a lovely Swarovski crystal necklace and a signed card. She also received a large bouquet of flowers from Marian Rose for her extended help while Marian has been taking over. Gilly, Jean's husband, who has been such a support to Jean in her role as Parish Clerk and assisted the Parish Council on several occasions, was given a book token.

Jean leaves with the best wishes of everyone on the Parish Council and we thank her for 'partnering' Marian Rose over the past few months in order that a smooth transition of Parish Clerk would take place. She has been our Parish Clerk through one of the village's most successful periods and we hope, with us, she will remember those years with pride and take great satisfaction in the fact that she was part of the team during this time.

## WE HAVE A NEW PARISH CLERK - MARIAN ROSE.



Marian has now assumed full charge of the role and responsibilities of the Clerk to Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council. Marian is well known to many of you. She has lived in Red House Walk, with her husband Tom, since 1990. Since she moved to Levington, despite a demanding job, she has immersed herself in village life. She is a member of Levington WI and a committee member of the Friends of St. Peter's. She chairs Levington's Gardening Club and is on the Flower Show committee. And she still finds time for her love of sport. She is an ardent fan of Ipswich Town Football Club (some of you may have seen the TV cameraman pick her out in the crowd at the September Ipswich/Newcastle match!) She also plays a mean game of golf. How then does she find time to become our Parish Clerk? Well, Marian is cutting back her work with KPMG to around 2 days a week. She comes with a wealth of experience in accountancy which is a great asset as Marian also becomes the Finance Officer for the parish council. This small parish is very fortunate to find such a keen and dedicated 'village' person to take on the role of Clerk. She is enthusiastic to work alongside parish councillors to achieve success in the 'Quality Status' scheme - a scheme that helps parish councils to achieve ever higher levels of professionalism and helps to make them good community leaders. The Parish Council looks forward to working with Marian and wishes her every success in her new role. Her contact details are on the back page of this newsletter and if you want to e-mail her, her parish clerk e-mail address is: [merosepc@virginmedia.com](mailto:merosepc@virginmedia.com)

## THE VIDEO MAN!



Just to prove the digital video recorder which was presented to us to do a video of Levington as part of the Village of the Year competition is still being used and not sitting in the box it came in! Bob Hardwick here recording the Levington Flower Show last July. It has also been used on other occasions and all recordings will become part of the village archive.

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## MOBILE POLICE STATION

Please note the Suffolk Constabulary Mobile Police Station van will be at Bridge Road lay-by between 11.45hrs and 13.15hrs on:

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December and

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

Do pop in and speak to PCSO Kevin Mann if you have anything to report or wish to seek information etc.

**St Peter's Church  
Levington**

**CHRISTMAS  
SERVICES**

**10.00am CHRISTINGLE  
SERVICE**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

*[Children and families especially  
welcome. Christingles will be handed  
out and their candles lit]*



**4.00pm**

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

**11.30pm**

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
MIDNIGHT SERVICE**

**with Roy Tricker**

**Thursday 24 December**

## LEVINGTON'S WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



November is the month when the WI holds its AGM. The competition on the night is three mincepies - none of which are likely to make it home at the end of the evening!!

The last WI meeting of the year is at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. The talk will be on 'The History of Felixstowe'. New members and visitors are always welcome at this friendly WI.

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## SUFFOLK ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS AGM 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER and Village of the Year

The Chairman David Long, Cllrs. David and Pat Pryke and Cllr. Ian Angus are to attend the SALC AGM at which part of the afternoon's agenda is devoted to Village of the Year competition. We have been asked to fill a 30 minute slot telling the invited audience from all around Suffolk about Levington's experience, the positive nature of the Awards and what a difference it can make to a parish. We aim to tell our Village of the Year journey from winning Suffolk to winning England. At the end of our presentation, we have been invited to show the DVD on a 'Day in the Life of Levington'.

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### OPERATION STACK



A letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> September has been received from Guy McGregor, the County Council's Portfolio Holder for Roads, Transport and Planning. He was pleased to say that the work to look at alternative options to the old A45 is nearing a conclusion. He expects to convene a meeting of the Operation Stack Steering Group before the end of the year where the outcomes of the work so far can be shared. He is grateful to all the residents in the affected parishes for their understanding over the past two years that the old A45 at Levington has been used for Operation Stack.

***A NEW BOOKLET IS LAUNCHED***  
**THE HISTORY OF THE LEVINGTON WAR MEMORIAL**

**HISTORY OF  
LEVINGTON WAR  
MEMORIAL 1920-2009**



**Produced by Derek  
Girling  
for the Levington Local  
History Club 2009**

In conjunction with the Levington Local History Club, a new village A5 booklet has been published which documents **the History of the Levington War Memorial from 1920-2009**. Compiled by Derek Girling it explains how and when the Memorial was built and tells the story of the names inscribed on it. The War Memorial tale is brought to life with some moving personal stories kindly provided by relatives. Illustrated throughout with photographs, some showing villagers at Remembrance and Armistice Day services in the recent past, the booklet also contains some appropriate poems. The publication ends by documenting with text and photographs the renovation of the War Memorial this year. The booklet is not only a book for the families of those who died - and whose names are read out in church on Remembrance Sunday - but is also for those who are interested in the history of the Twentieth Century and in particular are interested in Levington's history. It would also make interesting reading for anyone who has connections with our village. Initially 50 copies have been printed so do snap up your copy to ensure you get one before they all go.

**The booklet costs just £3.00 and was launched on Remembrance Sunday. Copies can now be obtained from Derek Girling (659257).**



## LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009, Levington Local History Club welcomed our guest speaker Stuart Bowell, a retired teacher from Stoo-market, who entertained us with an amusing talk about the history of East Anglian Dialects. He explained how our language and dialect has been developed and influenced by the Anglo-Saxons, Normans and Danes coming to our East Anglian shores for centuries. There are distinct variations within the counties. Apparently Ipswich folk use a 2 vowel sound for example town is pronounced "towen", and huge is "huage".

He also gave examples of Suffolk words.

"Bor" is not a word for "boy" but actually a derivative of Neighbour.

"Dag" is the morning mist or dew

"Ranny" is a shrew

"Harnser" is a heron

Stuart explained how important it is that our regional dialects should be preserved and cherished. They are not an incorrect way of speaking. It is only modern language that has changed our dialect. But which is the correct modern pronunciation..... more modern refined intonation "posh talk" or modern street talk "innit"? .....maybe this is an argument for our original dialect being the correct pronunciation!!

Anyhew, there wuz a few duzzy rummuns amung us but he larned us a thing or tew, cos it weren't awl squit... and he hully made us larf ar hids orf! See yew soon t'gether  
*[Sally Long, Chairman]*

## THE VILLAGE DIARY

### MONDAY MORNINGS

	10.00am-11.00am Coffee Hour in the Village Hall
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	2.45pm Muster at the Village Hall for <b>REMEMBRANCE PROCESSION</b> to church 3.00pm <b>EVENSONG AND REMEMBRANCE</b> and laying of poppy wreaths (St. Peter's Church)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	12.30pm <b>LUNCHEON CLUB</b> (Village Hall) (Booked places only – contact Jo Wenham on 659509)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	10.55am <b>ARMISTICE DAY</b> service (War Memorial) 7.30pm <b>WI</b> (Village Hall) AGM
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	11.00am <b>MORNING PRAYER</b> (St. Peter's Church)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	7.30pm <b>GARDENING CLUB</b> (Village Hall)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	7.30pm <b>HARVEST SUPPER</b> (Village Hall) (booked places only)
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	10.00am <b>MORNING SERVICE</b> (St. Peter's Church)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>BENEFICE SERVICE at NACTON</b>
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30pm <b>VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS FEAST</b> (Village Hall)
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am <b>Family Communion</b> (St. Peter's Church)
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	12.30pm <b>LUNCHEON CLUB</b> (Village Hall) (Booked places only – contact Jo Wenham on 659509)
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30pm <b>WI</b> (Village Hall) 'The History of Felixstowe'
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am <b>CHRISTINGLE SERVICE</b> (Church)
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30pm <b>'Levington 2009' SLIDE SHOW</b> (Village Hall)
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00pm <b>CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE</b> (St. Peter's Church)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30pm <b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</b> (St. Peter's)
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2010	7.15pm <b>PARISH COUNCIL</b> (Village Hall)

## **SUMMARY OF PARISH COUNCIL 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2009**

The Chairman welcomed the County Councillor and three members of the public.

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

Mrs. O'Brien reported on the efforts of the Police, PCTs, County, District and Borough Councils to collaborate/work together since duplication does occur across the public services. The County Council's budget preparation is underway with all Directorates looking at how to make savings and retain effective services. Mrs. O'Brien reported on how local policing is changing since Safer Neighbourhood Teams were set up to meet local needs. From Spring 2010 Response Police Officers will be briefed at the start of their shift from 9 key locations (our local police will travel to Woodbridge and then deploy). The use of the Automatic Vehicle Locator System will make it possible for the control room to send the nearest response unit to a call. The aim is that an emergency call will be answered within 10 seconds and a unit arrive within 15 minutes in an urban area and 20 minutes in a rural area. Mrs. O'Brien's views on the 2,000 homes proposed for Martlesham Adastral Park were well known. She urged everyone to write to the District Council to object to this ill-thought out and damaging proposal.

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

Mrs. Falconer reported on the Local Development Framework (new Local Plan) and said she had advised all the parish councils in the Nacton Ward to respond on the Core Strategy consultation document by 18 November on the proposal to increase the number of houses to 2,000 near BT at Martlesham plus 640 to be built in the Ipswich area and to decrease the number of houses to be built in Felixstowe to 1,410. Along with the proposal to develop the Ransomes site the impact of major development in these areas will be enormous. Mrs. Falconer had been involved in Rights of Way and Licensing Panel meetings and had also toured Felixstowe Dock to see progress on the new construction work there and also visited the Seafarers Centre. She sits on the Shared Services committee which is looking into partnership working with Waveney District Council

### **Police Report [Pc Paul Smith]**

The police constable was not able to attend but sent his report in advance. There were just two crimes reported since 2<sup>nd</sup> September. (1) Theft – overnight on 10<sup>th</sup> September in Church Lane, the rear garden of a dwelling was entered and a tortoise stolen from its pen (undetected). (2) Dangerous dog – On 10<sup>th</sup> September a jogger whilst running through the village was bitten by a dog (detected).

<b>Resignation</b>	At the start of the meeting, Cllr. David Long reported that Cllr. Jane Timmins had resigned owing to being unable to contribute fully as a result of her very many other commitments. The Council noted her resignation with much regret and thanked her for her valuable contribution.
<b>Finance</b>	The finance report for the first six months of the year was received and Cllr. Angus projected that there would be a small surplus at the end of the year. He had prepared a draft budget for 2010/11 which indicated that the precept for 2010/11 (to be confirmed in January) could remain unchanged. He noted that when the extensive project programme was completed, the Council would have reserves equivalent to one year's income as recommended. The clerk's salary and expenses were agreed. Other payments noted included equipment for the new parish clerk and a digital projector for the Village Hall. The financial position for 2010/11 of the District Council was reported. SCDC, like all councils, face severe funding cuts from Government in the next three years.
<b>Councillor Vacancies</b>	A statutory notice will need to be displayed after which, the Council will urgently seek volunteers for co-option to the Council.
<b>Local Reorganisation in Suffolk</b>	Noted that this is delayed pending the outcome of a judicial challenge.
<b>Local Development Framework</b>	Reported elsewhere in this newsletter.
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	Confirmation that the work has started on the building of six affordable homes off The Street, Nacton. There is an open meeting hosted by Hastoe in Nacton on the 19 <sup>th</sup> November from 4pm-7pm. The Parish Council has received an invitation to an 'Affordable Housing in Rural Suffolk' seminar on 9 <sup>th</sup> October.
<b>Anglia in Bloom</b>	Noted Levington had been very successful in its first attempt at entering Anglia in Bloom. <i>[Reported elsewhere in this newsletter].</i>

<b>Planning Applications</b>	(1)	C09/0097 - Land adjoining workshop, Walk Farm, Stratton Hall. <i>[Supported by Parish Council 10/2/09]</i> This application has been withdrawn.
	(2)	C09/1026 - Plot 1, adjoining Walnut Tree Cottages, Bridge Road - erection of dwelling and garage. <i>[Supported by Parish Council 27/7/09 and approved by District Council]</i>
	(3)	C09/1345 - Proposed Agricultural Reservoir, Stratton Hall Drift, Stratton Hall. Construction of reservoir. <i>[Supported by Parish Council on 5/10/09]</i>
<b>Planning Committee</b>	Cllr Linda Sharp is standing down from Planning Committee due to work commitments. Cllr. Pat Pryke has agreed to take her place on this committee.	
<b>Correspondence</b>	Various correspondence was dealt with incl. invitation to the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership Forum; proposed changes to car park management in Suffolk Coastal; Active Wellbeing - County Council's possible funding opportunity for village halls; Bus stop improvements; Glass recycling changes; District Council planning budgets for next year; Norfolk Minerals and Waste - Local Development Framework	
<b>Reports from Councillors</b>	<p>Cllr. Ian Angus reported that a lady in the Almshouses was seriously ill in hospital and that fire safety modernisation work was about to be done.</p> <p>Cllr Pat Pryke reported on the main line bus route improvement project.</p> <p>Cllr. David Pryke reported on progress re. Village Hall</p> <p>Cllr. Ian Angus reported on the recent Foreshore Litter Pick.</p> <p>Cllrs. Long, Prykes and Angus are to attend the SALC AGM and to give a presentation on the Village of the Year.</p> <p>Cllrs. Pat and David Pryke and Ian Angus attended the recent Port of Felixstowe Liaison meeting and afterwards were given a tour of the new dock construction site. Of great concern were the plans revealed by Bidwells for the possible use of a large area at Innocence Farm, south of Kirton and bordering the A14, for large-scale warehousing and lorry parks.</p>	

### **VILLAGE FORUM**

One question was raised about the financial position of Suffolk Coastal District Council. *[It was explained that savings of at least 20% would be required over the next three years].*

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### **VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION**

The major part of the Village of the Year prize money has been earmarked for 'priming' a project to create an extension to the village hall so as to provide suitable storage for the village records and archives, plus storage for the spare chairs and tables.

Two alternative extensions have been designed and costed. The largest would be at the kitchen end out towards the road, while an alternative would be created as a lean-to extension on the side of the North wall. The 'end' extension involves more cost but provides proportionately more usable space, and grant funding is currently being sought for this alternative.

Details of both alternatives will be given at a presentation at the:

**Village Hall AGM  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November  
7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Do come and see what is proposed.

## **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETINGS (FELIXSTOWE & DISTRICT)**

### Public meeting 21<sup>st</sup> September

This was held in Levington Village Hall as it was Levington's turn to host the meeting (previous meetings held at Bucklesham and Nacton). 15 Levington residents attended. The main concerns were about anti-social behaviour in and around the lay-bys on the old A45. Due to the strength of residents' comments it was decided to carry these issues forward to the Tasking Meeting.

### Tasking Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> September

This meeting was attended by Chairman David Long and Cllr. Ian Angus with the Police and other local councils represented. Specific areas of local concern were discussed, i.e. the large lay-by next to the Railway Bridge and the smaller lay-by towards the A1156. It was agreed the Police would closely monitor these areas during their patrols, and engage with their specialist unit to gain further information on any possible prostitution activity in the area. The District Council are actively considering placing extra rubbish bins at the large lay-by to reduce the litter nuisance caused by parked lorries/vehicles there. Concern was expressed about possible sexual activity taking place in the woodland near the smaller lay-by. The police confirmed that sex in public was not a criminal offence unless it offended public decency [i.e. if you don't see it, it can't offend]. Concern was expressed about the poor reputation this brings to the locality. The Police agreed to patrol the locality more often as a form of deterrent and that an approach will be made to the landowner about the possibility of clearing scrub. On other matters, speed restriction on Bridge Road between the current 30mph sign and the railway bridge were discussed as was jet skis on the River Orwell.

### Police meeting 29<sup>th</sup> September - held at Felixstowe

Cllrs. Pat Pryke, Ian Angus and David Long attended. The Chairman of the Police Authority, the Chief Constable with senior officers and SNT officers hosted this meeting and police targets, strategy and re-organisation were discussed in an interactive way. The key message was on changes to the response team arrangements with fewer 'briefing centres'. This created concern if it was to reduce local services and response times. The Chief Constable attempted to reassure the gathering that the changes were coming about after careful modelling based on previous recorded activity. This was difficult to challenge or be reassured as there was no detail available.

It has also become clear that Suffolk Constabulary may have to make significant financial savings in the coming years. They were already in the lowest two funded Constabularies in the country.

## VOLUNTEERS - DON'T YOU JUST LOVE THEM!



Volunteers are the modest type - the unsung heroes. They get up early to open the church and go back later to close it; they put out tables and chairs for Luncheon Club and other meetings; they make coffee; they pick up teatowels; they clamber up ladders to clean and renovate the Village sign; they quietly give the cannon a spruce up; they pick up litter which if left despoils our village roads and river foreshore; they cook for village events; they organise raffles and fund raise; they put great effort into arranging Exhibitions and the Flower Show and running village organisations and events; they look after the church by cleaning and providing lovely flower arrangements; they care for the churchyard; they ensure church services run smoothly; they record the life of the village year in year out; they wash down the telephone box and even put a pot plant in it; they run local youth organisations; they weedkill, cut the grass and plant shrubs and thousands of spring bulbs; they distribute 140 newsletters every two months; and then there is the dedicated team who wouldn't like to think how many hours are spent on parish council business when they should be doing jobs at home!

I could go on and perhaps I should as I'm bound to leave something or somebody out! But just to say - all our volunteers whatever they do, do it without thought of thanks or recognition. Never in their lives did they expect to win anything for what they do - but they did - they helped ensure that Levington won the top accolade of ENGLAND Village of the Year for one thing and more recently a Silver in the Anglia in Bloom Awards!

So to all our happy volunteers and everyone else who appreciates what they do -  
HAVE A HAPPY and hopefully a RESTFUL CHRISTMAS.

[The Editor]

## ADOPT-A-BEACH - Do you want the good news or ...!



**The good news** is that we are living in lovely village and it is appreciated by those from far and wide. Perhaps that is why we had 15 kind souls picking up litter on the Foreshore on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September all of whom came from the Stowmarket area. In fact they are members of the Levington Marina and were anxious to support our efforts at keeping our shoreline free of litter. We are grateful to them and thanked them by giving to each a voucher for a free pint of Adnams ale. It was noticeable that there was less litter to pick up, when compared to last year: more good news.

**Not such good news** was the fact that we only had three litter-collectors from within our own parish, but we do thank them for their public-spiritedness.

**Of even less good news** is the amount of dog litter that is continuously being left on the paths to and from the Foreshore. We hope that our dog-walkers set the highest of standards and we have one or two dedicated parishioners who clear-up on a consistent basis, but they are being over-worked. Bags and bins are provided and we do ask, for the pleasure and safety of all, that all walkers look out for those who do not clear up after their dogs and report incidents to any member of the Parish Council.

"N.B. All dog-owners may be interested to read the lead article in the Suffolk Coast and Heath's Newspaper about the influence of dogs in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Mr Angus at Walnut Tree Cottage hopes to have some free copies next week."



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

### Doorstep Sellers

The time of year to eat, drink and be merry, all in moderation of course, will soon be upon us! Don't let your Christmas be spoilt by rogue traders. In the past few weeks there have been a number of doorstep traders in Levington offering to do jobs such as prune trees or remove moss from roof tiles. They may have called on you. To avoid any problems with such traders make sure you:

- ✓ Fix a security chain and use it.
- ✓ Ask the caller to come back if you are alone.
- ✓ Delay your decision and get several quotes from local traders.
- ✓ Find out the name and address of the company.
- ✓ Always check these details before agreeing to anything or paying any money.
- ✓ Check claims by the seller and read the small print.
- ✓ Get a neighbour to support you.

### Always ask for identification. DON'T: -

- ❑ Be pressurised into a hasty decision to buy.
- ❑ Pay until you have received and inspected any goods.
- ❑ Pay a deposit unless sure you wish to be held by a contract.
- ❑ Pay on credit until you have compared alternatives.
- ❑ Give your credit card number over the 'phone unless you have verified the seller's details.
- ❑ Sell anything you own to doorstep purchasers unless you have first obtained a second opinion.

Within the past year new Doorstep Selling Regulations came into force tightening up existing rules. A trader who visits your home, whether by prior arrangement or not, selling anything from conservatories to orthopaedic beds - providing that the transaction is for more than £35 - is obliged to inform customers in writing of their right to cancel an agreement within seven days

*[Contributed by Bob Hardwick – Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator]*

## SUFFOLK COASTAL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PROPOSED CHANGES TO HOUSING DISTRIBUTION

The Parish Council has received a further consultation document from the District Council this time on the proposed changes to housing distribution in the area and has been invited to express its views. The original consultation referred to 1050 new housing units (residential accommodation) at Martlesham and 1660 units at Felixstowe/Trimleys. Following the public consultation period, the number of units in each area was changed significantly by Suffolk Coastal District Council. At Martlesham the numbers increased by 950 to 2000 housing units. At Felixstowe, the number of units was to be reduced by 660 to 1000. These new proposals have been subjected to a second round of public consultation. The total number of housing units to be built between 2008 (baseline) and 2025 remains at 7710, with 4080 of these on greenfield sites. The Parish Council had previously strongly believed that the District Council should preserve the rural nature of the area between Ipswich and Felixstowe (and the associated AONB area) by restricting the eastern development of Ipswich to the west of the A12 and A14 and the western development of Felixstowe to the East of the Trimley/Kirton Road and precluding any ribbon developments along the A14.

After consideration the Parish Council is minded to

- recommend to the District Council that it reluctantly supports the revised proposals for Martlesham on the basis that infrastructure services can be more appropriately provided.
- as this recommendation contravenes the Parish Council's original vision will suggest that all future Ipswich expansion is between the A12 and the current Ipswich town boundary

note the reduction of housing units in Felixstowe and the potential threat to the economic viability of that locality.

The Parish Council is also considering four 'scenarios' put forward in the East of England Plan for further developments to 2031.

For possible future Parish Council action:

- Consider no developments (residential or industrial) should take place south of the railway line from Felixstowe to the present Trimley residential boundary and that no developments take place south of the A14 between this boundary and the A12/A14 thus to preserve the integrity of the AONB, SSSI and Ramsar sites.
- Explore the possibility of the Parish Councils in the triangle of the A12, A14 and the coast, with Martlesham, Felixstowe and Seven Hills forming a collective to consider future development impact on this area.

FOOTNOTE:

*NO ADASTRAL NEW TOWN.* In Waldringfield an action group (NANT) has been formed to protest about the District Council's proposal to build a 2,200-2,500 house new 'town' next to BT Adastral Park - double last year's proposal of 1,050 housing units. If you would like to find out more visit [www.NoAdastralNewTown.com](http://www.NoAdastralNewTown.com)

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**HARVEST SUPPER Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**  
7.30pm in the Village Hall



**HURRY** along if you have not yet bought your tickets for this very popular village event. Tickets are selling fast so do see either Rosanne Girling (659720) or Doreen Ralph (659398).

A reminder the cost is £6.00 adults; £2.00 under 12s and there will be a two course meal plus table games, raffle and a round or two of fun bingo. Bring your own drinks/beverages - soft or alcoholic!



## LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB NEWS



The planned speaker for the 16<sup>th</sup> September meeting on 'Garden Ponds' was unable to attend at a late stage and instead Rob Parker very ably stepped into the breach with an illustrated talk on 'Butterflies'. Rob is a life-long butterfly enthusiast who has travelled widely in Europe, following butterflies, and is presently the Chairman of the Suffolk branch of Butterfly Conservation. The audience that night not only learnt a lot but was treated to some brilliant butterfly photography with an entertaining talk.



To top an excellent evening, refreshments included wine and nibbles to celebrate that day's news that Levington had won SILVER at the Anglia in Bloom Awards event! The raffle also had a huge chrysanthemum pot plant as a prize bought straight from the Anglia in Bloom stage display - the lucky winner was Hilary Weston!

At the October Gardening Club meeting we were treated to a feast of excellent photography as Bob Hardwick showed digital images of many gardens he had visited at home and abroad. It was made all the more entertaining by showing the gardens through the seasons.

So on to forthcoming meetings. **PLEASE NOTE:** the **NEXT MEETING** will be at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November**. The talk will be on 'Garden Ponds - for wildlife or ornamental'.

In the January newsletter the programme for 2010 will be announced - so watch this space!



## **POSSIBLE SPEED RESTRICTION ON BRIDGE ROAD**

The Parish Council is in discussions with Suffolk County Council's traffic management officers regarding a possible speed restriction on Bridge Road, the Levington village access road onto the Old A45. Parish Councillors have done some traffic surveys. In addition the residents of The Barn, Bridge Road have done other surveys and confirmed that there is base level traffic of over 20 vehicles an hour on the derestricted stretch past their house. At peak times nearly 200 vehicles an hour are travelling on the narrow 500 yard stretch of road and over the railway bridge and during any Operation Stack this gets much busier. There is no pedestrian path for the majority of that distance

We have asked the County Council to consider making the whole of Bridge Road a 30mph speed limit to the old A45. We are awaiting a response.

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### **SLIGHT CHANGE TO THE 163 BUS SERVICE**

**PLEASE NOTE:** What was the 14.10hrs bus (running on school days only) from Ipswich back to Levington now leaves the Old Cattle Market bus station in Ipswich 5 minutes earlier (i.e. **14.05hrs**). We hope local bus passengers have not been caught out! We did put notices on village noticeboards and tried to pass the word around.



## ROYAL MAIL CHRISTMAS POSTING DEADLINES

The last posting dates for first class and second class items are as follow

First class - Monday 21st December

Second Class - Friday 18th December

Europe (air mail) - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Australia/New Zealand (air mail) - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December

USA/Canada (air mail) - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December

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### OUR ANCIENT SMUGGLER'S INN THE SHIP, LEVINGTON



Congratulations go to Mark and Stella Johnson and all their staff at The Ship for receiving a 'HIGHLY COMMENDED' award in the recent Adnams 'Pub of the Year' awards, in the category for 'Pub of the Year'.

Special Christmas meals will be served during December so why not pick up a menu leaflet and enjoy a meal in your local hostelry. You need to book.



**Short 'ARMISTICE DAY' service**

**JUST A REMINDER** that there will be a short 'Armistice Day' service starting at 10.55hrs on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at our newly renovated War Memorial in Levington churchyard. If you can, do come and join villagers for the two minute silence. This short act of Remembrance will be led by the Rev. Christopher Courtauld.

**Come and enjoy a  
Victorian Christmas feast  
Organised by Levington Local History Club**

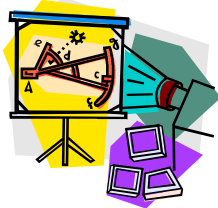


**Friday December 4th  
7.30pm in the Village Hall**

**Traditional home cooked Victorian  
Recipes (organised by Jane  
Timmins).**

**Tickets cost £10.00 and are available  
from Jane Timmins 659298, Max  
Ralph 659398 or Sally Long 659342**

A Raffle will be held  
Proceeds to St Elizabeth Hospice and Levington Local  
History Club



**THE TRADITIONAL LEVINGTON  
CHRISTMAS SLIDE SHOW  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009  
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

A later date this year, the 15<sup>th</sup> December, featuring images of Levington, its people and events during the past year, this ever popular show continues to be part of the village Christmas season. This time the new digital projector is being used so perhaps we should call it the Christmas Digital Images Show from now on!

Do come along and see Derek and David's pictures of the past year. As usual, some lovely seasonal refreshments will be served in the interval.

[£3.00 entrance on the door]

[Proceeds to St. Peter's Church funds.]



**SEASONS GREETINGS**

It seems a bit early but since this is the last Parish Council newsletter before Christmas we would like to say all possible Health and Happiness to one and all in Levington and Stratton Hall and to our County and District Councillors and Police colleagues and subscribers for Christmas and the New Year

From the Parish Council and Clerk

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*The next*  
**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

*is in the Village Hall on*  
**TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 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

Pat Pryke 659554

Linda Sharp 659771

Parish Clerk - Marian Rose 659638 - email: [merosepc@virginmedia.com](mailto:merosepc@virginmedia.com)

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Mrs. Patricia O'Brien (County 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 (01473) 383311

Safer Neighbourhood Team/Sgt. Neil McKay 01473 383351

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