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LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL

***PARISH COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER***



MAY 2009

Calor ENGLAND Village of the Year 2008/09

www.levington.org

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Dear Villager and Subscribers -

Hello and Welcome to the May 2009 edition of the Parish Council newsletter. A warm welcome also to any new residents in the parish.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH CHAIRMAN (David Long)

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Again this year the Annual Parish meeting was held before the start of the AGM Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 12th May. I, and the parish councillors, were grateful to those village organisation representatives who came along and gave their annual reports, including the District Councillor, the local Police officer or those who had special responsibilities in the village for Neighbourhood Watch, Village Recording, Local Transport etc. County Councillor Patricia O'Brien was unable to attend and sent her report in advance. The annual Parish Council report was also received. Thank you to everyone who took the opportunity to attend.

I am honoured that the parish council team have once again asked me to continue as their Chairman. I took on the role in 2003 and in the past 6 years have tried my best to lead and steer the parish council through the volumes of local government paperwork and issues that come our way. There have been difficult times but equally there have been many successes and good things achieved! Similarly, David Pryke was voted in again as Vice Chairman. David has also served 6 years in this role and I have much appreciated his personal support over the years.

I was sorry to receive the resignation of Michael (Mike) Barker as parish councillor in April due to increased work commitments. Mike had been a councillor for just under 2 years having been elected by residents at the May 2007 elections. One of Mike's responsibilities was Coast and Footpath Warden. I am pleased to advise that Cllr. Linda Sharp will now take on this role. Linda is familiar with many of the local footpaths as she walks her dog and so she should be well placed to spot any footpath/bridle way problems that need the attention of the County Council's rights of way team. The 'Coast' part of that role becomes more and more important with coastal erosion and flooding issues and other factors that affect our local river environment.

[David Long - Parish Council Chairman]



LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Levington Local History Club held its first AGM on 9th April. It had been a very successful first year with a growing membership. Local research had started and speaker evenings had been well attended. The AGM was also 'Member's Evening' and projects being researched were brought along and progress reviewed. Some research may end up as printed booklets and lodged in the Levington archive as well as with the local Record Office. To date, Phil Owen has been delving into the history of Levington Creek and had prepared photos, maps and history of the Creek; Derek Girling had compiled a booklet giving extensive information on Levington's War Memorial and brief histories of those men commemorated on the Memorial; Pat Pryke had completed the typed transcription of the entries in Levington's Wedding Banns book (1857-2008); Louise Mann had researched the story of a sunken Viking Ship in the river; Sally Long had transcribed Levington censuses; Doreen Ralph has listed the Flower Show trophies' winners since the 1950's. Rosanne Girling was recording the history of Levington Women's Institute and the Levington May Queens. Rosalind Doshi brought along a 1903 original watercolour of Levington Post Office Other research projects are in the pipeline. Members were privileged to see a remarkable book brought to the meeting by Tom Rose showing both moving personal letters and important historical documents of Brigadier-General Charles Bulkeley Bulkeley-Johnson A.D.C. He commanded the 8th Cavalry Brigade formerly 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys) and was killed in action 11th April 1917, aged 49. The book was found in Tom's late father's possessions. Tom kindly let History Club members see it before he gives it on permanent loan to the Royal Scots Greys Museum in Edinburgh Castle. In the more formal part of the meeting the following elections took place: Sally Long (Chairman); Jane Timmins (Secretary); and Max Ralph (Treasurer).

PICKY? YOU BET WE WERE!



[Stephen with tractor and trailer and Mike adding to the heap!]

What have the following got in common? A carpet, a tube of Polident for false teeth, a television and hi-fi system, bottles of whisky (empty unfortunately!) a load of old tyres? Yes - you've guessed it. They are all items found on the March Village clear up day. These along with numerous bags of rubbish were collected by tractor and trailer around the parish and then deposited in a central spot for later collection by Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Many thanks to all who assembled for the Litter Pick on Saturday 21st March. It was a beautiful warm spring day and apart from enjoying being outside on a morning like that 'pickers' enjoyed seeing violets and other wild flowers flowering in the grass verges and saw hares on the fields.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, the morning was very successful and by midday the parish had been picked clean. Once again, many hands make light work and everyone said that they enjoyed taking part in a community project. No doubt we'll all meet again next Spring!! And if so we'd love to see even more new faces coming along for a morning's bit of exercise and the chance to keep our environment looking great.



48TH PIN MILL SAILING CLUB BARGE RACE SATURDAY 18TH JULY

Your Editor was reprimanded (nicely of course!) last year for not remembering to put the date of the Pin Mill Barge Race in the newsletter and some of you missed the chance to see the barges go by. So - this year she has remembered. For those interested in watching the wonderful sight of the barges sailing by Levington, you will need to watch the local press for tides and start times nearer the time. Where is the best place to see the barges go by? Well, the best place to see everyone start is at Pin Mill itself. But locally you will get a good view from the river shore at Levington. However, many locals think the best viewpoint is on the top of the bit of cliff just beyond the Loom Pits east of the Marina since the barges normally come quite close in here and it gives you a better sight and better opportunities for taking photographs.



JOYCE ANNIE BUGG (1917-2008)

On Sunday June 7th, at St. Peter's Church after the 10am morning service, the Reverend Canon Geoffrey Grant will bless a new churchyard bench in memory of Joyce Bugg. We look forward to seeing many of her friends and family at this ceremony.

RENOVATION OF LEVINGTON'S WAR MEMORIAL

The Parish Council, after seeking estimates, has awarded the contract to F. Masters stonemasons. The War Memorial will be cleaned and the letters repainted. Some of you will have noticed that the work started on Thursday 14th May.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Home security

After a colder winter than we have become used to in recent years the lighter and warmer evenings now with us are most welcome. It is the time of year when windows are opened and garages and sheds are left open for convenience - **BUT** for whose convenience?! Yes, it is a bother to keep locking doors behind us and opening and closing garages and sheds, but it is better to be safe than sorry. Never leave keys in a lock. If you go out always take them with you and don't leave them in a "secret" hiding place - thieves know all the hiding places. Alternatively, leave a spare key with a trusted neighbour. In short, take all measures you can to ensure that opportunities for theft from your property are removed. Don't let your home or garden be a target.

Vehicle security Recent police reports indicate that theft from motor vehicles still remains a common crime and our area is no exception. Unless we all take the basic precautions of locking our cars up, or preferably away in a garage, and not leaving valuables in them, we cannot expect to escape the attentions of opportunist thieves.

For anyone with a trade vehicle it can be a particular problem when carrying essential equipment such as for building or garden maintenance;

- ❑ Ensure your vehicle is both locked and alarmed.
- ❑ Try to park your vehicle back-to-back or reverse up against a solid wall or lamppost.
- ❑ Try to keep equipment locked in a cage within your vehicle or use heavy-duty chain through handles of machinery.
- ❑ Ensure all property is security marked i.e. by etching, acid marking, security labels or, consider SMARTWEAR (DNA property marking - details from www.smartwater.com). A domestic pack is also available)

Note. I shall be attending a Neighbourhood Watch Forum on 16th June. If you have any issues you would like raised please let me know.

[Bob Hardwick - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator]



MOBILE POLICE STATION - The next scheduled visit of the Mobile Police Station to Levington is **TUESDAY 2nd JUNE** 11.45-13.15hrs at Bridge Road layby. This is your opportunity to have a chat with PCSO Kevin Mann on any matters of concern or make comments.

COFFEE MORNERS ENJOY A FREE MEAL AT THE SHIP

Jo and Len Wenham and Mags Pilgrim invited 22 of the best attendees at Monday morning coffee hour in the Village Hall to a free 2-course meal with wine and coffee at The Ship on 7th April. Profits from the produce stall helped pay for this. Once again, Mark Johnson and his team looked after everyone very well and a convivial lunchtime and a superb meal was enjoyed by all. Grateful thanks to Jo, Len and Mags for all their efforts in making the Monday morning coffee hour such a success and a much welcome part of village life.

NO CHANGE AT THE SHIP!

There is no truth in the rumour that Mark and Stella Johnson are leaving the Ship after the recent announcement that Adnams have bought The Ship from Punch Taverns Ltd. Mark and his team wish to reassure everyone that they intend to stay and will continue to welcome locals and visitors alike. So good food and wines and beer from the casks are there still to be enjoyed.

LEVINGTON TELEPHONE BOX - have you noticed how clean it is?

To the lady resident who took a bucket of soapy water and cloth down to the Telephone Box and gave it a good spring clean - many thanks. Your good deed did not go unnoticed! Your efforts to keep our environment looking clean and tidy are to be applauded.

ESCORTED RIVER ORWELL WALK - Unfortunately, the river walk under the guidance of Suffolk Wildlife Trust due to take place on 28th March 2009 had to be postponed. A new date will be set for the Autumn when we may get the opportunity to see some of our winter visiting birds.

RESIGNATION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

A vacancy occurred on Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council following the resignation of parish councillor Michael (Mike) Barker. Mike tendered his resignation due to increased work commitments under the current economic climate. He has thanked the Parish Chairman and parish councillors for their support over the recent past. Mike was elected in May 2007 and had served almost two years. In return, the Parish Chairman has thanked Mike for his contribution of time and effort on behalf of our local community. To meet statutory requirements and to fill the vacancy, the necessary 'Notice of Vacancy' was posted on village noticeboards on 23rd April for a 14 day period (excluding weekends and bank holidays). During this period, ten registered local government electors from Levington and Stratton Hall parish could make a request to the Returning Officer for an election to be held to fill the vacancy. A form to be completed to request an election was available from the Electoral Services section of Suffolk Coastal District Council. After expiry of the 14 day period if no election has been requested then the parish council can fill the vacancy by co-option.

LEVINGTON VILLAGE ROAD SIGNS

To mark Levington winning Calor ENGLAND Village of the Year, the parish council is liaising with Suffolk County Council to have the Levington village road signs renewed to mark this achievement. We are grateful to Suffolk Coastal District Council who wish to fund the new signs in recognition of a 'Suffolk Coastal's' village success.



A big thank you to everyone who recently donated blankets, sleeping bags and men's clothing to be distributed to the homeless people in Ipswich. These were very much appreciated by everyone involved. Thank you very much.
[Jo Wenham]

FOR YOUR DIARIES PLEASE NOTE - CHANGE OF DATE FOR WEEKEND VETERAN'S DAY EXHIBITION

See below



VETERAN'S DAY EXHIBITION



NOW

Saturday 1st August 12noon - 6.00pm

Sunday 2nd August 10.00am - 5.00pm

An exhibition to illustrate the way of life in World War II (September to May 1945) in the villages and towns of our country. Featuring our own local area: Air Raid Precautions (ARP), Home Guard, rationing of food and clothing etc. and our armed services who fought and gave their lives so that we can enjoy the life we have today. The Exhibition will also have a tribute to the Centenary of the Fleet Air Arm, Malta convoys, the Eighth Army, D-Day landings and the Far East.

Come and see this unique memorabilia collection as this is probably the last time it will be seen in its entirety as it's going to be dispersed to various museums.

Entrance £2.00 on the door. All proceeds for Village Hall improvement project. Light refreshments available in the local N.A.A.F.I.

(Derek Girling and Philip Evans)

THE VILLAGE DIARY

EVERY MONDAY MORNING	10.00am Monday Morning Coffee Hour (Village Hall)
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Wednesday 20 th May	7.00pm LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB Guided tour of Christchurch Park (booked places only)
Thursday 21 st May	7.00pm ASCENSION DAY service (St Peter's)
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Sunday 24 th May	10.00am MORNING SERVICE (St. Peter's Church)
Tuesday 26 th May	10.45am Mobile Library (Bridge Rd layby)
	2.00pm LEVINGTON HISTORY CLUB Visit to Ipswich Museum to see the Levington Hoard (members booked places only)
Wed/Thurs 27 th /28 th May	SUFFOLK SHOW DAYS
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Sunday 31 st May	10.00pm BENEFICE SERVICE (St. Peter's Church)
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Sunday 7 th June	10.00am FAMILY COMMUNION (St. Peter's) and afterwards Blessing of new churchyard bench
Tuesday 9 th June	10.45am Mobile Library (Bridge Rd layby)
	12.30pm LUNCHEON CLUB (Village Hall) (Booked places only – contact Jo Wenham on 659509)
	7.30pm OPEN VILLAGE MEETING to discuss School Catchment Area (Village Hall)
Wednesday 10 th June	7.30pm WI 'Bees and Flowers' Mr. Quinlan
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Sunday 14 th June	6.30pm EVENSONG (St. Peter's Church)
Wednesday 17 th June	7.30pm LEVINGTON GARDENING CLUB 'Fuchsias' (Village Hall)
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Sunday 21 st June	11.00am MORNING SERVICE (St. Peter's Church)
Tuesday 23 rd June	10.45am Mobile Library (Bridge Rd layby)
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Sunday 28 th June	10.00am MORNING SERVICE (St. Peter's Church)
Sunday 5 th July	10.00am FAMILY COMMUNION (St. Peter's)
Tuesday 7 th July	7.15pm PARISH COUNCIL meeting (Village Hall)

SUMMARY OF PARISH COUNCIL AGM 12th MAY 2009

Three villagers attended and observed the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council. No items were raised either at the pre-agenda forum or the Open Forum at the end.

County Councillor's Report (Mrs O'Brien). Mrs. O'Brien did not attend but sent her report in advance. She reported on the Local Government Review and that the County Council had put forward a business case for a single unitary authority. The School Organisation Review and Building Schools for the Future projects had been developing. In Felixstowe, the Deben and Orwell schools are to merge into a new high school. The County Council is investing more in children's social work and has made money available to the Citizen's Advice Bureau and Credit Unions. £1m is being given to fund capital transport schemes. Of this, Suffolk Coastal locality will receive £200,000. Mrs O'Brien continues to oppose the large expansion of housing at Martlesham due to increased levels of traffic and road capacity and the effect on the locality. The council tax increase for 2009/10 was 2.45%, the lowest rise ever in Suffolk. £300 from the Locality Budget had been given to Levington which had been spent on new Village Hall chairs.

District Councillor's Report (Mrs. Falconer). Mrs. Falconer gave a resume of Suffolk Coastal's achievements for 2008/09. Despite falling income, the District Council had set the council tax increase at 2.9%. 62% of households in the Coastal area now have the combined recycling and waste collection service and they are a year ahead with rolling out the new blue bins. Nearly 25,000 over 60s and disabled have the free national concessionary bus pass and there is now free swimming at SCDCs three pool for the over 60s. Mrs. Falconer reported on the amended BT application for 2,000 homes, hotel and regeneration of their site and on the important issues to affect the future of our area - Local Government re-organisation and the new Local Plan (Local Development Framework). Mrs. Falconer becomes Vice-Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council for 2009/10.

Police Report (Pc Mike Crisp)

In the annual report, PC Mike Crisp reported on the crimes that had occurred within the Levington area for the period 1st April 2008 to 12th May 2009. There had been 32 offences of which 25 are undetected and 7 detected. A detection rate of 28%. Of these offences 11 were committed at the Marina (mainly theft of equipment) and 5 at Levington Creek car park (theft from vehicles). This latter area will soon see more police surveillance in an effort to deter opportunist crime. Speeding traffic through the village remains a concern. Pc Crisp and a colleague had been out monitoring traffic using the police speed gun on Bridge Road on Monday 11th May in an effort to enforce speed limits.

AGM OF THE PARISH COUNCIL 2009	
Election of Chairman and Vice-chairman	<p>David Long was unanimously elected as Chairman for the coming year.</p> <p>David Pryke was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman</p>
Election of Committees and Officers	<p>The following were elected:</p> <p>Planning committee: Ian Angus, David Long, David Pryke, Jane Timmins and Linda Sharp</p> <p>Finance Advisory committee: Ian Angus, David Long, David Pryke and Jean Ruthen (Parish Clerk).</p> <p>The Responsible Finance Officer remains the Parish Clerk.</p> <p>The internal auditor will be Heelis & Lodge,</p> <p><u>Representatives for:</u></p> <p>Suff. Assoc. of Local Councils - David Long</p> <p>Village Hall committee - David Pryke</p> <p>Coasts and Heaths/Footpath Warden - Linda Sharp</p> <p>Tree and church field warden - David Long</p> <p>Almshouses - Ian Angus</p> <p>Transport - Pat Pryke</p> <p>Emergency Planning - Jane Timmins & Linda Sharp</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</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator - Bob Hardwick</p> <p>Church Field Management WP - David Pryke, David Long, Jane Timmins, Linda Sharp + Bob Hardwick as adviser</p>
Finance	<p>The Accounts for the year 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 were approved. Noted the finances were inflated due to the inclusion of the Village of the Year winnings.</p> <p>A project list of 15 schemes has been drawn up to 'invest' the prize money back into the village. Noted finances were on track and the Parish Council's careful budgeting and forward planning was continuing to prove to be successful with no increase in the parish precept. The Annual Return had been completed and the Internal Auditor had found that all matters were satisfactory.</p>

Planning Applications	(1)	Land adjoining workshop, Walk Farm [<i>Supported by Parish Council 10.2.09</i>]
	(2)	1 New Cottages, Nacton Road, Levington - part demolition of existing side extension and rebuild reducing width [<i>Permission granted by District Council on 26.3.09</i>]
	(3)	1 Lower Farm Cottages, Nacton Road, Levington - Insertion of Catslide dormer window to form en-suite bathroom (<i>resubmission</i>) - [<i>Permission granted by District Council 30.3.09</i>]
	(4)	Levington Hall - site for proposed barn, access via Levington to Levington Hall; erection of agricultural Barn to be used for housing tractors, other estate equipment and a sawmill. [<i>Opposed by Planning Committee of the Parish Council 5.5.09</i>]
Correspondence received	22 items of correspondence were dealt with too numerous to expand on here suffice to say that some were for information only; some relating to training, conferences and surveys; and others on grant and funding opportunities.	
Local Government Framework	Various letters had been received from local authorities giving their stance on LGF and a letter from the Boundary Committee gave draft proposals and synopsis. Kirton Parish Council had instigated a joint local parishes representation to the Boundary Committee and Levington has considered this to be a good idea. The Parish Council agreed to re-confirm their support for a single Unitary Council in Suffolk.	
Councillor Reports	Chairman David Long and Cllr. Angus reported on attendance at a Town and Parish Liaison meeting; Cllr. Angus reported on attendance at a SALC National Training Course on ' <i>Power of Well-Being</i> ' and also on the recent successful Adopt-a-Beach Litter Pick; Cllr. Pat Pryke reported pursuance of a second bus bus (westbound) on the Old A45 and reinstatement of bus stops near Stratton Hall Drift junction. Noted that Country Travel bus company had suddenly ceased to operate and FIRST bus company were currently running the village route. Cllr. David Pryke reported on attendance at a Funding Seminar.	



THE 2009 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 12 MAY

The Annual Parish meeting was held before the Parish Council AGM meeting. Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to attend.

The Parish Chairman gave an annual report as well as thanking parish councillors and the parish clerk for all their hard work and support over the past year. At the meeting we received the annual reports from our County and District Councillors, the Police, village organisations and those with particular responsibilities in the village. The concerns of the school catchment area were also discussed. We have said it before, but will say again! A BIG THANK YOU on behalf of the Village, to the various Village organisations that provide interest, support and services to the community. Just listening to the many reports it is amazing how much goes on in this small village offering contact and enjoyable activities and how many people actually volunteer their time to make things happen. All events, clubs etc. are organised by people who care for what they do and they put in many hours outside the meeting times to make sure we can enjoy our leisure time.



ANGLIA IN BLOOM

The 'Levington Bloomers' team held their first meeting on 10th March. They have now entered Levington into the Anglia-in-Bloom competition for 2009 and are working on the submission Portfolio. The team will need to work out a route to take the judges around the village in July and put together a small display in the Village Hall. In the meantime, a small team were working on a planting scheme to be placed in front of the Levington village entrance signs and with some possible extra planting behind the raised wall at the Village Hall noticeboard. A children's project is in hand to make bird and bat boxes. Other members of the team would look at the feasibility of having a water butt off the Village Hall downpipe for easy access to water for the Village Hall flower tubs. Levington WI members have taken over the maintenance of the tubs. Nearer to Judging Day, a small working party will be arranged to ensure village roads, verges, street furniture, etc. is all clean and tidy. The 'Bloomers' team met again on Monday 11th May to review progress.

**'OPEN' VILLAGE MEETING, TO DISCUSS THE SECONDARY SCHOOL
CATCHMENT AREA FOR OUR CHILDREN**

There has been great consternation from local parents over recent difficulties with the secondary school catchment area. While the County Council will no longer guarantee a place at the catchment school (a change in the national code on admissions), they gave no warning to the parents of children at Nacton School that there was a problem. The difficulty has been discussed at recent Parish Council meetings. Cllr. Ian Angus (Community school governor) raised the problem with both the County Councillor and parish councillors that Year 6 Levington children had NOT been granted a place at Kesgrave High School, which is the official catchment area school for Levington (although bizarrely, not for Stratton Hall). Instead the parents had been told that the children would have to go to Holywells School, Ipswich. Fortunately, the Secondary School Appeal process has been favourable for all the children from Levington and Stratton Hall. Those who had been refused entry to Kesgrave High School have now been offered a place there; this included one child for whom Kesgrave is not their catchment school. However, for parents in the future the problem could still remain, as no guarantees are given by the County Council that children will be offered a place in their catchment school. The parish council has thus decided to facilitate a discussion for ALL parents with school age children especially those coming up to secondary school age in the near future and those who might have an interest in local children's education. To this end, there will be:

**An 'OPEN' VILLAGE MEETING
to discuss the School Catchment Area
at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th June in the Village Hall**

This is your opportunity to come along and raise concerns and discuss the school catchment area and the effect it could have on our local children and village.

SUCCESSFUL FORESHORE LITTERPICK: SATURDAY, 18TH APRIL

The Parish's third 'clear-up Saturday' in just over a month (Roads and Churchyard had already been successfully completed) was a success and 23 people, including a stalwart party from Levington Marina, cleared the shore of litter both ways from the Creek, i.e. towards Nacton and the Marina. We had a Marine Biologist from the Environment Agency on hand to explain about some of the bio-diversity that we were experiencing and many bags of litter, plus chemical containers, tyres, bedding and drift wood were given a new home in the Council's refuse site.

It is interesting that new 'pickers' always say how much they have enjoyed the morning and it is hoped that more of the village will feel moved to help when it is convenient for them to do so. We have a wonderful environment and it is important that we all take the opportunities to make our personal contribution towards maintaining its beauty. Perhaps we can see more 'first-timers' when we next have a clear-up. You will be very welcome: we pick for about 1½ hours and it isn't very hard work. See you then?

Ian Angus

DONATION TO NACTION CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Elizabeth Dutton, the Headteacher, has kindly written to thank the Parish Council for a donation of £250. Mrs Dutton explained that the school was planning to extend the opportunities for the children to grow vegetables and the donation will be used towards the planter. The planter includes a seat to be used by children and adults alike as well as offering the opportunity to have the fun and pleasure of growing their own food.

LEVINGTON VILLAGE HALL

A letter has been received from the Treasurer of the Village Hall Trustees thanking the Parish Council for a donation of £350. The income received from hire charges does not cover the annual running costs of the village hall and the donation will be a considerable help in making up the shortfall.



FREE NATIONAL CONCESSIONARY BUS PASSES FOR THE OVER 60s

The 'national' bus pass concessionary scheme came into effect on 1st April 2008. Previously the 'free' passes for the over 60s could only be used in the county where you were a permanent resident.

Recently, rumours in the press have suggested that changes may be coming to how our free bus passes can be used. It seems the Government might be quietly withdrawing some of the benefits of free travel for the over 60s and even a suggestion that the pass will not be acceptable on park and ride routes and buses 'intended primarily for tourism' such as open top buses. I have sought the latest situation in our area. The local authority confirms that concessionary bus passes may still be used on the Ipswich Park and Ride service but please check with Park and Ride services in other towns as different rules may apply. However, you can no longer use your concessionary bus pass on Air Direct's X5 coach service from Ipswich to Stansted Airport. The decision comes following a change in the rules by Government which means that Ministers will no longer reimburse the cost of providing free concessionary bus travel on that service. *[Pat Pryke - Parish Transport Representative]*

NEW REGULATIONS FOR DISPOSAL OF PLASTERBOARD AT HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING SITES

There has been a change in policy in the way plasterboard can now be disposed of at Household Waste Recycling Sites. As from 1st April 2009, Gypsum Plasterboard is no longer permitted to be mixed with other wastes and land filled. Plasterboard can only be accepted in limited quantities (2 bags per day as per the existing policy on construction and demolition waste). The site which will accept Plasterboard is the Ipswich Foxhall Road Household Waste Recycling Site. The County Council suggests that if you have more than 2 bags of this type of waste that you contact a licensed contractor (details can be found in Yellow Pages).

OPERATION STACK -temporary but how long is temporary!

The Parish Council has been increasingly concerned at not being kept fully updated by Suffolk County Council with progress on seeking a permanent solution to Operation Stack. The top level Operation Stack Steering Group had not met since last July.

The Parish Council sent a letter to County Councillor Guy McGregor (the Portfolio Holder for Roads and Transport) at Suffolk County Council on the 4th March. **Mr. McGregor replied seven weeks later with a letter dated 22nd April. However the Parish Chairman only received this through the post on 9th May!** This after chasing his office for a response! The letter noted the difficulties and inconvenience residents have faced and Mr. McGregor said they were working hard on finding a long-term solution. However, the Parish Council, having read the response have decided there was still insufficient information given in the letter. Mr. McGregor is on record stating Operation Stack at Levington would be for a 'temporary' 2-2½ year period until summer 2010.

In his latest letter the Parish Council is dismayed to read that at present Mr. McGregor now writes to say he cannot give a definitive timescale but a Working Group meets regularly to progress options. *[The Parish Council intends to pursue the matter further and seek concrete information. After all it is Levington residents and businesses that bear the brunt of any Operation Stack which takes place in our parish].*



COUNTY COUNCIL AND EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

On the 4th June Levington Village Hall will become a Polling Station. All electoral divisions in Suffolk will be holding elections for Suffolk County Councillors. On the same day will be held the European Parliament elections. **DO USE YOUR DEMOCRATIC RIGHT TO VOTE.** This is your chance to decide who you would like to represent you and our parish on many important issues, not least a permanent solution for Operation Stack! County Councillors (who are elected every four years) have to manage and deliver many different services but among its most important are schools, adult and youth services, social services, highways, transportation, trading standards, libraries and archives and fire and rescue. They also have to manage a multi-million pound budget.

The candidates for County Councillor are: John FORBES (Green Party); John KELSO (Liberal Democrat), Howard NEEDHAM (Labour) and Patricia O'BRIEN (Conservative)

LUNCHEON CLUB MEMBERS HELP PURCHASE A NEW DISHWASHER FOR LEVINGTON VILLAGE HALL



Len and Jo Wenham unveiling the newly purchased dishwasher

Washing up after any Luncheon Club when as many as 45 people may have sat down for a delicious meal is no mean feat with many plates, dishes and cups and saucers as well as pans to be cleaned. So it was on 27th April, after the Monday morning coffee hour, that a newly installed dishwasher was unveiled and used for the first time.

The dishwasher, a commercial one, with a wash cycle of about 3-4 minutes, was able to be purchased by the accumulation of two years raffle receipts at Luncheon Club and careful housekeeping on buying ingredients for the various meals. It cost just over £2,000. It will be a real asset to Village Hall users.

[The Parish Council met the lesser cost of installation, so this was a good example of how a partnership can bring benefits to many].



The next meeting of **LEVINGTON WI** is on Wednesday 10th June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, The subject of the talk is 'Bees and Flowers' by Mr. Quinlan.

It was great to welcome some new ladies at our 'Open' WI evening in April and we hope they will come and visit us again soon.

SUFFOLK SHOW Members are entering several classes again in this year's Suffolk Show so if you are visiting this year do search out the Suffolk East WI marquee and see how Levington has done. The theme this year is 'Christmas' - an unlikely subject for May! However, you should see colourful displays of 'Away in a Manger', a stuffed pantomime characters, home-made Christmas stockings, Christmas letters to Father Christmas in rhyme and Christmas candle/floral arrangements amongst others. So do go along and take a look. You may find you'll come away with some ideas of your own for things to make. There is the added bonus of the Country Market with lots of goodies like cakes, preserves and pies to buy and handicrafts. *[Here they will save your purchases until you wish to collect on your way out of the Showground].*

In the WI Marquee there will be the gift stall with excellent cookery books, stationery, calendars and giftware to buy. And not least, we think some of the best refreshments to be had on the Showground, home-made refreshments and at very reasonable prices, be it morning coffee, lunches or afternoon tea.

DON'T FORGET



THE SUFFOLK SHOW

Wednesday/Thursday 27th/28th May

LEVINGTON FLOWER SHOW SATURDAY 18th JULY 2009



Don't forget to put this special date in your diary! The success of the Show depends on you. Last year's entries were excellent with several more new faces joining in. It really is not difficult. 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 (in colour this year!) 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. In the meantime so you can be out and about with your cameras - the photographic competition classes are:

- A "Leaf"
- "Skyscape"
- "A child/children"

And its not too early to start grooming your favourite flowering or foliage pot plant for stardom!!

The Cookery and Handicraft Cup has Joyce Bugg's inscription on it. A stalwart and organiser for many years of the Show, she won this cup on many occasions. During the coming year, the Flower Show committee will be looking into the feasibility of renewing many of the Flower Show Cups and will be looking into purchasing a new one specifically in memory of Joyce



LEVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Make a note the next meeting is:

7.30pm THURSDAY 9TH JULY in the Village Hall

PIP WRIGHT will be talking on

Frolic, Fun and Fornication - Suffolk Life and Times

The registers and papers that once lay in the parish chests of Suffolk villages contain all kinds of items that could so easily have been thrown away or never written at all. The surprises they reveal about the people of Suffolk in past centuries is remarkable. This talk is all about the things you never expected to find written in the parish records of Suffolk.

The event is OPEN TO EVERYONE. SO DO COME ALONG and be surprised, entertained and informed.

On the door: £3.00 non-members

£1.00 Local History Club members

(to include refreshments)

Ring Sally Long on 659342 or Jane Timmins on 659298 for any further details.

TO NOTE - FORTHCOMING LOCAL ROAD WORKS

Suffolk County Council (Highways) has advised of highways maintenance work to be carried out in Levington. The U3219 Old Felixstowe Road, between the A156 junction and the end of the dual-carriageway section is to be surface dressed at the beginning of July and the C320 Bridge Road, between the railway bridge and the Village Hall to be surface dressed on approximately 6th July. If you park a vehicle on Bridge Road you may well be advised to move it off the road during the tar and chipping process.

MONDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR

Jo and Len Wenham and Mags Pilgrim welcome you back for 2009 to the Monday Morning coffee hour in the Village Hall

Monday mornings, including Bank Holiday Mondays

10.00am to 11.00am in the Village Hall

This is no ordinary coffee morning! Yes, there is coffee and home-made shortbread to enjoy but there is also a wonderful home-made produce stall of goodies to buy to take home to enjoy later. And there is the chance to relax for an hour in good company - both male and female. So do come along and experience a Levington coffee morning.

NEW CHAIRS FOR THE VILLAGE HALL

**FUNDED BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR PATRICIA O'BRIEN'S LOCALITY BUDGET
AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

The Parish Council instigated the purchase of ten new chairs for the Village Hall which were kindly funded by County Councillor Patricia O'Brien's Locality Budget. This now brings the total to 50 chairs of the same type. In addition, to aid the less able, 5 chairs with arms have also been purchased. These five will be separately funded by village organisations buying one each and so we thank sincerely Levington WI, Luncheon Club, Monday Morning Coffee Hour, Flower Show and the Levington Local History Club for their contributions to complete the current project. Thank you to everyone one involved in the purchase of the new chairs.



BREAKING NEWS! THE 163 BUS SERVICE

Country Travel bus company ceased trading with immediate effect (12th May). Suffolk County Council have organised that the FIRST bus company will currently take over the five trips a day through Levington on the 163 service that Country Travel used to be responsible for.

[Pat Pryke - Parish Transport representative]

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*The next
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING*

is in the Village Hall on

WEDNESDAY 7th JULY 2009

*[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
Jane Timmins 659298
Parish Clerk - Jean Ruthen 659800

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 Mike Crisp (01473) 613500
Safer Neighbourhood Team/Sgt. Peter Street (01473) 613500

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