

**Village Recorder report for Levington and Stratton Hall Annual Parishes Meeting**  
**April 29<sup>th</sup> 2024.**

Another busy year of village recording has taken place, with all the usual tasks being carried out as follows:

- maintaining the village diary;
- making daily weather observations (temperature, precipitation, wind speed and direction, snow depth, general observations);
- taking photographic images around the village;
- receiving and storing items for the village archives;
- keeping an eye on various online auction sites for items relating to Levington and Stratton Hall;
- writing a yearly report for the Village Recorder scheme;
- submitting articles for the Parish Council newsletter.

The first sift through the village archive continues, and with it, the realisation that cataloguing is going to take longer than originally anticipated! However, the process is well worth the time and effort, as it will allow for easier finding of information once complete. Much better to have a list of what is in the archive (and in which box, file, etc.), than having to trawl through the whole thing looking for that elusive piece of paper or photograph (and invariably getting side-tracked along the way).

Currently, two pieces of research are being undertaken. The differences in both subject matter and time periods covered, indicate the wide scope of village history researched by the Recorder.

Firstly, the mystery ecclesiastical building at Stratton Hall. As one potential source of information is dealt with, another appears, and needs investigating! It is hoped that the resulting article will be ready for the Parish Council newsletter later this year.

Secondly, display boards for the D-Day 80 commemorations are being prepared. Those regarding the Desert Rats at Orwell Park School have been completed. Information regarding Alfred Sheppard is currently being assembled, so that a display regarding his life and service details can be produced.

The theme of 'change' can be applied both to the last twelve months, and also to the relatively immediate future. A new Parish Council has been elected, and with it, new ideas and priorities regarding life in the village. Planning consent for both a housing development and also an extension to 'The Ship' will undoubtedly bring changes to Levington. Whether good, bad, or indifferent, only time will tell.

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