

## **2008/9 ANNUAL REPORT OF LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **GENERAL**

Following the resignation of John Ingham from the Parish Council in January 2009, no election having been called for, the process of co-opting is taking place.

August saw the second year of the “revived” Carnival timed to coincide with the Playing Fields Association Fete. An entertaining day was had by most people and the parade finished just before the rains came down!

Remembrance Sunday saw yet another good attendance by young and old at the War Memorial and St Mary’s Church. The Parish Council had earlier in the year taken the decision to have the Memorial cleaned and this was done in time for the parade. The Parish Council were fortunate in managing to obtain some funding for this work through the War Memorial Trust.

Christmas saw another lovely tree outside the Village Hall.

### **CEMETERY**

Steven Aldous works hard to keep the Cemetery neat and tidy - something which is noticed by many of the visitors to the Cemetery.

### **PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office continues to be well visited by residents and visitors alike. However, there is likely to be a change in the opening hours in order to allow the Clerk to catch up with administration work. It is proposed that the office will not open on the Tuesday and Wednesday following the Parish Council Meetings (that will generally be the first Tuesday & Wednesday of the month - Parish Council Meetings being the first Monday of the month unless that falls on a Public Holiday, in which case the Meeting will be held on the following Monday)

### **SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY**

The village continues to be well served by PCSO Jason Thomas and he has been a regular attendee at Parish Council Meetings.

### **RAF COMMANDER LAKENHEATH**

Squadron Leader Jerry Neild is a regular attendee at Parish Council Meetings and seems to be doing much to foster good relations between the base and the village. February saw a presentation in the Village Hall by Operations Section at RAF Lakenheath.

### **SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr Colin Noble regularly attends Parish Council meetings taking up, at County level, the issues brought before him. The village is also fortunate to have retained a “two man gang” from SCC - they come in to the village regularly and carry out work which has been brought to their attention, usually through the Clerk who has reported complaints/concerns of residents.

### **LAKENHEATH TIMES**

Lakenheath Times continues to be published on a monthly basis and seems to be well received in the main. The village is fortunate to have a small army of deliverers who distribute the paper each month no matter what the weather may be - thank you!

**HIGHWAYS**

Replacement bridge work has now been completed.

**STREET LIGHTING**

There has been one new street light this year - opposite the garage in the High Street. There have been 7 structural hazards identified and these have/are being dealt with. The structural hazards are concrete columns which are now showing signs of wear/weakness. The concrete columns will be removed and replaced with metal poles. Unfortunately, as with the new light, there is currently a long wait before the electrical supply is restored. This is due to revised EDF working practices following a number of fatalities in their workforce. However, high level talks have been taking place between EDF/Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Association of Local Councils to try to resolve this difficult situation.

**S. 137 GRANTS**

This money is granted by the Parish Council generally to Community and Voluntary organisations for which the Council has no specific authority. The monies are granted to organisations which are considered to directly benefit at least some of the inhabitants of the Parish. The beneficiaries this year were:

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service	£70
St Mary's PCC	£170
OPTUA (formerly Rethink Disability)	£70
MacMillan Cancer Care	£50
Age Concern	£70
The Voluntary Network	£70

**PRECEPT**

The Precept for 2008/9 was £86,000 and it has been set at £90,300 for 2009/10.