

## **2010/11 ANNUAL REPORT OF LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **GENERAL**

Councillor David Lucas resigned from the Parish Council in July 2010 and the Parish Council took the decision not to co-opt a member onto the Parish Council in view of the relatively short period before local council elections.

Remembrance Sunday was well attended yet again by both young and old; the many organisations in the village and by members of the Parish Council.

Once again, the village was very fortunate to have a magnificent Christmas tree outside the Village Hall. It was decorated by the handiwork of much younger members of the village!

### **RAF COMMANDER LAKENHEATH**

Squadron Leader Jerry Neild is a regular attendee at Parish Council meetings and continues to foster good relations between the base and the village. There have been two tours of the base (for residents in surrounding villages) during the year and these have been well received.

### **SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY**

PCSO Emma Stacey left us during the year and her place has been taken by PCSO Keith Chittock. He has, unfortunately, not been able to get along to many Parish Council meetings but it is hoped that he will be able to attend more in future.

### **FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The parish has been represented by Councillors Gathercole and Flack who have worked hard to try to ensure that Lakenheath and Sedge Fen are not forgotten. As Cllr Gathercole is on the Parish Council, issues which do arise can be taken directly to FHDC. One such issue last year was FHDC Local Development Framework (LDF) - Site Allocation Development Plan Document. A meeting for residents was arranged and FHDC Forward Planning Manager, Marie Smith, was present to answer questions. It proved to be a lively meeting - currently, however, the LDF is on hold.

### **SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

Councillor Colin Noble continues to attend most Parish Council meetings, taking up Parish Council and residents' concerns directly with Suffolk County Council - for which we are grateful. Currently, of course, Cllr Noble is very involved in discussions with residents over the likely closure of the village library.

### **CEMETERY**

Steven Aldous continues to work hard to keep the Cemetery neat and tidy. The rare broom rape made a very welcome appearance in the Cemetery - the older part - photographs were taken and have been placed in the Cemetery notice board.

The Cemetery Chapel was redecorated during the year and, although not used a great deal, it does provide peace and comfort to those in need.

### **LAKENHEATH TIMES**

The village is fortunate to have this monthly publication as it is a good means by which the Parish Council (and others) can gauge opinion on various matters; village organisations can advertise their meetings and for a very reasonable cost businesses can advertise their wares and services.

However, this publication is successful thanks to an army of voluntary deliverers! The Parish Council is VERY grateful to you all as you turn out in all weather - sun, snow or sleet!

### **LAKENHEATH PLAYING FIELDS**

The Parish Council was pleased to grant the LPFA the sum of £6520 so that the toilet block by the childrens' playground could be completely refurbished. The Parish Council has received positive comments about the children's play area and when the new Pavilion is up and running (hopefully in the early summer) that will complete, successfully, two or three years of hard work and negotiation and provide a leisure area that Lakenheath can be proud of!

### **PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office continues to be busy with all sorts of questions and enquiries.

### **VILLAGE GREEN**

Efforts are being made to enhance the village green. The Village Keeper and one of the Parish Councillors planted a number of spring bulbs during Autumn and (although it may present some problems to the Village Keeper when grass cutting) the area does look most attractive at the time of writing this report. The Parish Council have also made a sizeable contribution to the resurfacing work on the green which is currently underway - a joint County/District/Parish undertaking.

### **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:

Lakenheath Good Neighbours	£250	
Brandon & Midenhall CAB	£150	
Mildenhall & District Museum	£50	
Age Concern		£250
Victim Support		£100
West Suffolk Voluntary Assn. for the Blind	£100	
Optua		£150
Suffolk Accident Rescue Service	£100	
St Mary's Church		£170

### **PRECEPT**

The Precept for 2010/11 was £93,645 and it has been set at £98,327 for 2011/12.

This does represent a 5% increase but the Parish Council are mindful that a significant sum of money (in the region of £135,000) will be required to meet lighting issues, namely, G39 conflicts, this is where the lantern is too close to overhead wires and usually a new unit has to be

put in; concrete posts will need to be replaced due to crumbling and MBFU lanterns will be phased out over next 3 years. Furthermore, in the current difficult times, it is anticipated that the Parish Council may well have to pick up the slack from some District and County Council cuts.