

Lakenheath recorders Diary for 2022

The January edition of Lakenheath Times informed the community that the newly formed Lakenheath Environment Group will hold their first meeting 21.1.22. This will enable a committee to be formed, discuss local issues of concern, and arrange how to raise funds to support future projects. In the meantime, they are seeking a wider membership.

6.1.2022

Suffolk Police reported that Yesterday (05/01) Samantha Tyler of the High Street Lakenheath was found guilty at court for driving over the drink drive limit back on 18/11/2021. Disqualified for 46 months / £395 costs + fines / 80hrs unpaid work.

8.1.2022

Today a plough was placed in St Marys Church ready for plough Sunday tomorrow. Plough Sunday is a traditional English celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year. Plough Sunday celebrations usually involve bringing a ploughshare into a church with prayers for the blessing of the land.



11.1.2022

The government announced that as from today, asymptomatic people in England who test positive for Covid will no longer require a confirmatory PCR.

The move, previously announced last week by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), is taking place to free up capacity in laboratories for PCR tests for those with Covid-19 symptoms.

People who receive a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be required to self-isolate immediately, without requiring PCR confirmation. The rules apply whether you are vaccinated or not.

The UKHSA said it is a temporary measure while Covid-19 rates are high across the UK.

12.1.2022

A Zoom meeting was held with the Co Op and groups hoping to receive future funds towards projects to benefit the village.

The meeting was opened by Joanna Wilson, Community Officer for the Co Op. She started with "Good Afternoon to you All. Thank you for taking the time to attend our 2nd Forest Heath Co-op Cooperate Networking Meeting last week. It was good to see both familiar and new faces. I do hope you found it beneficial to your causes, it was a great opportunity to network, hear about your wonderful achievements and explore how we can work together and support each other.

A few notes and key points from our meeting.

Lakenheath Heritage Group

- Forthcoming historical displays in the church, that could be extended to meet a wider audience at the Methodist Church/Care Café

The Care Café

- Looking forward to confirmation of when the Care Café will be reopening possibly February depending on the Covid lockdown situation
- Offer to promote projects and initiatives, posters etc., for other community groups

Brandon in Bloom – contact Gary Brocklehurst for further info

- Willing to support a Lakenheath in Bloom Start-up Group
- Planned activities at the Brandon Friendly Bench
- Brandon Yarn Bombers – Always looking for wool donations

Abundant Life Church

- Substance Abuse programme going well, contact Vince or Alicia Williams for further details

The Voluntary Network Newmarket

Affected by Covid, hoping to resume rural transport service to maximum soon

Co-op Funding

- Local Community Fund – Re-opens in May 2022 -Details to follow
- Community Fridge – Applications have re-opened
<https://www.hubbub.org.uk/the-community-fridge>
- Food share - <https://www.coop.co.uk/environment/food-share/apply>

Other initiatives

- Time to Talk Day 2022 is run by Mind and Rethink Mental Illness in England, in partnership with Co-op. The campaign runs UK wide. Download the resources pack if you are planning an event. <https://timetotalkday.co.uk/download-a-pack/>
- Recycling Bin - situated outside Lakenheath Store
- Pens, pencils, crayons Amnesty

Working in partnership with a local Lakenheath Ambassador Sarah Wardman-Lawn to ensure items are collected and included in the Blythswood Charity

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

Donation Box in store February –April

- Raffle prizes could be made available for fund raising, tea, coffee etc., for community events please make requests in advance via email directly to me joanna.wilson@coop.co.uk

13.1.2022

The Government today announced new rules for Covid. Anyone who develops symptoms or tests positive for Covid must immediately self-isolate.

From Monday 17 January, people who test positive will be able to leave self-isolation after a further five full days, subject to having two negative LFT results, 24 hours apart.

The day symptoms begin or you test positive is day zero. The next day is day one of your isolation period.

You can take your first test on day five. If it is negative, you can take another test 24 hours later, on day six. Assuming this is also negative - and you do not have a temperature - you can immediately leave isolation.

14.1.2022

According to the Bury Free Press a Dr Robert Keane, based as a Locum Doctor at the Lakenheath Surgery, was struck off following an inquiry by the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (MPTS).

The doctor, who qualified to practice in 1985, became the subject of an NHS England investigation in 2020. A subsequent MPTS tribunal concluded that Dr Keane should be suspended for a year, noting that his behaviour amounted to serious misconduct.

He was said to have demonstrated "unprofessional" behaviour towards colleagues involved in the investigation into him, justifying the imposition of sanctions.

19.1.2022

The government announced today that Covid cases across the UK fell again last week. As a result, they said that all COVID-19 "Plan B" safety measures will be removed by 27 January 2022. This includes work-from-home guidance, compulsory

vaccine certificates and the requirement to wear face masks in shops and on public transport. Encouragement to return to the work place is now keen. Self-isolation rules remain, possibly till March if positive result to lateral flow tests received.

Lakenheath Scout Group today advised that they are raising money to take Beavers, Cubs and Scouts (around 50 of them) on a camping weekend in July.

They are looking for donations of items to be used in raffles at a bingo night and a Chicken foot event. They asked the community for any unwanted xmas gifts, chocolates etc and if a business could donations of an item/voucher be provided.

21.1.2022

West Suffolk District Council announced that the annual charge for garden waste bin collection is likely to increase by £2 pa as from April. The charge will therefore increase from £43 to £45 pa.

24.1.2022

RAF Lakenheath today announced that people living near RAF Lakenheath are warned of loud noise from military aircraft this week. The US Air Force 48th Fighter Wing said more aircraft than normal will be in the skies between Monday and Thursday.

A spokesman for the 48th Fighter Wing said: "These operations demonstrate our capability to rapidly generate air response and provide aircrew and support personnel stationed at RAF Lakenheath the experience needed to maintain a ready force capable of ensuring the collective defence of the NATO alliance".

Lakenheath Library announced that the Utter, a poetry/creative writing group, will now be meeting in Lakenheath Library.

The next meeting is Friday 28th January 11:30 -1:30, please bring paper, pen/pencil, your imagination and drinking water. Tea and coffee supplied for a donation to Suffolk Libraries.

31.1.2022

Covid is still a big issue. Even though the disease is now pretty much endemic, it is not fun to have. So, the advice is we should still be very careful and do everything still to reduce the chances of infection.

The government appears to have changed its mind on making vaccinations a legal requirement. We all know that persuasion is better than force. BUT this does not make getting vaccinated and boosted any less important.

The government major relaxations of the mask wearing rules. Like many government announcements this is simplistic. It is personal choice as to whether they are worn however most shops state this but prefer for the safety of other users and shop staff that masks are always worn.

January rainfall 22 mm

The February edition of the Lakenheath Times informed us that:

1. Businesses in Lakenheath have arranged the first for many years, Farmers market and craft fair, to take place 1.5.22 at the Lakenheath Pavilion.
2. Business in Lakenheath hold their next meeting Tuesday 8th February via zoom. The aim of the meeting is to connect local businesses in Lakenheath to support one another, network, collaborate and share ideas to provide sustainable growth for everyone in the community.
3. The next litter pick in the village will take place 12th February. On this occasion to concentrate on getting as much rubbish out of hedgerows as is possible.
4. Scrabble has restarted. The group has moved to the Methodist Church Hall open every other Friday. Cost £2 per session. In February the sessions are 4th and 18th of the month.

1.2.2022

This morning, one United States Air Force B-1B Lancers from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. participated in a long-distance, roundtrip flight from the United States to the United Kingdom to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Eighth Air Force.

The Air Force Global Strike Command bomber was joined by Royal Air Force F-35 aircraft and RAF Lakenheath F-15s and flew over RAF Lakenheath.

“The Eighth Air Force has a long, rich history that dates back to World War II,” said Maj. Gen. Andrew Gebara, Eighth Air Force and Joint-Global Strike Operations Centre commander. “Not only does this flight signify the longevity and reach of the United States’ bomber force, but it also pays tribute to our closest Ally, the United Kingdom. Eighth Air Force has had a close relationship with the Royal Air Force since its beginning.”



Lakenheath Heritage Group today have installed the first two of seven possible A2 size interpretive panels in the village. The first on the village green and the second near the telephone box on the High Street near Mutford Green. These show a brief history of the installation area.

Each panel is supported by a QR link to the Heritage Group website where additional detail can soon be found. This will be updated as more material comes to light. In

many cases there is just too much history in a specific area to condense to a panel. The website can be found at: <http://lakenheath.onesuffolk.net>lakenheath-heritage>



9.2.2022

The government today confirmed a new “living with covid strategy” and that the rules covering Covid infection will be relaxed and are to change as of the 24th February. The changes are:

- Self-isolation for those who test positive is to be scrapped freeing businesses, schools, and hospitals from disruption
- Passenger locator forms requiring those arriving in the UK to say where they will stay will be ditched.
- Quarantine for unvaccinated travellers is likely to remain in place.
- Free Covid tests will continue until the end of March. After that they are likely to continue only for NHS Staff and care homes.
- Emergency powers for councils to impose local lockdowns are set to be scrapped next month.

10.2.2022

Today 3 further F-35As arrived at RAF Lakenheath bringing the total to date to 7. Next batch due March.

14.2.2022

Lakenheath Beavers Group were spreading the love today, Valentine's Day, by knocking on random doors in the village handing out bags of chocolates with a message which read:

Happy Valentine's Day.

Spread a little kindness,
sprinkle it as you go
on this special month
there is a lot of love to show.
We are hoping this small act of kindness
Will fill you up with joy
And help you spread love to others
but be sure to enjoy.



16.2.2022

The government today announced that children aged 5 to 12 will now be able to obtain a Covid Vaccine.

Storm Dudley today had gusts of wind of up to 60 mph. This brought a tree down in Station Road opposite Prestland Court at approx. 6 pm. The tree also brought down power cables. The site was not cleared and electricity restored until around 5.30 am on the 17th February



17.2.2022



2.59 am Brandon and Mildenhall Fire service crews both attended a fire at the old grain dryer at Mablin Farm, at the back of Jubilee Road. They found that one large barn with a small section of fire and used 1 x main Jet and 1 x Hose reel to extinguish the fire. In addition, they used thermal imaging cameral to check for hotspots. Site left clear at 3.54 am.

18.02.2022

As a result of storm Eunice today (stronger winds than that earlier in the week) several areas of the village were affected with power cuts. Most were restored same day. However, 42 homes were still without power on the 20th February with an estimated reconnection between 3.30 and 4.30 that afternoon. The area effected was part of Wingfield Close, Mayfields and parts of the Woodland Estate. For some power was not restored till 11pm Sunday 20th and a few on the Monday.

23.2.2022

For the second day running a lorry tipped over the side of Station Road near Wangford Road and ending up in a ditch. On both occasions cranes had to be used to upright the lorries and bring them back onto the road.

24.2.2022

Today is the day that it is no longer compulsory to stay at home if you test positive for Covid. The government take the view that it should be up to the person involved as to whether they isolate or not.

Russia invades Ukraine. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy reports at least 137 people killed and 316 injured. Ukraine, say they have killed 400 Russian invaders. The attack on Ukraine continues, with the capital city of Kyiv targeted. Putin's troops captured the nuclear site at Chernobyl.

26.2.2022

Ukraine civilian toll reaches 198 with a further 1115 injured. The UK pledged more weapons

Russia is to be kicked out of the swift banking system.

27.2.2022

This morning 6 x F35's left RAF Lakenheath to assist NATO in patrolling of the Baltic areas.

Today Mr Putin placed Russia's nuclear deterrent on "high alert", in response to what he called aggressive statements by NATO leaders and economic sanctions against Moscow. It was also announced that Belarus ready to host Russia-Ukraine negotiations. In the meantime, EU bans Russian planes, state media, and imposes sanctions on Belarus and Ukraine accuses Russia of war crimes, submits application to the Hague.

28.2.2022

Talks between Ukraine and Russia have started at the Belarussian border. Earlier the Ukrainian president's office said Ukraine's goal for the talks was an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine.

It was announced that Inflation rose to 6.2% in February 2022, according to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) – partly due to price rises for motor fuels, second-hand cars, clothing and footwear.

The Bank of England has been tasked with keeping inflation as close to 2% as possible. CPI inflation measured below this figure between August 2019 and April 2021, reaching as low as 0.2% in August 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic. However, it has been significantly above 2% since August 2021, and it's estimated that inflation will remain high for some time to come. The base rate, which affects the costs of mortgages and the amount of interest paid on savings, has now risen three times since December in response to soaring inflation – and could be tweaked again if the Bank of England thinks it could help keep inflation down.

February rainfall 86 mm.

The March edition of the Lakenheath Times advised:

1. The design guide for the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is available on the Neighbourhood Plan website www.lakenheath.org. This is proposed by experts but it is up to the group as to what is accepted. Once the plan is agreed everyone in the parish will be consulted then the final document will be subject to a referendum. This is slowed down by the fact that it is now running side by side with the West Suffolk Council Local Plan which is coming together too.
2. The Neighbourhood plan updates will be available to see on the website.
3. Lakenheath Parish Council have been successful in obtaining a chunk of Government money to be used to rejuvenate the High Street in line with the survey as an item that residents wanted to see improved.
4. The Queens Platinum Jubilee will be celebrated with events over the 4-day weekend between the 2nd and 5th June 2022. The Parish Council will be decorating the village from Station Road right through to South Road with flags, bunting, and commemorative items. Shops and households will be invited to join in so the village looks special.

5. Lakenheath Heritage Group announced that the installation of the first two A2 size interpretive panels in the village had occurred at Mutford Green near the phone box and the Village Green opposite the Peace Memorial Hall (village hall). These panels are the gift of the Heritage Group to the Village, given in the hope that they will encourage the appreciation of our rich heritage. The panels show a history of specific areas of the village and will be supported by a QR link to the Heritage pages of the Parish council website – Heritage Trail for further information.
6. The Lakenheath Environment Group reported on a successful meeting on the 21st January talking about our environment and the many ways in which they can become involved with various issues which affect the lives of local people. The first project is the clearing of the Mutford Green site followed by general litter picking around the village. It is hoped that there will be monthly meetings and that ideas come forward to raise funds to cover costs of the group.

1.3.2022

More than 400 mercenaries from the Wagner Group have infiltrated Kyiv and had Volodymyr Zelenskyy firmly in their sights. The plan is to kill Mr Zelenskyy and his government in order to pave the way for Moscow to take control of the country. The Wagner Group is a de-facto private militia and was set up in 2014, allegedly by the former military intelligence officer Dmitry Utkin.

Russia-Ukraine war has lasted for 6 days now with Russian troops launching a vacuum bomb on Monday as it tried to move into Kyiv. While the US has pledged more sanctions against Russia, Ukraine has pledged not to back down. UNHCR has reported over 400 civilian casualties. Canada has also decided to send anti-tank weapons to Ukraine.

Today around 500 litres of heating oil was stolen from a tank outside a home in Mutford Green, Lakenheath between 3am and 6am

2.3.22

Today Russia intensifies bombardment of cities as Ukraine's president insists Moscow will not be able to take his country with bombs and air strikes. The Ukrainian emergency services announced more than 2,000 civilians had been killed so far in Russia's invasion after seven days of fighting.

3.3.2022

Today the Leader of the Silver Band which operates in Lakenheath put out a plea "If there is anyone out there who used to be in a brass band or can play a brass instrument Lakenheath Silver band needs you. We are close to folding with only 9 players on a good day, mostly 6. Please ask around friends' family, we are a happy group and would hate this to come to an end.... I am fighting for the band whilst so many have lost hope. Please contact me if you are interested in joining us. Or pop down to the community centre (old legion) every Tuesday 8pm

The Manager of the Lakenheath Co-Op announced until otherwise advised all charity money raised through in store events or customer donations will go to the Ukraine crisis not our current charity MIND.

14 x Aviano F-16's arrived at RAF Lakenheath from Italy this afternoon.

1237 Arr 88-0413 F-16CM 510th FS BUZZARD 11
1238 Arr 89-2047 F-16CM 510th FS BUZZARD 12
1246 Arr 89-2057 F-16CM 510th FS BUZZARD 14
1248 Arr 88-0444 F-16CM 510th FS BUZZARD 13
1253 Arr 89-2011 F-16CM 510th FS BUZZARD 21
1253 Arr 89-2102 F-16CM 510th FS BUZZARD 22
1254 Arr 88-0521 F-16CM 510th FS BUZZARD 23
1254 Arr 88-0541 F-16CM 510th FS BUZZARD 24
1313 Arr 89-2018 F-16CM 510th FS BUZZARD 32
1313 Arr 89-2026 F-16CM 510th FS BUZZARD 31
1314 Arr 89-2030 F-16CM 510th FS BUZZARD 33
1314 Arr 89-2046 F-16CM 510th FS BUZZARD 34
1315 Arr 89-0443 F-16CM 510th FS BUZZARD 41
1316 Arr 90-0800 F-16D 555th FS BUZZARD 42

4.3.2022

Today the 6 F-35s returned to RAF Lakenheath from the Baltic region where they joined up with NATO in protecting their areas.

Russian forces have targeted Europe's largest nuclear power plant on day nine of the invasion of Ukraine. The attack on the plant is the latest example of Russia targeting civilian populations and infrastructure - as shelling in cities such as Kharkiv and Mariupol continued.

As much as we are appalled by the suffering of the Ukrainian people, so much are we inspired by their colossal bravery and defiance of spirit. This is a dark time for Europe but also one in which there has rarely been such a clear sense of united moral purpose. While the scars from this conflict will be lasting and painful, perhaps this evidence that we can act in defence of fundamental values so quickly, radically and in tandem, will also prove of resilient effect. For now, let us all hope for a speedy, peaceful, and just resolution for Ukraine and all affected by this conflict.

7.3.22

Today, Gas, Petrol and wheat prices surged fuelling fears that households will feel a squeeze on incomes. Gas rose 70% a rise of 1,900 per cent on a year ago. Petrol prices hit a record 155.62p a litre with diesel costing 161.28p a litre. This all because of the unrest in Ukraine which is considered the food basket of the world where movement of goods has come to a halt.

8.3.2022

The new Tattoo shop in the High Street, Tattoo and Piercing by Mr Bulb, closed his business today and moved out of the village to commence trading in Mildenhall.

12.3.2022

Vince Williams, Pastor at the Assembly of God Church in the village put out the following appeal:

Hello everyone! I am requesting help for the Ukraine. We are taking a truck to Krakow Poland on 21 March to assist with the efforts in the Ukraine. If you would like to donate from the list below, we will accept those donations next Saturday 19 March, between 2 and 4pm. If you cannot make it then contact Vince Williams to arrange a time. Thank you so much in advance.

* Normal and thermal blankets * Sleeping bags * Mattress pads for sleeping made of waterproof aluminium foil * Mattresses * Clothes (new or used and in good condition) * Raincoats * Bath / shower / soap * Deodorants * Toothpaste * Toothbrushes * Combs * Women's, men's and children's underwear * Sanitary pads * Diapers * Adult diapers * Toilet paper and paper towels * Towels (including microfiber) * Trash bags * Disinfectants / disinfectant alcohol * Filtering or disposable masks * Water * Food for quick preparation (instant) * Bars (including energy bars) * Delicacies, nuts * Canned food * Pasta, cereal for quick preparation * Disposable or reusable kitchen tools: deep plate, spoon, fork, knife, glass (food grade silicone or plastic)

15.3.2022

A sad day to see the last 2x Grim Reapers 493rd F-15Ds leave RAF Lakenheath. There are now only 10 of the C and D variant left at RAF Lakenheath all expected to leave within the next few months as they are replaced with further models of the F-35A jets.

16.3.2022

Michael Tingey, deputy Head Master at Lakenheath Community Primary school put out an appeal:

Lakenheath Community Primary School need your help!

"This was the best playtime ever!"

"Can we do this every lunch time?"

Today we've put out some simple 'junk' on the playground for resources for the children to play with. Cable reels have been wheelchairs/ tiered cakes / stepping stones and picnic tables. Pallets were "great for parkour". (Apparently!)

It is our mission to improve playtimes and lunchtimes in school to keep the children active, engaged and to stimulate their imaginations and creativity.

We need your help with this project!

We are looking for more:

Old sheets for den building,

Pallets
Crates
Planks
Cable reels
Road signs, cones, and hard hats
Tools like spades, trowels
Brooms
Buckets
Nets and ropes
Tarpaulin and netting
Trellis
Wheelbarrows (children or adults!)
Railway Sleepers
Car / Lorry/ tractor tyres
Wooden stumps (used for seating areas)
Computer Keyboards
Metal frames (to help with den making)
Shopping trolleys or baskets
Prams and Buggies (for dolls or real babies!)
Cable drums
Guttering
Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
Tent Pegs (to help to set up dens)
Clothes pegs (to help to set up dens)
An old sink, metal bowls or a tin bath!
Kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, worktables, wooden spoons, chopping boards
Suitcases of any size and type
Briefcases, especially hard cased ones
Sunglasses, scarves, handbags
Dressing up clothes (this does not need to be children's dress up outfits, we would really appreciate YOUR old outfits, jackets, hats, coats, shoes, etc- anything that the children can 'make their own!')

ALSO, children have been using donated scooters on the playground. Any outdoor toys like these would be great too!

If you have any of these resources that you are able and willing to donate to give the children "amazing" lunch times like today. Please bring them in to school and we will put them to good use.

Thanks in advance!

16.3.22

Today Ukraine confirmed its wish for an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of Russian troops.

17.3.2022

The first F-35 support facility in Europe has opened at RAF Lakenheath. The new facility for F-35A Lightning II boasts 16 maintenance bays, covering 15,660 square

feet, and houses 240 pieces of support equipment used for maintenance and inspection.

Lakenheath Youth Football Club announced that this year the Challenge Cup tournament will return 15.5.2022 after a two-year absence. Details to follow.



21.3.22

The coronavirus vaccine has positively altered the course of the pandemic, slashing hospitalisation, and death rates across the nation. But waning protection has presented the latest hurdle in the vaccination drive. In a bid to tackle dwindling immunity, thousands of vulnerable individuals, and all adults over the age of 75 will be called forward for a top-up this week to be known as the Spring Booster. It is confirmed that the booster can only be given so long as it is at least 6 months since a booster jab has been given.

It was further reported that a week after administration of a fourth dose, there will be a fivefold increase in the number of antibodies in the vaccinated person.

22.3.2022

Lakenheath Scout groups announced details of an Easter Egg Hunt. Following the success of last year's village Easter Egg hunt, we are planning it again for this year. It will be held on Sat 16th April and we will setup outside the coop. More information to follow.

They requested donations of eggs (of any size) or any other easter goodies. Last year they handed out around 80 eggs

Today a B52 flanked by 2 F35A's did a flypast over Lakenheath today.



23.3.2022

Once again Lakenheath Cricket Club will be running the All Stars and Dynamos Cricket programs for Juniors, open to all abilities and skill levels from ages 5 to 11 years!

Starting Friday 13th May 2021

All Stars - 5 to 8 years - 5:30 to 6:15pm

Dynamos - 8 to 11 years - 6:30 to 7:30pm

For more information follow the links below or email the club on lakenheathcc@yahoo.co.uk

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/.../9be7b368-fee9-45c4-9501...>

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/.../00c5e6d6-698c-4ee0-bcdd..>

Today is the second anniversary of the first Covid Lockdown. This threw everyone's life into turmoil. Today we reflect on our Covid dead and the pain of the bereaved, yet for all the suffering the pandemic brought out the best in Britain.

We thank the nurses and others who kept us safe and the country running. We have to applaud the scientists who invented the vaccines at miraculous speed. Finally, we celebrate being the first nation free from restrictions letting us see loved ones and savour our liberties.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced multiple measures to help people during his Spring Statement today. He outlined a series of measures aimed very much at giving people a break from the current tidal wave of rising bills. However, it is fair to say that not everything hit the mark and the government has received some criticism for failing to do more for those most likely to be living on the breadline. Cost of living continues to be a massive subject for everyone.

24.3.2022

CJ's announced that as in the past they have invited Sally's Floral Studio - Wedding & Events back to bring stunning flowers especially for Mother's day, Sunday 27th March Friday 25th, Saturday 26th, Sunday 27th from 8am-3pm each day.

12 of the 14 F16's from Aviano left RAF Lakenheath today to join in a NATO exercise in the Netherlands.

Very early today RSPB Lakenheath Fen suffered yet another burglary, following one on 23 December 2021. This time they did not have much left to take but did lose a Mountfield HP180 petrol lawnmower, an Erbauer cordless SDS drill, a Logic heavy duty tipper trailer and smaller sundry items.

The reserve has asked if anyone saw anything suspicious or has any CCTV footage of the High Street / Station Road between the railway crossing and Sedge Fen, covering that time, to contact them with the information

25.3.2022

A CHICKEN FOOT EVENING managed to raise £140 for the Youth Football Club. A big thank you to those who did attend and for the donations of raffle prizes.

Sallys Floral Studio pop up shop outside CJ's café today selling flowers for Mother's Day.



27.3.2022

76 cases of Covid registered in Lakenheath in last 7 days

29.3.22

Today 2 F-35s from Lakenheath arrived in Leeuwarden AB in the Netherlands to take part in the Frisian Flag exercise

30.3.2022

Luncheon Club for Lakenheath residents reopened today following the Covid lockdown.



Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine is not going according to plan as his military has suffered casualties on a scale not seen since the World War II, while he is hiding in a nuclear bunker.

Nearly five weeks into the invasion, Ukraine has claimed its army has taken Irpin – in the outskirts of Kyiv – from Russian control, after the key suburb had become a hotspot for deadly fighting.

March rainfall 51 mm.

The April edition of the Lakenheath Times advised:

1. Plans are underway to celebrate the Queens Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee Over the extended weekend June 2nd to June 5th. The High Street will be closed to traffic for this event
2. A picnic is planned on the High Street outside the Village Hall and Community centre. Tables and chairs will be provided but residents are welcome to bring their own.
3. The event will have a bouncy castle, children's fancy dress (with prizes), children's colouring / crafts, refreshments, bar, ice cream van, line dancing, best decorated shop / Business, best decorated house (with Prizes).
4. Inside the halls will be displays including Heritage Group, Flower Club and Camera Club. Others are requested to join in to create a community day.
5. Lakenheath Parish Council are seeking a replacement Clerk and Responsible Officer.
6. Community speed watch is back on the road to encourage safe, lawful and considerate driving having undergone retaining. This included new paperwork in line with new regulations. From 24th January to 4th March 10 sessions were held from various locations around the village. A total of 77 vehicles were recorded travelling more than the 30-mph speed limit. The details were passed to Suffolk Police for information and consideration for follow up action.
7. Community Speed watch currently have only 7 volunteers to run the scheme and seek further membership as they like to get out at least twice a week.
8. The Care Café run on a Tuesday at the Methodist Church Hall has restarted and is being enjoyed by all attendees.

1.4.2022

Today 5 of the expected 14 visiting F15Es from Seymour Johnson AFB managed to leave RAF Lakenheath to go home having completed their training in the UK.

As of today, the Government COVID19 safety measures will no longer be mandatory in the workplace. The safety measures such as Free Testing, Self-Isolation Pay, Exemptions from Sickness absence procedures and Full Sick Pay from Day 1 will now be at an employer's discretion.

2.4.2022

Today a further 5 of the expected 14 visiting F15Es from Seymour Johnson AFB managed to leave RAF Lakenheath to go home having completed their training in the UK.

3.4.2022

34 cases of Covid registered in Lakenheath in last 7 days

Film star John Travolta has been spotted in East Anglia as he shoots a film based on a book about a pilot's journey to RAF Lakenheath. The Hollywood actor, famous for his roles in Grease, Saturday Night Fever and Reservoir Dogs, has recently been spotted in Norfolk.

Apparently, the film star said: "We're here in England to shoot a short film called 'The Shepherd' based on a book by Frederick Forsyth that I've always loved." The story is a novella about a pilot en route from Germany to RAF Lakenheath on Christmas Eve, 1957 when radio contact ceases and his compass stops working. Lost in fog, he encounters a World War Two bomber which looks as if it is trying to make contact. The film must be seen to know the outcome.

4.4.2022

All children in Suffolk aged 5-11 can book a Covid-19 jab from today without the need to be invited by the NHS, it has been announced.

7.4.2022

Today, the sun was shining for the Lakenheath's Sunshine Corner Day Nursery as they received £150.00 from the Co-op Community Pot for their Sensory Play Area.



Today 4 F15s returned to RAF Lakenheath from deployment in Poland.

10.4.2022

Scouts and Beavers announced that their Easter Egg Hunt is on Sat 16th April. A clue sheet and map can be collected from outside Co-op Lakenheath from 11.30 and the completed sheet returned to claim an Easter treat between 12-3pm.

Last year they gave out 80 eggs, this year they are aiming for 120.

The Easter Bunny will be joining them to help hand the eggs out. Gratitude was extended to Balmforth Estate Agents Mildenhall for kindly printing the clue/maps for to be used.

New positive Covid cases in Lakenheath 52 in last 7 days.

11.4.2022

Lakenheath Post Office was ecstatic to announce that they are now fully licensed and able to offer our village private hire travel services. So, whether you are travelling to airports, off to ladies' day at Newmarket, planning a night out on the town or you just need a ride home after an evening of drinks with friends support your local Post Office and pop in and see us or give us a bell/text to book. They require diversification to survive and keep the Post Office going in the village.

14.4.2022

What a great night at the Bingo held at Lakenheath Peace Memorial Village Hall for the benefit of the skating club. £1000 raised. Well-deserved as there was a lot of work put in. The money raised will go towards the very talented skaters competing here and abroad.

15.4.2022

Then there were five. The Reapers (nick name for the squadron) are now reduced to just 5 x F-15C Eagles at RAF Lakenheath, including, the unseen for some time & rumoured to be out of hours, 84-0001.

Tonight, two further F35's, RETRO31/32 19-5493 F-35A and 19-5495, arrived at RAF Lakenheath. This is now the home to 9 F-35As, all of which currently fly with the newly reformed 495th Fighter Squadron, nicknamed the 'Valkries.

The F-35A is a fifth-generation fighter that provides the joint war fighter unprecedented global precision attack capability against current and emerging threats, while complementing the Air Force's air superiority fleet.

17.4.2022

There are reported 28 new positive cases of Covid in the last 7 days.

21.4.2022

The USAF 493rd FS flew their final mission at lunchtime today after 29 years of excellent air to air superiority. F-15Cs 86-0171 and special anniversary 86-0172 flew the sortie. This was to northern England, then to the Welsh mountains, before returning to RAF Lakenheath. Both then performed some spirited overshoots, having

been airborne for well over two hours. All too soon the squadron will return the final four jets to their resting place in the US.

23.4.2022

Peter and Maura Vine were present with members of Lakenheath Parish Council to celebrate the planting of the Village's Queens Jubilee tree, a Rowan tree which has white flowers in the Spring and orange berries in the Autumn.



24.4.2022

Lakenheath Scout Group at St Georges Day parade today. They are the only group in Suffolk with 4 sections and did Lakenheath proud.



26.4.2022

Lakenheath Pavilion today confirmed that there will be a May Day event this year. They have lined up fun things for all ages. The bar will be open. A bouncy castle available, music and much more.

They called for groups of Children and adults alike who would like to dance. They also called for owners of classic cars and bikes to put them on show.

Competitions are to be run to include, best baked cake. Largest Vegetable. Best Embroidery. Best Kiddies Tray Garden. Best Kiddies Potato Head potato and Best Kiddies Painting.

April rainfall 12 mm.

The May edition of the Lakenheath Times advised:

1. Events for the Jubilee weekend include:
 - a. St Marys Church and Arts and Crafts exhibition 2nd to 5th June
 - b. St Marys Church Thanksgiving service for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11 (day and time to be confirmed)
 - c. Lakenheath Library a Jubilee coffee morning Saturday 4th June
 - d. Sunday 5th June a family Bring your own Picnic outside the village hall / Community Centre as published in last month's Lakenheath Times
 - e. Musical entertainment with the School Choir, Wingsong, Afterburn and Line Dancing all to be performed in the Village Hall 5.6.23.
2. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Peace Memorial Hall on Monday 16th May 2022 at 7pm. An opportunity to inform the public was the local authorities have been p to and hear from local volunteer groups.
3. Mutford Green Community Group seek additional volunteers to bring back the lovely space for community use currently very overgrown.

29.4.2022

Great night at Party on the pitch held at the Lakenheath Pavilion. The organisers thanked the community for attending and a vote of thanks was extended to Jamie Chapman and Apollo Sounds for keeping everyone entertained.

1.5.2022

7 new positive covid cases in last 7 days

The first Farmers Market was held in the village after an absence of several decades.





9.5.2022

Lakenheath Cubs did a litter pick round the village tonight. Well done to all the Cubs and the leaders Hathi and Chill



13.5.22

Politically, the big story of the week was the Queen's Speech, which was criticised for not doing enough to help people through the cost-of-living crisis. The main points for the coming year that could impact our region are:

1. Housing. Councils are to be given the power to double council tax on unused second homes
2. High Streets: The speech outlined how the government's Levelling up and Regeneration Bill will give councils new planning powers, including to force landlords in England to let out empty shops to rejuvenate high streets.
3. Cashpoints: Ensuring people are able to easily access physical cash was another commitment to come out of the speech. There had been talk of them being abolished.
4. Transport: The government's Transport Bill will see the new Great British Railways (GBR) body given the powers it needs to take control of the railway system. This will mean that the main operator, Greater Anglia for our area, so the new organisation will oversee rail infrastructure and services, replacing the current model of franchises held by train companies.

5. Public Order: The government's new Public Order Bill backs the police to prevent antisocial protests from disrupting people's lives.

16.5.2022

Beavers Group carried out a further litter pick this evening and collected 3 small bags of rubbish



NOTES FROM THE LAKENHEATH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY held on 16th MAY 2022

In attendance:

Lakenheath Parish councillors

33 members of the public

County Cllr C Noble, District Cllr S Frost, N Glading, parish clerk

Apologies had been received from Sqn. Ldr Geary, Cllr I Frost

1. The Chairman of Lakenheath Parish Council, Cllr G Kelly, welcomed all to the meeting. This year, the meeting (formerly known as the Annual Parish Meeting) is held in a more informal, relaxed setting.

Cllr Kelly thanked Cllr Ed Morley for his Chairmanship during the past 5 years, which had been hectic at times. This meeting is an opportunity for the parish council and all other village organisations to let everyone know what it is that they do.

The parish council had continued with the delivery of village services, important highlights were:

- Covid: an astonishing amount of assistance had been supplied by village groups and the council.
- Storms: the emergency planning team had done a sterling job during the power cuts.
- Neighbourhood plan: a high response with broad ranging views expressed.
- Market and craft fair held, the first one for Lakenheath
- Litter picks held during the year
- Outdoor adult gym facility coming soon
- High Street Regeneration Plan to be undertaken
- S106 funding: PC will continue to press for, along with sustainable development.
- Local Plan Roadshow: please would people attend

2. Lakenheath Parish Council Accounts

Lakenheath Parish Council	
Bank Reconciliation 30th April 2021	
Balance at 31.03.2021	£185,621.41
Uncleared payments from previous period	£669.86
	£184,951.55
Income	£150,694.00
	£335,645.55
Less Expenditure (Chqs, Online Pmts + D/Ds)	£42,611.19
	£293,034.36
Represented by:	
Balance in Current Account	£107,248.00
Balance in Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	£50,941.33
Balance in Unity Trust Bank Deposit Account	£75,774.40
Balance in Nationwide Deposit Account	£9,078.76
Balance in Cambridge Building Society	£50,357.86
Balance in Lloyds Bank Deposit Account - Speedwatch	£352.53
Balance in Lloyds Bank Depository Account - NP	£0.00
	£293,752.88
Less Payments not Presented	
HMRC	£718.52
	£293,034.36

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2022 £	
1. Balances brought forward	182,967	184,951	<i>Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.</i>
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	149,860	150,320	<i>Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.</i>
3. (+) Total other receipts	19,078	28,847	<i>Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.</i>
4. (-) Staff costs	58,033	57,736	<i>Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.</i>
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	3,607	3,607	<i>Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).</i>
6. (-) All other payments	105,314	130,457	<i>Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).</i>
7. (=) Balances carried forward	184,951	172,318	<i>Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).</i>
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	184,951	172,318	<i>The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.</i>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	434,421		<i>The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.</i>
10. Total borrowings	6,145	2,634	<i>The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).</i>
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	N/A
			✓
			<i>The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.</i>
			<i>N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.</i>

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2022 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

Date

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

as recorded in minute reference:

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

Year Ended 31/3/2021		Year Ended 31/3/2022
£149,860.00	RECEIPTS	£150,320.00
£206.28	PRECEPT	£125.48
£2,329.00	INTEREST	£6,316.36
£1,829.00	BURIAL FEES	£10,175.42
£14,713.97	SUNDRY RECEIPTS (INC. LOAN REPAYMENTS)	£12,230.21
£0.00	VAT REPAYMENT	£0.00
£168,938.25	OUT OF DATE CHEQUES	£179,167.47
	PAYMENTS	
£20,140.45	CEMETERY & VILLAGE KEEPING	£20,722.39
£12,672.69	* OTHER CEMTERY COSTS	£15,995.12
£18,463.70	STREET LIGHTING	£16,423.12
£44,082.28	*ADMINISTRATION	£46,525.46
£550.00	GRANTS - SECTION 137 & VILLAGE HALL	£725.00
£24,160.55	CHILDRENS PLAY AREA	£25,775.07
£10,600.00	S19 GRANTS & PLAYING FIELDS	£11,500.00
£3,570.00	CHURCHYARD WALL & TREES	£5,170.00
£0.00	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN	£9,285.36
£5,400.00	PARISH NEWSLETTER	£5,400.00
£3,355.15	PARISH OFFICE	£3,162.38
£11,728.72	VILLAGE FACILITIES	£16,412.96
£12,230.21	VAT ON PAYMENTS	£14,703.44
£166,953.75		£191,800.30
	RECEIPTS & PAYMENT SUMMARY	
£182,967.05	BALANCE AT 01/04/2021	£184,951.55
£168,938.25	ADD TOTAL RECEIPTS	£179,167.47
£166,953.75	DEDUCT TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£191,800.30
£184,951.55	BALANCE AT 31/03/2022	£172,318.72
	CUMMULATIVE FUNDS REPRESENTED BY	
	(as at 31st March)	
£16,814.93	CURRENT ACCOUNT	£21,958.68
	DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	
£7,941.26	Lloyds Bank Plc	£944.30
£352.53	Lloyds Bank Plc - Speedwatch	£95.41
£302.60	Lloyds Bank Plc - Neighbourhood Plan	£0.00
£34,077.83	Nationwide Building Society	£24,107.49
£75,774.40	Unity Trust Bank	£75,820.18
£50,357.86	Cambridge Building Society	£50,408.22
£669.86	LESS UNPRESENTED PAYMENTS	£1,015.56
£184,951.55	BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	£172,318.72
	* 'Administration' comprises:	
£37,892.75	Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£37,013.29
£735.00	Training	£1,083.50
£1,053.63	Subs (Inc SALC & Suffolk Acre)	£4,705.70
£4,400.90	Administration	£3,722.97
£44,082.28	Total	£46,525.46
	* 'Other cemetery Costs' comprises:	
£307.52	Cottage & Chapel	£2,159.17
£1,965.31	Cemetery Supplies	£3,600.80
£7,097.12	Machinery, Capital & Maintenance	£7,337.55
£3,302.74	Insurances	£2,897.60
£12,672.69	Total	£15,995.12

3. West Suffolk District Councillor S Frost reported that the last two years had been difficult for everyone. District had had to continue essential services such as waste collection, despite staff shortages. The lack of herbicides and staff had hampered grass cutting and weed prevention regimes. A new department had been established to help vulnerable people, with staff from other departments redeployed. There is a WSC roadshow tomorrow, please attend, looking at the local plan and housing needs to 2040.

Q: We now have visits from parking officers, thank you for interceding on our behalf

A. Cllr Frost gets a report on number of visits, statistics and supports a visible presence.

Q. Parking on the zig zag lines are they in a different category, with 3 licence points.

A. Warnings sent, better traffic control now.

Q. Local Plan: 100 houses have been built- need to alleviate traffic congestion.

A. Some are infill and others are at consultation level, S106 to help with infrastructure. The problem is that houses are built then they sort out the infrastructure need to be the other way around.

Q. Is Community Infrastructure Levy likely to be introduced? S106 money only covers larger projects, there is pressure on the parish for smaller issues e.g. bin emptying.

A. I have not heard that CIL will be introduced.

4. County Councillor C Noble told the meeting that planners must follow national rules. WSC may think about changing to CIL, agree that infrastructure should be put in first (e.g. Germany). The debate continues on housing rentals to Americans. New housing run by not-for-profit organisations so young people can get on the housing ladder. The school will happen in the fullness of time. The County Adult Social Care department is a very discreet service which you don't see, kept functioning. Highways- Suffolk is in the top quarter of performers. The roads at Sedge fen were virtually impassable, much better now. Delivered 7 years of zero increase on Council tax.

Q. What plans are there for traffic calming measures?

A. With the new housing- Cllr Noble has asked for all the schemes to link together – Highways officers and parish council to walk through village and then produce a masterplan. Additionally, traffic lights system on B1112 at Sparkes Corner, additional crossings.

Q. The alleyways are overgrown.

A. Report it please so we can see who owns the land. WSC don't do as much as we did.

Q. Does the US Airforce contribute to the parish? via council tax?

A. There is a mythical payment which County or District never see. We have raised this one annually for the past 16 years and it remains unsolved. I agree that the parish is directly impacted. On the flipside, the local businesses benefit its worth recognising that people working on the base like to use local services.

5. Sqn Ldr Geary- Report was read out

Parish Council AGM Report –2022

Sqn. Ldr. Geary

Summary:

RAF Lakenheath working through a period of change and growth (drawdown of the F15C and stand-up of F35A) whilst delivering operations including air policing in Eastern Europe.

Recognised as the best USAF Installation for 2021 through the award of the Commander in Chief's Award for Installation Excellence.

Operations:

Air Policing Operations in Eastern Europe

Agile Combat Employment Initial Operating Capability in Aug 21

Afghanistan Repatriation in Sep 21

Stand-up of 495th Fighter Squadron (The Valkaries) in Oct 21

F35A First Aircraft Arrival (4 x F35A0) in Dec 21

Fighter Squadrons deployed to various European locations in response to the Ukraine crisis in Feb 22. Included first operational deployment of F35As, 75 days after FAA

Fighter Squadrons conducted a plethora of training sorties and deployments throughout the year and hosted a variety of visiting Squadrons, including 336th Fighter Squadron from Seymour Johnson Air Base from Nov 21 to Mar 22

High Profile Visitors:

Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk visited RAF Lakenheath in Sep 21

High Sheriffs and Deputy Lord Lieutenants of Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk visited RAF Lakenheath in Oct 21

Commander USAFE (4* USAF) and other senior USAFE Officers visited RAF Lakenheath in Sep 21

DCOM Ops (3* RAF) visited RAF Lakenheath in Nov 21

Community Engagement:

48FW Senior Leadership Team (including the RAF Commander) have attended a multitude of engagement events throughout the year.

6. Indoor Bowls Club: are doing well.

7. St Marys Church: Rev Tams is away. Thanks for continued support. The Church is open every day. Parish Pantry provided for people in need. Services on Thursday and Sunday. Bell ringers Tuesday and Thursday. Query about the flagpole being safe for use on 23rd May.

8. Heritage Group: During the pandemic we hit a wall. Thanks to Garth Tolmie and Clare Shimmon for a wonderful job. Village Trail is active again. Supporting Suffolk Archives, Suffolk Stories (about the Reformation) Soil Sisters (Lakenheath had the largest Land army in Suffolk). The panels were put up with support from the Miller Trust and the parish council. There is one on the Green and another is going in the Churchyard. We have discovered a 1450 house timber with wattle and daub. The Co-op has been here from 1906 at least. During WWII there was a cell of Churchills secret army in Lakenheath. Every adult was a member of the Royal Observer Corps – this was completely unknown - and continued until 1991. The people did a full days work then watched.

We took part in a presentation for the Friendship Club. SLHC has a system of village recorders who feed in village events to the Suffolk Archives. Mrs Hermione Brown is the Lakenheath village recorder.

9. Scout Group: has been going since 1915. There are 4 sections, and a 1st Group of Squirrels (6 years old). About 92 children are involved. We were hit by Covid but carried on online. Grants provided activity packs, e.g. tent in garden. Now we are face to face, archery and air rifle projects are in place. There is a Beaver litter pick tonight. Decorated phone boxes.

10. Green Lakenheath: this is a product of the Neighbourhood Plan. Four litter picks annually are envisaged, supported by the Cubs and Beavers. Next one is Saturday 29th, meet in car park. We are planting a Jubilee tree and saplings donated by the Woodland Trust in the Autumn.

11. Brownies: Cheryl has been running this for 27years, members come from across the village. Still a female orientated organisation. Members down to 5 girls last Summer. Lakenheath Times and Facebook helped pick up numbers. New Rainbow group (from 4.5 years) to 11 years). Builds skills. Open to new skills, please contact the group.

12. Lakenheath in Bloom: Just about to get going. Two planters placed outside the Co-op to stop people parking). The bench needs fixing. Looking for additional volunteers.

13. Jubilee Event: Steet party and picnic on the Sunday. Posters in Lakenheath Times and shops. Road closure arranged. Groups are doing displays. The School Choir will be singing. Decoration started May 9th. Flagpoles can be reused at Christmas. Thanks to Graham Bell and Alan Gyte for putting up the flagpoles. Shops are starting to decorate, along with some private houses. There will be prizes for best decorated house and shop.

14. Emergency Planning: has been activated 3 times this year, storm in February

15. Community Speedwatch: Formed 2016, hiccups in 2021, resumed Jan 2022. 6 volunteers – need a minimum of 3 on each watch (lasts 1.5 hours) Some abuse from drivers. There have been 22 sessions since Jan 2022. 271 were recorded and reported to Police. We are making a difference. There is no prosecution with Speed Watch- all we do is monitor and record information.
16. Scrabble Club: started at St Marys £2 a session. 18-25 people attend. Can get noisy. Building a fund to replace equipment.
17. Friendship Club: Increase from 22 to 35 members. £2 entrance fee. Organise day trips, holding a party 2nd June.
18. Good Neighbours: Now in 16th year operate by phone- take people shopping, to doctors, dentist. All volunteers. Completed 605 jobs in last year. Planning a Jubilee Tea. Donations from Christian Centre and parish council

The meeting had over run, the following report had been submitted and is included for completeness.

19. Luncheon Club:

LUNCHEON & SOCIAL CLUB

The Luncheon Club reopened in March 2022 after our COVID enforced break. It has been lovely to see some old faces and to meet some new friends.

How it all began: I was approached by a Health Visitor who told me about her concerns regarding the lonely people she met in her work in Lakenheath. In December 1980 a meeting was held at Quayside Court function room to discuss the possibility of getting a Luncheon Club started. After several more meetings with volunteers and Social Services employees it was decided that there was a definite need for this type of facility in the village.

The first lunch was held in March 1981 in the British Legion Club. To save you working it out that was 41 years ago. At that time we met every week so that is a lot of lunches over the years. We now meet once a month on the last Wednesday.

We provide a two course meal but it is more about the social interaction than the food. It is great to see the smiling faces and to hear the chatter. For some this is their only time spent in company.

Usually we have a couple of trips to the coast and a visit to the Pantomime in December. Our first trip out this year will be in June to Felixstowe.

18.5.2022

A very well attended Luncheon Club today and held every Wednesday in the Village Hall. A three-course dinner is provided to all that attend at reasonable costs.



LAKENHEATH CASUALS LADIES

OPEN TRAINING SESSIONS
ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME (16+)

Tuesdays - 7:15 to 8:30pm

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED CONTACT
CHRISTINE - 07428 612466

LAKENHEATH PAVILION, IP27 9AF
For Fun Local Ladies Football, come give it a try!

19.5.2022

Thanks were given to the newly formed group. Lakenheath in Bloom, for asking for a representative of the Beavers, Cubs and Scout groups (and of course the 2 leaders) to help fill the new planters provided outside the Coop shop in the High Street.



20.5.2022



At Tinas country Kitchen a TEAROOM IS NOW OPEN. In addition, there is available, Fresh Fruit & Vegetables, a Takeaway Menu and Fresh Local Flowers from Fenland Flowers & Foliage.

Today they had Homemade Macarons, Walnut Whip, Milk Chocolate Cheesecake, Victoria Sponge, Bread Pudding, Viennese Whirls, Chocolate Tiffin, Tarte Tatin, Lemon Drizzle Cake, Chocolate Brownie, Scones, Quiche & Sausage Rolls. This can all be found at 18 High Street, Lakenheath IP27 9JS – where they have a customer car park

27.5.2022

Lakenheath Primary school yesterday held a Jubilee Family Picnic on their playing fields. Children's classes were singing and dancing through the ages. They held a crown making competition after which the children got to parade in them. Cream Teas were available and a cake making competition run.

May rainfall 41 mm.

The June edition of the Lakenheath Times advised:

1. St Marys Church ringing of the church bells as a part of the Jubilee celebrations, 6 pm Sunday 5th June.
2. The platinum Jubilee celebrations in the village will take place at St Marys Church Sunday 5th June and at the village Hall / community centre which will include displays from many of the groups operating in the village. This includes Lakenheath Heritage group, Camera Club, Flower Club and Little Fishes.
3. Cllr. Ed Morley was nominated to carry the Festival of Suffolk Torch, by Rickshaw, through the village on the 13th May.
4. Community Speedwatch reported that between 11th March and 5th May they had been out 10 times and recorded 177 vehicles exceeding the speed limit. The information was passed to Suffolk Police.
5. Village Hall Trustees are only 5 in number seeking additional assistance to prevent the Halls having to be closed.
6. West Suffolk Council announced that a new local plan will soon start due process. This contains the policies that will secure the delivery of affordable housing, new play areas, green public open space, health, education facilities

and transport provision. A public exhibition event will take place in the Lakenheath Peace Memorial Hall Thursday, 30th June 3 pm till 7 pm.

7. A Lego club is to open and be held in the library. There will be a £1 charge to cover cost of the bricks.

2.6.2022

RETRO31/32 two new RAF Lakenheath F-35s landed at 01:22 this morning. This brings the total number to date to 11 with many more expected during the year.

The Friendship group held their Jubilee Party today in the Methodist Church Hall.



🎵

Live Music
2pm

Bar
Open
2pm
Till
9.30

🍺

Midnight
Cowboy

🍔

DJ Jay
Entertainment

**Lakenheath
Pavillion**

2nd June ,
Queens
Jubilee

AGE FAIR



🇬🇧

🦁🦊

Bring
Your
Picnic
For
A
Street
Party

🍷

J J Ice
Cream

🍦

Bouncy Castle

PIC-COLLAGE

Lakenheath Pavilion held their street party on the playing fields. In line with their poster the bar was open from 1.30. Refreshments available to include Midnight Cowboy, Cakes, and ice cream.

Included were various forms of entertainment to include a 1940's group and others. It was very well attended and everyone had a great time including the children who enjoyed a bouncy castle.

In the evening the Parish Council had arranged for the lighting of the beacon in line with others around the UK at 9.45 pm. The previous Chairman of the Council, Cllr. Ed Morley, pressed the switch for the lighting giving first a speech which read:

Good evening, everyone and welcome to the Beacon lighting for Her Majesty, The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

Before I press the switch, I would like to thank all those people of the Parish of Lakenheath who have volunteered their time and effort to make sure our Jubilee is well presented so we as a Parish take our place in celebrating the 70th year of our Sovereigns reign wishing Her Majesty a very happy Platinum Jubilee.

Please give three cheers For Her Majesty 1 - 2 - 3 and have our thanks and appreciation for a job well done.



4.6.2022

A mobile irrigation pump was stolen from a field in Lakenheath. The pump was taken from Sharper's Corner, a track off Highbridge Gravel Drove, Lakenheath on either Friday, June 3, or Saturday, June 4.

The field where the pump was located is only accessible to 4x4s or a farm vehicle. A vehicle would have been required to steal the pump, which had a 1000-litre water tank attached. Police believe the pump would have to have been towed away.

5.6.2022

Overnight Lakenheath had 58 ml of rain resulting in various parts of the village being flooded. A picture of Eriswell Road at the junction with The Avenue.



Here is a picture of Wangford Road looking more like a river than a road. Picture taken by a car dashcam.



Despite the pouring rain nothing could stop the celebration of the main street party which was to be held in the High Street but moved inside into the Peace Memorial Village Hall with exhibitions in the Lakenheath Community Centre.

The exhibitions included a table of memorabilia from HM Queen Elizabeth's coronation. Photos celebrating various anniversaries over her 70-year reign, the flower Club showed various arrangements and pictures as provided by the Camera Club.

Rain did not stop play. Some fantastic displays and incredibly talented people in the village. Well done to all concerned.

The Flower Club presentation.



The camera Club showcasing their images



The Lakenheath Heritage Group presentation



Refreshments were provided free of charge to include various cakes, teas and coffees



The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who came along and supported their Jubilee Event on Sunday. The weather let us down, but that did not stop our great community enjoying themselves.

Huge thanks must go to ALL the clubs and organisations who entertained us, provided such brilliant displays of their talents, and kept the children entertained all afternoon. The refreshment ladies and CJs who served up the delicious tea and cakes and the residents who loaned their personal items for the memorabilia display. Special mention to Martin Taylor for the film show, (if you would like a copy let the Parish office know). Such a brilliant effort. Thank you all.

Please can you also get your votes in for Best decorated shop/business by June 8th. The shops have made such a great effort; our High Street looks amazing, so choose your favourite and get your vote to the Parish Office. There is a voting slip on the back of the Lakenheath Times, or e-mail the office: lakenheathparish@gmail.com

Also please keep your own decorations up at least for another week as the Parish Councillors will be touring the village and deciding on the best decorated house in the next few days. Winners will be announced in next month's Lakenheath Times.

Finally, any pictures you would like to share you can send to the Parish Office and we will post them on the website or send to Lakenheath Times lakenheathtimes@gmail.com and we will publish them in next month's edition.
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE.

8.6.2022

The Abundant Life Church announced today with lots of excitement their first Substance Abuse Meeting here in Lakenheath, this coming Monday, 13 June, at 7:30pm at Abundant Life Church, Back Street, IP27 9HF. A warm welcome is waiting for all who would like to attend!

17.6.2022

News this evening is the Delivery of 3 new F35's tonight bringing the total to arrive to date to 14 at RAF Lakenheath.

18.6.2022

Today Casuals had their first game of pre-season at home Tuddenham Rovers FC. We did not start well, 2-0 after 17mins saw us had to fight our way back to a convincing 7-2 victory in the end.

Big squad today so lots of changes!

MOTM - Tom Bristley

Goal scorers;

1 x Rhys Nunn, Ben Nolan assist

1 x Clive Allen Boucheron, Stuart Claydon assist

1 x Bouch, Harry Harding assist

1 x Elliott Parr, Jack Moss assist

1 x James Gabriel, Conor Boyle assist

1 x Dan Slamons, Steven Taylor assist
1 x Elliott Parr, Ben Nolan assist



22.6.2022

Plans to relocate the village community primary school to a bigger site to accommodate the community's expanding population are underway. Announcement by Suffolk County Council today.

With several housing developments planned in the area, it is feared that Lakenheath Community Primary School, in Mill Road, will exceed its capacity of 315 places in the next few years.

However, Suffolk County Council is proposing to move the new school to a site in Station Road by 2025. The new school would offer an additional 105 places for potential new pupils and could expand in the future if required.

The new proposal would negate the existing plan to build a second school in the village. Dawn Bluett, Chair of Governors, said: "The Governing body of Lakenheath Community Primary School welcomes the option of a new single expanded primary school for the Lakenheath community.

"We look forward to working constructively in partnership with education colleagues from Suffolk County Council to seek positive solutions and reassurances to a number of concerns we have for the successful development and implementation of our new community school location and building facilities."

Rachel Hood, cabinet member for education, SEND and skills, at Suffolk County Council, added: "We will work closely with the school and the community to ensure the new site and building are a positive outcome for everyone, and we will continue to address any concerns raised.

"This proposal supports the needs of the growing community, and is part of our on-going review of the capacity of Suffolk schools and planned housing developments.

"The new building will provide a modern and bright space for pupils and staff and will be purpose built to suit the specific circumstances of the village."

June rainfall 82 mm

The July edition of the Lakenheath Times advises

1. Lakenheath Parish Council in June held a competition as voted for by the jubilee committee. For the best dressed for the platinum jubilee shop in the High Street was Eclipse Hair Salon. Best decorated house was 142 High Street. Both winners received a bouquet of flowers and a Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Plate.



2. Lakenheath Parish Council thanked the community for such a successful Jubilee celebration despite the very poor weather.
3. Lakenheath in Bloom confirmed that the flower planters have been installed outside the Co-Op. In the future they hope to provide further planters along the High Street and brighten up the area. Next meeting to be held 11.7.2022.
4. Goward and Evans reminded the village of criteria for "Relief in need" and "Education Grants".
5. Sunset Barn Care Farm confirmed that there is no need to go hungry on a Tuesday. The care café is open at the Methodist Church from 10 am to 2 pm with reasonably priced food. There will also be available a table of free food for people in need to take home with them for a donation if one can be made.

5.7.2022

Lakenheath Bowls Club announced that after last year's successful four week course they have decided to run another one this year. This will take place every Wednesday in July at a cost of £15 per session. Indoor Bowls is a low impact sport it keeps you fit plus you will have fun in a social atmosphere.

6.7.2022

Macs and Co advised they are finally open to trade. This week, we are open from 8:30am-5:30pm Wednesday to Friday. A hardware shop is just what the village needs.



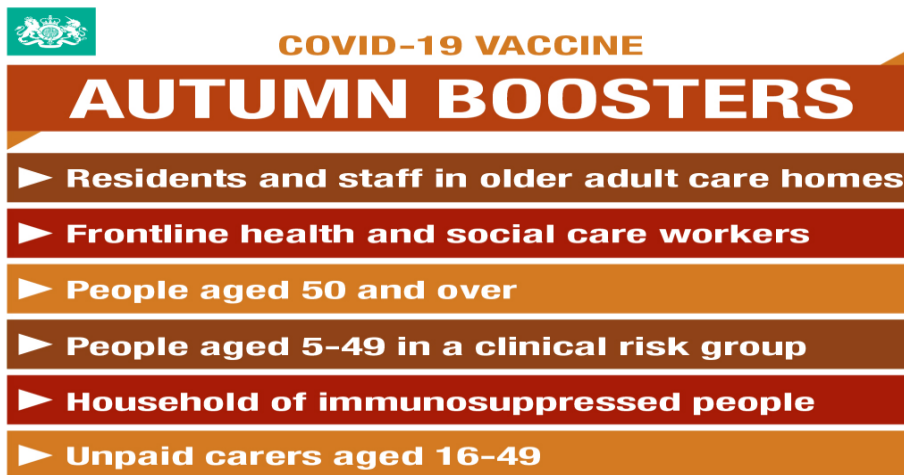
11.7.2022

Today we learned of Deployments from RAF Lakenheath. They flew out to Souda last Thursday, 10 F35's and 13 F15's.

15.7.2022

The DHSC have today shared the autumn Covid19 vaccine booster category list, & you will see below that many cohorts of carer/cared-for persons will be called forward including 'unpaid Carers aged 16-49'

Notifications for this next vaccine programme will start at the end of the summer



COVID-19 VACCINE

AUTUMN BOOSTERS

- ▶ **Residents and staff in older adult care homes**
- ▶ **Frontline health and social care workers**
- ▶ **People aged 50 and over**
- ▶ **People aged 5-49 in a clinical risk group**
- ▶ **Household of immunosuppressed people**
- ▶ **Unpaid carers aged 16-49**

17.7.2022

The Care Cafe announced that it will not be open this Tuesday due to the extreme heat expected. Hopefully back to normal the following week.

Letter issued by our Primary School in response to the extreme weather condition expected tomorrow.

Lakenheath Community Primary School

Mill Road Lakenheath Suffolk IP27 9DU

Telephone:(01842) 860256

E-mail: admin@lakenheath.suffolk.sch.uk

www.lakenheath.suffolk.sch.uk

Acting Headteacher: Mr Michael Tingey, BA (Hons) PGCE



Dear parents/ carers,

As I'm sure you will be aware, the Met Office has issued a red warning for Suffolk on Monday and Tuesday with temperatures predicted to be up to 40 degrees. The **current guidance** from the DfE states that they are not recommending that schools close.

Whilst we currently plan to remain open in line with guidance, this may change if any more information is provided.

However, we recognise the dangers of children in the heat and we will implement the following measures to ensure the safety of the children **(if the forecast for Monday and Tuesday remains the same over the weekend)**

Measures we will put in place:

- We know that some parents will be concerned about how their children cope in the heat, particularly with any health or SEND needs. We will understand if you decide to keep your child at home on these days (Please contact the office to let us know if you choose to keep your child off.)
- **We will open the school gates between 1:15-1:30pm for parents to collect children early** if they wish to avoid the hottest part of the day.
- We will ensure every classroom has an electric fan
- We will ensure children stay inside at break and lunch to avoid the heat outside
- We will encourage regular drinking - children must come with a water bottle
- We will avoid any active lessons/ PE etc.
- We will call parents immediately if any child starts to display any symptoms of heat stroke or other heat related illnesses.

Please note: If your child is in Y5/6 and has permission to walk home, please let us know if you want your child to leave at 1:15pm on these days. If we don't hear from you, we will assume they are to stay in school until 3pm as usual.

We will confirm these measures and/or provide an update on Sunday evening via email or text message and on our Facebook page.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Tingey

19.7.2022

Thanks were given to Mr Bishop and Lakenheath Community Primary School who achieved an amazing 'Gold Award' - the best grade possible - for the 2022 School Games Mark for the opportunities that are provided to the children in Sports. Well

done to all the children for their engagement and participation in all the activities this year!

20.7.2022

The boss of a farming company which has a fleet of its own fire engines has praised staff who helped the county's under-pressure firefighters to extinguish a blaze during the heatwave.

Greenheath Ltd, in Lakenheath, hires and sells former airport crash tender fire appliances which came in handy when a fire broke out on the railway embankment bordering their base at Toggam Farm after Suffolk Fire and Rescue declared a major incident due to the volume of call-outs across the county.

The fire service sent two fire engines to the deal with the blaze after being called at 5.36pm but had trouble reaching it so three members of staff from the farm – Jake Mayes, Chris Frost and Grant Smith – jumped in one of the 4 x 4 airport tenders, which are equipped with a water cannon. Thomas Clayton, director of Greenheath which specialises in farming, machinery sales, haulage, storage and energy, said: "They went above and beyond. The fire was right on our boundary and it would have taken all our fields."

Today, LCPS Year 6s enjoying their Leavers' Fun Day- thanks to the PTA for their donations and DBL Castles for their discounted play equipment.



26.7.2022

Six US Air Force fighter jets have arrived at RAF Lakenheath base tonight in preparation for supporting NATO's European Air Shielding mission. The F-22 Raptors are from the 90th Fighter Squadron, 3rd wing, en route to Łask, Poland, from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

Following their departure from Lakenheath Thursday morning 28th July, the aircraft will join NATO's Air Shielding strategy, which seeks to provide a near-seamless shield from the Baltic to the Black seas. New additions to the Alliance's eastern borders have been enhanced in response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

It is hoped this will ensure Alliance allies are better able to safeguard and protect territory from air and missile threats

July rainfall 7 mm

3.8.2022



Lakenheath Casuals Ladies football team have their first game under their belts we have plenty of positives to take from it. The final score 5-5 against Isleham Ladies for the game, we needed the minutes.

Goal scorers;
2 x Abbie Marshall
2 x Lauren Deller
1 x Annalise Brown

Fantastic start to the ladies' seasons campaign! Lots of work required at training but also lots to be proud of.

The August edition of the Lakenheath Times advised:

1. Lakenheath Parish Council seek a part time Parish Clerk.
2. Community Speedwatch Team continue to encourage and educate drivers to drive with consideration and care when travelling in our village. Between 6th June and 1st July 5 roadside sessions were held and 97 vehicles were recorded and reported to Suffolk Constabulary Speedwatch. They have enrolled 2 new volunteers currently being trained. This will enable more roadside sessions to occur in the future.
3. The toilets at the Playground will be closed at the end of July with a reminder that there are public facilities at Wings Road car park.
4. The District Council advised that the consultation for the West Suffolk Local Plan has closed. There had been a roadshow in the village which noted that the village bug bears were the need for more shop and facilities. It was mentioned the opening of the new shop Macs and Co a local family business. Use them or lose them was the advice.

5. The pandemic has not entirely gone away as the number of those infected seems to be on the rise. Not as deadly as previous variants but still around.
6. Ken Blackwell announced the Poppy Appeal 2022 will be his last one now he is 80. He has given 37 years of his life to Queen and Country, 30 years to the Royal British Legion in various roles and 20 plus years to SSAFA. He asked for someone to take his place for the future.
7. The magazine continues to tell the story of Lakenheath as taken from the Lakenheath Heritage Group website.

5.8.2022

The 48th Fighter Wing advised the community that they will conduct limited flying at night beginning Aug. 8-11, and again Aug. 15-18.

During these dates, communities in East Anglia and the surrounding regions may see or hear U.S. aircraft taking off, landing and transiting between RAF Lakenheath and training ranges over the North Sea between 7:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. BST. Overland flying will be limited as much as possible between sunset and sunrise.

Exercises like this provide both aircrew and support personnel stationed at RAF Lakenheath the experience needed to maintain a ready force capable of ensuring the collective defense of the NATO alliance and mutual security agreements between the U.S. and U.K.

The exercise does not include plans for low-altitude flying in East Anglia or the surrounding regions. All training will be conducted in accordance with Ministry of Defence and U.K. airspace regulations. Please contact the MOD at [SWK-lowflying@mod.gov.uk](mailto:lowflying@mod.gov.uk) with any aircraft-related flying concerns.

6.8.2022

Today the village enjoyed the Lakenheath Fete held on the playing fields. A lot of the village organisations showcased their groups and provided items to sell in order to raise group funds.

There were over 50 stalls and attractions; 105.3 Zack FM with us; bouncy fun from DBL CASTLES; a visit from @A Fairytale Fantasia - Princess Parties and Events; licensed bar; classic fete races and games and classic cars





19.8.2022

Sadly, this will be the last one with Chris and Simply the Best as he is semi retiring



21.8.2022

Lakenheath in Bloom today sited a new bench outside the Doctors Surgery in the High Street near to the Bus stop. This will enable people to stop and chat when at the surgery or waiting for a bus.



Today the Library advised that they have an assortment of handmade cards, £1.50 each raising money for Lakenheath library



They are back! Messy Church for Kids. Food, Activities and Music. A combined Churches event - and it is free. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

31.8.2022

Lakenheath Youth Football Club advised that the 22/23 season is nearly here and whilst they look forward to a season with less covid challenges they are currently battling those challenges from the weather.

As you will note the lack of rain has caused the grass to die off. Added to this the annual fete and pitch watering restrictions have caused further obstacles and damage.

At present the club are working with the leagues and reversing fixtures affected to allow football to start and have rescheduled some training at other all-weather facilities to reduce the damage to the playing field pitches. They also have volunteers who are helping to water the pitches within the imposed time restrictions so we are hoping that this will not hold up things too much.

The club are also looking to get some pitch maintenance carried out on the worst areas however this has been delayed due to availability. The community were asked to help where they can.

August rainfall 66 mm.

The September edition of the Lakenheath Times advised:

1. Lakenheath Parish Council reminded the community of places to apply to for financial aid in these times of higher expenditure and people struggling financially. This included grants to get you through the winter months, Council tax rebates and advice with general help. This also advised of help from UK Power network, food banks, use of computers in the library and finally detail from the Goward and Evans Trust who will consider applications for relief in need as well as for educational purposes.
2. Because of the continuing hot weather West Suffolk have suspended their grass cutting service. Instead, the men are creating fire breaks at places of concern to prevent any fires which may occur from spreading unnecessarily.
3. The Lakenheath Neighbourhood Plan group continue to work towards agreeing a way forward to create a plan that will shape and influence planning strategies for the future. This will include environmental, youth provision, planning, recreation facilities, infrastructure and much more.

3.9.2022

Lakenheath Community Primary School reminded the parents that they look forward to welcoming back children in Y1-Y6 on Monday. Please remember our new timings are 8:45-3:15.

Gates will open at 8:30 as before and will now close at 8:50. They will reopen at 3.05pm for collection at the end of the day.

6.9.2022



Tree down Undley road struck by lightning.

Cash bingo is back on 7th Sept. 7:30 start Peace Memorial Village Hall

8.9.2022

It was announced today by Buckingham Palace, the sad news of the death of our Monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at age 96 after many decades of sterling service to our nation.

Over the past 70 years, Her Majesty's impact has been felt by everyone. From her heart-warming messages during our country's difficult times, to her international influence representing our country with her steadfast sense of duty and devotion, the queen has been a perfect example of devotion to a life in service.

Her Majesty The Queen, who celebrated her Platinum Jubilee earlier this year, ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe. Heartfelt condolences are sent to all the Royal family.

Notice from Lakenheath Community Primary School read:

Undoubtedly, many children will be affected by the sad news of the death of our Queen, Elizabeth II. For some this may trigger sad memories of their own bereavements and for others there may be questions and worries.

Staff will be on hand to address any concerns and support the children if they are feeling upset. We will commemorate her incredible life and service in a special assembly tomorrow to pay our respects and we will follow any guidance for schools that is published.

The thoughts of all our staff are with the Royal Family

9.9.2022

Lakenheath Parish Council issued the following statement:

On behalf of the Parish Council, our residents and businesses, the Chair of Lakenheath Parish Council expresses his most profound sorrow and conveys his deepest condolences to the King and the Royal Family on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British History. Known for her sense of duty, the Queen was much loved by people in Lakenheath, Suffolk and across the globe.

Over the course of her long and illustrious reign she met millions of people across the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth, and the rest of the world. She dedicated her life to her family, her nation and to the Commonwealth.

Flowers may be left at the base of the flagpole at St Mary's Church.

Gerald Kelly
Chair, Lakenheath Parish Council

11.9.2022

A special commemoration service marking the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II was held at St Mary the Virgin, Lakenheath Church.

14.9.2022

48th Fighter Liberty wing at RAF Lakenheath announced today

Out of respect for the National Mourning period and the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the 48 Fighter Wing will execute minimal manning operations on 19 Sep to support this historical event for our host nation.

Unit leadership will coordinate specific details for their active duty and civilian employees.

Base services on 19 Sep will be reduced, but at a minimum we are planning to support previously scheduled medical appointments and childcare for those required for duty.

Additionally, we will broadcast the State Funeral from the Liberty Club and Liberty Wings for those who wish to observe the ceremonies together. Thank you for your support and solidarity with our host nation teammates during this time, and for continuing to be outstanding ambassadors for the Air Force and our nation as we serve together in the UK.

16.9.2022

Lakenheath Youth posted the weekend fixture list

The poster features a green and white soccer field background with a Lakenheath Youth logo in the bottom right corner. The title 'WEEKEND FIXTURES' is at the top in large, bold, yellow-green letters. Below it, fixtures are listed for Saturday and Sunday in two columns.

Saturday:	Sunday:
U7 - Loddon (A) 10:00	U14 - Cringleford (H) 10:30
U8 - Inter-Team (H) 10:00	U15 - Old Catton (A) 14:00
U9 - Friendly (H) 11:15	
U10Y - Heigham (H) 10:00	
U10G - Shipdham (A) 10:00	
U11 - Bacton (H) 11:15	
U12 - Saffron Walden (H) 9:30	
U14 - Haslingfield (A) 10:00	



Lakenheath Community Primary School had a tribute they had created to our Queen placed in Green Park, London as below



20.9.2022

Lakenheath Community Primary school pupils walked down to the pavilion fields to take part in a virtual, inter-school cross country event. The timings of the fastest children will be sent off as they compete with lots of other schools in West Suffolk. Pupils will be encouraged to challenge themselves; running is not for everyone so there was no pressure to run the whole event but it was a chance for everyone to have a go and do their best. The school will also be selecting some of the fastest children to represent our school in a cross-country event in Newmarket in a few weeks' time.

21.9.2022

RAF Lakenheath posted that The 48th Fighter Wing will conduct limited flying from 20-22 Sept. 2022.

During these dates, they advised that communities in East Anglia and the surrounding regions may see or hear U.S. aircraft taking off, landing and transiting between RAF Lakenheath and training ranges over the North Sea between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. BST. Overland flying will be limited as much as possible between sunset and sunrise.

Exercises like this provide both aircrew and support personnel stationed at RAF Lakenheath the experience needed to maintain a ready force capable of ensuring the collective defence of the NATO alliance and mutual security agreements between the U.S. and U.K.

The exercise does not include plans for low-altitude flying in East Anglia or the surrounding regions. All training will be conducted in accordance with Ministry of Defence and U.K. airspace regulations.

Suffolk Highways announced that Drainage improvements will be taking place along the B1112 between Eriswell Road (to Holywell row) and Earls Field roundabout.

The works are programmed to take place from 26 September and will continue until 25 November 2022. 61 days. The road will be closed for 24 hours each day for the duration to ensure that we have sufficient road widths to carry out our works safely. For the duration of the road closure, traffic will be diverted via B1112, A1065, C620 Wangford Road, B1112 and vice versa.

The news, which was also recently announced by Suffolk County Council, has caused outrage among villagers, who say the works will close the direct entrance to Lakenheath, leading to a detour of at least 20 minutes and forcing drivers to spend extra money on fuel. Suffolk County Council reiterated that the work is part of a drainage improvement scheme which will prevent highway flooding and involve the installation of over 300m of new drainage pipes in the verge and footway.

24.9.2022

Lakenheath Youth Football Club U8s played their 1st game of the season today with a home game against Swaffham Town FC U8s.

It was a great to get the team back on the pitch after a long summer break.

Lakenheath started well with some great passing resulting in a shuttle finish from Rosie. Lakenheath continued to enjoy a successful 1st quarter.

2nd quarter saw us make lots of changes which welcomed Swaffham on to us and meant that Joshua had lots of saves to make.

After a quiet 1st quarter, he was put into action and made some amazing saves.

In the 2nd half we looked to make it more solid defensively.

This resulted in a better performance by the entire team and brought Lakenheath back into the game.

Lakenheath finished well with a great goal from free kick by Lucas and an amazing individual goal taking on 2 players to slot the ball home by Jack A.

This rounded off a great team performance by all and one very happy team at the end of the game. It's great to see all the players starting to learn how to pass and work as a team.

Person of the match selection is a difficult one again but for this week the overall performance of Louie stood out. He was everywhere, all over the pitch, talking, passing and supporting his team mates.

Next week a home game to Wymondham Town Utd FC U8s.

26.9.2022

Lakenheath Youth put out this advert



Two police officers remain in a serious but stable condition in hospital after suffering potentially life-threatening injuries in a crash in Eriswell, near Lakenheath. The crash happened when they were responding to an emergency call on blue lights in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Police were called to the scene at 1.20am, where a grey BMW collided with a white Peugeot 308 marked police car. Several police units, alongside the fire service, air ambulance, the ambulance service and a volunteer paramedic from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS), attended.

The driver and passenger of the Peugeot 308, who were two male police officers, were taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital with what were considered at the time to be potentially life-threatening injuries.

Investigations into the crash are ongoing.

The driver of the BMW, a man in his 20's, was arrested at the scene on suspicion of causing serious injury by dangerous driving and driving while unfit through drink or drugs.

He was initially taken to West Suffolk Hospital as a precaution before being transported to Bury St Edmunds Police Investigation Centre. He has been released on bail until October 21.

The B1112 was closed in both directions after the crash, but reopened at 6pm yesterday.

27.9.2022

Lakenheath Community Primary School are proud of their talented cross-country team that came 2nd out of lots of local schools today. They clearly showed their 6R values as they performed amazingly well. Some of the team have even qualified for the county finals in Ipswich! Go team Lakenheath!!



28.9.22

Flu jabs are available as of today at Lakenheath Pharmacy. As there are no longer any social restrictions in place, people are socialising and travelling normally again and so there is a greater risk of flu spreading more widely.

This year those eligible can have a flu vaccination at the same time as your COVID-19 vaccination and by having your flu vaccination, you will be significantly reducing your risk of getting flu, keeping your immune system at its strongest and relieving potential strain on the NHS.

Lakenheath Youth FC announced that this Saturday morning they will be open for teas and coffees at the games between 10:00 - 11:30. All proceeds are being donated to MacMillan Cancer support so please feel free to come along and support our teams and also help support MacMillan.

29.9.2022

WE'RE BACKING PLAY SAFE

Lakenheath Youth Football Club is lending its full support to Play Safe – an ongoing national campaign led by The FA to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding in football.

Although it runs throughout the year, Play Safe really comes to the fore over football's National Safeguarding Weekend, held this year on Saturday/Sunday 1st and 2nd October.

The focus this year is on parents and carers, with two key messages to convey:

- Awareness of the vital safeguarding role parents/carers play in football; and
- Encouragement to take the short, new and free online safeguarding course that's been created specifically for parents/carers.

Importantly, encouragement to take the new course has come from FASSSAG – The FA's Survivor Support and Safeguarding Advisory Group:

"We have inputted into the course and helped frame its key messages from our collective experiences. It is vitally important to us that every parent/carer understands their role they need to play in football. Taking this course can make a real difference – we are asking every parent/carer to commit to help ensure football is ever-safer."

The support of FASSSAG has been welcomed by FA Chief Executive Mark Bullingham, himself a parent and youth football coach. "The FASSSAG has been important in helping us create our new strategy moving forwards and we really appreciate their input into the new course. I have taken the new course and encourage all parents/carers across football to take it too.

"Ultimately, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We all need to ensure that everyone involved in football – particularly children and young people – has a consistently safe and positive experience of our great game. Play Safe reminds everyone of that responsibility and keeps safeguarding front of mind, which is exactly where it should be."

Leanne Leonard is the LYFC Welfare Officer and is co-ordinating the weekend to highlight this programme:

"At Lakenheath Youth FC we strive to keep everyone safe. Everyone is involved in this process and we would love to see as many parents, carers, guardians, and spectators get involved. We provide a fun safe environment for all children to enjoy their football. We completely back and support this FA initiative."

Play Safe is being run in partnership with the NSPCC and has the full backing of the Premier League, EFL, Barclays Women's Super League and Barclays Women's Championship. It's also supported and being run across every other level of the game.

September rainfall 56 mm

The October edition of Lakenheath Times advised:

1. Following the village survey a couple of years ago it became apparent that gym equipment was an item many villagers wanted to make use of. The Parish Council have now arranged for the installation of pieces of outdoor gym equipment, 10 pieces, at the playing fields. this is primarily aimed at adults and should be seen and ready for use in the next couple of weeks.
2. The Parish Council are in the process of updating the monthly magazine and seeks suggestions and or contributions for future issues.

3. Ken Blackwell put out a further plea for someone to come forward to organise the Poppy Appeal in the future as he is retiring. Despite an advert a couple of months ago no one has as yet come forward.

1.10.2022

DEFIB update

The defibs around the village have been returned following their recall. They have all been re-sited this morning with new pads and batteries and are good for the next 5yrs.

They are located at:

The Pavilion
Lakenheath Village Hall
Quayside Court
Lakenheath Primary School
Sedge Fen Caravan Park

They are all updated on the Circuit as 'emergency ready'



LYFC advised that there was a fantastic effort from everyone this morning as our MacMillan coffee morning raised £188.50. Thanks to everyone who donated and bought teas/ coffees and supported the teams.

Huge thanks also to Gemma, Donna and Sue for all their help this morning plus to everyone who provided cakes - it was like a scene from "The Great Lakenheath Bake Off" at one point.

And finally, thanks to Gary @ Lakenheath Co-Op for the donation of all tea, coffee and milk (plus a cake) for the cause also.

What a fantastic win today for the Lakenheath Ladies FC against a very much improved Burwell ladies' team. Lakenheath played great football and deserved the win in the end. They defended well against a strong attacking line 3-2 final score



Lakenheath Community Primary School Early Years enjoyed a party at the park this afternoon. They went on the play equipment, followed by musical statues and cake as part of their birthday party topic.



3.10.2023

Prior to the Parish Council meeting there was a ceremony to confer the very first Freedom of Lakenheath.

Gerald Kelly acted as master of ceremonies and gave a speech to an invited audience only saying "In our own way, history is being made today as the Parish Council confers the Honorary Freedom of the Parish on Councillor Ed Morley. At a Meeting of Lakenheath Parish Council on Monday, 1st August this year it was unanimously agreed that Honorary Freedom be conferred upon Ed in recognition of his eminent service and contribution to the well-being of the Parish. The honorary freeman title confers no powers on the individual; it is entirely ceremonial. It is an official and timeless "thank you" for someone who has conducted

exceptional work, service or other worthy undertakings that benefit the community by presenting them with a Freedom Scroll.

So, we are clear, Ed, you cannot graze your sheep on Maids Cross Hill, nor can you parade up High St with bayonets fixed and drums beating!

Freeman is a title which has changed dramatically over the centuries. To start with it was merely a statement that you had done your apprenticeship and now had duties and benefits of belonging somewhere. As time went by money got involved and the titleholder got trade advantages then, inevitably, politics got involved until in 1835 the Municipal Corporations Act was passed to break up cartels and establish Local Councils much as we know them today.

Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 a local council following a council resolution, is permitted to admit as honorary freemen or freewomen persons of distinction, who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to the community. In 2009 Parliament passed the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act in which all local Councils were given the right to grant honorary Freedoms in their area of jurisdiction, so it has taken us twelve years to get round to it!

That does not mean that there would be a struggle to find a worthy candidate in Lakenheath who has contributed a great deal to the community; we are fortunate that there are so many who give exceptional time, expertise, and effort for the Parish. But for our very first, it had to be someone exceptionally exceptional.

The Council thought it fitting that Councillor Morley should be the first recipient of the honorary freedom of the parish. Ed has served as councillor and chairman for some time and has rendered eminent services to the parish, but that is true of others. For me there are two things which have put Ed 'in the frame'. Firstly circumstances; no one will need reminding just how awful the last few years have been with court cases, Covid and huge changes. Okay, the circumstances were not of his making (at least I do not think so) but as Chair, Ed saw to it that the parish did all that could be done for our residents.

Mainly though it is that he is completely person-centric. Each of our residents is an individual and, like or loath, if they need help, he will be there. I am sure we all know some of the individual cases so I won't list them here. Nor will I forget that none of this can be done without support, so I think we also need to acknowledge Sarah's part in all this.

The title 'Honorary Freeman' is bestowed upon certain individuals, who have, in the opinion of a Parish Council, rendered eminent service to the Council, or conducted exceptional work, service or other worthy undertakings that benefit the community in Lakenheath. To be granted the title of Honorary Freeman is a mark of distinction upon the person whom the Council wishes to honour. The Freedom is purely an honour, reflecting the gratitude and respect we hold for that individual. The Parish Council is proud and honoured to confer this Freedom recognising exceptional service that benefit the community of Lakenheath by presenting you with a Freedom Scroll. We grant you this, the highest honour we can bestow for the

valuable and eminent services rendered to the community of Lakenheath by you over many years. We loudly applaud your valuable and sterling service and thank you most sincerely.

Cllr Ed Morley's response was:

I just want to express my thanks and gratitude too all those attending this award this evening. It is very kind and thoughtful of you all to be here.

I would not really have wanted or courted this ceremony as I believe if you sit in public office or serve your community you just get on and do as best you are able to. A council is more than one person. It is a team effort that requires all of us to work for the better of "our" community. We are not unique in any way and the Parish of Lakenheath is just one of many other Parishes up and down our country. So many thousands of people are elected by their parishioners to act and execute a better way of life on their behalf. I am in my 16th year on the Lakenheath Parish Council and it has been an honour to have served. For 5 years I have been its chairman.

We have had a very gruelling two plus years. It has been a hard time for all of us but we have stuck at it. By next year I will have finished four terms on the Council and I will move on. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Gerald Kelly, your new chairman for his constant help and support. The Parish and its council have a very safe pair of hands and I am so very fortunate to have worked with him, as are you all. I feel lucky enough to have seen three clerks in and out and 20 Councillors too. Not to forget those who are no longer with us.

Anyway, I have gone on for far too long now and I will close, but my last words are saved for my dearest mother, Meg Marion, or Midge as was a favourite nick name for her. She was so very proud that I sat on the council and I so wish she was here to share in this moment. For all of you kind enough to take time out of your own lives to share this moment also, I leave my most sincere thanks indeed

5.10.2022

Great efforts from Lakenheath Community Primary School football teams this evening in their tournament at Great Heath Academy. Team A narrowly missed on a place in the semi-finals and Team B showed amazing resilience throughout to keep going in their very tough group!



7.10.202,

8 pm tonight a Car on fire, Sedge Fen road, no access to Sedge Fen from the village.



13.10.2022

The Parish Council arranged for the installation of some adult exercise equipment at the playing fields. One piece designed for people with disabilities.



14.10.2022

Exciting happenings in Lakenheath this morning. Thanks to Suttons donating 20 tons of topsoil to Lakenheath in Bloom to use in the area around the village sign. The parish council donated 3000 bulbs to help with the planting up of the area.

Lakenheath Community Primary School warned parents that It has come to their attention that there is a new challenge on 'TikTok' for children to jump in front of cars/vehicles.

No child at Lakenheath should have a TikTok as the age limit is 13 years for obvious reasons! However, the school know some of the children do access this. They asked parents to please make sure, if your child may have seen or become aware of this challenge, that they remind them of road safety before someone is seriously hurt.

17.10.2022

The Royal Mail has closed their sorting office in Lakenheath behind the Post Office. Everything for the village now comes from Thetford. The same post men/women will deliver the post but they are now having to travel every morning to and from the Thetford Delivery Office before they start their rounds. Un posted mail must be returned to Thetford by 3.15 each day for delivery the following day. Result is that the delivery day has been shortened which means not all post gets delivered. The Postmen normally start their round where it was finished the previous day.

20.10.2022

The Community centre advised the community that the Trustees of Lakenheath Peace Memorial are pleased to announce that the Warm Room in the Community Centre will be open from Monday 3 days a week. If you are looking for somewhere to get warm have a bowl of soup or a cup of tea or coffee. It's free of charge and will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11.00 to 3.00.

LAKENHEATH COMMUNITY KITCHEN



11:00am – 3:00pm

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

**Join us for a free bowl of soup,
tea, coffee and biscuits.**

**@ Lakenheath Community
Centre, High Street, Lakenheath.**

21.10.2022

Lakenheath Youth Football Club advised that Rhys won the Rising Star Of The Year award from Suffolk FA. Rhys collected his award along with all other FA award winners at Ipswich Town FC this evening.

The club are incredibly proud of Rhys' achievements and all that he does for our teams.



27.10.2022

Roadworks which has caused residents in Lakenheath to undertake an 11-mile diversion are set to finish earlier than expected.

The B1112 Eriswell/Lakenheath Road has been closed between Eriswell Road and the Earls Field roundabout since September 26, with works due to last 61 days as part of a drainage improvement scheme.

Residents voiced their concerns to Suffolk News, with one suggesting they will cause absolute carnage'.

However, Suffolk Highways has confirmed the scheme will end two weeks earlier than the original date of November 25 after making good progress.

It is hoped that the roadworks can be removed by Wednesday, November 9.

Repairs will continue until then, with additional works set to commence on November 7.



Lakenheath Community Kitchen opened for the third time this week. Monday was very quiet but picked up on Thursday. Those who did come enjoyed it and appreciated what the Peace Memorial Hall Trustees are doing in providing a warm room with tea, coffee, or hot soup. More importantly providing a warm room to meet with old friends or make new ones. No charges the Trustees rely on donations only and grants provided by various authorities.

31.10.2022

The 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath advised the community that it will be conducting night flying operations beginning Nov. 1-4, and again Nov. 7-10.

During these dates, communities in East Anglia and around the United Kingdom may see or hear U.S. aircraft taking off, landing and transiting between RAF Lakenheath and training areas between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. GMT.

Training during hours of darkness provides both aircrews and support personnel stationed at RAF Lakenheath the experience needed to maintain a ready force capable of supporting mutual security agreements between the U.S. and U.K. in addition to ensuring the collective defence of NATO. All training will be conducted in accordance with Ministry of Defence and U.K. airspace regulations.

October rainfall 63 mm.

The November edition of Lakenheath Times advised the community:

1. The Outdoor gym is now open and in use at the Playing Fields. There are instructions for use of each piece.
2. Freedom of the Village was awarded before the Parish Council Meeting, 3rd October 2023 for the first time to Cllr. Edward Morley in recognition of his eminent service and contribution to the wellbeing of the Parish. (Recorded in the diary for 3rd October).
3. The parish council take delivery of 60 saplings to be planted at Mutford Green. These saplings are a continuation of the Late Queen's Green canopy for her platinum Jubilee and are to hide the electricity substation on Mutford Green. They were seeking help in the planting.

1.11.2022

Suffolk County Council Highways today gave the community an update on the current drainage improvement scheme, which is taking place along B1112, Eriswell/Lakenheath.

Our teams have made good progress on site and following a review of the programmed completion date, we now hope to complete the works two weeks ahead of schedule, bringing the completion date forward to Wednesday 9 November 2022. Whilst our teams undertake the remaining works on site, including additional road repairs, during week commencing 7 November 2022 temporary traffic signals will be in place on the roundabout, with a 24hr road closure of the B1112.

Traffic will also be sent the opposite way around the roundabout. Due to this we will be unable to open the road overnight on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 November. This is essential to complete the final work. We aim to remove all traffic management by close of play Wednesday 9 November 2022.

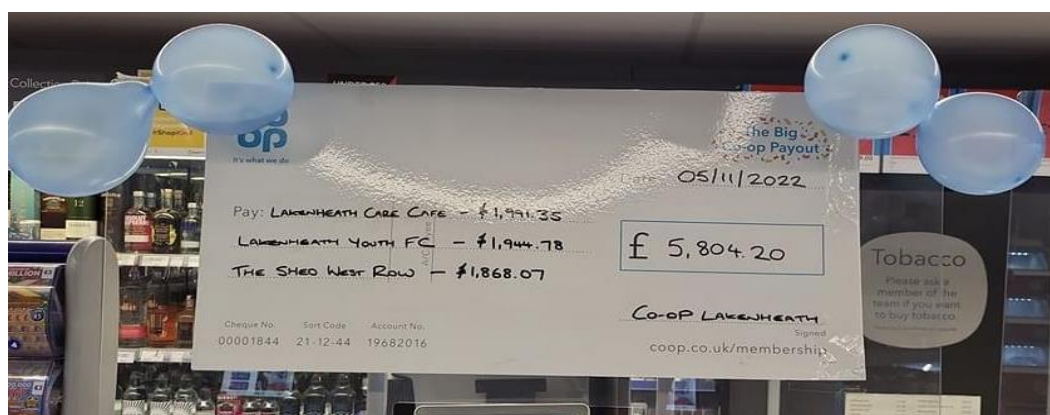
ACS owned by Barry Chapman are no longer trading from Lakenheath High Street.

3.11.2022

The Bank of England's decision to hike interest rates today by 0.75% is undoubtedly the right one for the country as a whole – but for many homeowners this will mean a massive increase in their mortgages. And the prediction is that the coming recession could be the longest for a century.

5.11.2022

Today was pay out day for the Lakenheath branch of the Co-op. Local causes received their donation today! Thanks to all members who selected a cause with their membership card. As a result, there was raised an amazing £5,804.20 in total between the three causes.



12.11.2022

Ben Cowling's Lakenheath FC side enjoyed a club-record run to the fourth round of the national competition last season.

It meant Lakenheath did not enter this season's staging of the Vase until the second round, where they edged past Buckhurst Hill 3-2 today to reach the next round. They are the only Suffolk Side to do so this year. Goals from captain Sam Hawley, Luke Young and Tom Thurlbourn helped the Heath come from a goal behind to knock out their Essex Senior League opponents.

13.11.2022

Remembrance Sunday. The parade formed outside St. Marys Church and started at 2.30 pm led by The Lakenheath Silver Band with those marching and wreath layers following to the war memorial.



14.11.2022

Lakenheath FC have been drawn away to Biggleswade United in the third round of the Isuzu FA Vase. This will take place Saturday 3rd December.

15.11.2022

Lakenheath in bloom today installed an additional bench and planter in the High Street near to the Co-Op supermarket. This includes the late Queen Elizabeth II Memorial bench. The planter will soon be filled.



Lakenheath Youth Football Club gave thanks to the community from MacMillan to all those that joined them at their coffee morning last month.

17.11.2022

The B1112 is closed after a collision involving a tractor and three vehicles. The police and ambulance services were called at 11.46am to Station Road, Lakenheath. No serious injuries reported but recovery was called and the road was closed for a couple of hours.

18.11.2022

Lakenheath community Primary School announced that as England men's football team will be playing their first World Cup game on Monday within the school day. Children that want to watch the game live will have the opportunity to do so and other activities will be available for children that are not interested in the match. We will also allow children to wear red, white and blue / England shirts if they wish to. Of course, there is a lot of controversy regarding human rights within the host nation, Qatar, so if you would prefer your child not to watch it, please explain this to your child and communicate this with their class teacher.

The Bury Free Press today informed that Hundreds of supporters of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) are expected to protest outside a Suffolk airbase for the second time in a year tomorrow against the possible return of US nuclear weapons to the UK.

Ahead of a reported roll-out of upgraded US bombs to NATO bases in Europe this December, the CND will hold a national demonstration at RAF Lakenheath from 1pm, to oppose the return of these weapons to Britain.

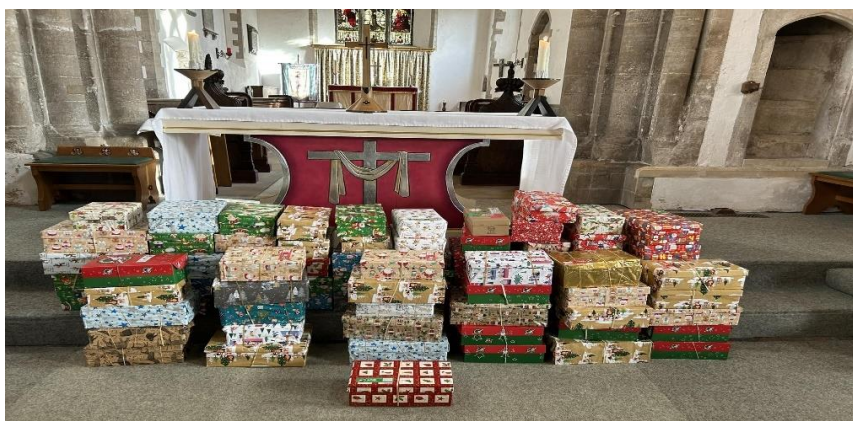
The campaign group believes work is in preparation at the base for their return for the first time since 2008, when they were removed due to sustained protest.

"CND's message is loud and clear: US nuclear weapons are not welcome back in Britain, and we will campaign with all our might to stop them."

This follows a similar demonstration by the group back in May at RAF Lakenheath, when speakers and campaigners gathered en masse at the base's viewing area following reports that the base was earmarked for a multi-million infrastructure upgrade - believed to be a sign that nuclear weapons were coming back to the base.

20.11.2022

St Mary's held their Shoebox Sunday today. 84 boxes collected with a few more to come. To be sent to less fortunate children than our own. Excellent result in these times when everyone is feeling a financial squeeze.



November rainfall 116 mm.

The December edition of the Lakenheath Times advises:

1. With Christmas fast approaching the Parish Council asked for the High Street to be made festive. This will be led by the Parish Council who are to provide Christmas trees in the previously used flag poles.
2. Parish Council will provide a prize to the best dressed shop/business voted by the community as well as to the best decorated house in the village.
3. A hedgerow litter pick is to be carried out on Saturday 4th February. Help is required.
4. Lakenheath Community Primary School put out a plea for old school uniforms to be recycled at a small cost in order to raise funds for the new sensory play area at the school.
5. There was an announcement of one thing to look forward to next year is the start up of a Mens Breakfast Club. The first on Saturday 28th January 2023 at the Peace Memorial Hall at 8.30. A chance for men to chat, read the paper and eat breakfast.

6. T Grant provided a poem

This caring village

The name "Lakenheath" is surely the prize,
For the community spirit in a village this size.
So much going on, with people who care,
Whatever they have they are willing to share.
Don't sit at home, on your own, all alone,
Come chat with others, you don't need a phone!
The Care Café is there and the Wednesday lunch club,
And the community centre's warm room, is our village hub.
"But surely that's not meant for the likes of me"
"I don't need charity or something for free".
But that's where you're wrong, it's not charity at all,
It's there for the community. For us all one and all.
To bring people together, so no-one's alone,
And to get people out, instead of just sat at home.
A roast dinner once a month for a reasonable price
Or treat yourself at the care café, to something nice.
The warm room is free but they welcome donations.
Come try out the soups from their veggie creations.
There's something going on, most days of the week,
A small ray of sunshine on wintry days bleak.
This village is great with many people who care,
Don't be alone, when there's so much to share.
The company is there if you want to join in,
Just take the first step, that's where you begin.
You'll find a friendly face, the other side of the door,
Friendship and company, who could ask for more!
Oh and soup, don't forget the soup!

3.12.2022

Lakenheath Beavers went for a walk around the village today and left 'chocolate bags' on doorsteps as part of their Kindness challenge.

Frustration was the over-riding emotion for Lakenheath Football Club manager Ben Cowling after seeing their Isuzu FA Vase journey end in a penalty shootout loss at Biggleswade United on Saturday, following a 1-1 draw.

His side had been on the verge of ending their Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division hosts' 10-game unbeaten home run in the last 64 third round tie until late on in Bedfordshire – which would have also equalled last year's club record run in the competition.

After having a goal ruled out for offside and seeing returning defender Dean Grogan hit the post with a header, their second-half pressure paid off with close to the hour mark.

Heath then had a glorious chance to double their advantage from the penalty spot inside the final 15 minutes but saw captain Sam Hawley's kick sail over the crossbar.

Biggleswade then went on to capitalise on an under-hit back pass to score a controversial 83rd-minute equaliser through Conor Inskip.

While there were calls for it being offside, having hit a player on the floor from the initial effort, Lakenheath thought they had then managed to hook the rebound shot off the line but the linesman convinced the referee it had gone over.

The ensuing penalty shootout saw Lakenheath go on to lose 3-1 with defender Tom Debenham the only man to score while Luke Young's first kick was saved and Tom Walters and Tom Thulbourn also both failed to score.

Cowling reflected: "We were the better team, we deserved to go through but we didn't take the chances and in the end it cost us.

"Frustration is probably the main thing as it is chalk and cheese with the performance we put out at Newmarket (1-1 draw) the weekend before.

4.12.2022

Today the official Christmas lights switch on occurred at The Pavilion. Santa arrived on his sleigh bringing gifts to children.



15.12.2022

The Friendship group held their Christmas Party and fun was had by all. Picture of Kath Thompson (94 years) having a dance with Derek Bennett.



Police have today arrested five people in connection with a cannabis factory in Lakenheath. Officers conducted a warrant at a property on Back Street Lakenheath where it is thought over 300 plants were in the premises.

Five males were arrested at the aged 34, 55, 27, and two 38-year-olds on suspicion of cultivating cannabis and taken to Bury St Edmunds Police Investigation Centre for questioning. Meanwhile officers are in the process of dismantling the cannabis factory today.

16.12.2022

Lakenheath Community Primary School announced that they would like to donate their 6ft Christmas tree to a family that cannot afford one this year. It is still healthy and hasnot lost many needles.



Christmas tree at the Pavilion

December rainfall 40 mm.

Total rainfall for the year 622 mm.

The year ended with the press announcing the loss of 250,000 retail jobs this year as thousands of stores were forced to shut down. The retail sector being the second largest employer after the public sector. This is 43 per cent higher than 2021. This was the result of soaring costs and sliding consumer confidence. This is on top of a record-breaking squeeze on household income.

RSPB Report for the year of 2022

As another year passes, 2022 was a largely positive one for RSPB Lakenheath Fen, with a few landmark moments in our development- we managed to make progress with improving accessibility for visitors, as well as securing the purchase of additional land to expand the reserve. These positive moments followed a tricky start to the year where we were burgled in March (for the second time, three months after the first incident). In between the two burglaries we had a small and unrelated fire affecting our workshop. It was disheartening for our reserve team of staff and volunteers to start the new year on such a negative footing, and we wondered if our luck would ever change, but thankfully it did!

It took several weeks for the workshop to be thoroughly cleaned (from smoke residue) and our items sorted into what could be salvaged and what was beyond repair- a professional company did this for us and filled a skip with items we could no longer keep. Then, the damaged ceiling, some pipework and electrical connections were repaired (the fire originated in an electrical cupboard). We were running on plug-in heaters in the Visitor Centre for a few weeks because the heat from the blaze damaged a gas pipe that supplied our heating, so it felt like a real luxury when we had it repaired! A few weeks later a new ceiling was installed, new lighting and the whole building repainted and our items were back in place. Luckily, our insurance provider was a great help in replacing damaged items and by Spring we had overhauled our security systems (including extensive CCTV) to try to deter a repeat incident. Thankfully, anyone attempting a similar crime will now be recorded from the moment they arrive on site and a live feed linked directly to the police.

Our toilets were out of action until the summer months due to the electrical damage (we hired port-a-loo's!) as the legacy of the fire persisted for months afterwards. Once everything had been repaired, we could focus our attention on the work we are more familiar with- surveying the wildlife here and helping visitors to enjoy getting closer to nature. Our common cranes returned and in March, both pairs laid eggs. Our more experience pair- 'Pair A2'- successfully incubated their two eggs and cared for their two chicks impeccably- these both fledged and the family of four were seen flying around the reserve together throughout summer. Our newer, likely younger, 'Pair B2' lost their eggs (or nestlings, we were not sure) to predation and a few days later, re-laid a second clutch of eggs. Unfortunately, they failed at their second attempt too but surprised us with a very late third clutch, which we only knew about when we spotted them with two very young chicks walking about on a track on the reserve!

We had our fingers crossed this time, but unfortunately the season was against them- these chicks were so small and vulnerable at a time of year when young

marsh harriers are in the sky and are looking for an easy meal. Taller vegetation, other young birds of prey and ground predators (who have all bred by now and bolstered their numbers, relative to Spring) will not have helped matters either and unfortunately Pair B2 were not successful in their third attempt. In 2021, they did fledge one chick so we know they can raise young and we will keep our fingers crossed in 2023. Crane pairs only become more experienced with age so it would not be surprising if they were successful at raising a family this year.



Crane family (4 birds) by Ray Watson 11.1.23

Our other birds did well- we had at least 12 booming male bitterns spread across the reedbeds, so a very good year for those. Potentially, each male bird could attract a female into his territory patch so it gives us the first clue as to how many bittern nests we may see in the weeks to come.



Bittern feeding fledged chicks by David Sparrow 19.6.22

Further surveys led us to believe that we had 7 bittern nests and 12 marsh harrier nests too. Over the course of the summer, it became apparent how little rainfall we were receiving- in fact the reserve had no rainfall between May and November. Very little fell (less than 5mm) each month between February and April too. At times, and to be expected, it was very hot and dry and these factors combined meant the reserve became drier than we'd ever seen it. For example- the pool at New Fen

(overlooked by the viewpoint shelter) was reduced to a small puddle in the centre. Many other areas of the reserve were similarly dry, and although this was a short-term feeding frenzy for fish-feeding birds such as egrets and herons, it spelled bad news for the reserve as a whole because the aquatic insect and fish populations in the water itself will have been greatly affected. In the coming Spring we are due to have some electrofishing surveys done at various points across the reserve to help us gauge what our fish stocks are like. The more fish we have, the better the reserve can support breeding bitterns, egrets, grebes, kingfishers and other waterbirds. Electrofishing is where a small electric current is passed through the water- and it causes the fish nearby to be temporarily (and harmlessly) stunned. They then float to the surface where they can be collected and counted (in number and species) and then returned to the water soon after as they begin to wake up.

As the summer wore on and the reserve dried out, we saw fewer visitors- perhaps because they weren't comfortable with seeing what should be a lush, green watery world, teeming with life, reduced to a dry and brown savannah-style landscape. At one point in summer, the water level at New Fen dropped to 60cm below what it had been on the same day in 2021. Despite the drought, many birds such as hobby, whitethroat, nightingale and cuckoo thrived and bred on the reserve, so all was not lost. Butterflies and dragonflies filled the skies and we had more sightings than ever of a species of dragonfly that we believe is beginning to colonise the reserve- the Norfolk hawker. This species is known in Europe as the green-eyed hawker and it used to be much more widespread in East Anglia, but the draining of the Fens by the Victorians and their predecessors restricted it to small fragments of the Norfolk broads. This led to its modern name of Norfolk hawker, but thanks to reedbed restoration in the UK (and in Europe) it appears to be spreading quite quickly in recent years.

In total, we recorded 20 species of dragonfly and 22 different butterflies in 2022, with a total of 141 bird species. More unusual birds included peregrine and merlin in the first week of January- likely attracted to the small birds roosting in the reedbeds and waders on the Washland. And we only got as far as 2 January before we spotted our cranes for the first time in 2022. As well as our commoner whooper swans, scarcer Bewick's swans did turn up (they don't every winter) on 20 January. Other highlights included:

White-fronted goose on 1 February

Garganey made their first appearance on 20 March- and were gloriously easy to see for a few weeks!

Osprey – a bird spent some time here in Spring and another record in autumn (on passage migration- 16 September)

Ring ouzel- this migratory thrush visited us on 11 April, on it's way to it's upland home for the summer.

Bar-tailed godwit- this rarer relative of the black-tailed godwit (much commoner) was spotted here on 15 April.

Nightingale- our first of two or three birds here turned up on 17 April and likely stayed with us to breed.

White stork- the latest in a few appearances by several storks in the local area was on 21 April.

Whimbrel- one bird on 1 May (another bird on passage migration). A wood sandpiper was also spotted on the same day along with the first of the migratory yellow wagtails. A very good day to have been on the reserve!

Honey buzzard- one bird seen at the same time as an osprey (!) on 16 September, briefly, in Botany Bay (just north of the railway line at Sedge Fen).

Short-eared owl- on 25 November, seen at dusk hunting over the riverside grassland at Joist Fen.

Pink-footed goose- spotted on 3 December- an unusual record for us as we are well away from their usual coastal habitat.

As summer turned to autumn and the wildlife finished it's breeding season, our attention could be turned to reserve maintenance- the cutting and clearing of certain areas of reedbed and patches that had become scrubby. Reedbeds like ours, that have been created artificially, are constantly in a process of reverting to drier scrub as willows grow and begin to dry the soil as they grow. In order to keep the habitat as primary reedbed and suitable for bitterns and other rare fenland birds, we clear some willow scrub every autumn. Centuries ago this clearance would've been carried out by the local community, and the willow used as firewood and for constructing items such as fences.

As well as practical tasks, our Site Manager Dave was in the process of securing funding for another 54 hectares of arable land to add to the reserve, when it came on the market. The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation generously offered to help us purchase this land at short notice- they bought it for us, with the agreement that within two years we would pay them back, interest-free. Our Site Manager begun talks with the Morgan Sindall Construction Group who- as part of an offsetting scheme- donated the money for the new land to Esmee Fairbairn, and we are in the process of drawing up a plan of how to manage the new land for wetland wildlife. We hope to create new homes for breeding waders such as redshank and lapwing, and foraging habitat for bitterns and cranes.

The onset of autumn brought with it worries about the bird 'flu epidemic affecting Britain's birds- both wild and sometimes domesticated too. Thankfully, to date, we have had no known outbreak of bird 'flu here. The odd carcass of mute or whooper swan has turned up, but due to the volume of swans we have here each winter, the odd fatality is 'normal'. Each time we noticed a dead bird, we reported it to DEFRA so that they knew of it and could collect it if they wanted to and were able to.

Our hopes for 2023 include a successful breeding season for all the wildlife here, but I look forward to writing again with another entry in a years' time. Although Lakenheath Fen is almost three miles from Lakenheath Village, we do feel connected to the village itself, and a part of its story and community.



Norfolk hawker by Cathy Ryden June 2022

by Heidi Jones (Visitor Experience Officer, RSPB Lakenheath Fen).

**Hermione Brown
Recorder for Lakenheath
2022**