

Lakenheath recorders Diary for 2023

The January edition of Lakenheath Times, filled mainly with adverts, informed the community that the current editors of the monthly magazine are to retire. February edition will be the last till a new editor is located with their own arrangements as to news and advertising.

The next litter pick round the village will take place 4.2.2023 which it is intended will mainly cover hedge rows.

8.1.2023

Today is Plough Sunday, a traditional celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year. The observance of Plough Sunday on the First Sunday of Epiphany goes back to Victorian times, but there is a much older observance, associated with the first working day after the twelve days of Christmas, hence 'Plough Monday' in some places. In the Middle Ages ploughs were sometimes kept in the parish church, and some churches kept a 'plough-light' – a candle that burned over the plough throughout the winter

20.1.2023

Today, Covey Way in Lakenheath has seen its street sign replaced, spelt incorrectly, with the letter 'n' added unnecessarily between the 'o' and the 'v'.



22.1.2023

Wendy Clare Barnes announced that she hoped that everyone enjoyed the December Christmas Stocking event, we are very thankful to everyone that donated.

Plans are now underway for the Village Easter Egg hunt which will be on Sat 8th April and a FREE event again this year! Last year almost 100 eggs were given out.

A request for donations of eggs was made with thanks for supporting the initiative.

24.1.2023

Today the Covey Way Street sign was fixed after a bungle in Lakenheath when it was earlier supplied incorrectly spelt.

25.1.2023

It was today announced that thousands of households in Suffolk will get a share of cold weather payments after the county was battered by sub-zero temperatures. This included Lakenheath for eligible Residents. Those eligible will receive the payment for each seven-day period of very cold weather and the scheme runs until March 31.

People who may be eligible for cold weather payments are those who get pension credit, income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment, support allowance or universal credit and support for mortgage interest.

People do not need to claim - if you are eligible for the payment the money will be paid automatically.

Cold weather payments are not the same as winter fuel payments - which eligible people get towards their heating bills.

29.1.2023

Today, three people were arrested after police stopped a car in Lakenheath. The vehicle was spotted on the B1112 in the early hours of Sunday morning.

According to Norfolk and Suffolk Roads and Armed Policing Team, the "high performance car" was being driven at about 1am when it raised suspicion.

The force wrote on Twitter: "Three up, high performance car, miles from where you live and going for a test drive apparently? "At 1am in the morning? "Vehicle searched and various items related to vehicle theft and burglary found." Police confirmed that three people had been arrested and the vehicle seized.

Lakenheath Casuals reported that their first team were away yesterday to a tough Hethersett side who spent the first half of the season at the top of the league. being away as well it was going to be a tough game regardless of recent injuries.

They were pleased to say though that the lads came together with amazing spirit and determination and won the game 3-1. It's an absolute massive result for the team.

Goalscorers;
1x Rhys Nunn
1x Ben Nolan
1x Tom Bristley

League table including the Lakenheath Casuals adult football team.

Division 1

League Table

[FULL TABLE DETAIL >](#)

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Lakenheath Casuals	12	11	0	1	31	33
2	Norwich Medics F.C. First	11	9	1	1	37	28
3	Yaxham F.C. First (Sat)	12	9	1	2	23	28
4	Hethersett Athletic	11	6	0	5	15	18
5	Weasenham	9	5	1	3	14	16
6	Cockers F.C. First	9	4	1	4	-2	13
7	UEA F.C. 'A' Team	10	4	0	6	-3	12
8	Brandon Town F.C. Reserves	11	3	1	7	-17	10
9	Briston F.C. Reserves	14	3	1	10	-24	10
10	Watton Utd Res	13	3	1	9	-37	10
11	Rockland United F.C. First	12	1	1	10	-37	4

31.1.2023

Today the village found that the road between Lords Walk and Eriswell was blocked and closed to traffic this morning.

At Lunchtime Suffolk County Council put out the following: The Network Inspector has been to site this morning and Anglian Water had set up an emergency road closure for repairs to a leaking communication pipe. The works were discussed on site between Anglian Water and the Network Inspector and it was determined that these works do not warrant an emergency closure as there is no immediate risk, or danger to the public and properties in the area. The inspector has asked that the closure is removed from site as soon as possible. These works will be replanned in, and it has been agreed that two-way signals will be used instead of a road closure to avoid major disruption to the area.

Road Closed signs were still in place late afternoon causing chaos to surrounding areas as people took diversionary routes. This was not helped by the Level crossing at Brandon being stuck in the closed position making Wangford Road very busy.

January rainfall was 47 mm

The February edition of the Lakenheath Times informed the community:

1. that the Christmas winners were:

Best decorated shop / business was Mark Skinner Funeral services
Best decorated private residence was a property at the bottom of Highfields Drive.

Also awarded a "highly Commended" prize a property in Wingfield Road.

2. This is the last edition of the Monthly Lakenheath Times. The magazine will continue but will become quarterly with the first copy being a Spring edition.

2.2.2023

The Bank of England raises base rate to 4% today the tenth consecutive rise as it attempts to calm inflation.

10.02.2023

The Co-op today announced that local causes funding for 2022 had £5,804.20 distributed to the Lakenheath Care Café, The Shed at West Row and Lakenheath Youth Football Club.

Buzzing at the Care Cafe today. It has become an integral part of life for many Lakenheath people with over 50 people attending each week. A well-deserved cheque for £1991.35 was received from the Co-op local community fund. Raised by the community who spend money in store.



11.02.2023

Messy Church took place today which was very much enjoyed by those who took part.



14.2.2023



Pop up shop for Valentines Day at CJ's 9 am till 6pm with a wide selection of flowers to choose from starting from £15

15.2.2023



Lakenheath Library reminded the community that it will change its opening hours on Friday by providing longer opening hours on busier days to meet local demand.

The library is set to close earlier on Friday evenings when quiet, but will be open for the same number of hours as before during the week. The changes will enable Suffolk Libraries to launch a new weekly wordplay session for pre-school children to enjoy songs and nursery rhymes, which will take place every Friday at 9.30am from February 17 onwards.

24.2.2023

Today the Men's Shed Breakfast group announced a meeting on Saturday 4th March 2023, at 8.30 am till 10 am at the Lakenheath Peace Memorial Hall. This is a new initiative for older chaps in the village to get together for a breakfast, read the papers and have a chat. Its free so men are encouraged to attend.

Today Lakenheath Youth Football Club announced that this year's FA Accreditation has been completed and 2 stars were awarded to the club.



Today, Parish Councillors, Hasting, Gyte and Morley, visited Graeme Cook, the oldest Lakenheath Resident. Graeme Cook was awarded the Freedom of the village for services rendered.

Parish Councillor Ed Morley presented the Freedom award to Mr Cook, saying:

" I am here today to present the parish of Lakenheath's highest honour; that of the Freedom of Lakenheath.

It is my great hour to have received the very first award last year. I have known you since I was a small boy and I have seen you at Fetes/ Amdrams, L.A.D.s and as a hardworking member of Lakenheath life, and my milkman! outstanding!

I wish you a very happy upcoming birthday and my respect and best wishes to you – I gladly hand you your award, sir. A life well lived!"

Born on 19th March 1918 at Oulton Broad Lowestoft Suffolk. He arrived in Lakenheath with his parents and his two siblings Stanley and Gwenda, in 1923 and lived in Undley Hall, which had been bought by West Suffolk Council and split into small holdings.

In 1926, when he was about seven years old, he was sent to Liverpool to live with his aunt and uncle, as it was thought at the time that this might improve his future, but he returned to Lakenheath for holidays. He was enrolled in a school in Allerton.

Saturdays were very special as he was given four old pennies and was able to go to the Garston Empire cinema. He stayed eighteen months in Liverpool and in 1928 he returned home to Lakenheath.

During this time, he helped his father, after school, with the dairy herd and the small holding and with the harvest during summer holidays. In 1931 the family moved into Lakenheath village to a small cottage in Broom Road where his father rented pasture with grazing facilities. In 1932 on leaving school at fourteen he got a part time job as an apprentice to the local butcher. At the age of sixteen he went to Cambridge and then St. Albans to continue his apprenticeship with Sainsburys.

In 1945 after ten years away, five of them as a butcher manager, and five in the AFS during the war, he returned to Lakenheath to take over the management of his father's business. He was hoping to create a pedigree Friesian herd, but circumstances made this impossible so he decided to buy milk wholesale already bottled. Thus, began Cook's Dairy Milk Round.

The same year he met his wife Joyce, who was from London, but serving in the Land Army in Lakenheath. They married in 1947 and lived in Broom Road, where their three children were born. The business moved to 63 High Street in 1967 and became Cook's Dairy from where it operated until it was sold in 1980 and Graeme and Joyce moved to a bungalow in Woodlands. Graeme continued to work as a butcher, first at the Co-op, and later with Yallops butchers until he retired at the age of eighty.

Over the years he immersed himself in the place he loved, Lakenheath and the Community. He and Joyce joined Lakenheath Amateur Dramatic Society, he served as Chairman of the Village Hall committee, he belonged to the bowls club, the Rotary Club and served on Lakenheath Parish Council for many years. He was a regular church goer and worshipped at the Methodist Church until he was 102 years old when all outings were cancelled due to Covid.

Over the years Graeme organised many annual village carnivals and could be seen riding a horse at the front of the parade, leading the floats through the village, dressed differently every year. He was always involved in Lakenheath life be it as the dame in the annual pantomime, old time musicals, talent shows, dances, jumble sales and singing to the residents of Lakenheath Village Home.

Graeme will reach the wonderful age of 105 on the 19th March and continues to be as cheeky as ever. He remains full of memories of his life in the place he chose to make his future with his wife of 72 years, three children and their partners, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren (with another on the way).

Graeme said in his own words that he 'created an affection and loyalty that was attributed to the happy environment in Lakenheath when he first arrived at the age of 5, which over the years evoked a desire for him to make a future life in Lakenheath.'

Graeme also received chocolates, a bottle of champagne and a bunch of flowers from the Parish Council as he approaches his 105th birthday.



Today, Lakenheath Library announced this year as well as providing an exciting back drop for your World Book Day photos they are offering a sweet treat to everyone borrowing a book using their own library card on Thursday 2nd March. This is an encouragement to increase reading particularly for the Primary School Children.

February rainfall was only 6 mm.

The new format Lakenheath Times, Spring Edition has arrived. It is now an A5 book like magazine. It still includes details of the main groups within Lakenheath. Lots of advertising of various trades in the form of a list as well as their separate adverts. (This pays in the main for the magazine to be distributed to all homes in the village). It informs the community that

- Chair of the Lakenheath Parish Council announced that the new format for the magazine was because of the Neighbourhood Planning survey which made it clear it was important to have the paper. This will now contain more details and is in colour. It is hoped that the clubs and Societies within the village will contribute articles. It is smaller and brighter and set out in clear sections.

- Lakenheath Village, along with the rest of the country, will celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th May, 8 months after his Majesty's accession to the throne, after the passing of his mother 8 September 2022. This can be watched live on a TV.
- On the Sunday Residents are invited to the Big Lunch. The Parish Council invites you to bring along a picnic lunch to Lakenheath Pavilion on the playing fields from 1 pm to 4 pm. The Licenced bar will be open for teas, coffees, and soft drinks. There will be a bouncy castle and face painting.
- On Monday the Big Help Out Day! This will be held at Lakenheath Peace Memorial Hall and Community centre. The aim of the day is to highlight the positive impact volunteering and joining in has on communities. The Parish Council are organising a community event where all clubs/organisations and sports clubs are invited to set up a stand to show what is on offer in the village, and encourage people to join, either as volunteers or members. Lakenheath Peace Memorial Hall and the Community Centre are hosting this event from 10 am to 4 pm. It can then be seen what a busy and active community we have in Lakenheath. The Licenced bar will be open and teas, coffees and cakes will be available.
- Monday May 8 will be a second spring bank holiday granted by the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak who said it would allow people to come together and celebrate just as communities did more recently for the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June last year.
- Thursday 4th May it is polling day for the local District Council Elections,
- Lakenheath Casuals, Est. 1971 gave a short history of their Club. For 40 years the Club played in the Thetford Sunday league and most players in those days who played in the team also played for Lakenheath FC on a Saturday. However, in 2013 the team evolved and moved into the Cambridgeshire Saturday League playing at the Lakenheath Pavilion. With a multitude of local Lakenheath people over the years helping out running the Club but unfortunately the 1st Team and the Reserves folded in 2016. Until 2018 when an ex-player decided to resurrect the club and bring it back to life. His purpose was to build a team with local players to see where he could get the Club to. Cambridgeshire County leagues refused them league entry so they decided to enter the Central and South Norfolk League as a Suffolk based team. Lakenheath Casuals grew from strength to strength being promoted every year adding a second Senior Men's team, Vets Team, and a Ladies Team. Achieving FA Charter Standard Accreditation and UEFA C Coaching the Club today is thriving, with over 90 players signed on for the past 3 years we feel the Club has achieved its goal. We are aiming to improve our facilities by adding dugouts and floodlighting in the future and Casuals 1st Team are also looking to be promoted into the Anglian Combination League for the next seasons Campaign. All local support is welcomed. All teams play at Lakenheath Pavilion on the main Full-size pitch. Men's teams play Saturdays at 2 pm in the winter and 3 pm in the Summer. Lakenheath Ladies play on Sundays 2 pm in the winter and 3 pm in the summer.

- Greener Lakenheath. Cllr. Judy Cahill leads on environmental issues for the Parish. To date she works hard to improve our environment. Following the Neighbourhood Plan survey, it was clear that we all want a cleaner, greener Lakenheath so several projects got under way. The first, Mutford Green area, where there was planted native trees and hedging which will eventually hide the electricity sub-station; a memorial tree for the Queens Jubilee was planted. Lots of bulbs have also been planted and the planters near the road now look the part. Later in the year work will start to clear the brambles and the drainage ditch. A “green gateway” is to be created at each end of the village centre. Around the Lakenheath sign 3000 bulbs have been planted and wild flowers are to be sown to take over when the bulbs are finished flowering. More bulbs have been planted around the Dumping Bridge Lane junction. Beds at the entrance to the Cemetery and around the Chapel have been cleared and replanted.
- Lakenheath in Bloom is a new volunteer group who are busy buying and installing tubs and benches around the centre of the village and by the surgery.
- 4 times a year there will be a litter pick around the village.

Printed articles from the Lakenheath Times to follow:

Lakenheath Under 16's are Flourishing!

This is the first season for the U16 as part of Lakenheath FC after making the transition from Lakenheath Youth Football Club at the end of last season.

The team had always been a part of LYFC with manager Darren Gathercole taking over when the team were in the U10 season.

He has the help of Dave Edson and most recently, Darren Fulcher who joined us this season.

The decision was made last June to transition the oldest age group at Lakenheath Youth to Lakenheath FC to hopefully see the progression of some into adult football when the time was right. Playing at The Nest is a big thing for the

team and something which they deserve.

This season, the team play in League One of the Norfolk Combined Youth Football League after coming runners up last season which saw them being promoted up a league.

The boys are going from strength to strength and are currently sitting second, just a point behind the league leaders.

The team would like to take the opportunity to thank John and Gemma Brooke of J Brooks & Sons for kindly sponsoring the kit for the team.

We play Sunday mornings if anyone would like to come down and support the team.

The future is bright for this bunch.



Back row from left to right:
Darren Fulcher, Marcus Hines, Joseph Fulcher, William Clark, Alfie Watts, Aaron Giddings, Kai Brown, Richy Edson, Josh Murrow, Alex Bradford, Harry Chisholm, manager Darren Gathercole

Front row from left to right:
Sam Smith, Jovan Paucar, Harry Davis, Jack Gathercole, Billy Palmer, Kieran Chapman, Ethan Smith, Cain Rae, Casper McCormack



Lakenheath FC

LFC Manager's Assistant, Alan Gyte, brings us up to date with the team's progress - and a look back at its history!

In the spring of 2018, the club appointed Ben Cowling as First Team Manager, and he has overseen a drastic overhaul of the club, both on and off the pitch. Having been fortunate to have been elected to Step 6 in the Eastern Counties League Division 1 North, we finished a creditable 5th. That season also saw the club make a significant investment in the club's facilities, including the addition of floodlights, new dugouts, and spectator hardstanding as the club achieved a 'G' ground grading from the FA.

Unfortunately, in the seasons 2019/20 and 2020/21 only a handful of games took place because of pandemic. The FA decided that on a points-per-game basis, we were promoted to the Thurlow Nurri Premier Division and Step 53 for the 2021/22 season for first time in the club's history. We finished in 12th place which was a fantastic achievement. We are of course looking to improve on last season and currently sit in 6th place.

The 'Heath was formed in the early 20th century, in the 1907/08 season. There's a bit of confusion about our original colours as there are a few 'original' shirts still around, including blue and gold stripes and black and gold quarters. Since those early days, we've changed colours a few times including green and yellow quarters, green with white trim, blue and black stripes, yellow and now we are at back to our 60's colours, dark green with a white trim.

We have also had various home grounds too, including somewhere close to the playing fields and also to the right of the community centre, the old British Legion. We arrived at the Nest around the time of the 2nd World War. After the chalk was quarried for the construction of local roads,

the landowner, Sir Charlton Briscoe gave the quarry, also known as the Pit, to the village, on a long lease, to have a football pitch, and in the 1950's the current stand was built.

In the early 1960's, Sir Charlton sadly passed away and his son kindly offered the Pit to the football club for a 'very small fee' which was gladly accepted, and the place has grown since then.

We played in the early Ouse Valley League in the early years, and then the Essex and Suffolk Border League, winning the Suffolk Junior Cup in 1936/37, before becoming one of the founder members of the Anglian Combination League in the early 60's with our reserves playing in the Bury and District League.

In the late 1990's, the club joined the Cambs League where both teams played until 2017/18 and indeed our reserves are still in the Senior B League. Most of our success has come in the last 20 years, although our under 18 team won the Suffolk Minor Cup for the first and only time in 1970, and our first team won the Junior Cup again in 1974 and our reserves won back to back Suffolk Primary Cups in early 1990's.

The first team gained promotion to step 7 of the football pyramid in 2008/09 winning Cambs Senior A. For the next 9 years we finished in the top 3 of the Premier Division – 6 times winning the League in 2010/11 and winning the Cambs League Cup 3 times and the Suffolk Senior Cup in 2015 with a record 7-0 victory against Ipswich Valley Rangers in the final.

I believe we are one of only a handful of clubs that have won all county cups available to us, and are proud that we now qualify for the Premier Cup competition.

Good Neighbours and Good Neighbors

When humankind was first exhorted to 'Love thy neighbour' it was not made in English or American but spoken by Jesus who was quoting Moses in Hebrew or Aramaic. It was written down some years after in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. And when William Tyndale printed the first English language bible around 1523 from Wycliffe's earlier translation in 1382 that wrote it out as neyibore, he printed it as Love thy Neighbor. It wasn't until the King James version, that used more than 70% of Wycliffe's Old English translation, that 'neighbor' became 'neighbour' and became the standard English spelling.

Now we have different spellings and different names in American English and British English for quite a few objects too with faucet for tap, crisps - chips, cookies - biscuits, closet - wardrobe and continuing the food theme, Sprinkles are becoming more familiar to those who still call them Hundreds and Thousands and menus in England have 'starters' more often than the customary appetizers! And in punctuating our written language, period means a full stop.

As for anticlockwise to counterclockwise – it may be a different expression of the direction speed skaters negotiate a track, short or long, but both terms describe a common heritage. Ice speed distance skating began on the fens of England in East Anglia and so did the 11 a side game of bandy, that was adapted when the first indoor small ice pads were built, on both sides of the Atlantic, to ice hockey and indoor aka short track speed skating.

The RAF Lakenheath USAF air base is a neighbor to Lakenheath village for whom it has been a neighbour for half a century.

As the Stars and Stripes fly outside many homes in the village, and the strains of both the American and United Kingdom National Anthems are heard being played at the base every day at the specified time for Retreat we can say these are good neighbors and good neighbours indeed.

God Bless America and God Save the King.

Lyn Gibb de Swarte

Exciting Times in Spring at Lakenheath Fen



There is plenty to enjoy here at RSPB Lakenheath Fen in Spring. *Writes RSPB officer Heidi Jones.* As well as all the changes in wildlife, it is magical to watch the reserve become a brighter shade of green, to watch wildflowers appear and to listen to a wealth of birdsong. If you have a spare day, or even half a day, why not pop down and spend some time here? If you have any questions, you can always give us a call on 01842 863400 or drop us an e-mail at lakenheath@rspb.org.uk.

By the beginning of March, the first signs of Spring will be noticeable wherever you are- crocuses and daffodils flowering on roadside verges whilst small birds like robins and blackbirds pair up and sing in gardens. Whilst we don't have the Spring bulbs, we do have the birds and one of the first changes we notice is the increase in variety of wading birds on the Washland. Already (on 7 February) a few avocets have turned up and during March we can expect to see other species such as dunlin, ruff and black-tailed godwit in small numbers. These don't come to the reserve to breed but use us as a pitstop to refuel on their long migration to their breeding grounds. March, as a result, is a fantastic time to see some more unusual waders without having to travel far from home!

April will also bring more migrant birds to us, including the swallow, house martin and cuckoo. It will also be the month when bitterns 'boom' their low, deep calls from within the reedbeds more frequently. Through March we may hear some booming but it really gets regular in April, especially on sunny, calm mornings. Other highlights to enjoy will be aerial displays from marsh harriers. Male birds

will be turning, twisting and diving in energetic displays over reedbeds, designed to show females how capable they are of chasing prey and of their general agility. You may also see 'food passes' from males to interested females, again to demonstrate a very important skill- that males are capable of catching and delivering plenty of food. April normally sees the first butterflies and dragonflies become airborne on fair days. Numbers of these larger insects quickly build up and together with the mass emergence of the clumsy, black (but harmless) St. Mark's flies, they will provide a feast for the hobbies arriving from Africa. These elegant falcons (with a conspicuous red patch of feathers around the base of the legs) look like miniature peregrines and numbers can rise to around 50 birds here by the end of May. At this point, the hobbies begin to disperse to their breeding grounds across the UK and our numbers drop to two or three pairs which stay to breed with us for the summer.

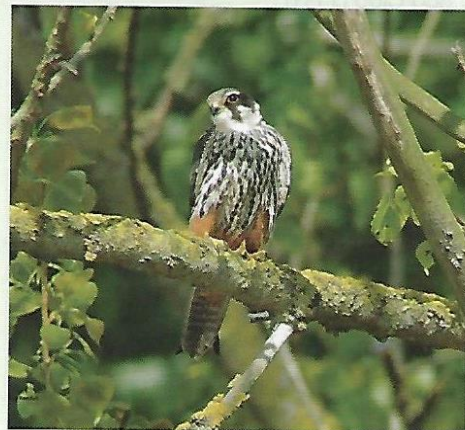


photo credit: Denise Randall

Lakenheath Primary School News



We have had lots of exciting events happening at school so far in 2023, none more so than being able to take a choir of 45 children to London's O2 arena to perform with Young Voices. The children got to sing with 9,000 other school children in front of an audience of 11,000 alongside a live band. They even performed as backing singers to Heather Small singing "What have you done today, to make you feel proud." I have to say, it brought me immense pride seeing them performing so well and having this amazing experience. This trip was made possible through the support of Goward and Evans helping to fund the coach travel. We are grateful, as ever, for all the experiences we're able to provide our children thanks to generous donations from local charities.



In sport we've had some of our best results ever against other schools in the region. Our indoor athletics and cross country teams received silver medals and we won the bronze medal in swimming.

We've also just had an exciting visit from a famous author and comedian, James Campbell who has inspired children with their reading and writing.

Our New School Site News

We continue to work with the local authority and contractors with regards to the proposed new school site along Station Road. We've been informed that the plan is still to move our school by Sept. 2025. Our chair of governors, Mike Malina, and I have met regularly with Suffolk County Council and Concertus, and have been communicating with our parish council to ensure our new school site has the best provision for our children and our whole community.

Community support

We know a few of our families are 'feeling the pinch' with the increased cost of living. We are working with EPIC dad to support our school community with provisions.

Our next 'Wellbeing Store' is **Monday 27th March between 9am-11am**. Any school parents /carers are welcome to come and fill up a basket of essentials to help them during this time for a suggested donation of £5. Thanks to EPIC Dad for their continued support for families in our village.

Coffee and Chat

Any parents/ carers of children at LCPS, are welcome to come to our "Coffee and chat" group with Ms Fox at school on the following dates. This provides a nice chance to chat with other parents, share worries or parenting ideas, and to build a supportive network with other parents. Each session starts with a different theme:
Wednesday 22nd March, Friday 19th May, Friday 9th June




Family Wellbeing Store

Fill a Bag for a Fiver!

Fourth Monday of the Month at 9am to 11am
School Assembly Hall (access through the side entrance)

A monthly drop-in especially for Lakenheath Primary School parents and carers to collect food essentials and other practical items to support family life (eg food, household items, toiletries, baby supplies, toys, games, books, clothes, etc.)

Recommended contribution of £5 to fill a large bag or storage trolley with various family items. (Bags and trolleys are provided). There will also be a café area with free refreshments and support and information available from our local NHS Social Prescriber.

Forthcoming Dates:
Monday 27th February, Monday 27th March,
Monday 24th April, Monday 22nd May,
Monday 26th June, Monday 17th July

3.3.2023

It was today announced that the village Easter Egg Hunt will be on Sat 8th April (not March as advertised in the parish magazine). Thanks was given to those people who have donated eggs with a request from the community for further donations.

The Easter Egg hunt is free of charge and there will be a raffle for an Easter Basket and two Easter balloon baskets from Sweet Treat Balloons

6.3.2023

Peace Memorial Village Hall advised that the warm room scheme will finish on Monday.

RAF Lakenheath informed the village that they were excited to join forces with the Royal Air Force for Exercise Cobra Warrior.

They advised that the partnerships they have created through recurring training events, like Cobra Warrior, better support their ability to employ a strategic force in theatre whenever they are called upon.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa U.S. European Command (EUCOM)
United States Air Force NATO Allied Air Command NATO RAF Waddington Royal
Air Force Coningsby U.S. Embassy London

8.3.3034

With another cold spell hitting the country, Suffolk Libraries is reminding everyone that libraries are still open as warm spaces for anyone struggling to pay their heating bills. Suffolk's libraries have all been operating as warm spaces since November as part of Suffolk Libraries wider Be Kind in Kind campaign.

Lakenheath Library has been offering free hot drinks and kindness racks where people can pick up donated clothes.

12.3.2023

Very sadly today Lawrence Graeme Vaughan Cook died. Born 19.3.1918 a week before his 105 years birthday.

On a brighter note, Sally's floral flowers advised that she will be providing a Mother's Day pop up shop. She has been invited back by the lovely ladies at CJ's Sandwich Bar for Mother's Day weekend with a selection of grab & go readymade items starting from £15.00. Saturday 18th 9am till 5pm and Sunday 19th March 9am till 3pm (Mothering Sunday).

13.3.2023

Today is the last day of the warm room facility at Lakenheath Community Centre

15.3.2023

The library today announced the return of their regular Creative Writing and Poetry workshops as from Friday 24 March 11.30-1.30.

19.3.2023

Today Mothers and Toddlers are very excited to say that until the end of September 2023, Lakenheath Parent, Baby and Toddler group will be free to attend. We are extremely grateful to Goward and Evans for a generous grant that will cover all of the running costs for the group.

We are hoping to meet some new faces so to explain our group. We are a community run group and everyone is contributing to make the session a lively and supportive time. We have lots of toys - ride ons, a home corner, cars, blocks etc. We want the children to have fun but we are always thinking of supporting their development. We have a specific activity each week which is usually a craft. We also have a Guest Toy so that the children have something novel to play with.

The group runs from 09.30 to 11.30 on Tuesday mornings at Lakenheath Peace Memorial Hall and you can come for as long or short a time as you like. The group is at its quietest between 09.30 and 10.00. A snack is served at 10.30. Snack is always healthy and aimed at encouraging children to try new foods. Please do not worry if they do not actually eat the food, it is great if they just explore it and watch other children eating different things. There is milk, squash, and water for the children to drink. There is tea, coffee and biscuits for the adults (of course you can give your child a biscuit if you want to). At the end of the session, we have song time.

The East Anglian Daily Times today reported that a protest will take place next week over fears that RAF Lakenheath will be holding nuclear weapons. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) has raised concerns that nuclear weapons are going to be held at the Suffolk airbase. On Tuesday, crowds are expected to gather outside the US Embassy in London to protest the return of nuclear weapons to Britain. The Peace activist and joint coordinator of the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases Lindis Percy said nuclear weapons should not be kept at RAF Lakenheath because they are too dangerous.

21.3.2023

3 new F35s arrived at RAF Lakenheath today

29.3.2023

Lakenheath Youth FC today announced that the annual Challenge cup date has been set for 13th May. Always a good day for the children and once again being hosted at Lakenheath F.C.

March rainfall was 136 mm.

2.4.2023

A big thank you was given to everyone who came to the village Easter Egg hunt on Saturday 1st April. It was lovely to see so many there, despite the miserable weather. A big thank to the Little Fishes parents and children for the wonderful Easter Bonnets, all the staff going above and beyond to make it a perfect day and all

the committee and helpers. Also thank you to the shops and businesses in the village, who donated prizes, your continued support is very much appreciated.



13.4.2023

Today two further F35 jets joined the fleet already based at RAF Lakenheath. These are the recorded jets now based at RAF Lakenheath

Serial Type

Attached to 492nd Squadron 26 jets (Madhatters)

91-0301	F-15E-51-MC
91-0302	F-15E-51-MC
91-0303	F-15E-51-MC
91-0306	F-15E-51-MC
91-0307	F-15E-51-MC
91-0308	F-15E-51-MC
91-0312	F-15E-51-MC
91-0315	F-15E-51-MC
91-0316	F-15E-51-MC
91-0317	F-15E-51-MC
91-0321	F-15E-52-MC
91-0327	F-15E-52-MC
91-0331	F-15E-52-MC
91-0332	F-15E-52-MC
91-0605	F-15E-53-MC
96-0202	F-15E-58-MC
96-0205	F-15E-58-MC
97-0218	F-15E-61-MC
97-0219	F-15E-61-MC
97-0220	F-15E-61-MC
97-0221	F-15E-61-MC
97-0222	F-15E-61-MC
98-0131	F-15E-62-MC
98-0133	F-15E-62-MC
98-0134	F-15E-62-MC
98-0135	F-15E-62-MC

Attached to 493rd squadron 6 Jets (Grim Reapers)

19-5493	F-35A-4
20-5594	F-35-A4
20-5595	F-35-A4
20-5596	F-35-A4
20-5598	F-35-A4
20-5599	F-35-A4

Attached to 494th Squadron 29 Jets (Panthers)

91-0309	F-15E-51-MC
91-0310	F-15E-51-MC
91-0311	F-15E-51-MC
91-0313	F-15E-51-MC
91-0314	F-15E-51-MC
91-0318	F-15E-52-MC
91-0320	F-15E-52-MC
91-0324	F-15E-52-MC
91-0326	F-15E-52-MC
91-0329	F-15E-52-MC
91-0334	F-15E-52-MC
91-0335	F-15E-52-MC
91-0602	F-15E-53-MC
91-0603	F-15E-53-MC
91-0604	F-15E-53-MC
92-0364	F-15E-54-MC
96-0201	F-15E-58-MC
96-0204	F-15E-58-MC
98-0134	F-15E-62-MC
00-3000	F-15E-63-MC
00-3001	F-15E-63-MC
00-3002	F-15E-63-MC
00-3003	F-15E-63-MC
00-3004	F-15E-63-MC
01-2000	F-15E-63-MC
01-2001	F-15E-63-MC
01-2002	F-15E-63-MC
01-2003	F-15E-63-MC
01-2004	F-15E-63-MC

Attached 495th Squadron 25 jets (Valkyries)

19-5473	F-35A-4
19-5474	F-35A-4
19-5475	F-35A-4
19-5476	F-35A-4

19-5484	F-35A-4
19-5485	F-35A-4
19-5486	F-35A-4
19-5493	F-35A-4
19-5495	F-35A-4
20-5570	F-35A-4
20-5571	F-35A-4
20-5572	F-35A-4
20-5573	F-35A-4
20-5574	F-35A-4
20-5580	F-35A-4
20-5581	F-35A-4
20-5582	F-35A-4
20-5583	F-35A-4
20-5588	F-35A-4
20-5589	F-35A-4
20-5590	F-35A-4
20-5600	F-35A-4
20-5601	F-35A-4
20-5602	F-35A-4
20-5604	F-35A-4



15.4.2023

Thanks to a joint initiative between Lakenheath in Bloom and Lakenheath Parish council the area round the village sign was cleared and planted with Spring bulbs.



There was a fantastic turnout at the over 65s annual party this evening. Huge thanks were given to Freda Drake, all her volunteers/helpers and everyone involved. A lot of work went into organising everything but everyone had a great time. This is an annual event (not for the last two years due to covid) and next year will be the 70th anniversary. Everyone went home with a free raffle prize.

A person was rescued from their car after a crash In Lakenheath High Street this morning. The single-vehicle collision happened on the B1102 with the fire service on the scene to help remove a person from their car.

16.4.2023

Lakenheath Youth Football Club today put out this advertisement.



18.4.2023 - This was published today



21.4.2023

Lakenheath Youth FC appealing today for Girls open training sessions for ages 8 to 11 (current school years 3 to 6).



22.4.2023

Lakenheath Casuals today won their place in the Finals. It was not pretty, but they beat Cockers FC on Penalties after a 0-0 draw after 90mins. In addition, the team gave credit to Stuart Claydon who stepped up to play in goal filling in for the injured 1st team goalie Harry Harding. He broke his ankle whilst playing the last game.

23.4.2023

Lakenheath Ladies FC, What a fantastic performance today! They played as a team and took chances. The game was won 5-1.

Goals from: 2 x Poppy Green, 1 x Ine Minelgate, 1 x Alex Milner and 1 x Lydia Vince.

25.4.2023



At Lakenheath Pavilion there will be music and games. They are inviting all classic cars and the bar is open. Most importantly they will have dancing around the May pole

27.4.2023

Well done to Lakenheath F.C. on reaching the Thurlow Nunn League Cup finals. A Bus will be travelling to Hadleigh on Monday 1st May.

29.4.2023

Heard my first 2 cuckoos of the year this morning.

Tomorrow, at St. Mary's at 11a.m. Rev. Paul Tams will take his last service before retirement.

Lakenheath Casuals. Wow! What a day! What a game! What a team!

Casuals had their work cut out for them today in their 2nd Semifinal of the season. We did not start well going 2-0 down in 4mins put them on the back foot. After regaining their composure, they battled back to 2-2 with 2 great quick goals from Elliott Parr. Just on the halftime whistle UEA scored a 3rd goal.

They came out for the second half knowing they could score if they continued to play their way. Within 5mins of the halftime break Clive Allen Boucheron equalled up the score to 3-3. The game then got scrappy and UEA got a 4th in the 65th min to make it 4-3. Determined the lads battled on and another threatening throw on by Jack Moss saw the ball drop on for an own goal in the 80min. The game ended 4-4, straight to pens!

Order of takers were; Conor Boyle, Elliott Parr, Tom Bristley, Rhys Nunn then Peter Matthew.

Massive shout out to Peter Matthews who stepped up to play in goal after we lost Harry Harding!

Man of the Match – This was shared with Elliott Parr player on the pitch & Peter Matthews for stepping up in goal and saving a pen to then score the winner

30.4.2023

Rev. Tams receiving his retirement gift after an emotional farewell speech.



April rainfall was 85 mm.

1.5.2023

The Lakenheath Pavilion gave thanks to everyone for supporting the May Day celebrations today. The weather was not so great to start with so everything was moved inside.

Then the sun came out and dancing around the maypole occurred.

Thanks were given to Pam, our midnight cowboy, our stall holders, Jays entertainment and to all attendees.

We will be back on Sunday

Lakenheath Football Club said that penalty shootouts are a time for heroes - so step forward Charlie Beckwith. The goalkeeper kept out four spot kicks - and one more during normal time - as Lakenheath made history by winning their first piece of silverware as a Step 5 club this afternoon.

Despite enjoying a positive campaign in the Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division with a fifth-place finish, Lakenheath were very much the underdogs going into today's League Challenge Cup final at Hadleigh United FC against champions Ipswich Wanderers.

But after playing out a 0-0 draw it was Ben Cowling's side that came out on top 7-6 in a remarkable shootout that went 10 rounds and was just one away from Beckwith having to take one himself.

Lakenheath looked the hungrier of the two teams during the first half. They won more first duels, were quicker to second balls and went closest to breaking the deadlock when Cameron Nicholls' cleanly hit effort from 25 yards out in the 20th minute cannoned against the base of the post, flashed across the face of goal, and went away to safety.

Up the other end Wanderers' only real significant effort of note saw Kris Rose head through a crowded area in the 31st minute, but Lakenheath skipper Sam Hawley was on hand to clear the danger.

The league winners stepped it up in the second half and had a good chance to go in front just two minutes after the restart when Jamie Eaton-Collins' low cross picked out Teon Leggett unmarked inside the box, but the forward with 22 goals to his name this term was unable to make a clean connection

Leggett was then thwarted by a strong left-handed save from Beckwith just after the hour mark and that battle was to become a running theme for much of what was left of the final.

In the 74th minute a frantic scramble inside the Lakenheath boss saw Eaton-Collins head against the crossbar from close range before his follow up effort was thwarted by Beckwith. The ball broke loose for Wanderers substitute Jack Madley but as he prepared to shoot he was felled by Ryan Taylor. Up stepped Leggett to take the resulting penalty, but Beckwith dived to his right to keep the ball out.

Within 60 seconds the Wanderers striker and Lakenheath goalkeeper faced off again as Leggett sprinted clear of the defence, yet with the angle narrowing Beckwith stood tall and made another stop.

By this point Wanderers were now controlling the possession but as the final whistle drew closer Lakenheath had a couple of decent openings. The first saw substitute Tom Debenham's left-footed strike kept out at the near post by Craig Brand, while in the sixth minute of stoppage time fellow replacement Shaun Avis could only head Sam Peters' deep cross from the left flank wide of the near post.



3.5.2023

The Friendship Club Coronation party went great. Thanks to Kevin Wright for the music and thanks to everyone who came to make it such an enjoyable afternoon. A special thanks were given to all helpers.



3.5.2023

5 further F35s arrived tonight at RAF Lakenheath bringing the current totals to 32.

4.5.2023

Very sadly vandals destroyed some of the new trees that had been planted on the playing fields.



5.5.2023

Lakenheath Community primary school children wore red, white and blue today to celebrate the coronation.

Each child also received a goody bag with a magnet, pencil, chocolate, sweet, activity page, popcorn and a flag from school (funded by the PTA) and a special coronation mug from the parish council.



The election result was today announced.

DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL		
West Suffolk		
Election of District Councillors for		
Lakenheath		
on Thursday 4 May 2023		
I Jill Korwin, being the Deputy Returning Officer at the above election, do hereby give notice that the number of votes recorded for each Candidate at the said election is as follows:		
Name of Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of Votes*
FROST, Stephen Peter	The Conservative Party Candidate	453
KELLY, Gerald Adrian	Independent	660 Elect ed
NOBLE, Colin Lawrence Bennett	The Conservative Party Candidate	379
WHITEHAND, Tracy Lynn	Independent	606 Elect ed
* If elected the word 'Elected' appears against the number of votes.		
The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:		Number of ballot papers
A want of an official mark		0
B voting for more Candidates than voter was entitled to		1
C writing or mark by which voter could be identified		0
D being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty		2
E rejected in part		0
Total		3
Vacant Seats: 2	Electorate: 4034	Ballot Papers Issued: 1150
Dated Friday 5 May 2023		Turnout: 28.50%
Jill Korwin Deputy Returning Officer		For Gillin Returning Officer
Printed and published by Jill Korwin, Deputy Returning Officer, West Suffolk Council, Westwood Way, Bury St Edmunds, IP10 3DQ		

7th and 8th May

On Sunday May 7th and Monday May 8th Lakenheath celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III.

On Sunday families and friends shared a picnic lunch on the Playing fields. The sun shone and everyone enjoyed a fun filled afternoon with some partying on into the evening.

On Monday twenty-two clubs and organisations met in the Peace Memorial Hall and the Community centre to promote the benefits of volunteering. The displays demonstrating their skills and interests were impressive and hopefully visitors will be inspired to get involved and join the volunteering community in the village.



Thanks were given for these events by Cllrs. Jenny Hastings and Peta Gyte in making the two days as successful as they were.



9.5.2023

No access to Beck Row from Undley due to fallen tree.



10.05.2023

Mac and Co today announced that they are sad to be closing their shop on Sunday 14th May due to personal circumstances. We would like to thank you for all your support over the past year and we really hope that someone new will take it on. The business is for sale! It is a ready to go shop and in the right hands will be a great asset in the village.

Suffolk County Council, Cllr. Colin Noble, advised that on Saturday 20th May they are holding the next of the Lakenheath Men's Shed Breakfast at the Peace Memorial Hall. Its free and open for older chaps in the village to have a chat, enjoy a cooked breakfast and hear from a Guest Speaker, this month it is Squadron Leader Stew Geary RAF Commander at Lakenheath. Please do let Stephen Frost or myself know so we know how many sausages to order!

11.05.2023

A message today from Lakenheath Parish Council

CORONATION CELEBRATION

On Sunday May 7th and Monday May 8th Lakenheath celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III.

On Monday, twenty-two clubs and organisations met in the Peace Memorial Hall and Community Centre to promote the benefits of volunteering. The displays demonstrating their skills and interests were impressive and hopefully visitors during the day were inspired to get involved and join the volunteering community in the village.

A special thank you was given to Martin Taylor who ran a video of life in Lakenheath from the Coronation of Elizabeth II up to and including the Coronation of Charles III. It was much appreciated by everyone.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Lakenheath Playing Fields Association and The Lakenheath Peace Memorial Hall and Community Centre for hosting the events, and of course huge thanks to the wonderful volunteers who run the impressive variety of clubs and organisations in the village, for their enthusiasm and energy to make the day such a success. Finally, a thank you to everyone who supported our Coronation Celebration. WELL, DONE LAKENHEATH
Cllrs. Jenny Hastings & Peta Gyte.

12.5.2023

GIRLS OPEN TRAINING

As a club we want to encourage more girls to play football. We will be holding open training for girls aged 8 to 11 alongside our usual annual open training...

- 4 week training programme
- Thursday evenings 18:30 to 19:30
- Commencing 27th April
- @ Lakenheath Playing Fields
- Qualified coaches
- £ Free

FREE

Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information on the above (and our other teams) and to reserve your place 🙌

Lakenheathyouthfc@gmail.com

Lakenheath Community Primary School said well done to their fantastic Year 6's for completing their SATs this week. There had been national headlines about how challenging the tests were this year but their Y6's has not complained, showing amazing resilience and hard work. We are all proud of you!

Causals are League Cup Winners. 3-1 on the night! Goals from Conor Boyle, Clive Allen Boucheron & Ben Nolan!



13.5.23

Lakenheath Youth Football Club hosted its biggest ever Challenge Cup Day. The annual event, which took place at The Pit in the centre of the village, saw a total of 11 matches played, ranging from under-7 through to under-15's.

Lakenheath Youth FC chairman, Richard Horrex, said: "It was a great day. The weather was not as warm as some would have liked but for the players it was perfect to play in. "We had around 325 players throughout the day and that is comfortably the most we've had. It is what we want to do as a club - give as many kids the chance to play football. "This year we have been able to run two under-7 teams and it's been very encouraging. The youth section is moving in the right direction and that is thanks to the hard work of lots of volunteers.

17.5.2023

CJ's announced exciting news. Roli is coming with his fruit and vegetable stall weekly from the 25th May selling from the forecourt in front of the shop. They ask for the stall to be supported as it is just what the village needs.



Lakenheath FC won the Eastern Counties League Cup on Monday 1st May, for the first time in the clubs history, having only been in Eastern counties League for 6 years and only 2 years in the premier division.

Beating Mulbarton FC, and both local rivals Mildenhall Town FC and Newmarket Town on the way to the final then beating the League champions Ipswich Wanderers in the final, played at Hadleigh United's ground.

18.5.2023

The Bury Free Press reported that a planning application for a six-caravan Traveller site has been refused. A Lakenheath field near Sharper's Corner off Highbridge Gravel Drove will not be opened for Travellers to live on after West Suffolk Council turned down the application last Wednesday.

The council's decision was down to uncertainty over whether it would be Travellers using the site and if the approval would meet a need, alongside risks of flooding and harming the countryside landscape. The decision notice said: "Insufficient information has been provided to demonstrate that all the intended occupants of the proposed pitches would comply with the definition of a Gypsy or Traveller.

Insufficient information has also been given regarding the extent to which the families with nomadic habits of life have previously travelled and how and under what circumstances the families intend on living a nomadic habit of life in the future."

The definition of Traveller referred to is in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015). The application by John Murkin was for 0.55 hectares of countryside land to be turned into a Gypsy and Traveller site with six static caravan pitches and dayrooms. Agent, Kevin Watts, explained the families bought the site to have a permanent location while their children go to school.

Objections were made to the application by the parish council, Environment Agency and Place Services – which works with the council on landscape issues.

A statement by the parish council said: "The application is for an unsightly, high-fenced enclosure – immediately adjacent to a settlement area and very visible and very audible from many houses."

The council said it thought there was a lack of need, and approval could cause traffic problems.

20.5.23

Lakenheath Casuals FC announced what an absolute battle of a season. We finish second in a very competitive league. 2-2 draw against a completely different UEA side saw us solidify second place!

Congratulations @norwichmedicsfc on winning the league

Thanks to all our players, it has been a great season

Division 1

League Table

FULL TABLE DETAIL >

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Norwich Medics F.C. First	19	16	2	1	60	50
2	Lakenheath Casuals	20	16	1	3	42	49
3	Yaxham F.C. First (Sat)	20	13	1	6	31	40
4	Hethersett Athletic	20	11	2	7	26	35
5	Weasenham	19	10	3	6	24	33
6	UEA F.C. 'A' Team	18	6	4	8	1	22
7	Cockers F.C. First	20	6	4	10	-18	22
8	Watton Utd Res	20	7	1	12	-42	22
9	Briston F.C. Reserves	20	5	3	12	-28	18
10	Brandon Town F.C. Reserves	18	4	1	13	-32	13
11	Rockland United F.C. First	20	1	2	17	-64	5



23.5.2023

The EPIC Dad 'wellbeing' store is open today from 8:30 am at the Lakenheath Community Primary School. Fill a bag for £5. Amba, the local Social Prescriber will be there too for a coffee and chat.

(A few items are now restricted to one per family to ensure more goes round.)

Thank you to Rich (EPIC Dad) for all his commitment to supporting our school community.



Another brilliant effort from team Lakenheath, Lakenheath Community Primary School, at a Netball competition this afternoon, all playing with resilience and a good attitude. Their great performances led to a 2nd and 4th place overall out of 11 other teams - massive well done to all who played.



24.5.2023

The managers of AFC Lakenheath Casuals for the 2023/2024 season are looking for players that are 16+ to join their squad. They play in the Cambridgeshire County League and most of the games are on Saturday afternoons (occasionally we have the odd midweek game).

The pre-season training starts on the 7th June at 18.30. This will be held weekly for the moment at Lakenheath Pavilion, Eriswell Rd, Lakenheath.

The village was advised that this Friday 26th of May will be the first day for a new group - for those with friends or family suffering with Alzheimer's and Dementia. It is being held in the Methodist Church rooms from 9am - 12noon

25.5.2023

LAKENHEATH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY To be held on Friday 26th May 2023 **PEACE MEMORIAL HALL** starting at 6pm

This is NOT a parish council meeting: it is open to all Lakenheath residents - come along and have your say!

Running order:

1. Welcome, introductions, and Chairman's report
 2. 2022 Annual Meeting notes
 3. Lakenheath parish council accounts
 4. What is happening: Updates from Lakenheath groups/ local organisations*
 5. General discussion- ideas going forward
- * All are welcome, please feel free to attend

26.05.2023

LAKENHEATH 2023 INFORMAL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 26th MAY 2023 (NOTES)

The Notes from the meeting last year were AGREED.

Clare Shimmon is the Responsible Financial Officer for the parish council.

Apologies had been received from District Councillor Tracey Whitehand

Chairmans Report:

Lakenheath has Lost 2 shops and Tinas Farm Shop.

On the plus side, thanks to Peta and Jenny who tied themselves in knots with flags and bunting to celebrate Christmas.

The outdoor Gym has been bought and installed by the Parish Council

The new look Lakenheath Times has been a steep learning curve, main driver for the change was to save money.

Big projects in pipeline include the School, planned opening 2025, will be a first on several levels.

Mr Tingley is Head of Governors. On June 8th 2023, there will be a school consultation evening.

The ground around the village sign has been transformed, it will be the first green gateway. Hope for a spectacular show all year round. Judy has put in a lot of effort on this.

Over more than a year of begging BT about the scruffy bit of land I can announce that a Lease has been signed. LPC want to remove the dilapidated fence and grassed area, with provision of a mural by school children.

Plans are forming for the High Street Regeneration project: the road layout does not encourage local shoppers. A Master Plan will be drawn up by ACON. Suffolk

Highways are to visit to look at the principles and agree in principle. May have to be temporary measures initially, such as planters. In Ipswich, similar temporary measures have now become permanent. Proposed 20 mph speed limit (not the whole village) with Southern Gateway on the other side of Dumpling Bridge Lane.

The number (and speed) is scary, 90mph has been recorded in a 30mph limit.

The award of the second Freedom of the Parish preceded the sad death of the recipient by a few days.

LPC have sadly lost three Councillors, who chose not to stand in the recent elections, a big thankyou to them for all their work. LPC still have a couple of vacancies and are keen to recruit, have a chat with Nicky if you are interested.

An update from various groups and organisation based in the village follows:

Lakenheath Rainbows

Cheryl and Lauren spoke about Lakenheath Rainbows (children 4.5 to 10 years of age, there are 20 members and 9 on the waiting list)

They helped with food donations, litter pick, Summer Fair, Tai Kwon Do and a sponsored walkabout. Provided Mother's Day flowers and a poem.

There are 20 members, Karen and Emma have both got 20 years of service. Looking after the phone box.

Christian Enterprise Foundation

Ernie Neal spoke about the charity; This was started in the early 80's when a local farmer bought the vicarage, which had been a residential home. Mr Neal has been with the Foundation 40 years. The money raised is spent in the village. Interested people should make an application. £130k has been spent, with the school as the biggest beneficiary.

Goward and Evans Charity

There is a lot done by this charity in the village. It has investments and owns land, run by five trustees.

Lakenheath Heritage group

David told the meeting that the location of the next display panel (there are already two in the village) depends on the High Street Regeneration plans.

Hermione is the village recorder, submits information every year to Ipswich Archives so people can see what goes on. Discoveries have been made about the Lark, and the group are involved in the village plan. Have made an application to list the old school, takes about a month. Meeting with the Library people to perhaps produce an information pamphlet.

Lakenheath Silver Band

Daphne said that covid was devastation for the band. Few members are left now. First engagement this year is booked. Please could people put the word out that we need more players- we will teach you. The Silver Band always assist at Remembrance Day.

Friendship Club

After the pandemic, we realised the need for people to get together – on the first day back, 20 people turned up and there are now 40 on the books. We meet every other Thursday. It costs £2 to get in. We have a Talk play Bingo or have a Quiz.

We hold an auction with goods donated by members and we held a Coronation party with a musician. We are picking up one or two people each week.

Scrabble group

We started with 36 people, then 10, now 17. We moved to the methodist Church. Average attendees 22. Charge is £2 per session

Lakenheath Good Neighbours

Peta Gyte told the meeting that this group was started in 2006. The scheme runs via a mobile phone; it is open from 9 to 5 Monday to Friday. We have completed 500 jobs since last May. The 14 volunteers are all DBS checked. Most tasks involve driving; all trips within the village are free although people do give a donation. We hold lunches and afternoon teas. Mrs Gyte expressed her thanks to all the volunteers, and to CEF and LPC for their support and top up funds. The feedback from users is always positive.

Speedwatch

Speeding is one of the villages greatest concerns. Volunteers try to educate and encourage people to slow down. There are 8 volunteers, all trained. They go out once a week to one of 7 designated sites. Vehicles travelling at over 35mph are reported to the Police Community safety officer; persistent offenders get a Police visit. Numbers vary- sometimes only 4/5 caught travelling 30+ mph but can be as high as 40. Given the recorded information, the Police will target certain roads at certain times. Data from the speed indicator devices is linked. Lakenheath were going to employ a PCSO, but then District Council took over parking. West Suffolk do have a parking enforcement team, round starts Newmarket, then Mildenhall, then Lakenheath, then Brandon. Normally in Lakenheath mid-morning when traffic is not usually a problem. The zebra crossing needs repainting it is too dull. One idea was put forward i.e. make Anchor Lane one way. The Chairman is trying to engage the Co-op in parking measures. Roy asked about traffic calming measures, but the idea had been dismissed previously.

Coronation Celebration

The village was decorated for His Majesty's Coronation. Sunday was a Family Lunch, hosted by the Pavilion. Monday, in accordance with HRM wishes, this had a voluntary workers theme. 24 groups put up displays in the Community Centre showing what goes on in their organisations. The Parish Council bought a special Coronation mug for each child in the village primary school.

Lakenheath Football Club

We won the League Cup for the first time ever!

Emergency Planning Team

This is activated when a major incident happens. It is like insurance, in place when needed. The group meets 2-3 times a year.

Cemetery Committee

Made up of parish Councillors
We are very proud of our Cemetery
There are some issues with benches, trees, deer, we try to keep on top of things.

Lit candles are prohibited in the Cemetery. The cemetery Chapel could be used more. Judy Cahill is planting the Cemetery flower beds. The cemetery is quiet, pretty, and tranquil.

Environment

Judy had put up litter pick notices, which will take place on the first Saturday of each month, commencing 3rd June 2023, meeting at the Wings Road car park at 11am. Hoops have been ordered to make litter picking easier. Help is needed to plant the green spaces. The BT site-plans to renovate are still forming. The Triangle (Village sign site) - the poppies have been underplanted with Spring bulbs. If anyone has any plants they could donate, please contact Judy Cahill, she will pick up.

Church Activities

The choir meet once a fortnight; we need more hand bell ringers and will teach people. There is a pantry at the Church for people in need. Sunday School – everyone is welcome.

Luncheon Club

In the late 70`s, Margaret started to drive for social services. It gave her the idea of a social club and the Luncheon Club was started. Meets once a month, provides a two-course meal for £7. People come along to chat and catch up. The club has had support from Christian Enterprise Foundation.

Bingo

Takes place on Wednesdays at the Community Centre

Aircraft Noise

A resident told the meeting that, when coming in from Mildenhall, the noise is physically unbearable. Very stressful. The Squadron Leader has explained that there are measurement criteria. Asked to keep a diary of the unacceptable noise levels. The Chairman commented that the noise from jets is one of his bug bears. The noise contour maps used in 2020 were drawn up before the F35`s arrived, i.e. modelling that was done in 2013.

The parish Council had taken issue with the siting of the school. This is an environmental issue and is on the Chairs list of priorities. EU Directive 2022: requirement on the government at all levels to measure noise levels and take action to mitigate. Evidence is needed, he has asked universities if they would be interested in noise measurement. All the RAF will comment is `we can't share that`. In USA, (Vermont) 15 houses were regarded as uninhabitable because of noise statistics from F35s nearby. Has asked for a formal meeting with the general. One in six of our residents is a US serviceman. Looking at related figures around increased heart failure risk mental health issues, ear problems.

Noise from military aircraft is not considered, under law, as a `nuisance`.

Section 8 of the Human Rights Act refers to `spoiling enjoyment`.
Has provided details on two occasions but no response.

Comment: Disabled bays are missing outside the Centre of the village.

27.5.2023

Lakenheath Casuals announced that unfortunately they lost their second Final last night. Well done to AG Hingham who have won all 4 Cups!

Their manager said a massive thank you to the players for a fantastic season we have had a pretty successful campaign winning a Cup and securing promotion. Thank you to all the support we have had throughout the year on the sideline, from friends, parents, partners and children.

Lakenheath Casuals FC presentation evening is Saturday 3rd June at Lakenheath Pavilion, IP27 9AF. All 3 teams will be there with their families so we can sign this season off properly.

We have some exciting developments for the pitch in the Summer, we hope will make playing football in Lakenheath all the better for the future!
But ultimately thank you to the community, thank you to the players and thank you football! Without this game bonds and friendships are not built.

May rainfall was 95 mm.

The summer edition of the Lakenheath Times advised the community:

- Two new District Councillors have been elected for Lakenheath. Cllr. Gerald Kelly and Cllr Tracy Whitehand. Their first job is to learn what and just how changes are possible to benefit the village.
- Parking is a growing problem in the village. Regrettably because of rotas the Parking Enforcement Officers are in the village from time to time but normally mid-morning when parking is in the most not a problem.
- As part of the Neighbourhood Planning project the Parish Council are running a High Street Regeneration scheme for which a subsidy has been paid. The key proposals include a
 - 20 mph limit from Dumpling Bridge Lane corner to the village sign
 - Narrowing the road in some places with planters which will create some additional parking and block pavement parking
 - Video surveillance of the area outside the Coop
 - Creating additional parking
- Lakenheath Fete will be held this year at the Playing Fields, Eriswell Road on Saturday 5th August 12 noon to 5 pm.
- We are blessed with the number of people who are working to make Lakenheath a better place

Articles from the magazine are:

Lakenheath FC - Season 2022 – 23 written by Alan Gyte

Another season over and exceeded our expectations once again.

Last season, our first in the Eastern Counties Premier division, saw us finish in a creditable 12 place. This season we, rather optimistically, aimed for a top six finish and hoped for a decent cup run.

What happened next is the stuff we could only dream of, a fifth-place finish, only two points from third and then on May bank holiday Monday we won the League Cup beating champions Ipswich Wanderers, on penalties, in the final. Hero on the day was goalie Charlie Beckwith saving a penalty in normal time then four more in the penalty shootout, then Ryan Taylor scored the winning penalty. You can imagine the celebrations that followed. I make no excuses for enclosing my photo holding the trophy, as a full 'Heathen' it was one of the proudest days, among many, of my Lakenheath FC footballing career.

So, overall, a fantastic season, but it had its ups & downs, had a few bad results, losing the first game of the season at Whitton United, who ended up being relegated having won only two games all season, a couple of other games where we have thrown away leads in the last few minutes etc. On the upside memorable wins over Ipswich Wanderers away, then beating near neighbours Mildenhall both home and away and in the cup. Harleston, who finished above us, we beat both home & away. But all in all, I am very happy with where we finished and looking forward to improving next season.

All the players have played their part, but a few mentions to players like Shaun Avis who's goal return was again 20 plus, and of course keeper Charlie who has missed only one game all season and is, in our opinion, the best keeper in the league. But, as I said, the whole squad have been fantastic and have all played their part in this fantastic season. Ben Cowling our manager, has also been instrumental in everything we achieve has now been joined by Trevor Collins. As joint managers, both have an abundance of experience. On the coaching side Tom Walker who was fantastic for us stepped down for health reasons and we missed him, but he has a young family and we totally understood his decision. When Trevor arrived, he brought with him Ian Miller as coach to replace Tom and he has fitted in well and being an ex-professional brings a wealth of experience. We also lost our 'physio' (sports therapist) Linzi Mirams who was sadly missed and who together with media man Travis Wright moved to Kings Lynn FC and we wish them well. We were lucky to find George Carter to replace Linzi for the rest of the season. Yes, I'm still here and will be for as long as needed.

The Reserves have suffered and it has been a struggle for them all season, but they persevered and manager John Futter has somehow got through the season.

Hopefully next season will see an upturn in their fortunes and with recruitment will see a stronger and larger squad. It is never easy being manager of a reserve side, as they suffer when first team players call off late and need replacements so full credit to them.

Behind the scenes a few trusty souls have kept the club running with fund raising, maintenance, cleaning etc, so thanks to each and every one of them

So great season, great bunch of lads, great management 'team' and hopefully we push on next season. We already have training dates and friendlies organised, so it will not be too long before we hopefully see you all again.



A word cloud centered around the word "Libraries". The most prominent words are "Libraries", "books", "important", "information", "access", "don't", "day", "help society", "afford", "university", "computers", "research", "better", "doesn't", "greatest", "welcome", "local", "allowed", "centres", "develop", "time", "world", "need", "life", "old", "learning", "work", "people", "place", "public", "love", "student", "services", "card", "school", "authors", "sources", "thing", "comes", "city", "open", "age", "resource", "interacting", "parents", "person", "social", "poor", "couldn't", "human", "children", "cultural", "imagination", "provide", "risk", "isn't", "exist", "close", "internet", "academic", "read", "value", "science", "technology", "digital", "virtual", "online", "electronic", "multimedia", "interactive", "collaborative", "participatory", "user-generated", "networked", "distributed", "mobile", "portable", "ubiquitous", "anytime", "anywhere", "on-demand", "personalized", "customized", "tailored", "targeted", "segmented", "niche", "micro-targeted", "hyper-targeted", "precision-targeted", "dynamic-targeting", "context-aware", "location-based", "time-based", "behavior-based", "interest-based", "preference-based", "usage-based", "performance-based", "outcome-based", "goal-oriented", "mission-driven", "purpose-driven", "vision-driven", "strategy-driven", "plan-driven", "process-driven", "system-driven", "platform-driven", "ecosystem-driven", "network-driven", "community-driven", "stakeholder-driven", "multi-stakeholder-driven", "cross-sectoral", "cross-disciplinary", "interdisciplinary", "transdisciplinary", "multidisciplinary", "integrative", "holistic", "systems thinking", "complex systems", "adaptive systems", "resilient systems", "sustainable systems", "regenerative systems", "circular economy", "sharing economy", "collaborative economy", "gig economy", "zero-waste", "green", "low-carbon", "clean", "smart", "intelligent", "innovative", "disruptive", "transformative", "paradigm-shifting", "game-changing", "moonshot", "big idea", "bold vision", "audacious goal", "stretch goal", "aspirational", "inspirational", "motivational", "empowering", "enabling", "facilitating", "supporting", "nurturing", "fostering", "cultivating", "developing", "growing", "thriving", "flourishing", "prospering", "succeeding", "achieving", "realizing", "fulfilling", "completing", "accomplishing", "attaining", "reaching", "obtaining", "securing", "ensuring", "guaranteeing", "promising", "pledging", "committing", "dedicating", "devoting", "sacrificing", "giving", "donating", "contributing", "volunteering", "participating", "engaging", "collaborating", "partnering", "cooperating", "teaming up", "joining forces", "pooling resources", "combining efforts", "synergizing", "leveraging", "amplifying", "multiplying", "maximizing", "optimizing", "enhancing", "improving", "upgrading", "advancing", "progressing", "moving forward", "pushing ahead", "breaking through", "overcoming", "conquering", "triumphing", "prevailing", "winning", "succeeding".

welcome young people ages 4-11 and encourage them to keep reading during the school summer holidays. Youngsters collect rewards for their reading. It's free to take part, and last year 75% of children taking part improved their reading skills over the holidays. This year's theme is sports related and I for one am looking forward to the new junior books we will be receiving from our stock team. So yes, it will be possible to complete the challenge by reading about football all summer. The challenge starts on Saturday 22nd July and runs until Friday 1st September. You can get a head start by registering your child for a library card now and

talking to them about books they would like to read. You can borrow books from any of our 45 libraries or from the Libby app if your child prefers to read using an e-reader. It is easy to reserve books and to request books from other Suffolk Libraries using our website or by coming into the library. During the school summer holidays we will suspend our usual activities for young people to concentrate on the Reading Challenge, look out for Reading Challenge related activities on our Facebook and Instagram feeds.

From 24th May until 6th June the library will host a display from the Breck Fen Edge and River Landscapes. The Tales from the Riverbank exhibition is being shown around the Brecks during 2023-2024. Stories, memories and photos of swimming, fishing, boating, holidays and festivals, in the rivers in Thetford and nearby over the last 120 years, tell a fascinating and fun story.

Suffolk Libraries has been run as a charity for over 10 years now. We are part funded by Suffolk County Council but still have to raise money ourselves to keep our services going. This summer we will be launching a new fund-raising initiative. PAMWS-ivity will involve Labrador dog sculptures, individually created by local artists. In Suffolk's libraries this summer, The dogs will set up home in libraries following a tour of Suffolk at a number of events with their launch at the Suffolk Show, and will then be auctioned off in October. We hope you will come to visit our dog when it's in place and we would love to see photos of your own dogs with it. Our PAMWS-ivity art sculpture event will raise money to support our work at the heart of the community, nurturing literacy, improving

health and wellbeing. You can help us raise pounds for hounds by donating to Suffolk Libraries. Every pound will help us to bring this campaign together to fund our vital work.

Our Book group (first Wednesday of the month, 4-5 pm) and Knit and Natter (every other Thursday) will continue throughout the summer, regular children's activities will finish on Friday 21st July and will restart with family crafts on Sunday 3rd September.

For more details on individual events and activities in the library please visit our Facebook page.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Friends of Lakenheath Library and all our other volunteers for their hard work. If you would like to volunteer with Suffolk Libraries have a look at our web page to see what opportunities are available.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer.

Jean Reynolds
Interim Manager Lakenheath Library

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 10:00 - 14:00
Wednesday: 14:00 - 17:00
Thursday: 12:00 - 17:00
Friday: 09:00 - 14:00
Saturday: 09:00 - 12:00
Sunday: 10:00 - 15:00

Books can be returned carefully through the letterbox when the library is closed

Address:
65 High St, Lakenheath,
Brandon IP27 9DS
Tel: 01842 860723

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photo credit: Marsh Harrier, Tim James



Marsh harriers in the UK - a tale of a beautiful bird coming back from the brink of extinction

At RSPB Lakenheath Fen, marsh harriers play a big part in the wildlife scene- visitors to the reserve could easily see some of their spectacular aerial displays on a visit in the coming weeks.

However, this has only recently been the case- after years of persecution, the UK was left with just one breeding female in 1971. It's hard to believe now, when you visit a suitable wild space and see several birds at once! However as recently as the 1990's, a special trip to the Norfolk Broads was in order if anyone local wanted to see one. Thanks to greater protection, the population began to recover. Marsh harriers can now be seen quite widely over East Anglia as well as in Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and small numbers elsewhere in England & Scotland. In terms of their lifestyle, marsh harriers aren't too fussy- their only requirement is

for a reedbed large enough to hide a nest and to support enough food for them to hunt during the breeding months. Their diet covers a wide range of reedbed prey- from voles to small birds, as well as larger birds like moorhen and coot.

For most of the year, the marsh harrier lives a quiet life, but during Spring male birds engage in beautiful courtship displays that are a joy to watch. He chooses a patch of reedbed he believes offers a good supply of food and a safe spot to nest. Then he will call to attract nearby females, and glide over slowly to show his chosen area. When he has caught the attention of a female he will 'sky-dance' in the air above his territory. This really has to be seen to be appreciated fully, but it involves swooping, almost-vertical flights upwards, followed by cresting an imaginary peak, and then plummeting down, as if falling through

the sky, before swooping back up. This looping behaviour is designed to show females not just his aerial skills but also his fitness and strength. The tougher and more agile he is, the better he could potentially hunt for food and provide for a growing family.

If the female is impressed, she will then encourage him (mainly vocally) to catch and bring her some food. If he does this, and she thinks the food suitable, he may then move on to suggest a nest site by

flying very slowly towards it, landing on it and calling loudly.

If you want to come and experience some of this drama, marsh harriers should be quite easy to see during May, and into June and July. Anywhere with reedbeds on the reserve could host lots of action but if you ask in the Visitor Centre before your walk, we can give you the latest information!

by **Heidi Jones**
Visitor Experience Officer,
RSPB Lakenheath Fen.

Events at RSPB Lakenheath Fen- May - July 2023

Places for all events need to be booked online- please visit events.rspb.org.uk/lakenheathfen to read more and book tickets.

Join in with Harrier and Bittern Nest Watches

Tuesdays 16 May, 30 May (both 7:30am-12:30am)

Why not join a warden for the morning and help complete our bittern and marsh harrier nest watch surveys?

Price: Adults £40 for RSPB members; £50 for non-RSPB members.

Guided pond dipping at RSPB Lakenheath Fen

Saturday 6 May, 3 June, 1 July (11am to 1pm)

Come along to see what beautiful and strange creatures live below the water at our nature reserve!

Price: Adults £6 (RSPB members), £7 (non-RSPB members),
Under 18's £3 (RSPB members), £4 (non-RSPB members).

Treasures of the Moth Trap

26 May, 30 June, 28 July (all 10am to 11am)

Learn more about the amazing world of moths- join us to admire what we catch in our harmless trap.

Price: Adults: £3 non-RSPB members, £2 for RSPB members,
Children (under 16's) go free!

Big Wild Sleepout 2023

Saturday 29 - Sunday 30 July (1pm-1pm)

Come and join us for a night camping under the stars. Reserve entry, breakfast, pitch fees and a range of activities including stargazing, a camp-fire, guided walks and pond-dipping are all included.

Price: Adults £20 (RSPB members), £16 (non-RSPB members),
Under 18's £10 (RSPB members), £8 (non-RSPB members).



Lakenheath Youth FC

Lakenheath Youth FC was formed over 40 years ago to provide football for children in the village. Over those

years the club has always provided teams and for the 22/23 season we have 12 teams for children aged 6 to 15. Our Ultimate Goal is to provide football to children in a fun and safe environment but also to make it affordable to all. Over the course of the current season there will be more than 250 games played in total by the youth teams and we try and advertise these on a weekly basis on our Facebook page.

Over the last 5 years we have seen an increase in the demand for people wanting to join our club and now offer more than one team for various age groups due to the demand. Now we have circa 170 children playing football which is a great achievement and none of this is possible without the army of volunteers we have (committee, coaches, match officials, refreshment sellers etc). In addition to our many volunteers we are also fortunate to have various sponsors which provide playing and training kit to teams.

As a club we have invested heavily in our ground and have undertaken a grant to improve the grass pitches at Lakenheath Playing Fields over the course of the next Six years. Last summer's drought certainly tested us out but safe to say

the efforts of the army of volunteers who helped irrigate have given us some of the best pitches in the leagues we play in currently. As our club goes from strength to strength our biggest issue is a lack of space to accommodate our teams – if there are any generous landowners out there who have a few acres spare please do not hesitate to contact us.

As our season draws to a close it has been another successful one for the club. We now have eleven sides from U6 to U15 which have a pathway to continue playing the great game into adult football.

This season our member numbers surpassed 150 and our end of season challenge cup event gave all the children the chance to play at Lakenheath FC home ground. The day was a great success and there are many people that made this happen.

All of this does not just happen without a lot of hard work and determination and we would like to thank everyone who helps make our club what it is – the coaches, players, supporters, volunteer helpers, referees, ground staff, committee etc. To name everyone would make for a long list of names but everyone contributes to make our club.

If your child wants to get into football please do not hesitate to contact us at lakenheathyouthfc@gmail.com.





LAKENHEATH PARISH WALKS

Lakenheath is fortunate to have a network of footpaths and the Parish Walk explores these paths every other Sunday afternoon, helping you to enjoy the beautiful area in which we live as well as keeping the footpaths open. Walking will give you a fresh perspective on life as well as the opportunity to make new friends. You are welcome to join us for a walk on a Sunday afternoon. We meet at Wings Road Car Park at 2pm but don't expect anyone there before 1.55pm. Walks are about 5 miles long and take about 2 hours. If we see deer, hares etc we stop and watch them. Sturdy footwear, preferably boots, is essential. There is no charge, and everyone is welcome.

Walks are planned for the following Sundays, 4 and 18 June, and every other Sunday thereafter. Dates are on the posters on the Notice Boards at Wings Rd Car Park, the Library and the Surgery.

Or just turn up, and if we are not there, we should be there the following Sunday.

GOOD NEWS FOR WALKERS IN LAKENHEATH

The footpaths became impassable in 2022 because the contractor employed by Suffolk County Council failed to cut the paths and maintain them. The paths were then cut in the first couple of months in 2023 and the regular cutting of the paths in May and August each year should recommence this year. Remedial work will also be carried out.

To report a footpath problem, use the Suffolk County Council Highways website and go to Public Rights of Way. You will then have access to an Ordnance Survey Map on which you can pinpoint where the problem is and describe it. You can also upload a photo of no more than 10mb.

9.6.2023

Presentation night. Team awards for Lakenheath Casuals FC are:

Most Improved - Darius Plumb

Managers Player - George Moss

Players Player - Jack Moss & Tom Bristley

Top Goal scorer - Clive Allen Boucheron
Player of the Year - Stuart Claydon
A fantastic season over

Lakenheath Ladies FC Team awards were;

Most Improved - Alejandra Valle
Managers Player - Cassandra Carvalheira
Top Goal scorer - Poppy Green
Players Player - Lizzie Quigley

Well done ladies. The team said fare-well to Cassandra and her family, Pritney White and Megan Dodson Hobson! Thanks for being part of Lakenheath this season



11.6.2023

Lakenheath community primary School announced that due to the hot weather, children can come to school in their school PE kit this week instead of school uniform, if they choose.

They must also have a water bottle, sun hat and suncream as they will be outside for periods of the school day.

The school will monitor this throughout the week and if it becomes too hot, they may shorten the times children are outside for lunches, P.E. etc. to ensure the safety of all.

15.6.2023

A Press release today from RAF Lakenheath



PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIRFORCE

|48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

RAF Lakenheath
Brandon, Suffolk
IP27 9PN
01638 522151

48 FW/PA POC | Capt. Ryan Walsh

Email | 48fw.pa@us.af.mil

Release | 230601

Date | June 15, 2023

48th Fighter Wing to advance air, ground capabilities in IPS exercise

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — The 48th Fighter Wing will conduct a routine Individual Proficiency Standards exercise from June 20-21, to include night operations, that will see an increase in flying operations and on-base Emergency Management responses.

These routine exercises allow the 48th FW to posture the force, ensure personnel understand their role in proper protective actions, understand pre/post attack conditions, and Tactical Combat Casualty Care/Contaminated Casualty Care. Exercises that utilize these concepts ensure forces in Europe are ready to protect and defend partners, allies and U.S. interests at a moment's notice, and generate lethal combat power should deterrence fail.

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 with any aircraft-related flying concerns.

24.6.2023

Police are appealing for information after music equipment, Microphones with leads and a drum kit, was stolen. An unknown person or persons entered St Mary's the Virgin Church in Lakenheath between 8am on Sunday, June 18 and 5pm on Saturday, June 24.

June rainfall was 27 mm.

3.7.2023

Firefighters battled a large blaze at a bungalow in Lakenheath which spread from a shed. Crews from Brandon, Mildenhall and Newmarket were at the property in Covey Way at 6.01pm after a fire broke out measuring 20m by 15m.

The blaze was outside the property and started from a shed. Firefighters used jets to extinguish the blaze. The fire was put out by 7.47pm and the property was handed back to the owner.



29.7.2023

Lakenheath Football Club advised that the challenge in 2023/24 will be to try to build upon what was the most successful campaign in the club's history.

Last season was a memorable one for everybody connected with the club as Lakenheath finished fifth in the Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division – their highest ever position in the non-league pyramid.

And to cap that achievement, they went on to win the League Challenge Cup with a penalty shootout triumph over title winners Ipswich Wanderers.

The task now is to ensure that it is the start of something even bigger rather than summit – and with the introduction of play-offs at Step 5 from next term, joint manager Trevor Collins is hopeful that there is more to come.

There is no doubt that the end we had to the season was really positive,” said Collins, who joined Heath midway through 2022/23 to work alongside fellow boss Ben Cowling.

“Ian (Miller, first-team coach) and I came in with around 20 games to go. I think we only lost a couple of games, finished fifth and won the cup so there is plenty to work with.

“We sat the lads down after the cup final and we talked about kicking on from it. They have had a taste of success now and they want some more.

“We want to get stronger in all areas of the pitch. Some of that comes with recruitment, but we have also retained most of last season's squad and we're working hard to get even more from them.

“I do not want to nail down any targets or finishing positions, but the play-offs are there for all to see and I think it's going to make for a really exciting season.

“Instead of seasons fizzling out you are going to have plenty of teams with something to play for going into the final weeks of the season now.

“We wouldn’t be silly enough to say we’re going to win the league or the play-offs, but we finished fifth last year and want to improve so you’d have to be hoping we’d be in and around those positions.”



July rainfall was 99 mm.

1.8.2023

Lakenheath Youth Football club announced that they have been busy getting ready for the 2023/24 season.

There will be a record 15 teams for the forthcoming season so they are looking for more coaches or volunteers. With teams from U7 to U18 if you are interested in being involved, please do not hesitate to contact them.

Lakenheath Youth FC

Teams update

- U7
- U8 Eagles
- U8 Hurricanes
- U9
- U10
- U11 Yellows
- U11 Greens
- U12
- U12 Belles
- U13 Eagles
- U13 Hurricanes
- U14
- U15

Plus the following teams at LFC

- U16
- U18

For more info please don't hesitate to contact us

The poster features the Lakenheath Youth Football Club logo, which includes a soccer ball and the text 'LAKENHEATH YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB'. The background of the poster shows a green football field with a goalpost and trees in the distance.

2.8.2023

Lakenheath Pavilion announced their entertainment schedule for Lakenheath Fete on Saturday 2023, as below

The poster has a green background with a sunburst pattern. At the top left is the 'LAKENHEATH Fete' logo. At the top right is the title 'ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE' in large, bold, red and green letters. The schedule is presented in a light green box with a white border. It lists times on the left and activities on the right.

Time	Activity
13:00 (45 mins)	A performance from Will's Working Spaniels in the arena
13:30 (1 hour)	Come and Meet Rapunzel on the field
14:30 (30 mins)	Live Music from Rapunzel in the pavilion
15:00 (45 mins)	A performance from Will's Working Spaniels in the arena
15:30 (30 mins)	Live Music from Josie-May in the pavilion
16:00 (30 mins approx)	Classic Fete Games and Races (weather permitting)
17:00 (Until 22:00)	Our Outdoor Disco begins!

4.8.2023

The weather for tomorrow's fete is looking a little wet, but that's just good old British weather for you! Do not be put off! Bring an umbrella and a coat, you will be fine was the message from Lakenheath Playing fields.

Because of the weather, we may need to make a few changes to how the day will run tomorrow, but we will take the day as it comes and make any necessary announcements via our Facebook pages.

We still have plenty of stallholders attending, and they are looking for your support, so please come down and support them! If it is raining, you can shelter inside the pavilion with a drink from our bar, and when there is a break in the rain you can pop outside to see the stalls.

5.8.2023

And that is it for 2023, Lakenheath Fete has officially drawn to a close, and it has been a fantastic day!

Thank you to everyone involved: the Lakenheath Playing Field Association committee; their volunteers; the entertainment; and finally... their sponsors for this year:

- Central Garage Lakenheath

- Freedom Recycling
- Clear Sound Hearing
- DBL CASTLES
- Lakenheath Opticians
- ShanRye Surveying & Architectural Services

Without their support, this event would not be possible. It was a miserable wet day but the community did the occasion proud and it did not dampen their enthusiasm



17.8.2023

From RSPB Lakenheath. Where have all the birds gone?

It is late summer and all the birds have disappeared!

The apparent disappearance of birds in August is another natural change and a part of the annual cycle of birds. There are two reasons for this.

Firstly, once birds have completed their breeding for the year, they start to moult into fresh new feathers. Completing a moult of all feathers takes several weeks. During this period birds look rather scruffy, and while they are moulting their wing feathers, they are less able to escape predators.

During this time, they conceal themselves as much as possible to avoid predators and territory disputes. It's easy to get the impression that they've disappeared.

Secondly, in late summer a bounty of natural food becomes available as grain, berries and fruit ripen. Many birds abandon their nesting areas and move to where the most food is. This is probably the time of the year when birds are least interested in the offerings on our bird tables.

In areas where farmland is nearby, house sparrows, starlings and many finches move out to fields to feast on the abundance of grain before it is harvested, and on the spilt grain after the harvest. Depending on the location, this can cause a sudden disappearance of these birds from residential areas and gardens.

Even in cities, sparrows and finches are attracted to any piece of rough ground that provides a good crop of weed seeds. Tits tend to abandon their territories soon after their young fledge, and spend most of their time in the late summer (first in family

groups, later in larger flocks) high up in tree canopies, where they are easily missed. Even blackbirds and song thrushes tend to move to where there is an abundance of fruit or berries.

Birds often only return to our gardens when autumn frosts appear.

16.8.2023

It was today that Ben Cowling has revealed that he has been relieved of his duties as joint manager of Lakenheath Football Club. The village club enjoyed an impressive rise following Cowling's appointment in the spring of 2018, one which has seen them earn two promotions from the Cambridgeshire County Leagues and Thurlow Nunn League First Division up to Step 5.

Under former Haverhill Rovers boss Cowling, Lakenheath also lifted the Suffolk Senior Cup and League Challenge Cup, as well as finishing fifth last season – the club's highest ever position in the non-league pyramid.

Those last two triumphs were also overseen by Trevor Collins, who came in midway through last term to work alongside Cowling and the pair were subsequently appointed joint bosses.

But it now appears that Collins – along with first-team coach Ian Miller – will take control of Lakenheath ahead of Saturday's Emirates FA Cup preliminary round tie at neighbouring Mildenhall Town.

Cowling wrote on Twitter: "So, didn't think this would happen but I have just been relieved of my duties @Lakenheath FC. Immensely proud of taking the club from Step 7 to 5, winning the Suffolk Senior Cup and League Cup on the way as well as playing a massive role in the redevelopment of the ground."

Lakenheath sit top of the early Premier Division standings on goal difference with maximum points from their opening three fixtures.

30.8.2023

The USAF advised the community The US air force has secured \$50m (£39m) funding next year for a project that could pave the way for American nuclear weapons to return to British soil for the first time in more than 15 years.

In justifying the expenditure on a 144-bed dormitory at RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk, the USAF told Congress the building was intended to "house the increase in enlisted personnel as the result of the potential surety mission", which is jargon typically used by the Pentagon to refer to handling of nuclear weapons, according to experts.

Construction of the dormitory is due to begin in June 2024 and last until February 2026, and is the latest in a series of signs that preparations are under way for the possible return of US nuclear weapons to UK territory.

Matt Korda, of the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), who first reported on the budget request, said: "The mention of the arrival of the potential surety mission

caught my eye as that is a buzzword, a term commonly used in the defence department and the nuclear weapons complex to refer to the positive control of nuclear weapons in a safe and secure way.”

The FAS previously reported that in the 2023 defence budget, the UK was added to the list of countries where infrastructure investment is under way on “special weapons” storage sites in Europe, alongside Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Turkey.

The FAS estimates there are about 100 B61 gravity bombs in storage in those five countries. They were withdrawn from the UK in 2007, but the storage facilities for the bombs were mothballed rather than dismantled.

US nuclear weapons were first based in the UK in 1954, notably at RAF Greenham Common and RAF Molesworth, but also at RAF Lakenheath, which at one time had shelters to store as many 110 air launched B61 nuclear bombs.

Britain’s nuclear force is made up exclusively of submarine-launched Trident missiles, but the US maintains a “nuclear triad” of bombs that can be launched from the sea, air and land. While the US cruise missiles were withdrawn in 1991, the gravity bombs were maintained at Lakenheath for at least another 16 years before their removal.

The Pentagon did not respond to a request for comment. A spokesperson for the UK Ministry of Defence said: “It remains a long-standing UK and NATO policy to neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at a given location.”

If such weapons were based in the UK, it is likely they would remain under US military control.

The campaign group CND called on the prime minister to refuse to allow the US to house nuclear weapons on British soil, once the upgrades to Lakenheath were completed.

Kate Hudson, the organisation’s general secretary, said: “It’s becoming increasingly clear that Lakenheath is once again a vital cog in Washington’s overseas nuclear machine – despite refusals from the British government to acknowledge this reality.” She said their presence would make the UK a more likely target in any nuclear war.

Concerns about nuclear conflict have been at their highest level for some years since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

In 2021, the UK announced it would lift its own stockpile of Trident nuclear warheads by 40% to 260, the first such increase since the end of the cold war and a reflection of increasing western anxiety over Russian intentions and growing Chinese capability.

The B61 bombs were once considered obsolete by the US military, a relic of the cold war. But instead of being retired, they have been upgraded to extend their life and improve their accuracy.

The new version, the B61-12, is expected to arrive in Europe this year. The new F-35A Lightning II fighters have been given certification to be armed with the modernised bombs, and the 495th Fighter Squadron, stationed at RAF Lakenheath, is due to become the first unit in Europe to receive the nuclear-capable planes.

Last November, the C-17A Globemaster III military transport plane was approved to carry the B61-12 bombs, allowing it to distribute them to storage sites at bases in the US and Europe.

“All of these things provide pretty significant evidence that it’s very possible that the nuclear mission could return to the UK,” Korda said.

In an interview in December 2021, two months before Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, NATO’s secretary general, Jens Stoltenberg, said: “We have no plans of stationing any nuclear weapons in any other countries than we already have these nuclear weapons as part of our deterrence.” That statement does not necessarily exclude the UK, which previously hosted B61 bombs.

It is not clear from the budget documents whether the UK is intended to become a permanent base for US nuclear weapons, or a contingency base in the event of a crisis.

Another possibility is that when old versions of the B61 are withdrawn from Incirlik airbase in Turkey, they will not be replaced by B61-12s, because of longstanding concerns over the base’s proximity to the Syrian border and internal Turkish security after the attempted coup of 2016. In that case, the new bombs could be stationed in Lakenheath instead.

August rainfall was 73 mm.

The autumn edition of the Lakenheath Times advised the community:

- The District Council is now run by a mixture of all political parties. The result is that they will do what is right for communities rather than follow political parties.
- The two main items the District Council want to address is grass cutting and street lighting.
- Lakenheath Parish Council has two new Councillors in Denise Smith and Mike Rowntree
- The two biggest projects for Lakenheath Parish Council are the Neighbourhood planning together with the High Street Regeneration scheme. Moving forward they await a visit from Suffolk County Council Highways who have agreed that some work is essential and that they wish to cooperate with consultants’ recommendations to improve the situation in the village.
- Lakenheath Consolidated charities advertised their annual distribution to aged and financially needy households of the Parish. Criteria is that applicants must be over 74 years of age and been resident for more than 10 years. Forms should be returned to the charity no later than 25th November 2023. Only one application per married couple, or individual can be accepted.

- Lakenheath Parish Council have purchased another speed indicator device. This will be powered both by a battery and by a solar panel. In addition to the excellent work of the Lakenheath Speedwatch team, this should help to reduce speeding through the village.

Articles within the magazine are as follows:

Update from Lakenheath Football Club by Alan Gyte

So, here we are at start of another season in Thurlow Nunn league premier division, with hi hopes of improving on last season's impressive fifth place finish. We also finished the season with a fantastic league cup victory over league champions Ipswich Wanderers, who have now moved up a level.

There's a change at the club this season where we no longer have a 'reserve' side but an under 23 team that have been entered in the Thurlow Nunn under 23 leagues. This will hopefully attract good young players to the club where they will at least be playing on Thurlow Nunn league grounds with floodlights etc, but will be coming up against some very strong clubs, like Bury Town & Stowmarket Town etc. As its the start of a new league there will be allowed some over age players so hopefully there will be some experience to help the younger players, we wish them well.

We welcome a few new players this season, Matt Collins has recovered from a long term 'injury' & is raring to go, Karl Saffery has signed from Walsham-Le-Willows where he was club captain last season & their leading scorer Jamie Smith has also made the move to the Heath, we wish them well & sure our loyal fans will make them welcome.

We have had a few friendlies with mixed results, beating Mundford & West Wratting, but losing to Felixstowe & also March Town, then finally a draw against Benfleet who made the long trip up on a horrible wet afternoon, but enjoyed the game & our facilities. Management was not overly impressed with some of the games but, Friendlies are mainly to get minutes in & getting players match fit for start of the new season.

Ben & Trevor are again joint managers, with Ian as coach, I will be there, as always & joined in the dugout by new physio Will & goalkeeper coach. Hopefully both teams will give their all this season & enjoy some success.

Off the pitch our hardworking committee are pushing on trying to improve the place & raising funds as it is an expensive business running a football club & we are indebted to each & every one of our sponsors & advertisers & I should just add there are still plenty of opportunities available from player sponsor, match sponsor, pitch side advertising boards & even stand & tracksuit sponsorship. Also I should mention the club & facilities are available to hire.

Look forward to seeing you all plus hopefully some new faces next season, we start with 2 home games, one of which is our FA Cup game against Godmanchester the winners of which will play at the winners of Mildenhall v Soham.

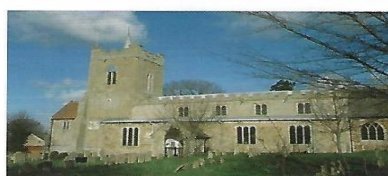
Fixtures till Christmas are as follows: -

29/7	Home V Walsham Le Willows	15.00 K/O
5/8	Home v Godmanchester	15.00 FA Cup
12/8	Away v Hadleigh Utd	15.00
15/8	Home v Soham Town Rangers	19.45

19/8	Away v Norwich Utd	15.00
22/8	Away v Walsham Le Willows	19.45
26/8	Home v Long Melford	15.00
2/9	Home v Mulbarton	15.00
5/9	Away v Thetford Town	19.45
9/9	Away v Fakenham Town	15.00
16/9	Home v Harleston Town	15.00
19/9	Home v Newmarket Town	19.45
23/9	Away v Heacham	15.00
30/9	Away v Ely City	15.00
7/10	Home V Downham Town	15.00
14/10	Away v Sheringham	15.00
28/10	Home v Dereham Town	15.00
4/11	Away v Downham Town	15.00
11/11	Home v Kirkley & Pakefield	15.00
18/11	Away v Newmarket Town	15.00
25/11	Home v Ely City	15.00
2/12	Away v Long Melford	15.00
9/12	Home v Norwich Utd	15.00
16/12	Home v Thetford Town	15.00
23/12	Away v Brantham Athletic	15.00
26/12	Away v Mildenhall Town	11.00
30/12	Home v Fakenham Town	15.00

By the time you receive this we will have played in FA Cup & already half a dozen league game so hopefully will have had a good start to season, but whatever the case 'UP THE HEATH'.

LAKENHEATH HERITAGE GROUP THE BELLS OF SAINT MARY'S



The Church of St Mary the Virgin holds much of Lakenheath's heritage and not least two of her ring of six bells, the third and fourth bells were both cast at John Danyells foundry in London circa 1460 and the third bell weigh's in at 6 hundredweight and 3 pounds, rings in the note of B flat not entirely in harmony with her five sisters but hardly noticeable to the untrained ear she is inscribed in Latin Sanctus Kalerrina ora Pro Nobis (May Christ give us the joys of eternal life), third and fourth are both inscribed with the Royal coat of arms.

The fourth bell over two hundredweight heavier at 8 Cwt 2qrs & 9Lbs is inscribed Ariftus Perpetue Det Nobis Gaudia Vite.

Money was bequeathed for these two bells by a local Farmer John Horold in 1454 the story goes that he also paid for the ladder that leads up the tower it is believed to be that original ladder still in use today, the date of 1624 is carved in its side with the initials RD, the dates do not coincide, who was RD a mystery?

It is quite amazing considering the life of so much that is manufactured in our throw away world, to think that these bells were cast in the reign of King Edward the 4th some 560 years past, over all of these years they have called people to Church given warnings celebrated peace jubilees Coronations and still ring regularly today.

The heavy going plain bearings on the back five were replaced with ball bearings around twenty years ago by a local business man and the tower captain at no cost, ringing became so much easier.

The fifth bell at 10 Cwt 3qrs & 19 Lbs cast in 1697 and inscribed, John Parsley Vicar, & Charles Newman made me, the Vicar made a monetary donation towards the casting of this (then the fourth bell) the Churchwarden at that time was Thomas Kitchener of the Earl Kitchener family.

The tenor bell the heaviest at 13Cwt 3qrs & 21Lbs inscribed Thomas Denton and James Parlet Churchwardens, this bell now requires some professional attention, for many many years the ringers have cared for the bells without cost.

Until 1915 St Mary's had a ring of five bells the then treble bell (now the second) 5Cwt & 3Lbs was recast by Alfred Bowell of Ipswich and hung in the new metal frame engineered by the same company at a cost of £137-00, in 1946 the new treble bell at 4Cwt & 3qrs was hung in the space provided in the metal frame in celebration of the ending of the second world war at a cost of £126-12-6.

Mr Robert Dent came to Lakenheath in 1936 and served as the local school's headmaster for many years, he was a proficient ringer of Church bells a lay reader and he brought the skill of method ringing to Lakenheath teaching the local band of ringers the art, on Wednesday evening October 27th 1948 the first quarter peal of 1260 changes recorded on Lakenheath bells was rung by:

Treble R B Dent conductor
2 Miss E Pecket
3 E Lawrence
4 Miss D Reeve
5 M Rutterford
Tenor G Miller tower captain

R G W Rolph present tower captain

LAKENHEATH PARISH WALKS

Lakenheath is fortunate to have a good network of footpaths and the Parish Walk explores these every other Sunday afternoon, helping you to enjoy the beautiful area in which we live as well as keeping the footpaths open. Walking will give you new perspective on life as well as the opportunity to make new friends. You are welcome to join us for a walk on a Sunday afternoon. We meet at Wings Road Car Park at 2 pm but don't expect anyone there before 1.55pm. Walks are about 5 miles long and take about 2 hours. If we see hares, deer etc we stop and watch them. Sturdy footwear, preferably boots, is essential. There is no charge and everyone is welcome.

Walks are planned for the following Sundays, 10th September and every other Sunday thereafter. Dates are on the noticeboards at Wings Road Car Park, the Library and the Surgery. Or just turn up and, if we are not there, we should be there the following Sunday. We had some problems with illness and holidays in June and July so if you came and found we were not there, please do not give up but try again. If the weather is very hot we do not walk as it is dangerous to exercise in high temperatures.

UPDATED NEWS FOR LAKENHEATH WALKERS!

Last time I reported optimistically that the problems with overgrown footpaths in Lakenheath, had been solved. I was relying on the assurances of the County Council, which in turn were relying on the



assurances of the contractor. Although the contractor did cut at the beginning of 2023 some of the paths he had failed to cut in 2022, others were just left. Remedial work was also supposed to be carried out, but it was not done.

The path (Footpath 3) between Claypits Bridge on the Undley Road and the path from the Community Centre is dangerous as the bushes have been allowed to grow up on top of the lode bank so you have to walk on the sloping side of the bank. Also at one point the load bank has been dug out leaving a steep slope on loose soil near the lode. The Parish walk no longer uses this path which restricts the walks we can do.

Other paths are also overgrown and should have been cut in May and should now be cut again, starting in August. I had a meeting with the County Rights of Way Officer on 19 May when we discussed the state of the paths and inspected some of them. I think the Officer now has a better understanding of how serious the situation is.

7.9.2023



PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs
RAF Lakenheath
Brandon, Suffolk
IP27 9PN
01638 522151

48 FW/PA POC | Maj. Keavy Rake
Email | 48fw.pa@us.af.mil
Release | 230901
Date | Sep 07, 2023

Eleven-day period of limited night flying at RAF Lakenheath

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — The 48th Fighter Wing will conduct limited night flying beginning Sept. 5-7, then Sept. 11-14 and again Sept. 18-21.

During this period, communities in East Anglia and the surrounding regions may see and hear U.S. aircraft taking off, landing, and transiting between RAF Lakenheath and training ranges over the North Sea several times between 7:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. 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.

"We must train like we fight in order to maintain operational readiness, and night flying is a critical muscle we must continue to flex," said Brigadier General Joseph L. Campo, 48th Fighter Wing commander. "We understand the disturbance this may cause to our local communities, and appreciate the patience and understanding as we ensure our Airmen remain trained and ready to secure the sovereign skies anytime, day or night."

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 with any aircraft-related flying concerns.

20.9.2023

A popular pumpkin patch near Lakenheath has been cancelled for a second year in a row. Undley Pumpkin Patch and Maize posted on Facebook and its website yesterday informing the public that the patch will not be going ahead this year.

However, it said the personal circumstances that closed the event in 2022 have now been resolved and that plans are underway for the patch next year.

The post added it will be hosting a free ticketed bonfire and fireworks event in November.

21.9.2023

A plan has been drafted for a former garden centre site on the High Street, Lakenheath – with a wider scheme being prepared.

Brian Rutterford and Partners has submitted a planning application for the site to West Suffolk Council.

The site previously had consent for a Tesco but the supermarket chain shelved the plans in 2015. A design and access statement said a further application which would encompass the whole site is being prepared and will be submitted in due course. However, it was considered appropriate that a separate application be made given that work has already started on this site.

It said the applicant was seeking retrospective consent for the change of use of the building to shop with coffee shop / restaurant. It also seeks to build a new two-bedroom home with parking.

24.9.2023

Wok and Roc announced today that business and personal circumstances have changed, and they are closed permanently. Hopefully the Plough Lakenheath will be occupied by new business operators or residents soon. Lloyds mobile bank will continue operating at Plough Inn Lakenheath front car park every fortnight on Tuesday, next one will be on 3rd October 2023. They thanked the community for their support during the last 10 years, it has been a privilege to see you and serve you.

Two organisations took to Suffolk streets yesterday to protest the possible return of nuclear weapons to a US air base.

Six members from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) attempted a citizens' weapons inspection at RAF Lakenheath and Bury St Edmunds Quakers held a silent witness. This follows speculation that the base could host the first US nuclear weapons in 15 years.

The purpose of the day of action was for the CND members to conduct a search of the base to see whether nuclear weapons are being housed there.

It comes after the US Air Force's budgetary justification report which said plans have been lodged to build a new 144-bedroom 'surety dormitory' at RAF Lakenheath, which forms part of a \$50m (£39m) project.

If permitted, it would be the first time B61 bombs will be stored in the UK since 2008, according to the Federation of American Scientists (FAS). They had been present at the air base since at least 1954.

Communications officer Pádraig McCarrick said: "Nationwide we had a Lakenheath day of action so our local CND groups were in their communities having stalls, events and protest rallies to raise awareness

28.9.2023

Plans have been submitted for a 'crucial' 420-place primary school in Lakenheath to replace an existing school site which is due to reach full capacity soon.

The proposals were submitted by Suffolk County Council for the school, which has additional space for 30 pre-school children, to be built on land north of Station Road in the village.

The existing 315-place Lakenheath Community Primary School in Mill Road will soon reach maximum capacity due to housing growth in the area.

The proposals would replace and expand the existing primary school facilities in the village.

There are plans for 663 homes to be built in the catchment area of the school which could result in 164 primary-age pupils. Without expanding the current provision there would be insufficient places in this area.

The plans emphasise the 'crucial need for the proposed new pre-school and primary school' for the village.

The design statement, by agent Concertus, said the 3.2 hectare proposed school site has the potential to accommodate up to 630 pupils and 60 pre-school places.

It would also feature two under 12s football pitches and a hard netball court, along with an outdoor classroom. There would also be a further outdoor learning area and Reptile Mitigation Area.

Additionally, the main school entrance would have 10 pupil drop-off spaces. In the north-west corner of the site would be the main staff and visitor car park which would have 59 parking spaces – six would be electric vehicle charging bays, a further three would be accessible spaces.

The building will be built in an 'L' shape to maximise natural light and minimise directly south-facing classrooms.

It will be painted in a palette of muted green tones to relate to the colours of the surrounding natural landscape and rural woodland setting, emphasising the building's green credentials.

The proposed new school aims to deliver an environment which allows for more children to attend school in the area.

September rainfall was 73 mm.

2.10.2023


Beavers met at the church tonight and left Harvest Donations.



3.10.2023

Football league table this week

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Lakenheath	12	7	4	1	16	25
2	Thetford Town	11	7	3	1	10	24
3	Mulbarton Wanderers	11	7	2	2	11	23
4	Mildenhall Town	7	7	0	0	18	21
5	Dereham Town	11	6	3	2	9	21
6	Downham Town	8	6	2	0	11	20
7	Newmarket Town	9	6	1	2	13	19
8	Hadleigh United	11	5	1	5	0	16
9	Harleston Town	11	5	1	5	-3	16
10	Fakenham Town	10	4	3	3	7	15
11	Sheringham	10	4	1	5	-6	13
12	Woodbridge Town	9	3	2	4	-1	11
13	Walsham Le Willows	11	3	1	7	-2	10
14	Soham Town Rangers	12	3	1	8	-15	10
15	Brantham Athletic	9	2	2	5	-10	8
16	Heacham	11	2	2	7	-12	8
17	Ely City	10	2	1	7	-10	7
18	Kirkley & Pakefield	9	1	1	7	-16	4
19	Long Melford	10	0	1	9	-20	1
20	Norwich United	0	0	0	0	0	0

 League | Table

5.10.2023

Such a shame to hear today that the little general supplies shop (Macs) in the high street is closing permanently (the one next door to Eclipz).

8.10.2023

Lakenheath youth Football club advised that they now have over 230 children playing football in Lakenheath. This would not be achievable without the help from their sponsors. They gave a huge thanks to all sponsors



17.10.2023

Very sadly the local Lakenheath Post Office announced that they will now open to the public only from 10am to 12 noon Monday to Saturday. If anything, urgent was required to contact the postmistress, Lisa Skinner and she would help if able to.

18.10.2023

East Anglian Daily Times advises that a licensing application has been submitted for a new restaurant in Lakenheath. The former site for Matthews Garden Centre.



11.10.2023

Lakenheath Parish Council advised Last weekend saw a great community come together to make our village better. Across the 2 days, many, of all ages, gave what time they could for litter picking and bulb planting.



20.10.2023

Lakenheath Parish Council advised that Sadly the Cemetery has been infested with Chafer grubs, which has meant that parts of the grass look unsightly. LPC have treated this with Nematodes and sown new grass seed, however this will, of course, take some time to improve.

October rainfall was 230 mm.

1.11.2023



We learn from the Bury Free Press that an 86-year-old drummer is due to record a final CD before he puts down his sticks for good. Peter Empson from Lakenheath, Suffolk, has played the drums for more than 50 years.

After an extensive musical career, he played his last gig in September, which raised £1,500 for My WiSH Charity.

He will have one last hurrah when his band of 20 years, On The Road Again, record a CD in the coming weeks.

The self-taught percussionist began playing the drums in 1969, at 32 years old.

Having previously promised his wife he would retire from his busy music career at age 70, he re-joined his former band after she passed away seven years ago.

"I came back playing again as I missed it so much," he said.

Mr Empson's career has seen him drum for multiple bands, including Kedgerees, the Pete and Kenny Duo and the Fantasia Showband.

He played on the same bill in Bristol as chart toppers The Wurzels while performing with Three Plus One.

In 2019, Mr Empson suffered a heart attack which resulted in a triple bypass at the Royal Papworth Hospital in Cambridge.

He decided to raise money for the cardiac unit following the "wonderful treatment" he received from the staff.

His final public appearance in September at The Pavilion, Lakenheath, raised £1,500 for the team at West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds.

Tanya Field, fundraising officer for My WiSH, said: "It's been a pleasure to support Peter with his fundraising. This total is just fantastic and we are thrilled he enjoyed his final gig so much."

The evening was attended by about 100 people, including Mr Empson's grandsons, who joined him on stage.

"I felt very, very proud to finish playing with my two grandsons," he said.

After the band has recorded for the upcoming CD, Mr Empson plans to sell his drum kit. "I've had a wonderful 50-odd years and I've thoroughly enjoyed my time drumming."

A free bonfire and fireworks display organised by a Suffolk farm which has previously pulled in the crowds with a popular pumpkin patch has announced it has had to cancel the event.

An email from Undley Farm, near Lakenheath, sent out to people who had snapped up the highly popular tickets said the reasons for not doing the November 3 event included concerns over the forecasted weather on the day and that the car park is flooded due to recent bad weather.

This news comes after the site had to cancel its popular pumpkin patch and Maize Maze in September for a second year in a row. The highly popular event was set to take place on November 3.

2.11.2023

Lakenheath Community Primary School today announced that now the weather is turning, they ask that children from Y1-Year 6 please bring an additional pair of outdoor shoes to allow them to use the school field. This is to prevent mud being brought into school. Only children with additional outdoor shoes will be allowed to use the school field at lunchtimes.

3.11.2023

The Community Centre today announced the reopening on Thursday 16th November 2023 of the Warm Room. Every Thursday There will be available between 11.30 am and 2 pm Tea, Coffee and food free of charge. A donation is always welcome.

5.11.2023

We learn today that a massive project for 139 new homes in Lakenheath has taken a step forward. On Wednesday morning (November 1), West Suffolk councillors debated a reserved matters application by the developer, Persimmon Homes Suffolk, following initial approval in 2018. This relates to land west of Eriswell Road as you enter the village from the south.

The development will see the new houses being built in a 5.43-hectare site to the south of the village. A reserved matters application gives councillors a chance to consider items initially excluded from the planning application, including access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale. Among the house total, 42 are

classified as 'affordable dwellings' to be spread out across the site to promote integration. The developer has also agreed to invest just over £85,000 in infrastructure outside the scope of the site, including improvements to rights of way, junctions, libraries, and schools.

Throughout the length of the development, including during the initial decision, various concerns were raised regarding impacts to the village such as connectivity issues, noise, flooding, and the urbanisation of the countryside. Today, these issues were once again raised, including a particular worry expressed by Cllr Phil Wittam, who said the loss of trees because of the need to minimise the risk of bird strikes to passing aircraft, was a 'crying shame'.

Cllr Carol Bull added it was akin to 'taking away with one hand and giving with the other'. However, the tree-planting schedule provided by the developer was deemed 'suitable' in relation to the project's landscaping needs.

The application was approved.

9.11.23

A charity Zumbathon helped to raise over £1,500 and saw about 50 people turn up to the event in a Lakenheath. Zumba instructor Kirsty Creasy decided to raise money for the East Anglian Air Ambulance service after recently finding out it was a charity that purely relies on donations from the public.

As a result, she wanted to help support the charity and held the fitness event at the Lakenheath Peace Memorial Hall, managing to raise £1,601 overall. Kirsty said: "The turnout was incredible considering how awful the weather was and the flooded roads, yet we managed to raise a whopping £1,601.

I love how Zumba creates a party-like atmosphere bringing everyone together, getting to experience different songs, routines, instructors and meeting new likeminded people. "I felt it was a good cause to raise money for whilst doing something you can enjoy so much - Zumba."

Due to the success of the Zumbathon in the village, Kirsty is already planning to do another next year in either February or March.

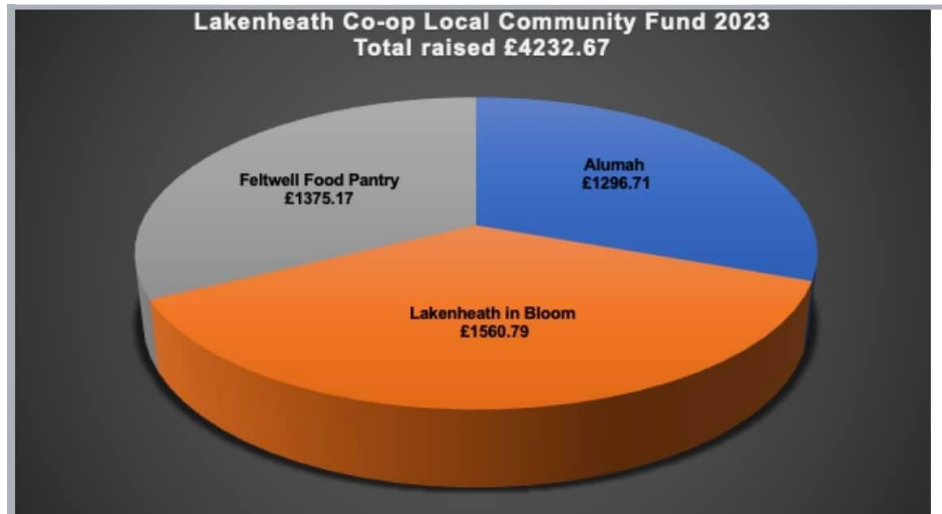
She said: "I am so proud of myself for organising such an amazing event.

"It was hard work but it was so rewarding raising so much money for the charity and receiving such positive feedback from everyone that attended."

"We had such a blast and I cannot wait for the next one in the new year."

11.11.2022

Local community funding; members of Co-op Communities raised £4232.67 through the purchases in the Lakenheath store. The groups that benefited from the funding were Lakenheath in Bloom, Alumah and The Food Pantry Feltwell



12.11.2023

Lakenheath cubs have decorated the phone box ready for the remembrance parade this afternoon.





Joseph Rudniski said what a wonderful turnout at the War Memorial for the village memorial service for Remembrance Day. I was honoured to take the service, and it did not rain which is always a bonus. A big thanks to the British Legion who were behind the scenes organising the event. And those who could not come for whatever reason, God be with you. He added so many families lost their young men, this village was one of many up and down this country, where brave men fought for the future generations to come, paying the ultimate sacrifice, we must never forget. It was great to also see the horses there, a reminder of how these gentle giants played a major role in WW1. My stepdad was in that war, he was a lead rider, and had a team of six horses pulling artillery guns, he was seventeen years of age, he told me that when they were attacked with gas, they put nose bags on the horses packed with straw to filter out the gas. The gas made the brass uniform buttons turn green. He told me that he loved his horses, and spent a lot of time on each and every one of them.

13.11.2023

Lakenheath Community Primary School today advised that the school council has decided that rather than supporting the big national charity events this year (e.g. Children in Need), they instead would like to come up with creative ways to fundraise at various points throughout the year. After discussing different charities, the children have thoughtfully chosen three worthy causes they wish to support this year. They decided they want to support: 1 local charity, 1 national charity and 1 global charity.

The charities they have selected are:

Local Charity: EACH - East Anglian Children's Hospice
(supporting children and young people with life-threatening conditions across Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk)

National Charity: Make A Wish Foundation

(Providing experiences to critically ill children and their families, making one of their wishes come true)

Worldwide Charity: Supporting a school in Africa

We are in the process of pairing ourselves with a charity-funded school in Africa who we can support with resources to improve the education of children living in poverty. Having chosen these charities, the children in the school council are now busy generating ideas for their first fundraising event with the money being split between these great causes.

We are really proud of our school council and we thank them for their thoughtful contributions. We look forward to their first fundraising idea later this month.

Lakenheath Co-op announced that Lakenheath Youth Football Club, Lakenheath indoor bowls club juniors are the two new local causes they are supporting. The community were asked to select a cause on the Coop app or website and every Coop product you buy, money is donated to your chosen cause.

The Beavers leader gave a big thank you to Lakenheath Library for opening up especially for their Beavers to complete their book reader badge. They taught Beavers about book marks, caring for their book and designing a book cover. Everyone had great fun



14.11.2023

Lakenheath library in line with others in Suffolk are proud to promote their Warm Welcome campaign this year- pop to the library any time we are open for a warm welcome, a warm space and if you'd like one, a warm drink. Free of charge. We are also excited to let you know we can accept new and unused (in its original packaging) unwrapped gifts for Christmas which we will pass on to happy children. (ages 0-7). If you have any gifts, drop them to the library any time we are open until December 8th. Many thanks.

15.11.2023

RAF Lakenheath conducted an active shooter exercise TODAY. All on-base personnel were required to follow giant voice and emergency responder instructions, including any directed lockdowns, unless in a non-play.

This EXERCISE is a routine training exercise designed to enhance the 48th Fighter Wing readiness and safeguard civilians, base personnel and their families.

16.11.2023

The East Anglian daily times reported that a legal campaign has been launched over fears an RAF base could be set to host nuclear weapons. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) is legally challenging development works at RAF Lakenheath which it believes are being prepared to station nuclear weapons.

The group believes that a planned 144-bed dormitory could lead to the return of nuclear weapons at the Suffolk airbase and is calling on West Suffolk Council to intervene.

Work on the expansion is expected to start next year and will create more room for US personnel.

Earlier this year a team from CND gathered outside RAF Lakenheath, which is between the village and Mildenhall, with the aim of searching the base for nuclear weapons.

They believe the United States Air Force is using the base, which is the largest US-operated base in England, to deploy nuclear weapons for the first time in 15 years.

The first US nuclear bombs arrived on British soil in September 1954, and several sources confirmed the withdrawal of the weapons in 2008.

CND is calling on the Ministry of Defence to halt any developments at the base until necessary screening is carried out.

The MoD has a policy of not confirming the presence of nuclear weapons at a given location.

Kate Hudson of CND said: "USAF has ploughed ahead with construction at the airbase by purportedly relying on planning rights that assume that the development won't have significant environmental effects. But in doing that they have completely ignored the risks that stationing nuclear weapons would entail and therefore might arguably be operating unlawfully in breach of planning control."

A spokesman for West Suffolk Council said: "We have received a letter from CND and are considering our response."

The Bury Free Press reported Campaigners are legally challenging development works at RAF Lakenheath that it believes are preparations for the return of US nuclear weapons to British soil.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) says the controversial plans should be subject to proper public scrutiny, through the planning process, and is calling for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to halt the works at the base, home to the US Air Force's (USAF's) 48th Fighter Wing.

There is speculation that the base could host the first US nuclear weapons in 15 years after a US Air Force's budgetary justification report said plans had been lodged to build a new 144-bedroom 'surety dormitory' at RAF Lakenheath, which forms part of a \$50m (£39m) project.

'Surety' is said to be a term commonly used within the Department of Defense and Department of Energy to refer to the capability to keep nuclear weapons safe, secure, and under positive control.

The CND has sent letters to the MoD and West Suffolk Council, which is the local planning authority, claiming the development does not have permitted development rights, and has called on the MoD to halt works while the necessary environmental screening is carried out.

The campaign group says the work could go ahead without an environmental impact assessment if it was being carried out by or on behalf of the Crown but believes this does not apply since the building works are being done by and for the USAF.

In a statement to Suffolk News, the MoD said: "The planned accommodation block falls under existing permitted development rights and work is underway to support an Environmental Impact Assessment screening."

A spokesman for West Suffolk Council said they had received a letter from CND and were considering their response.

The CND claims there has been no screening of the dormitory plan by West Suffolk Council to show it would have no significant environmental impact and without that screening it cannot have permitted development rights.

In its legal letter to the MoD, the CND says the development works for the dormitory should not be considered as one of several small projects but as part of one whole project with a major environmental impact that should be assessed.

It says any assessment must include not only the construction of the buildings comprising the various developments, but also the effects of the use of those buildings - that is the effects of stationing nuclear weapons at RAF Lakenheath.

Kate Hudson, of CND, said: "USAF has ploughed ahead with construction at the airbase by purportedly relying on planning rights that assume that the development won't have significant environmental effects. But in doing that they've completely ignored the risks that stationing nuclear weapons would entail and therefore might arguably be operating unlawfully in breach of planning. CND is represented by planning law specialist, solicitor Ricardo Gama at law firm Leigh Day.

Ricardo Gama said: "CND wants to make sure that the development at RAF Lakenheath, and the wider question of whether nuclear weapons should be stationed on UK soil, if that is what the USAF is planning, does not slip under the radar without proper public scrutiny.

"The planning process is one way for members of the public to make representations on these controversial plans."

Work on the dormitory is due to start next year and is reportedly to house the extra US personnel needed as part of the 'potential surety mission'.

The USAF was approached for comment, but deferred to the MoD.

17.11.2023

CONGRATULATIONS Lakenheath Primary School. We have just won the award for BEST Active Primary School of the Year. An amazing feat and achievement, which celebrates both the hard work of the children and adults alike. Pure pride and overwhelming gratefulness as Mr Bishop proudly received the award on behalf of the school.

Well done Lakenheath and well done all the staff involved, especially those pivotal in improving the quality of PE in our school. Thank you to Ian Jackson, for the nomination.

The second award of the Active Suffolk Awards 2023 is the Active Primary School of the Year Award sponsored by Ipswich Fit, and the winner is... Lakenheath Community Primary School.

A huge congratulations to Lakenheath Community Primary School on their win! The school's dedication to making sure their physical activity is actively participated in, is inclusive for all their students and that they continue to offer their staff with training opportunities to further benefit students is truly fantastic.

We'd also like to take a moment to shine a light on the excellent work also being done at the other two schools nominated; Wells Hall Primary School and Red Oak Primary School.



18.11.2023

Excellent Men's Breakfast this morning at the Village Hall, hosted by Colin, Stephen and friends, lively banter and a real brekkie, plus guest speaker who was very informative, looking forward to the next one

23.11.2023

Lakenheath Library announced some exciting news! The library will be hosting a children's sewing club on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. All details below in the advertisement



November rainfall was 86 mm.

The winter edition of the Lakenheath Times advised the community

- Top of the list of problems for the village now is the service of Royal Mail. Parts of the village is only getting post once in three weeks. Other rounds one or twice a week. It is countrywide in part but in Lakenheath appears to be worse than the national average. Ever since the sorting was taken out of our village Post Office it has gone from bad to worse. Hospital appointment and legal deadlines missed, birthdays with no cards, licences not arriving. It has been dreadful. Volunteers are being sought to help with deliveries especially as Christmas approaches.
- In November a major clear up of the cemetery was done predominantly by Parish Councillors. 35 bags of rubbish, mainly fallen leaves, were filled and the area left much tidier as a result.

Articles from the Lakenheath Times:

Lakenheath FC 2023-24 - Bit of a stop-start to the season so far by Alan Gyte.

Winning our first five league games saw us sitting at top of the league with an impressive goal difference of 16. We then stuttered a bit drawing the next two, back to winning ways saw us with two more wins to keep us in pole position.

We then started to stutter again drawing the next two followed by two defeats to knock us of top spot.

In the cups, it's been a similar story, beating Godmanchester away in the FA Cup before losing to Mildenhall. We then lost to higher league Felixstowe in the Suffolk Premier Cup.

Still in a good position in the league and looking forward to hosting Walsham le Willows in the FA Vase & Soham Town Rangers in the League cup, so plenty to look forward to.

On a sad note, we lost our manager of the last 5 years, Ben Cowling. Whatever the reasons behind Ben going we should never forget the impact he has had on this club.

First taking us up to the Eastern counties league division one then promotion to the premier division, also winning the Suffolk Senior Cup & league cup along the way & who could forget our memorable run in the FA vase reaching the last 32 nationally.

He also helped us off the pitch, being instrumental in us adding floodlights, new dugouts, a new covered stand, pucker seats in the old existing stand, footpaths around the pitch, a new ground maintenance 'tractor' & attachments & even the creation of a kitchen area for matchday refreshments etc. So mainly thanks to Ben for all his hard work in helping to get us where we are today, we are indebted to him.

1st Team upcoming Fixtures

December:- all 3.00 K/off unless stated

2nd	Away	v	Long Melford
16th	Home	v	Thetford Town
23rd	Away	v	Brantham Athletic
26th	Away	v	Mildenhall Town (11.00 K/off)
30th	Home	v	Fakenham Town

January:- all 3.00 K/off

6th	Away	v	Soham Town Rangers
13th	Home	v	Woodbridge Town
27th	Home	v	Heacham

February:- all 3.00 K/off

10th	Home	v	Hadleigh United
17th	Home	v	Heacham
24th	Away	v	Mulbarton



What Winter Brings to RSPB Lakenheath Fen

The habitats here create an ideal refuge for birds travelling here from their breeding grounds in more northerly places. The largest of these is the Whooper swan - which may be well-known to you if you're a wildlife lover as they can be seen gathered in stubble fields from November onwards in our local area. Here they'll feed on split maize, potatoes and grain crops, and will look to roost in large areas of open water. The Hockwold Washes (adjacent to Lakenheath Fen) is a popular roosting site where numbers can build to 10,000+ but they can vary from one night to the next. On clear nights with good visibility or a full moon, Whoopers will sometimes stay out all night feeding, if they can see well enough, and won't bother to come to roost. However, if we get a foggy day or a very wet start, they'll stay on the Washes after dawn and more visitors have a chance of seeing them before they leave for the day.

If you'd like to see the swans by getting here around dusk or early in the day - before dawn - and you stand a good chance. Their beautiful honking calls are a delight to hear and you may even see a few of the rarer, much smaller Bewick's swan too. These breed even further north than Whoopers, just west of the Ural Mountains in Arctic Russia. Bewick's also wait for longer before they move to the UK for winter, and we don't often see any before Christmas. Because they are smaller and there's fewer of them, they do tend to segregate themselves away from the Whoopers on the Hockwold Washes to avoid conflict with the bigger swans.

A whole range of smaller birds visit us for the winter - Redwing, Fieldfare, Siskin, Lesser redpoll, and Marsh tit. The first two - Redwing and Fieldfare can be spotted on the reserve throughout winter, feeding on berry bushes, digging for worms and bugs in waterlogged fields, and in mixed flocks with Blackbirds, Song thrushes and Mistle thrushes feeding in

fields in rolling groups that can be fascinating to watch. If we get a frosty spell where the ground is frozen, the paddock in Brandon Fen (near the car park) can be a great place to look. We have a footpath around the perimeter and a couple of benches to rest a while too!

Back at the Visitor Centre, we have some bird feeders which attract a few species that we don't tend to see in the warmer months - especially Marsh tit.

Our car park is an unlikely location for Brambling, which is a stunning finch that is very closely related to the more familiar Chaffinch.

A walk around the nature reserve on a clear and frosty day will reward you with some stunning views - as all of the vegetation is etched in frost, including the seedheads of the reeds that make up vast patches of the reserve. With a clear blue sky above, the reserve just shines and glistens like a scene from Narnia.

We'll have hot and cold drinks and a selection of snacks available at the Visitor Centre every day, with a break at Christmas. Our Visitor Centre and toilets are open daily from 9am to 4pm during the winter, switching to a 5pm closure when the clocks go forward on 31 March 2024. You can follow the latest news from the reserve by reading our blogs which we publish on the website <https://community.rspb.org.uk> and share on our Facebook (RSPB Lakenheath Fen) and Twitter (RSPBLakenheath) pages. For any questions, just e-mail us at lakenheath@rspb.org.uk, pop in to see us or call our office on 01842 863400 during our opening hours. The reserve's webpages can be viewed at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/lakenheath-fen>.

With best wishes for a safe and happy winter!

Heidi Jones
Visitor Experience Officer,
RSPB Lakenheath Fen)

Photo credit: Ali Blane

Events at RSPB Lakenheath Fen- January - March 2024

Places for all events need to be booked online- please visit <https://bit.ly/LakenheathFenEvents> to read more and book tickets.

Treasures of the Moth Trap

26 January, 23 February, 29 March (10am to 11am)

Learn more about the amazing world of moths- join us to admire what we catch in our harmless trap.

Adults £3. Under 18's go free! November, January and February dates are free- but please let us know you are coming so that we can let you know if bad weather stops us from putting the trap out (and saves you a wasted journey!).

Raptors in the Reedbed guided walk

Sun 10 Dec 2023 (2pm-5pm), Sunday 14 Jan 2024 (2pm-5pm)

Watch the reserve come to life as darkness falls, and birds of prey emerge to hunt or arrive to roost in the reedbeds.

Adults £12/ Children £6 (RSPB-members) Adults £15

Children £7.50 (non-RSPB members)

Sundown at Lakenheath Fen (accessible)

Sun 21 Jan 2024 (4pm-5:30pm)

Join us on this new event to experience the reserve as dusk falls across the reedbed. This event is designed to be accessible to all, including those with reduced mobility. Hot drinks and biscuits included!

Adults £6/ Children £3 (RSPB-members) Adults £7.50

Children £3.75 (non-RSPB members)

Winter Walking Safari

Sun 11 Feb 2024 (2pm-7pm)

Many parts of the reserve aren't usually open to the public, and this behind-the-scenes tour provides a great opportunity to see the wildlife hiding out in pools and reedbeds which aren't visible from the current visitor trails.

Price: Adults £16 (RSPB members), £20 (non-RSPB members), Under 18's £8 (RSPB members), £10 (non-RSPB members).

Stargazing with Jonathan Shanklin

Wed 13 Mar (time T.B.C.)

We will be privileged to have Jonathan Shanklin, a renowned meteorologist with us for the evening, giving us a fascinating talk followed by a walk on the reserve to hopefully see some spectacles if the sky is clear.

Price: RSPB members £12, non-RSPB members £15

1.12.2023

A swan flew into a power cable, breaking it, in Wingfield Road this afternoon causing a power cut effecting a large part of the village.

A new high street café is preparing to open its doors in Lakenheath with a special emphasis on its breakfasts.

Mola Café and Lounge at 18 High Street, will be welcoming customers from Tuesday, December 5.

Sermin Caglar, 40, and her husband Turan Caglar, 47, who is a chef, have previously owned Rocca Café Lounge and also Zeytin Meze Grill in Mildenhall,

“We use quality ingredients, the service will be brilliant, and we’re really looking forward to this.”

A highlight on the incredibly stacked menu is set to be the large breakfasts, with an array of different items from waffles and pancakes, to bacon and french toast, all on the same plate.

It is a trend from London that Mrs Caglar is eager to bring to the area.

Homemade burgers and moussaka have also been tipped by the former Rocca owners to impress people, as well as sandwiches, jacket potatoes, a variety of different drinks, and more on offer.

There are several things that drew the duo to the new location, including the chance for customers to eat outdoors, with a play area and many parking spaces.

“We’ve always wanted a place where customers can just come, park, eat, have some fun and go, which will benefit lots of people. This place is a good spot.



Wendy Clare Barnes is again arranging for each day in December till Christmas day, for a bag of goodies to be hidden somewhere in the Parish. 25 stockings are ready to be given away

It will work the same as last year, a decoration will be hidden somewhere in the Parish (Lakenheath, Undley, Sedge Fen) and a picture of the decoration posted on community pages of facebook. If you find the decoration, follow the instructions on the label to claim your prize.

Thank you to all the amazing people who donated to the xmas initiative:

Maureen Sambridge
Ingrid Wright - Greyhound Trust
Maureen Forbes
Linda Norman
Alix Hovell Ali Wagz
Anita Sutton - Suttons
Pat Tippet
Paula Turner - Turners Motors
Mandy Cheshire - The Garden Room
Jay Sidney - Rudlings Solicitors
Sherrie Butcher - Little Fishes
Paula Drew - Lookatme1st
Emilie Jenkins
Sheena Nash - Infinity Gift & Home
Jill Guiver - JJ Gluten Free Bakes
Cath Ebanks
Beverly Harrison - Vintage Treasure Chest
Anna Hargreaves - Young & Reckless
Stevie Gadsby - Rose Pearl Tattoo
Tim Stevens - Central Garage
Jade Harbord - Groudtec Developments
Teresa Russell - Graceful Touch Massage
Lizzy Harrison - Gardeners Rescue
Sue Drake-foley - DBL Castles & Lakenheath Fireworks
Laura Ellis - Scentsy
Melissa Wilderspin - Lakenheath Football Club
Louise Lynagh - Mill House Beauty
Zoe O'Callaghan - Eclipse Hair
Pauline Wickham - Mark Skinner Funeral Care
Clair Harding - Clickin It Sweets
Sally Taylor - Hair by Sally
Sara 'Slav' Laverick - Scentsy
Nicola Palmer - Sunshine Corner Nursery
Nadine Woods - Ely Roller Skating Club
Angela Boyle - Freedom Recycling
Lakenheath CO-OP



2.12.2023

The little acts of kindness Christmas goodie bags from the 1st Lakenheath Beavers tonight were delivered to several villagers today.



3.12.2023

Today was the day for the Switching on the Christmas lights on the xmas tree on the playing fields and the arrival of Santa at the Pavilion to distribute free presents to the first 100 children to arrive at the event. There were various stalls selling crafts as well as various raffles to raise money for the event which was free to enter. Ed Morley won the chocolate hamper



4.12.2023

HARBINGER11-14 Flight Arriving at RAF Lakenheath From Prestwick This Afternoon. Consisting of NX508XX, N503XX, N504XX & N511XX - All Owned by US Based RAVN Aerospace. One shown below.



5.12.2023

Lakenheath football club today has received a £3,000 grant to support its teams from property developer, Persimmon Suffolk, after club treasurer, Claire Lock, applied to the company's Community Champions fund.

The team, which was established in 1907, play in the Thurlow Nunn Premier Division. The money will help fund its pitch maintenance and youth teams as well as pay for new kit.

Ms. Lock said: "We are grateful for this donation, it will go a long way in supporting the club and providing facilities for all players, from youth teams to the first team. "We are a close-knit community here in Lakenheath and the club is an important hub for the village."

Persimmon Suffolk has recently been granted planning permission to build 139 homes west of Eriswell Road in the village.

Ian Hamilton, Managing Director at Persimmon Suffolk, said: "We are always keen to support clubs like Lakenheath FC which play such an important role in bringing communities together and we are delighted to hear the donation will make a difference to the whole club.

"At Persimmon Homes we build more than just houses, we want to support communities and create a lasting legacy within those areas where we are building

6.12.2023

The Bury Free Press reports that Plans for a new primary school in Lakenheath have been given the green light.

In September, Suffolk County Council applied to West Suffolk Council for a 420-place primary school on land north of Station Road, Lakenheath to replace an existing school site, which is due to reach capacity soon.

In a letter to the county council, Rachel Almond, West Suffolk Council service manager (planning – development), said the authority had no objections to the proposals subject to some issues – including pedestrian safety, aircraft noise mitigation and insufficient drop-off space to accommodate peak school runs – being addressed.

The existing 315-place Lakenheath Community Primary School, in Mill Road, will soon reach maximum capacity due to housing growth in the area.

There are plans for 663 homes to be built in the catchment area of the school, which could result in an additional 164 primary-age pupils.

Without expanding the current provision there would be insufficient places in the area.

A design statement, by agent for Suffolk County Council, Concertus, said the 3.2 hectare proposed school site had the potential to accommodate up to 630 pupils and 60 pre-school places.

It would also feature two under 12s football pitches and a hard netball court, an outdoor classroom, a further outdoor learning area and reptile mitigation area.

The scheme allows for the main school entrance to have 10 pupil drop-off spaces, while the main staff and visitor car park would have 59 parking spaces.

7.12.2023

The East Anglian Daily Times reports that Suffolk pub The Plough in Lakenheath is set to reopen its doors following closure of Chinese restaurant Wok n Rock. The pub is set to reopen its doors under new management as a pub and restaurant.

It had previously been a Chinese restaurant, Wok n Rock, before the eatery closed in September. A spokesperson for the flint faced 19th century pub on social media said: "We are delighted to say The Plough is under new management and will be reopening in the near future."

The statement added that the pub was searching for bar staff, kitchen staff, servers and an experienced chef. Additionally, the pub will be looking to do breakfast, lunch and evening menus as well as offer accommodation.

9.12.2023

Take care on the road between Lakenheath & Sedge Fen as some of the sheep have got out and are grazing roadside. Between Lakenheath & Sizers Farm.

12.12.2023

Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue provided the trailer for Father Christmas to do his rounds in the village today and tomorrow.

16.12.2023

The Library held a coffee and cake session to raise funds for the Library. They had books to sell, handmade items, a raffle with lots of prizes and then CAKE!!! Bread pudding, melted snowmen biscuits, gingerbread, pumpkin bars, brownies, red velvet cupcakes, chocolate cupcakes and mince pies to name a few! £2.50 for unlimited cake and hot drinks. There was sign language carols at 10am and raffle prizes picked at 11am. They managed to raise over £200.

18.12.2023

The Paddocks coffee shop closed its doors today till the 8th January 2024 with exciting news to be then given.

Year 6 Community Champion 'Christmas Elves' from Lakenheath Community Primary School (supported by Alan Gyte and June Fox) are out and about today spreading some Christmas joy and random acts of kindness today. Having called at random homes they sang the occupiers Christmas carols then left a Christmas card containing a chocolate coin. They ended up at CJ's café singing to their customers.



Father Christmas doing his rounds of the village.

22.12.2023

Active Suffolk Awards. Lakenheath Community Primary School is a WINNER!!!

The Active Primary School Award, sponsored by Ipswich FIT celebrates a primary school that advocates physical activity beyond their PE lessons. The award acknowledges a Suffolk Primary School that continues to be a great example for other schools in the county and that is continually striving to improve the physical activity levels and health & wellbeing of their pupils.

Led by Headteacher, Michael Tingey, Lakenheath Community Primary School sits at the very heart of our community. It embraces all that the village and wider community has to offer including local sports clubs, leisure facilities, open spaces and crucially, the School Games. PE Coordinator for the school, Matt Bishop is enthusiastic, well organised, caring and always makes physical activity fun for his students.

However, he does not operate alone, and the school makes sure to get its staff involved in CPD opportunities. Consequently, the school is ever-present at events, not only focusing on competitive opportunities, but those that allow those who are less confident or competent to develop and belong. Their commitment towards the ethos and values of the School Games has not gone unnoticed, with the school receiving a School Games Mark gold award, an acknowledgement of their commitment to providing an active environment for all and encouraging young people to contribute their views on how they could be more active.

26.12.2024

Lakenheath became the first team to win at Mildenhall Town in the Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division this season during today's Boxing Day derby.

Ahead of kick off, table-topping Mildenhall had won nine and drawn the other one of their 10 outings at The Riverside Stadium so far this term.

But while the home side controlled large parts of the encounter – despite being reduced to 10 men midway through the first half – visiting Lakenheath ran out 1-0 winners' courtesy of Jamie R Smith's neat finish before the interval.



Mildenhall's biggest threat during the first half came from corners, with Alfie Connor's left-flank deliveries causing problems. In the 17th minute Adam Capel's downward header was scooped away by Ross Bilham in the visitors' goal and four minutes later Jarid Robson's glancing effort cannoned against the woodwork.

However, Mildenhall's early momentum was halted by the 22nd-minute dismissal of Capel, who clipped Jamie R Smith as he looked to skip past the centre-back. Mildenhall's argument was that the ball had run straight through to their goalkeeper Josh Pope, but referee Sam Jones had little hesitation in brandishing the red card.

It took Lakenheath seven minutes to make their numerical advantage count courtesy of a swift counter-attack involving Luke Young. His pass set Jamie R Smith clear and with Pope advancing off his line to narrow the angle, the young forward calmly slotted in his eighth goal of the campaign

Lakenheath's number nine also had the ball in the net just before the half-time whistle when he turned the ball in from close range, only for his celebrations to be cut short by an offside flag.

It was a depleted Mildenhall that controlled large parts of the encounter after the restart, with recent addition Jake Chambers-Shaw coming off the bench to dictate proceedings. It was his cross in the 67th minute that Robson looked to sweep in before Luke Bailey made a last-ditch block to thwart the danger.

Sixty seconds later Ben Nolan and Tanner Call linked smartly on the edge of the box to carve out an opening for Mildenhall forward Olly Hughes, but the former Bury Town man dragged his shot wide of the left upright.

As Mildenhall committed more and more players forward in search of an equaliser, gaps started to appear at the other end. Jamie A Smith saw his curling effort kept out by Pope while Ross Bailey lashed his effort well over the top.

December rainfall was 89 mm.

RSPB Lakenheath Fen's journey through 2023

It feels only right to begin this entry by remarking that 2023 was a better year for us than the year before- we began 2022 with a fire in our workshop and a second burglary, but we are delighted to be able to say that we sailed through 2023 without any further incidents of that nature. Also, crucially, all our volunteers and staff made it through the year safe and sound and we have begun to watch Spring unfolding in 2024 with much excitement and anticipation about what the new year will bring for the wildlife here and the reserve itself.

The first notable event of 2023 and one that is quite significant in our history was the acquisition of an additional 54 hectares of land on Cowles Drove, to the north of the Little Ouse. On World Wetlands Day (2 February annually) a public announcement was made via our social media channels and local news outlets. The land purchase was made possible through two other organisations- firstly the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation- a charity who enable other charities (such as the RSPB) to take

advantage of land purchases on the spur of the moment- i.e. when the land comes up for sale. The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation lent us the full asking price for the land, under the promise that we will pay back the money, interest-free, once we have funded the purchase through other means. This came in the form of a donation from the Morgan Sindall construction Group (MSG), through a scheme known as Biodiversity Net Gain. This is where construction companies are now obliged to offset any losses their activities cause to the environment and it's wildlife by investing enough in local conservation projects to be proportionate with the losses incurred.

As a result, MSG paid the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation the money they had spent on the new land, and also contributed a substantial sum towards the costs of transforming the land into our new vision for it. One large square field north of the drove-way and some smaller fields south of it, connecting up fields we already owned, meant greater flexibility in terms of what we could do with the land. Our ambition for our landholding along Cowles Drove has always been to raise the water levels in order to provide suitable nesting habitat for wading birds such as Common snipe, Redshank, Lapwing and year-round foraging habitat for these wader species as well as waterfowl and Common cranes. However, the extent to which we could raise the water levels was limited prior to February 2023 because we didn't want to affect the productivity of our neighbours' agricultural land. With better connected fields now forming one solid block (see photo), we could set to work. Throughout the autumn and winter of 2023 (and into 2024) we began to dig new ditches, add in dams and sluices to manipulate the water table and to help the land hold much more water than before.

As well as supporting wildlife, we also intend to help reduce carbon emissions from the land, especially in areas where the soil has a high peat content. When peaty soil, or grassland, is wet, it acts as a carbon 'sink' absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through mosses and plants growing upon it. However, when the soil is bare, and dry, this locked-away carbon is lost- it literally turns to dust and blows away in the wind. In 2024 we will hopefully be able to begin to see changes in the habitats and wildlife on Cowles Drove, and we hope to report on this in 2024.

In conjunction with the new land purchase, our fleet of vehicles changed from one Toyota Hilux and one Renault Megane to two Toyota Hilux instead- this reflected our increasing need for off-road vehicles now that the reserve has drastically increased in size. Having two trucks is also helpful in managing our other reserve- a portion of Cavenham Quarry near Tuddenham village.

Then, along came Spring- and surveys of our nesting Marsh harriers and Bitterns began on 14 March. Each Tuesday morning, our dedicated volunteers joined us as we spread out across the reserve with walkie-talkies and clipboards to record the number and location of Bittern 'booms' and Marsh harriers dropping into, or leaving, specific location in the reedbeds. Around 8-10 of us take part in these surveys and by each recording what we see and hear, we hope to reliably plot the possible nests of Bitterns and Marsh harriers by having many pairs of eyes around at once. Results from the surveys in 2023 indicated 11 Bittern nests (with eight booming males) and 6 Harrier nests. In May and June we moved to recording feeding flights to and from the

nests (which the first surveys help us to pinpoint). For these later surveys, we run public events whereby on three dates, we take one or two booked guests with us for the surveys, who get to use high seats and sit alongside one of our wardens or our Site Manager during the event. Happily, all three events had both spaces taken which helped support our events income for the year. We counted at least 11 fledgling Marsh harriers from at least five successful nests- but they were likely more.

Whilst these co-ordinated surveys were happening, behind the scenes our Common cranes were going about their breeding habits as quietly as they could- they are very discreet when it comes to nesting time. Eggs are laid in mid-March, and are incubated by the parents for an average of 28 days, before hatching and needing 9-10 weeks of supervision by the parents until they are able to fly. At no point during these 13-14 weeks are the eggs or chicks left unattended by at least one parent, under normal circumstances. Each parent takes turns to be 'on duty' whilst the other stretches its wings and goes off to feed and rest. As Spring progressed, we feared the worst as we heard and saw very little from either of our breeding pairs in places we might normally catch a glimpse of them. We had thought that due to predation both pairs had lost both of their eggs, or chicks, at some point and the mood on the reserve was quite despondent.

Nature has its ups and downs and whilst the birds 'just get on with it' us humans struggled with the news. We were especially concerned for Pair B2, who hadn't been spotted by anyone for weeks- we didn't even think they were still on the reserve. However, as close as we could be to a miracle- on 4 June one of our trail cameras picked up an image of a near fully-grown chick waltzing up and down the track with its vigilant parents in tow. We were shocked, but utterly delighted (included is the image which sent our hearts racing). We can now happily say this youngster fledged- and spent the following Summer, Autumn and Winter parading around the local area with its' parents! Whilst we might always hope for more Common crane fledglings from the reserve, last year certainly taught us to be grateful for even one- and we were!

As Spring turned into Summer, we began to see a wider variety of butterflies and dragonflies out on the reserve. In 2023 we recorded 22 different butterflies and 22 different dragonflies. Our more unusual species made a good appearance- including Small red-eyed damselfly and Variable damselfly. Our numbers of Norfolk hawk continued to increase, as they have done year-on-year since it first appeared here around four years ago. The species has been expanding its range from the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads, which are its stronghold, and we hope that in years to come we continue to see more of it. Three of our volunteers commenced their weekly butterfly surveys around our Brandon Fen route in March and carried out over 30 surveys. We are very grateful to them for helping us build a picture of which butterflies use the reserve, roughly how many there are and when they are flying. The charity Butterfly Conservation, who co-ordinate the surveys, will also be very grateful to receive the survey results too, which we send in each Autumn for compilation into national statistics. This data then feeds into government decision making so it is crucial stuff!

At Lakenheath Fen we typically see around 80% of our annual visitors between the months of March and May and 2023 was no exception. Our busiest month was June with 6,621 visitors (a very high monthly figure for us). We recorded slightly lower total visitors in 2023 than average but a relatively chilly, wet Spring definitely impacted our appeal to visitors- warm, sunny, calm days attract most visitors, and we can be very busy during our peak season when the weather is right. Booming bitterns, Hobbies, Kingfishers and of course the Common cranes are often the reason for a visitors' trip, and with a bit of luck all of these can be seen or heard fairly easily in Spring, which is why we are so popular then. We welcomed 18 group visits, mainly from regional birdwatching and U3A groups, with an occasional school or Scouts group too. Whilst we don't have the resources (very regrettably) to support regular educational visits, we do try to accommodate groups that make enquiries with us, such as to borrow equipment like pond-dipping kits for self-led visits.

Our events were well attended, partly thanks to our fairly new booking website- NuTickets- once we'd got to grips with adding, editing and advertising listings, we found it straightforward to use and easy to use in publicity, too. We held over 20 events, the largest of which was our annual Race for Wildlife, which was back on after a hiatus of three years due to COVID. In 2022, we came very close to holding it as large gatherings were permitted once again, albeit quite close to the event date in October. In the end, the difficult decision was made to postpone it another year, into 2023, to allow attendee numbers to build up enough to make it financially viable. It was heartwarming that around 21 of the 42 people booked onto the 2022 event were happy to carry their tickets over to 2023, giving us a good head start with our bookings. We ended up with 91 attendees in 2023 and the day went smoothly with many happy, but tired, faces at the finish line. Two runners decided to sponsor themselves and as a result, raised over £600 in additional funds for us, for which we are very grateful.

Our second-largest event was the Big Wild Sleepout, which was a resounding success. We sold out with 40 tickets, and guests enjoyed a night's camping on the reserve as well as a range of activities including guided walks, pond-dipping, bug-hunting as well as making bug hotels and mini ponds to take home. We are definitely very pleased to be able to return to our pre-COVID level of events and activity and all involved enjoyed a busy year full of contented visitors. Let's hope 2024 brings the same! The weather was much improved throughout 2023 compared to the year before. Although water levels stayed fairly low- a lingering effect of six months without rain in 2022- we received regular Spring and Summer rain which helped the wildlife to recover. We hope that in 2024 we see another fairly normal pattern of weather to support the wildlife on the reserve through the warm months. No-one can tell what the next year will bring for the reserve, it's wildlife or the human team of volunteers and staff, but we hope for another good one like 2023.

by Heidi Jones
Visitor Experience Officer, RSPB Lakenheath Fen.



Taken on 23 July 2023 by a visitor, Paul Skidmore, and shows one parent of one of our crane pairs (B2) with their sole fledgling flying behind.



The Kingfisher photo was taken by Roger Collorick, from Mere Hide, on 29 June 2023.



The Cuckoo was taken by Diane Ashton in May 2023 and the dragonflies (male and female Common darters) were photographed by Mali Halls at New Fen on 8 September 2023.

Hermione Brown

Recorder for the Parish of Lakenheath

During the year of 2023