

LCC Chairman's Report.

In 2022 we saw the LCC gradually come back to normal operations. In particular, the main event of the year was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June, when, with the generous help of St Edmundsbury, West Suffolk and the Parish Council, we were able to stage a major event, just like the old days. The event, centred around a marquee in the paddock of the Willows, went very well and entertained all ages with games, tractor rides and balloon modelling and magic by Bubbly Circus. The ceilidh in the evening with local Suffolk ceilidh dance band, Skylarking, had us all dancing like fools, glad that we had numbed the embarrassment with plenty of good cheer from Bill's Bar. The raffle was a great success, thanks to the hard work of Sarah Vickery and her team and the teas and cakes and the barbeque kept us fed and watered. The event was quite expensive to stage but we managed to make a very small profit which we put towards events in the autumn.

As we had such a big event in the summer, the traditional Bus Stop Bar was deferred to November, when the Lackford Bonfire Party at the beginning of November enjoyed some free beer and no fireworks! This year we decided that fireworks was not for us and instead enjoyed a party bringing back a forgotten tradition of making a 'Guy' for the bonfire. The competition for the best 'Guy' was fierce but the best (and most appropriate 'Guy') was a model created by the Tysh family from Ukraine. We all celebrated with extra enthusiasm at that particular effigy burning.

With Christmas fast approaching and the LCC committee feeling that they were on a roll, it was decided to try out a small Christmas market. With wreath making by Brian and Lorna Green, Sarah Vickery selling honey and Rachi Ober selling her fantastic jewellery, the mini market went very well. Customers were kept warm and fed with Gluhwein and mince pies or teas and coffees. Although we were not overwhelmed with customers, it was good fun and brought in some money for all concerned, including the church and the LCC charity.

With the passing of her majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, we emerged from our mourning in 2022 and looked forward to the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023. The LCC again brought the community together and provide an opportunity for the village to celebrate the event on Saturday 6th May. We staged a slightly smaller event than last year but it cost about the same to put on due to price increases. The marquee and the band forming the majority of the costs. We were again grateful for funding from West Suffolk, St Edmundsbury and the Parish council, without which our coffers would be empty. The numbers were down on last year's event, mainly because it rained persistently upon us. However, the tent was still full of dancers and the merrymaking continued unabated. Although final figures are not yet available, we expect to make a loss on the event which the LCC will absorb.

Now we look forward to the summer and autumn and we will continue with our aims.

Colin Holmes
LCC Chair.