

LCC Chairman's Report.

Things have been gradually coming back to 'normal' in Lackford and we started in earnest with the King's Coronation in May when, with the generous help of Susan Glossop and Becky Hopfensperger, our County Council and West Suffolk Councillors and our own Parish council donations, we were able to stage another major event. The Coronation celebration, centred on a marquee in the paddock of the Willows, went very well despite torrential rain and a floating bar! The ceilidh in the evening was provided by local Suffolk ceilidh dance band, Skylarking accompanied by 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. The event was quite expensive to stage and we made a small loss overall but we felt it was worth it as the community had a very good time.

During October, the LCC asked the village for help in clearing the overgrown hedges between Old Bury Road and the start of the housing opposite Lackford Manor. We had a great turnout and soon made short work of the hedgerows beside the road. The crew generated loads of hedge cuttings, which were kindly transported by Brian Green to a bonfire site in The Willows paddock.

As we had a big bonfire available, it was decided to stage a Lackford Bonfire Party at the beginning of November with a small bar and barbeque year. We asked the community to create a Guy for the fire and processed from the church to the fire site with the winning 'Guy' and giant sparklers. The fire was magnificent and provided a good way to dispose of all the hedge cuttings made in October.

With Christmas approaching the LCC committee decided to organise a small Christmas get together, with wreath making by Brian and Lorna Green and Sarah Vickery selling honey. The LCC arranged mulled wine and mince pies, 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.

At our February AGM, Bill Walton stood down as Vice Chair and has been replaced by Sarah Vickery. Bill has served the LCC for longer than I can remember, serving beer behind the distinctive Bill's Bar when required and helping to keep the communal grass areas tidy throughout the summer months. Although he will continue to volunteer for the LCC his help in organising events, Bill's Bar and his wise words will all be missed. In future, I look forward to working with Sarah whose skills and enthusiasm will be a valuable asset to the community.

Colin Holmes

Chair, Lackford Community Council