

# THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

## St Andrew's School

The last half term of 2011 was full of special, memorable occasions:

We welcomed all our friends from All Saints, Winfarthing, and local friends, plus Canon Hartley & Mr Mash of the Diocesan Board of Education to share in the dedication service for our new Partnership. After shared lunchtime, the children enjoyed activities together. In our own school we celebrated St Andrew's Day by raising the new school flag to welcome visitors to the site.

All pupils from the Partnership made huge nativity figures - one per class - for a Barbara Hepworth style Crib scene for display in Diss Church to mark the bicentenary of the National Society, the parent organisation for church schools. '**A Dancing Christmas Party**' was this year's Christmas production, and involved the whole school in singing, dancing and acting a fun musical with a 'friendship' Christmas message at its heart. Many thanks to all involved, from creating the wonderful backdrop, learning all the words, songs and actions, to dressing the characters so convincingly; special mention to Miss Mitchell and the staff who worked so hard to make the play so successful. (It was great to perform on our very own stage for the first time!) **The Nativity Carol Service** the same week was equally impressive, with excellent readings and prayers, plus enthusiastic singing of carols old and new. FOSTA provided warming mulled wine and juice to accompany mince pies afterwards. The children really deserved the Christmas lunch and party afternoon the day before we broke up; we hope they and the staff are enjoying a well-earned holiday!

A shared **visit to the pantomime** will mark the start of the New Year - and provide inspiration for creative work too. **Community lunches** resume on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. (price £3.50). To book a place, just contact Jennie on 687679, or the school office, by Monday 16th.

*St. Andrew's is now busy showing round prospective parents of children due to start school in September 2012. If you have a child who will be 4 years old before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 then please contact the school on 01379 687253 or by e-mail [head@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk) and come and look around. We would love to hear from you. Louise Norgate, Executive Headteacher for All Saints and St. Andrew's Partnership*

## Fosta

The recent festive treats and treatments night was a great success. £525 was raised which is fantastic, thank you to all that supported this event by coming along. It is hoped that there will be a family fundraiser January 2012 and a barn dance in April 2012.

**Bags 2 schools**, St Andrew's is going to get involved in textile recycling. This organisation will pay 50p per kilo for textiles (£500 per Tonne) there are two collections planned for 10<sup>th</sup> Feb and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012. Please support this by handing in unwanted textiles to the school in a black bag labeled 'bags 2 school' a few days before the collection date. All money raised will go to St Andrew's. Have a post-Christmas clear out and support your local school (textiles only!)

## North Lopham Parish Council

The Parish Council hopes all readers enjoyed a happy festive season.

The next meeting is on **11th January**, in the Methodist Chapel. On the agenda will be consideration of setting up a **community car scheme** as there is in Kenninghall.

## Lophams' Village Hall

**The Lottery** - our opportunity to support the Village Hall and have a bit of fun too - had its biggest draw yet at the November Market, and the Bonanza prize was drawn at the Christmas Market. November winners were: N Holdsworth - first Prize (£190.00), with C Ward and D Blanchard - second prizes (£47.50 each). December winners were: R Miller - first prize (£188.00), with M McCaw and J Farren-Bradley - second prizes (£47.00 each). The Bonanza winner, R Reeder, a long-standing supporter of the Market from the Thetford area, received a magnificent £270.50. New members, and those who need to renew are urged to get in touch: Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter, Eileen (01379 687608), Tim Colyer (01379 687718), Committee members (see website for details), or at the Farmers' Market and Village Hall Events. **Farmers' Markets** are on the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm, the next one is **28<sup>th</sup> January**. For details, call Mike on 01379 687235. **Judo** is on Mondays & Wednesdays - (Details from Howard on 01379 688258). **Dog Training** is held most Tuesday evenings, our trainer Elaine (07845 776110) will provide information. **Art Classes** are most Wednesdays, from 9.30; contact Susie Turner on 688128. **To book the hall for private functions**, please contact 01379 687679. To find out more about the hall generally, visit the website: [www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk)

## Lophams' Ladies

On December 6<sup>th</sup> for our Christmas Lunch we once again enjoyed an excellent meal provided by George and Angie and staff of the Kings Head. Looking ahead to 2012 we extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us on a regular basis or as an occasional visitor. Our first meeting of the year on January 3<sup>rd</sup> will be at *2pm in the Methodist Chapel Meeting Room in North Lopham* and our speaker will be Andy Malcolm of the "Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen". Our meetings in February and March will also be at 2pm but will be at our usual venue in the Village Hall. In February our speaker will be Roland Buggey giving a talk on his visit to Antarctica. For further details phone 01379 687337.

## Garden Club

We meet at Blooms Garden Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm, visitors and new members are always very welcome (telephone 01953 681989 for further details).

On 7<sup>th</sup> December we enjoyed our Christmas Dinner provided by the staff at Blooms. We were served a delicious meal and then entertained by our speaker, Mr Mike Blanchet, who shared with us some of his experiences from the world of motor racing. His talk was amusing and interesting and concluded a festive evening thoroughly enjoyed by all.

There will be no meeting in January, but we will resume on 1<sup>st</sup> February when we welcome Mr Rodney Tibbs who will speak on "Restoring a Cottage Garden".

## North Lopham Kings Head - Carols & Auction event

was as well supported as ever, with new faces joining the throng. We are very grateful to George & Angie for hosting this event once again. The huge array of lots were auctioned by Richard, with help from John and Gareth, (plus Jack, aged 5!), ably assisted by 'runners' Claire & Georgia who kept track of all the buyers. Many, many thanks to all who donated goods for sale, or who came along to buy them. Takings on the day were boosted by the proceeds from a Cake Raffle, and a Men's decorated cake bake competition, plus the sale of a bicycle donated by Ann Coffey. To date the grand total is £1,867, which will be shared between Action for Children and AMIS, the music charity based at Church Farm House, plus cheques for local groups.

## Samaritan's Purse

The boxes went off in good time, to **Belarus**, the area worst affected by the Chernobyl disaster 25 years ago, and the area from which children come to our part of Norfolk for a month each summer. It is so good to help other children who still suffer from nuclear contamination.

## South Lopham Parish Council

Vacancy for Clerk

The Council is pleased to report that Stephen Reynolds (who already runs the website) has agreed to assume the Clerk's duties on a temporary basis until a permanent replacement is found. Accordingly, applications for the post continue to be invited. Please contact the Chairman, Robert McCaw, on 01379 687776 or [robmad@btinternet.com](mailto:robmad@btinternet.com).

## St Andrew's Preschool

Lopham Preschool have had a very busy end to the term making lots of Christmas decorations and crafts. On the last day of term they cooked a fantastic Christmas lunch, which was enjoyed by all their families. They also had a very important visitor on the last day of term who took time out of his busy schedule this time of year to bring all the children a special present.

There are still a few places available at preschool. We welcome children from their second birthday (nappies also welcome), and we are open Monday 8.45am to 11.45am and 8.45am to 3.15pm on a Wednesday and Thursday. Please either call our preschool manager Tonya on 07962219523 or just come and visit us when we are open if you would like to secure a place for your child.

Thanks to everyone who supported our recent craft fair. £300 was raised for Preschool at the fair.

## North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Notices for January 2012

No Services will be held in January, February and March.

Happy New Year to Everyone.

## St Nicholas' Church

**The Festival of Nativity Crib scenes** exceeded all hopes and expectations! People from all over Norfolk, and as far away as Ipswich and Cambridge came to look at 63 widely different Nativity scenes, or the extra displays that filled the church. It was wonderful to hear the comments, as so many folk said that the festival really showed what Christmas is all about and said how very welcomed they felt. To everyone who helped in any way, by loaning precious artifacts, making beautiful cards or crafts to sell, or by stewarding each day. Now that all the cribs have been safely returned, we look forward to the next time - perhaps in 2013. **The Toy Service**, marking St Nicholas' special day, was a lovely occasion once again. The huge pile of gifts, boosted by a similar number from Roydon Church were all taken to Prospect House in Thetford, where the team were overjoyed to know that all the families they support will now be sure of gifts at Christmas, and say "Thank you all!"

**Advent Carols:** A big congregations gathered for a feast of beautiful music and readings to help set the Christmas scene. It was lovely to have over a dozen people with a specific role in the service.

**Family Carols:** The Nativity Story was retold by Danny, Tom, William, Mary, Charlie and Kirsty, who read the version in the Storyteller's bible to great effect., interspersed with carols well known and more modern for all to enjoy.

Many thanks to all those who have decorated the church so beautifully for the season - it looks wonderful! All the other special services will be reported next time.

**So to 2012 - Happy New Year everyone!**

On New Year's Day, there will be a Communion Service for all our five parishes at 10am.

On 8<sup>th</sup>, we have a very special day:-

The **Bishop of Thetford** will come to a Group Holy Communion at 10am, which will be followed by a Bring & Share lunch at St Andrew's School, when he hopes to meet people from all five parishes. Do come and join us!

That evening, we have our last big celebration service for the season - Epiphany Carols at 6.30, when we will sing wonderful music, including the 'Wise Men' carols.

At the end of the month, also the final seasonal special is Candlemas Sunday on 29<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate with a Christingle service for all ages, at 4pm. As ever, all are welcome to join us once again!  
Happy 2012!

## St Andrew's Church

The St. Andrew's Day Coffee Morning in the Church on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, with Tombola, Cake Stall, Books etc and Refreshments was a very friendly and successful morning. The proceeds came to £300. Many thanks to all who supported it.

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December the St. Andrew's Church welcomed St. Andrew's School for their Carol Service, the pupils were brilliant and a credit to the School. After the Service Mulled Wine, Soft Drinks and Mince Pies were served by the parents. A retiring collection was taken in aid of The Quidenham Hospice.

The Church has been seasonally decorated for Christmas and well worth a visit.

At the end of another year the Church Wardens and PCC would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who have helped in any way (Flower arrangers, Cleaners, Grass Cutters, Strimmers and Hedge cutters) a band for too numerous to name but much appreciated. We wish everyone a Happy New Year.

## The Lophams' Society Christmas Drop-In

The Society held its customary Christmas Drop-in at the Village Hall on the evening of Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> December. A good time was had by all! Music was provided by Rona on the accordion supported by Julie on tambourine followed by Captain Kirk's Mandolin (a group from Kenninghall). There was carol singing, a visit from Father Christmas and plentiful food and mulled wine. Thank you to all members of the committee, and their supporters, for decorating the hall and providing the mulled wine and a huge spread and variety of food.

## Carolling for Biblelands

An intrepid band of hardy singers braved soaking fine rain to sing carols and raise funds for orphaned & handicapped children in the lands round Palestine. We are very grateful to all of them, and to the generous folk who helped raise almost £100 for the fund.

## Suffolk Wildlife Trust Valley Fens Local Group South Lopham

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012, Talk by Robert Maidstone: 'Squash it or Not!' Insects in your garden**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012 Talk by Pip Wright " The Diary of a West Suffolk Woodman 1827-1842"**

at Redgrave and Lopham Fen Visitor Centre. £2 entry includes tea/coffee and biscuits  
Contact no:01379 608313

## Services for January

North Lopham South Lopham

	1 <sup>st</sup> January	8 <sup>th</sup> January	15 <sup>th</sup> January	22 <sup>nd</sup> January	29 <sup>th</sup> January
10am Group HC	-	-	-	-	-
10am Group HC	-	-	-	-	-
6.30pm Adv C	-	-	-	-	-
11am Fam S	9.30am HC	-	-	-	-
11am Fam HC	6.30pm ES	-	-	-	-
4pm Christingle	-	-	-	-	-

## Lopham Links

There is disappointment within the group as the application for lottery grant was not successful. The group is continuing to look at alternative funding avenues and hope that they can raise money to have a play area at the village hall within the next year.

Anyone with any ideas please contact lophamlinks@gmail.com or Elaine Aldous on 01379 688342

**Secretary needed.** We are a parent-led community group. Interested in helping your community? Please contact as above.

## Lophams' Ramblers

This year the group met as usual for our December walk at Knettishall Heath for our annual Christmas walk followed by a pub lunch. Unlike last year the weather was perfect, bright sunshine and dry. We all enjoyed a lovely walk and a very convivial lunch at the Angel in Larling.

Next year's programme has been agreed, including our summer away day at the coast. Since September 2003 Lophams' Ramblers have continued to meet once a month for a walk on the first Friday of each month, except January. We continue to enjoy the company of friends and some gentle exercise. Although we have quite a large group, if you would like to join us, please contact Jackie Brown on 01379 687260 for further information.

Contributions for next issue by;

**18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

Please email to lophamsnews@gmail.com