

# THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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## St Andrew's School

St. Andrew's pupils have been enjoying a busy half term.

The term began with year 3 and 4 pupils taking part in the Southern Area Cross Country event at Diss Rugby Club. Following this the girls played a local team at netball and proudly won 6-5!

St. David's Day and St. Patrick's Day were successfully remembered with the children wearing non-uniform and coming to school in the colours of the flags. They also completed a range of activities, which focused on these particular Saints.

Children enjoyed Comic Relief and came to school with an array of hairstyles.

St. Andrew's now looks forward to the month ahead. Planned events include a Science week, more Netball and Football matches and a Community Speed Watch.

If you would like to join us for Community Lunch, £3.50 per person, then please contact the school on 01379 697253. The forthcoming dates are Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July. We look forward to meeting you!

## St Andrew's Pre School

As the days get brighter, the children go outside whenever possible, to play in the outdoor area, with its wonderful decorated wall as a backdrop for their activities. The time indoors is busy too, with lots of crafts to try and things to make. Anyone who would like to join us for a session to see what we get up to would be very welcome. You might then feel the urge to get more involved - we are greatly in need of volunteers to help with all the background jobs, e.g. advertising, fund-raising, insurance.....

Numbers for the next term are looking good, but there are still a few places available. We welcome children from their second birthday, (nappies welcome) and are open Mondays 08.45 - 11.45 and Wednesdays/Thursdays 08.45 - 15.15.

If you think you can help out or would like to enquire about your child attending, please feel free to contact Tonya or Laura on 07962 219523 or pop in and see us when we are open.

No one wants the pre-school to close, please help us to keep it going!

## South Lopham Parish Council

At a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March the Parish Council approved the appointment of John Crisp as a co-opted member and welcomed him to the Council. The annual Village Meeting (North and South Lopham) will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall, 7.30 pm. All village residents are invited to attend and local interest groups are encouraged to make brief presentations. It was reported that the Emergency Services often find it very helpful to be given a Grid Reference for a property when attending a call-out. Householders are therefore urged to make a note of their own individual reference to quote in the event of an emergency. The website [www.gridreferencefinder.com](http://www.gridreferencefinder.com) will provide this information. Please remember that village news items and details of forthcoming events can be posted on the village website. The Parish Council does not, at present, have an elected Chairperson. Members of the council are currently filling this role on a temporary rotational basis. The next meeting will be the AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

## Lophams' Ladies

In March Pip Wright was our speaker and his illustrated talk was entitled "East Anglia by Bus Pass". Whether a bus pass holder or not, there is a wealth of places to discover, and with a little planning (via [www.traveline](http://www.traveline) or armed with a timetable), many day's outings can be made throughout Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and further afield.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> Janet Peachey will talk about preserves. We will also have our short AGM at this meeting.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> David Hannant will talk on "the Friends of Chenobyl Children" and on June 4<sup>th</sup> we have an afternoon visit to Jason and Katharine Salisbury's Farm and Shop (home of Suffolk Cheese).

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month; 7.15pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall. New members and guests always welcome. Details Tel 01379 687337.

## Garden Club

We held our AGM at our meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March and this was followed by a fascinating presentation entitled "Gleanings from Gertrude Jekyll" by Shelagh Ashe. Shelagh showed how, despite very poor eyesight, Gertrude Jekyll used colour, shape and form of plants to create a picture and still influences how we use plants in our gardens today.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> Ric Staines will give a talk on "Vegetable Growing" and looking further forward, on May 1<sup>st</sup> we shall welcome Ben Potterton who will give a presentation entitled "Backyard Chickens".

Our meetings take place in the restaurant area of Blooms Garden Centre on the first Wednesday of each month starting at 7.30pm and visitors and new members are always very welcome. Telephone 01379 687833 for further information.

## Lophams' Village Hall

February was the Farmers' Market birthday month, so everyone - vendor and customers alike - was given a free entry ticket for an extra draw for a bottle of champagne! The well-deserved winner was one of our most regular visitors from Diss. Thanks to Howard F-B; there was also a cake to enjoy with the coffee or tea.

**The Lottery** is a fun way to support the hall development fund, with three chances each month of winning a prize and one more in the Bonanza draw in December. M Birchall won February's 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £190.00; second prizes of £47.50 each went to D Hoyte and J Bush. Anyone who needs to renew, or who wishes to join is invited to make contact: copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter, Eileen (01379 687608), from Village Hall Treasurer, Tim Colyer (01379 687718), from other Village Hall Committee members (see website for details), or at the Farmers' Market and at Village Hall Events.

**Farmers' Markets** are on the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm. The April Market is on 27<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Lopham Art Group:** meets on Wednesday mornings from 9.30am. The cost is £20 each per month, and includes refreshments and a visit from an 'expert' once each month. Contact 01379 687718 for more details.

**Yoga with P:** is a popular addition to the weekly programme. Sessions are on Thursdays, between 6pm and 8pm. Booking is essential, tel 01379 890955 or 07932 010720 or email [pieternella.jarvie@gmail.com](mailto:pieternella.jarvie@gmail.com).

To book the hall for private functions, please contact 01379 687679. To find out more about the hall generally, visit the website at [www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk).

The annual **Lophams' Village Open Meeting** and AGM of the Lophams' Society will be held at the Lophams' Village Hall on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2013**. Doors open **7pm for a 7:30pm** start. Reports will be given by the Parish Councils, local groups and the Lophams' Society. All residents of North and South Lopham are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served and it is an ideal opportunity for you to find out what is going on in the villages and meet other residents. Representatives of local groups who would like to speak at the meeting are asked to contact the South Lopham Parish Clerk, Caroline Phillips on 01379 687950 or email: [clerk@southlopham.co.uk](mailto:clerk@southlopham.co.uk).

### Lophams' Bingo

As April 1<sup>st</sup> is Easter Monday, we will meet again on **8<sup>th</sup> April** - still in the holidays, so younger folk will be especially welcome to join the fun at 2pm!

### St Nicholas' Church

**A Lent Course** each Wednesday in homes in the village led by members of the Diss Ministry Team has given participants some very interesting food for thought, and an opportunity to get to know the visitors very much better. **The Lent Lunches** on Tuesdays have been much enjoyed by all who took part. Grateful thanks go to all the hosts who made everyone so welcome, and enabled us to raise about £300 for the Diocesan Lent appeal to help two projects in Uganda. **Mothering Sunday** was an amazing day!! Our senior PCC member, Joan Muncila, was 90 years young on 9<sup>th</sup>, so her family brought her to the Family Service and a wonderful buffet lunch afterwards! Certainly the best kept secret ever in that family. There were almost 80 of us. **Joan** asks us to say a huge thank you to everyone for making her day so special - she is still getting over it all. **Palm Sunday** will be reported next time. Please remember the **Good Friday** Last Hour at the Cross between 2pm and 3pm, always a very special 60 minutes, after which decorating for Easter will begin.... **Easter Day 31<sup>st</sup> March**. There will be an all age Easter Communion Service at 11am, led by the Revd Chris Davidson, and followed by an Easter Egg hunt round the building. We hope to see YOU! The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** for The Lophams', Bressingham and Fersfield is on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, in St Andrew's School Hall, at 7pm. All are welcome to come along and hear about the work of the church during the last year; those on the new church Electoral Roll which will have been compiled by then can vote for the members of the Church Council for the next twelve months. (Anyone not on

### St Andrew's Church

The Vestry meeting took place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, and was chaired by Revd. Canon Tony Billett. Peter Reeder and David Huggins were re elected as Church Wardens for the coming year, and the PCC committee would like to thank them for their work over the past year and for their continued commitment to St. Andrew's Church, we would also like to welcome Jill Brundell as a new Church Warden.

Forthcoming events - On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May there will be a **Coffee Morning** in the Church from 10.00am to 12noon, there will be a Cake Stall, Tombola, Bring and Buy and a Raffle.

### The Lophams' Society Spring Quiz

Despite it being a cold wet evening The Lophams' Society's optimistically named spring quiz held on the 15<sup>th</sup> March was well attended and it was heartening to see so many familiar faces amongst the teams. Over 60 people took part and at the end of eight rounds of sometimes challenging questions, only half a point separated the two top teams resulting in a win and six bottles of wine for table eleven and a consoling Easter egg for each member of table two. During the interval a warming chili supper was provided by Paddy Miller, who was ably assisted by Jan Tate in the kitchen and Bill Bedford in the bar. The questions were provided by Simon Dilloway who, as usual, took the part of question master and was, on this occasion, assisted by Steve Reynolds as scorer. As the quiz coincided with Red Nose Day, it was announced by the chairman, Granville Horan, that the society would make a donation to the charity from part of the proceeds of the raffle, all other profits from this evenings quiz would, as usual, go towards funding the free Christmas drop-in event in December.

### Redgrave and Lopham Fen

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**, 2pm – 4pm  
**Springtime magic family afternoon**  
Experience the magic of spring at the Fen with outdoor activities, games and crafts. £2.50 per person, children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential 01379 688333

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April**, 10.30am – 1pm

#### Guided fen walk

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill. £3. Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April**, 10.30am – 12.30pm

#### Wildlife Watch Group

A club for 6 – 12yr olds, £1. Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April**, 10am – 4pm

#### Plant Sale

Over 20 award-winning and specialist nurseries. Perennials, trees, shrubs, ferns, fruit bushes, herbs, seeds and lots more! Plus second hand tools, traditional wooden rakes, mulch, donated plants and homemade fudge. Adults £1.50, children free. Hot and cold refreshments available. Dogs on leads welcome. 01379 688333

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April**, 10am – 4pm

#### Drawing and painting trees

Join Rosemary Humphries, professional artist, and learn how to draw and paint trees close up and in landscape. £25/£21.50 concessions. Booking essential 01473 890089

### The Village Games Roadshow

Returns to Lopham on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May from 2pm to 5pm. Do put the date in you diary now - there will be lots of games to try!

### North Lopham Parish Council

All councillors and 9 members of the public attended. **Affordable housing and play area** nothing new to report. **Road Safety** a joint meeting with highways and police on 6<sup>th</sup> March was felt to have been helpful. Suggestions included flashing 20mph signs at school times, possible narrowing of the road to produce a single lane priority system, addressing 'overtaking points,' replacing the missing 30mph signs, cutting back overgrown hedges and dropping kerbs for disabled access. The school will be involved in a road safety day when the children will have the use of a radar speed detector and will write to those drivers whom they 'trap'. **Finance** a breakdown of recent income/expenditure was presented including a refund of £250 from the, now wound up, Lophams' Links. **Planning** an update on the status of current applications was given. There followed an intense discussion involving members of the public and the applicant at 14a The Green, which centred on development outside the settlement boundary. The discussion broadened to include another application which has been approved by Breckland and which is entirely outside the settlement boundary. A general dissatisfaction with the Breckland planning department over a long period of time was expressed coupled with disappointment that no one from Breckland would attend the meeting. **Roads and Footpaths** 25 potholes and the damaged marker posts at Church Corner have been reported for repair. The partial blockage of the Letchmere drain needs to be investigated. Owners of nuisance hedges will be contacted. **Correspondence** Councillor Bird was complimented for organising the 'village clean' by CPRE. A spring clean was suggested. An objection to the adoption of the tracks to the west of The Street has been received. This now has to go to a local enquiry by a government inspector. Repeated efforts to have the grit bins refilled have so far failed. **Vacancy** Gratitude to Val Garnham for her 26 years of service on the PC was expressed, a vacancy now exists. Councillor Potter expressed a desire to step down as chairman. Anyone who would like to serve as a councillor should contact the Parish Clerk, Mike Cox, for more information. **Open meeting** the annual joint opening meeting is on **12<sup>th</sup> April 7.00pm for 7.30** at the Village Hall. **Next Agenda** Affordable housing and play area; on-going road safety matters.

### Services for April

North Lopham	South Lopham
	<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>
9.30am HC	-
11am Fam S	-
	<b>14<sup>th</sup> April</b>
11am Fam S	-
6.30pm ES	-
	<b>21<sup>st</sup> April</b>
11am Fam S	9.30am HC
	<b>28<sup>th</sup> April</b>
11am Fam S	6.30am ES

Contributions for next issue by;

**18<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

Please email to [lophamsnews@gmail.com](mailto:lophamsnews@gmail.com)