

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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St Andrew's School

St. Andrew's pupils and staff have enjoyed another busy month of learning. Children have continued to further their knowledge about Transport and Travel. Children in Discovery Class have enjoyed role-play in a bus and boat, Victory class have planned, and are looking forward to, an educational visit to Norwich and Endeavour to London with British Rail.

Also during the last month, year 6 pupils have excelled themselves in a cluster Science quiz, taking first place. The whole school has achieved the Bronze Quality Kite Mark for RE and Key Stage 2 pupils have enjoyed a visit to the West End to see the musical Wicked. Mrs Norgate has also contributed to a short video for the DFE outlining how the PE and sports grant has enhanced education for the pupils.

St. Andrew's pupils and staff have also furthered their charitable work by organising a very successful Comic Relief day.

Pupils now look forward to the summer term where their overall theme for learning is water.

If you would like further information about St. Andrew's Primary, or wish to make an appointment to visit, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 01379 687253 or by e-mail head@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk. We would love to hear from you!

St Andrew's Pre School

The children have really enjoyed the recent 'Exploring Space' theme in their "man made" rocket, making moon rock cakes and star gazing with telescopes and hot chocolate in the first half of the term! Now they're busy with seasonal extras having made treats for Mothers Day and thinking ahead to Easter. We will be having an Easter Bonnet parade on 26th March with the children wearing their creations and an Easter Egg hunt. We are holding an Easter raffle, to be drawn the same day at 3pm.

Any new residents with children approaching their 2nd birthday, or a bit older, are warmly invited to get in touch to arrange a visit, with a view to joining us. We offer your child a safe way to make friends with those they may then grow up alongside and can also help them to get to know the "big" school too. Do note that all 3 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free sessions each week. Following our Good Ofsted rating we can now offer free funded places to eligible 2 year olds as well!

As always, just drop in, view the setting and meet our team. Please note our new contact number is 07854 091257.

P.S. We are running a mobile recycling initiative, so if you have an old mobile languishing in a drawer, let us take it off your hands and turn it into much needed pennies and pounds for the Pre School.

Lophams' Village Hall

Advance notice: **BRIMBO** - British Motor Bike Owners, plan a **Classic Bike Meet & Auto Jumble** on Sunday 10th May from 10am to 4pm at the Village Hall. Pitches are £10, or £8 if pre booked and admission is just £2. Parking is free. Refreshments are available. There will be a trophy for the Best Classic Motorbike! Watch for posters with more details during April.

Lophams' Farmer's Market celebrated its 14th birthday in February! Debbie Cox of North Lopham won a free draw for a bottle of champagne.

The Lottery. As mentioned recently, the principal purpose is to maintain the fabric of the hall as an attractive venue for the use and benefit of local people and that the proceeds from the Village Hall Lottery are designated entirely for this. In February, we reached the elusive 100 members target, so the first prize was £200! Please get in touch if you would like to join as soon as a vacancy occurs. Telephone 01379 687718 for more information, or contact Eileen (01379 687608) or any committee member. There are three chances each month of winning a prize, plus a Bonanza draw in December for those who have been "in" for at least three months. The Lottery winners for February were: 1st prize £200 K & S Southwood and 2nd prizes of £50 each T Davies and B Inglis.

Farmers' Markets are usually the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm, so the next are on 28th March and 25th April. (Details from 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 Jennifer on 01379 687282 for more details.

Yoga with P: we hope will return soon - Watch this space!

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.

Lophams' Ladies

Meeting in the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month; 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

In March, Julian Saunders talked about all things "chocolate"; from its history, where in the world it is grown and harvested to its commercial manufacture and the make-up of the various qualities produced with very much an emphasis on Fairtrade chocolate. Such a talk could not have finished if there weren't a few tastings to tempt us even if it was Lent!

Looking ahead to our next meeting; April 7th will be our AGM, followed by a short play-reading by some of the members. Further ahead on May 5th we have a visit to **Morrisons** and on June 2nd there will be a talk by **Carol Kearns** who is a freelance **illustrator**.

Also in June we have our annual **Jumble and Bric-a-Brac sale** on Saturday **June 13th**.

We always welcome visitors or new members; phone 01379 687337 for further details.

Garden Club

On 5th March we held our A.G.M., which was followed by an amusing and informative presentation by Alan Briggs entitled "**From Suburbs to Smallholding**". Alan showed us how he and his wife, Kate, went from gardening in the suburbs of London to running their own smallholding, complete with animals, in South Lopham with all their trials, tribulations as well as triumphs along the way.

Our next meeting will be on 2nd April when John Foster will give a talk on "**Early Perennials**". Looking further forward, we shall visit **Blacksmiths Nursery** in Dickleburgh on 7th May.

We meet at **Lophams' Village Hall** on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always very welcome. Please telephone 01379 687833 for any further information.

The Lophams' Society

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Lophams' Society will take place on **Friday 10th April** 2015 at the Lophams' Village Hall. The Lophams' **Village Open Meeting**, which will include reports from both North and South Lopham Parish Councils and representatives from the numerous interest groups active within the Lophams', will follow this. Doors open 7pm and all residents are welcome to attend. Wine and nibbles will be provided courtesy of The Lophams' Society.

FoSTA Yard Sales

The **Annual FoSTA Yard Sales** will take place on **Sunday 28th June** this year. So if you live in North Lopham, please consider taking part. There will be arrangements for those who don't live in the village too. All we ask is a donation of 10% to the Friends of St Andrew's School. More information next month.

Holy Bingo

In the Village Hall, usually on the first Monday each month at 2pm, when new faces are always welcome to come and share in fun sessions, with plenty of time for a chat. As there are five Mondays in March and 6th April is Easter Monday, the "April" meeting will be on 30th March. (Back to normal for May). Please contact 01379 687679 if you need help with transport.

St Nicholas' Church.

Lent Lunches continue until Tuesday 31st March at 12 noon, in homes around the village. All the funds raised by these informal bread, cheese and pickle events will go to the diocesan Lent Appeal to support the suffering church in the Holy Land. Please come along and join in. If transport is a problem, just phone 01379 687679 to arrange a lift.

Mothering Sunday on 15th March was marked with a Special 11am Service in Celebration of Families, led by the Home Team. It was lovely to have a dog joining with families. Daffodil posies were given to all the ladies present and were sent to those who couldn't join us.

Palm Sunday is on 29th March, a fifth Sunday, so we are all invited to the 10.30am Communion Service at Diss. Other Holy Week services are also in Diss.

The **Good Friday** Last Hour at the Cross will be observed at 2pm in St Nicholas Church and will be led by Richard Hewitt, from Fersfield. Following this service, the church will be open for Easter decorating. Any gifts of flowers & foliage, or help with the arranging will be warmly welcomed, so that the church looks its best for the **Easter Day Communion** service, for all ages at 11am, which will be led by Bishop David Gillett. We do hope lots of people will come along; the younger ones can share in an Easter Egg hunt afterwards! Spot the giant egg; find lots of little ones!

Annual Meetings: The joint Annual Meeting for the "country" parishes is on Wednesday 22nd April, in St Andrew's School at 7pm. This meeting is open to all who are interested in our churches and their activities, and will include the election of the separate PCCs for the next twelve months. Only those on the individual church Electoral Rolls are eligible to vote for the PCCs.

Social Scene: There will be a **Spring Starters and Sweets** evening at the Village Hall on Saturday 25th April, starting at 7.30pm. Do come along and join us for this popular event - lots of Starters to sample and a delicious array of Sweets too, with items for those on special diets!! Tickets are available from PCC members, or by phoning 01379 687679.

North Lopham Parish Council

Meeting 11th March: 5 councillors, Parish Clerk, 4 members of the public attended. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Councillor Makovsky-Heaton will attend an information meeting at Dereham on 27th March. Decided to wait until after May 7th election before deciding whether to proceed. Villagers would have to be involved to share workload. **Would anyone who would like to help with preparing a village plan please contact the Parish Council.**

Community Hub: It was confirmed that, contrary to recent press coverage, the playing field is not 'lost', Fields in Trust have been in possession of fully updated contact details for some months. Access to the playing field is still an issue. A footpath will not be granted by the landowner in isolation, only as part of a future, larger planning application some years hence. Examples of possible uses for the field were given. A meeting with the Village Hall Committee on 23rd January and subsequent exchanges of letters were discussed at length. It transpired that the VHC is currently investigating repositioning the gates to improve parking without compromising the security of the field. The PC offered to install a dog excrement bin and notices when the alterations are complete. **Transparency code:** New and more complex rules regulating the actions of PCs were noted. **Parish Council Website:** The new website is not completed yet but material can now be posted on it. **20mph signs:** £250 partnership funding has been applied for, the other £250 falls to the PC. **7th May Election:** All existing councillors must stand down. **All prospective councillors must submit their nomination papers, in person, by 9th April.** Full details of the procedure are available from the Parish Clerk. If more than 7 nominations are received, an election will be held. **Telephone Box/defibrillator:** Further funding is required to buy and install a defibrillator in the old telephone box. Grants are available to top up George and Angie Estcourt's donation, a little more still needed. **Resignation:** Councillor Bird has resigned; gratitude for her service and that of her husband, Eric, was expressed. **Village Clean:** 16th May; volunteers to help will be welcome. Notices will be posted. **Meeting frequency:** will remain bimonthly for now. **Speeding:** A reminder letter to DPD will be sent. **Primrose Lane:** has been cleared, N Lopham's cost share is £300. **Kings Head Lane:** installation of dog excrement bin (Cost £150 + VAT) deferred to next financial year. **Burial Ground hedge:** needs cutting, possible work party in October. **A traffic survey** before the Kenninghall bio-digester opens, was requested by one attendee. One has already been done another is planned. **Glass recycling: please remember to put your glass bottles in the bin at the King's Head, proceeds keep the precept down!**

North Lopham Methodist Church

Methodist friends now hold an informal service and coffee morning in Church on the fourth Wednesday each month and would welcome anyone from the village to join them at 10.30am.

The March service will be on 25th; April's will be on 22nd.

St Andrew's Church

The Friends of South Lopham Church are holding a **Family Games Evening and Supper on Friday 8th May** at Lophams Village Hall, 7.00pm. There will be a Beetle Drive, followed by supper and a family quiz.

Tickets will be £7.00 per person, £13.00 per couple and £20.00 for a family.

Any enquiries please ring Evelyn Logsdail on 01379 687281.

South Lopham Parish Council

Meeting 5th March at Valley Farm. Attendance; six councillors, one apology and the Parish Clerk. The Chairman opened the meeting by reading a letter from the North Lopham PC Chairman concerning improved access to the Lophams playing field and the establishment of a community hub for use by both villages. The matter was discussed and it was agreed to support the idea in principle. The Clerk gave a **financial report** and a statement of current balances; the meeting approved routine expenses and the parish share (with North Lopham) of trimming back overgrown sections of Primrose Lane. **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Chairman reported that he had attended the January meeting of North Lopham Council. A speaker had outlined the different steps to be taken leading to the Neighbourhood plan forming part of the development plan for the area. It was felt that South Lopham did not have the resources to do this. An alternative would be considered such as joining with neighbouring parishes or a parish plan. **Parish Council Election.** The Clerk reminded the meeting that completed signed electoral forms must be with her as soon as possible in March. **Transparency Code** for smaller authorities. The Clerk briefly outlined the effect so far as Council meetings are concerned. Compliance required by end of March. **Planning.** The Council was critical of the way Breckland Council had allowed the construction of the two new buildings and were unanimously against the retrospective application for permission to enlarge. Mrs Martin explained the application to discharge a planning condition at Noddle Farm. **Highways.** Flashing sign on A1066 now working. Still no response from N.C.C. concerning moving village road signs at each end of the village on A1066. Some potholes repaired on Blo Norton road, fresh ones developed on Church Road notified. Bridge parapet Low Common repaired. **Works.** Thanks to Tim Frizell for work carried out on Primrose Lane. **Litter pick** to be organised soon, possibly a Sunday morning. **Next meeting and A.G.M. 14th May 7.30pm** at Valley Farm.

Redgrave and Lopham Fen

'Garden birds' - a talk by Clare Simm of the BTO' followed by the AGM Tuesday 28 April, 7.30pm Organised by the SWT Valley Fens Wildlife Group £2 per person (includes refreshments) All welcome, no need to book

Messing about by the water family afternoon Tuesday 26 May, 2pm- 4pm, £2.50 per person Watery activities, games and crafts Children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential 01379 688333

Botanical Illustration Saturday 30 May, 10am - 3pm Join professional botanical artist, Christine Grey-Wilson, on this relaxing and supportive workshop looking at a range of illustration techniques. £25/£21.50 Booking essential 01473 890089

Services for April

North Lopham	South Lopham
	5th April
11am Easter HC	9.30am Easter HC
	12th April
11am Fam S	-
	19th April
11am Fam S	9.30am HC
	26th April
11am Fam S	9.30am MS

Contributions for next issue by;

18th APRIL

Please email to
lophamsnews@gmail.com