

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No405

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FEBRUARY 2016

St Andrew's School

The end of last term was very busy at Saint Andrew's; children, staff and parents enjoyed the fund raising activities organised by FOSTA and the school. We had a visit from Father Christmas and two of his reindeer as well as two donkeys who provided rides for the children. The Christmas production 'Christmas Around the World' was a great success with reception children providing a wonderful nativity tableau and children from each class sharing traditions from around the globe. We enjoyed celebrating Jesus' birth, meeting Reverend Sheppard and seeing Reverend Evans at the end of term service at Saint Andrew's Church Blo Norton.

It has been great to welcome the children back with a special treat going to Norwich Theatre Royal to see the pantomime 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'. All of the children enjoyed it and some classes have produced excellent work about the story.

This term we will all be starting the topic 'Passport Around the world'. In Discovery class a travel agent shop and hot air balloon has arrived to help them plan their own imaginary holidays and adventures. Victory class will be investigating natural disasters around the world and Endeavour class will study the European Union and the countries within it. During the topic will taste food from around the world and explore festivals and traditions.

St Andrew's Pre School

Greetings from the staff at pre school. Our new term is well under way and we are exploring animals and where they live. We have a jungle area with vines and jungle animals and a lookout tower, a farm area complete with straw bales, a woodland area with logs to sit on and an ocean with a real inflatable boat to use.

We will also celebrate Chinese New Year on 8th February when we will have a Chinese takeaway and the children will be able to serve each other and also try chopsticks. We are also having a visit from Diss Children's Centre in February who will be telling the story of Cuddly Duddly and doing some craft activities with the children and parents.

We open Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursday during school term time 8.45 – 3.15 and currently have spaces at each session. We take children from 2 years to school age. For further information please contact Jan Feaver on 07854 091257

Lophams' Village Hall

Farmer's Markets are now back on the fourth Saturday each month, so the next, our Birthday event, is on 27th February from 9am till 12.30pm (Details from Mike on 01379 687235)

The Lottery. The December draw at the wonderful Christmas Market on Sunday 20th had the usual 3 prizes, plus the Bonanza draw of £298.50 for those who had been 'in' for at least three months. David Beales was the lucky winner of the Bonanza. Winners of the monthly draw were: first prize of £200 S.Savereux, and second prizes of £50 each, K.Wood and S.Dilloway. In addition to the Lottery draw, the monthly raffle with one superb prize, including an item from every stall was won by Sarah Frizzell.

Judo is on Mondays & Wednesdays - (Details from Howard on 01379 688258)

Dog Training Our new trainer, Robert Jessup, held his 'meet and greet' on a really awful January evening – it can only get better! Training sessions will be most Thursdays but not usually in the first week of the month. Rob's telephone number is 01379 873144 if you need more 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.

To **book the hall** for private functions, please contact 01379 687679 or visit the website

Lophams' Ladies

Meeting on the first Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall; 7.15pm for 7.30pm (Dec, Jan Feb - 1.45pm for 2pm)

In January, Malcolm Crowe brought along his handcrafted games: The traditional variations of the game of Solitaire were enjoyed by all and maybe helped get our brains into gear to start the new year off!!

On February 2nd Roy Tricker will be our speaker; the "Eccentric EA Clergyman". This meeting will again be an afternoon meeting and there will be a Bring and Buy table. In March we plan a meal out - details will be given at the February meeting.

Visitors and new members always welcome - phone 01379 687337 for details.

Garden Club

We do not have a meeting in January, so are very much looking forward to our first meeting of the New Year. This will be on Thursday 4th February when David Bolton, in a change to our programme, will give a presentation entitled "Butterflies and Moths".

At our meeting on 3rd March we will hold a short Annual General Meeting followed by "Gardeners Question Time". We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in Lophams' Village Hall and visitors and new members are always very welcome. Telephone 01379 687833 for details.

North Lopham Parish Council

January 13th Present: All council members including new member W Nunn; Parish Clerk; L Farren-Bradley in advisory capacity; BDCouncillor M Chapman-Allen, and three parishioners.

Broadband: there is to be a new communications cabinet installed at the water tower to provide fibre optic connectivity to North Lopham. Time scale, 6-12 months. Subsidised satellite connection may be available to properties where fibre optic is not practicable.

Defibrillator: is ready for use. 'Phone 999 to get the unlock code, there is no telephone in the telephone box. The PC will perform the regular checks and cleaning and has signed up to 'Managed Solutions' scheme for insurance etc. Funding for maintenance (£100pa) will come from the Kings Head auction proceeds while the current landlord remains.

First Aid Course: If there is sufficient public interest, a 2 hour first aid course, to include instruction on use of the defibrillator, will be organised. Contact any member of the Parish Council to register.

Footpath: the process for the proposed footpath at the North end of the village is ongoing.

Speedwatch: will resume shortly, with new volunteers and a new co-ordinator.

Neighbourhood Plan: Councillor Nunn and Mr L Farren-Bradley will investigate and evaluate whether N Lopham should proceed with this or not. To report at next meeting.

Surface water in Tanns Lane: Some ditch clearing is scheduled when the weather allows, thanks to Peter Wright.

Overhanging trees and hedges: there are still problems in places on The Street.

Finance: A proposal to increase the precept by £300 to £3,600 was approved. Don't forget – put your bottles in the KH bottle bank, proceeds reduce the precept.

'Back Lane': During the Spring/Summer it is proposed to clear the overgrown bushes and trees to restore the path to its proper position. Volunteers for a weekend working party are requested. Contact any member of the P C for details.

Burial Ground: No objection to proposed headstone incorporating a small picture of the deceased. Members noted that the hedge needs trimming.

The Queen's 90th Birthday: 21st April. The Royal Pageant Master has proposed Parishes celebrate with a bonfire/beacon etc. Initially referred to Lophams' Society to gauge interest.

Next Meeting: March 9th 2016

St Nicholas' Church.

Seasonal Services were really well supported:-

The Crib Service was well attended by many families, with children eager to share in placing the figures in the stable as the Nativity Story unfolded. After the Star light over the stable was switched on, the Wise Men were positioned for their journey to Bethlehem.

An all age Christmas Communion -on 27th December, led by Team Vicar the Reverend Wendy Evans, included the baptism, of Angela Perry, and so was a very special occasion for St Nicholas' Church. The main season ended with the Epiphany Carol Service on 10th January - more wonderful readings and hymns/carols to enjoy - including solo performances by "We Three Kings".

Thoughts now turn towards **Lent**: There are special services in Diss Church on Ash Wednesday, 10th February, at 10.30am and 7.30pm. All are invited.

Lent Lunches will be held from 12 noon to 2pm, in homes around North Lopham, to raise funds for the diocesan Lent Appeal, helping the church deliver education projects in Papua New Guinea, our link diocese on the other side of the world. See local posters and the weekly Team News in the churches for full details of venues, then come along and join us. The first one is on Tuesday 16th Feb, at Southlands. If you need help with transport, just 'phone 01379 687679.

On a lighter note, everyone is invited to join us for **Starters & Sweets**: Something to brighten the long evenings of late winter - We are planning a Starters & Sweets for Friday 5th February in the Village Hall from 7.30pm.

There will be a range of Starters to try - hot and cold, suitable for all kinds of diets - followed by a host of delicious Sweets, plus a cheese board. Tickets are just £6 from PCC members, so book yours early and come along for a happy evening among friends. Fruit juice and tea or coffee will be provided, but please bring your own alcohol and glasses, if desired.

Looking well ahead:

Having put on five Crib Festivals, we are making a change for 2016, and are starting to knit scenes from the bible, for a display at the end of October. All knitters are warmly invited to join in the project, either knitting figure (patterns are available) or the figures for a whole scene.....Letters will go out to PCCs and groups; individuals are invited too. If you are interested, but want to learn more before deciding, just 'phone 01379 687679 or e-mail iennvvere@btinternet.com We would love to hear from you!!

Holy Bingo

Continues in the Village Hall, 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. The date for February is 1st, so don't miss it!

(Please telephone 01379 687679 for further details or for help with transport)

Friends of South Lopham Church

EDP COMMUNITY CHEST

Please help the Friends of South Lopham Church maintain the church building by collecting the EDP Community Chest tokens.

There is one token every day and more in the Saturday paper.

Tokens will be entered by the Friends monthly to the judging panel over the next twelve months.

Tokens may be given to members of the Church or left in the Church for collection.

North Lopham Methodist Church

Methodist friends invite local residents to the monthly service in the church, with Coffee, on Wednesday 24th February at 10.30am

South Lopham Parish Council

Meeting 7th January 2016 at Valley Farm, Low Common. Six council members present, one apology, and the clerk Mrs C Phillips absent due to illness.

The responsible financial officer, Mr G Phillips present to deliver a financial report and for budget matters. Mrs Chapman Allen, District Councillor, also in attendance.

Financial: Mr Phillips reported the current balances and the meeting approved payments for the Lophams News and the clerk's salary October to December. The 2016/17 budget was discussed, including payment for various projects (see later) and the Parish precept was agreed at £2850.

Planning: Applications at Weavers, Lansdowne House, and the White Horse approved. Appeal in respect of field shelter at Low Common dismissed. Application received in respect of conditions attached to boundary screening and planting at Pooley Street.

Highways: The council continues to press the NCC regarding speed reduction at the east end of the village on the main A1066 road. The NCC have work scheduled to carry out repairs to the drainage system on Church Road to prevent the flow of water on this road and onto the main road.

Works: Village sign. Estimates obtained. Mrs Chapman Allen advised the Council to apply to the District Council under the 'Breckland Pride' scheme for assistance in funding this project.

War Memorial: Estimate for renovation obtained. Mrs Chapman Allen advised members that application could be made to the War Memorial Trust for a possible grant.

Bus Shelter: This has been inspected. The structure is sound. Councillors agreed that any wood treatment could be undertaken by them later in the year.

Village Litter Pick: Provisional date, 10th April 2016 10.00am
District local plan: Mrs Chapman Allen gave the council a brief presentation on the plan. Consultation runs until 16th February.

Public Information Events take place in Thetford 25th January 2016 and Shropham 2nd February. The plan is to be the basis for development of the District until 2036.

Date of next meeting 3rd March 2016 7.30pm Valley Farm

Redgrave and Lopham Fen

February

Jam masterclass

Sunday 7 February, 10am-3pm

Learn how quick & easy it is to make jams with lots of new ideas & flavours for baking. With local master preserver Janet Peachey

£25 + £7 on the day for jars & ingredients

Full course details from 01473 890089

Find out about volunteering

Wednesday 10 February, 10am-12noon

Come & find out about volunteering opportunities both at the Fen & at Knettishall Heath.

Just drop in. No experience necessary.

Children's activity day: Secrets of survival

Tuesday 16 Feb, 10am-2pm

For unaccompanied 6-10 year olds

£6 per child, booking essential

Bird box building family afternoon

Wednesday 17 Feb, 2pm-4pm

Make a nest box & bird feeder to take home. Plus trail & crafts

£5 per bird box, booking essential

Young naturalists

Thursday 18 Feb, 10am-2pm

For unaccompanied 11-15 year olds

Wildlife detecting & practical conservation work

£6 each, booking essential

Book online for all the above at www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Amphibians and reptiles - a talk by Froglife

Tuesday 23 February, 7.30pm

Organised by the SWT Valley Fens Wildlife Group

£2 per person (includes refreshments)

All welcome, no need to book

ADVANCE NOTICE: Annual Plant Sale
Sunday 17 April, 10am-3pm

The Lophams' Society

The Lophams' Christmas Drop-in was very well attended & many people said what a great evening it was. This year was a slightly different format, being a more adult event, & the cheese and wine and festive nibbles went down very well. It was encouraging to see people who only popped in, staying a lot longer to talk to friends etc.

Services for February 2016

North Lopham	South Lopham
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7th February

9.30am HC	-
11am Fam S	-

14th February

11am Fam S	-
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21st February

11am Fam S	9.30am HC
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28th February

11am Fam S	9.30am MS
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Contributions for next issue by;

18th FEBRUARY

Please email to lophamsnews@gmail.com