

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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MARCH 2012

St. Andrew's School

St. Andrew's Primary School have enjoyed an action packed month with children keen to come to school and learn, which is reflected in their outstanding achievement of 96.7% attendance!

The School Council has been very active, purchasing soft furnishings to improve the environment of the library.

Congratulation to Year 5 who were great ambassadors for St. Andrew's when they took part in a range of events at Sportshall Althetics at Stradbroke High School, where they came fifth.

Thank you to FOSTA for organising a superb Beetle Drive in the school hall. £119 was raised.

The children now look forward to a film night organised by FOSTA, World Book Day and St. David's Day. They also invite readers to their next community lunch on Thursday 22nd March at 12.00 pm. Please book with the School Office on 01379 687253.

St. Andrew's Preschool

Preschool have had a very busy half term with a wide range of activities from nature walks, singing and dancing, craft fun and then some quiet times looking at books in our story telling corner. We also visited the children in school and loved being in their classroom.

Preschool opens on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in The Mess building at St Andrew's School, and we welcome children from their second birthday, even if the children are still in nappies. For more information please contact our Preschool manager, Tonya, 07962 219523.

We are also having an open morning on Tuesday February 28th, from 10am to 12pm, so please come along and see the fantastic range of equipment and toys that we have for the children and meet the staff.

Lophams' Village Hall

Very Special Notice: David Copperfield - a new production by Mad Dogs & Englishmen: at 7.30pm on Saturday 24th March. Do get your tickets in good time, for this exciting new version of a Dickens favourite, in his bi-centenary year. The tickets are just £7 for adults and £5 for school age young people, if purchased in advance. (Add an extra 50p, if bought on the door). Refreshments will be available.

The Lottery - our opportunity to support the Village Hall and have a bit of fun too - continues to attract new members. There were 98 in the February draw, another record, with correspondingly record prizes. First winner, A Wallis received £196.00 and second prizewinners R Flack and D Blanchard won £49.00 each! 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, tel; 01379 687608, from Village Hall Treasurer, Tim Colyer, tel; 01379 687718, from other Village Hall Committee members (see the 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 next one is **24th March**. 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 on Wednesdays, from 9.30am; the tutor is Susie Turner on 01379 687434.

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

Lophams' Ladies

Edna and Roland Bugey brought the slides and photos of their visit to Antarctica in 2001 to the Village Hall on February 7th. As well as views of various kinds of penguins, members saw the remains of whaling stations, explorers' huts and scientific installations, plus the world's most southerly post office - which is still occupied and used! On March 6th, Frances Hart will speak about "**Mrs Mozart**". Once again, the meeting begins at 2pm, and visitors will be most welcome. For more information, ring 01379 687337.

Garden Club

On 1st February we welcomed Mr Rodney Tibbs who gave a presentation entitled "Restoring a Cottage Garden". His talk was accompanied by a slide show charting the changes he has made over the years to his own garden. When he moved into his house the garden was overgrown with weeds, rubbish and concrete and with a great deal of hard work and obvious love for plants he has transformed it into a place of great beauty and one that can inspire others to emulate his success. On March 7th we have our **AGM** which will be followed by "Gardeners Question Time", and looking further forward, we look forward to welcoming Sue Wooster on April 4th who will give a presentation entitled "**Campanulas**". Our meetings take place in the restaurant area of Blooms Garden Centre on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always very welcome. Tel 01379 687833 for further information.

North Lopham Parish Council

The next meeting is on **14th March** to include Jubilee Bench and Car Scheme.

Walk on Rolfe's Track

The South Lopham PC has organised a formal walk to symbolise and confirm Rolfe's Track as a formal public right of way and to carry out an inspection thereof. Residents of South and North Lopham (including children) are invited to participate. We are meeting at the Visitors' Centre of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust in Low Common Road at 10am on Saturday, 10th March. The walk is quite short, so participants will not need to turn up equipped for a long hike but it may be muddy along the route! It will take no longer than 30 - 45 minutes.

North Lopham Lent Lunches

This year, the money raised will go to the diocesan project to help women in Papua New Guinea, our link area on the far side of the world. **You** are invited to come and share bread & cheese, with pickles etc. and tea or coffee to follow. The lunches will launch on **Ash Wednesday 22nd February**, at Southlands at 1pm, and continue on Tuesdays between 12noon and 2pm in homes round the village. See local posters for venue details. Everyone is welcome. If transport is needed, just phone 01379 687679.

Starters & Sweets

N.B.: The Starters & Sweets evening at the beginning of February was postponed, because the weather turned so extra icy. The new date will be in mid April.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

No Services in March.

Preliminary Notice

1st April 2.30pm Preacher Rev Brian Trudgian of Diss.

Tea and Refreshments afterwards. Everyone Welcome.

St Nicholas' Church

The Christingle service: rounded off the greater Christmas celebration season. It was lovely to have a good number of people to share in the occasion. We were all saddened to learn just a few days later that the Rector, Rev'd Rob Mellowship was beginning a period of extended sick leave, so will not be taking services for the foreseeable future. We are very fortunate, however, to have a team of willing retired clergy to help out with services, so the usual Sunday pattern can continue, though there will be fewer of the extra seasonal occasions. We send prayers and good wishes to Rob and Jan.

Ash Wednesday marking the start of the Lent season is on 22nd February this year. There will be a Communion service at Roydon at 9.30am. All those who are not able to go at that time will be warmly welcomed at St Mary's, Diss, for the evening service with Ash Wednesday ceremonies at 7.30pm. (See above for Lent Lunch details)

A Lent Course is planned, jointly with our Methodist friends, on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, with the first meeting on 28th February at Bressingham Chapel. All are welcome to come and join in - there are no experts; all opinions are welcomed.

Mothering Sunday is on 19th March. Families will be celebrated, and the special place of Mothers, at the 11am All Age service. There will be posies for all ladies present, and spares to take to those who are unable to join us, so please do come along.

Lophams' Happy Circle

We had our first meeting of the year in February where subs were paid for the year and we enjoyed a chat with tea and biscuits. We were small in number due to the terrible weather and hope to see more of you next time. The outings were discussed and will be decided at the March meeting. The next meeting will be a **Bring and Buy**. Anyone wishing to join us as a member, or just come on the outings, will be more than welcome. Just ring Avis on 01953 681789 or Daphne on 01379 687453.

St Andrew's Church

At the moment our Rector, The Rev'd Rob Mellowship, is off sick. For the time being, if you have any queries, please contact the Churchwardens; Peter Reeder on 01379 687273 or David Huggins on 01379 687201. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rob and Jan at this time.

Services at St. Andrew's will be as normal for March the 18th 9.30am HC and March 25th 6.30pm Music Praise and Worship.

We are now organising the **Flower Rota** for this year. If you would like to help with the flowers in St. Andrew's Church, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact Jackie on 01379 688313.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Valley Fens Local Group South Lopham

Tuesday 27th March 2012
"The Work of Green Light Trust"
(Community environmental projects) by
Ashly Seabourne

7.30pm at Redgrave and Lopham Fen Visitor Centre. £2 entry includes tea/coffee and biscuits
Contact no: 01379 608313

Tuesday 24th April 2012
Talk by Jackie Clarke "Why Ring Birds?"
(Followed by the AGM)

Events at Redgrave and Lopham Fen

Saturday 3rd March 10.30am – 12.30pm. **Guided Walk.** Volunteer-led seasonal walk to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen. Adult £3, child £1. Booking preferable 01379 688333

Saturday 10th March, 10.30am – 12.30pm. **Wildlife Watch group.** A club for 6 – 12yr olds. £1.50, details 01379 688333

Saturday 17th March, 10am – 4pm. **Nature in Glass – Improvers.** Build on your existing basic skills of cutting and grinding glass, foiling and soldering to produce an imaginative panel. With professional glass artist Naomi Brangwyn. £35 plus £5 charge for materials on the day. Booking essential 01473 890089

Saturday 24th March, 10am – 3pm. **Introduction to Beekeeping.** Learn how a hive works, how bees organize themselves, their breeding cycle, navigational skills and hive products, with Michael Doy. £25/£21.50. Booking essential 01473 890089

Saturday 31st March, 10am – 3pm. **Botanical Illustration.** Looking at a range of illustration techniques using seasonal plant material with an emphasis on botanical accuracy, with Christine Grey-Wilson. £20. Booking essential 01473 890089

Tuesday 3rd April, 10am – 12noon. **Springtime Fun at the Fen.** Family event. Children £3.50, Adults £1.50. Booking essential 01379 688333

Wednesday 4th April, 10am-1pm. **Introduction to water voles.** Take a closer look at this elusive species and discover how to identify their habitats, look at their ecology, status in Suffolk and learn surveying techniques. Penny Hemphill. £10/£8.50. Booking essential 01473 890089

Saturday 14th April, 10.30am – 12.30pm. **Wildlife Watch group.** A club for 6 – 12yr olds. £1.50, details 01379 688333

Sunday 15th April 10am – 4pm. **Plant Sale.** Over 20 award winning and specialist nurseries. Perennials, shrubs, ferns, herbs, trees, alpines, seeds and more. Plus donated plants and mulch. Refreshments available. Dogs on short leads welcome. Adults £1, children free

Wednesday 25th April. **Botanical Illustration.** Looking at a range of illustration techniques using seasonal plant material with an emphasis on botanical accuracy, with Christine Grey-Wilson. £20. Booking essential 01473 890089

Services for March

North Lopham	South Lopham
	4th March
9.30am Group HC	-
11am Fam S + Bapt	-
	11th March
11am Fam S	-
6.30pm ES	-
	18th March
11am Fam S	9.30am HC
Mothering Sunday	
	25th March
11am Fam S	6.30pm ES

Contributions for next issue by;

18th MARCH

Please email to
lophamsnews@gmail.com