

# THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No.393

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FEBRUARY 2015

## St Andrew's School

St. Andrew's pupils and staff began 2015 with a trip to the Pantomime to see Peter Pan. This was partly funded by FoSTA and was a huge success. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It gave them inspiration in their English reading and writing.

St. Andrew's theme for this half term is transport and travel. Activities include a visit from a vintage bus in the lower school and a visit to Duxford for the upper school.

FoSTA plan to host a film night with hot dogs, a valentine disco and a pancake breakfast to mark Shrove Tuesday.

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

There's always plenty to do at Pre-School - indoors on the cold winter days, and outside when it is dry and bright. Some of us are hoping for a chance to play in some snow! We are planning special craft activities for Valentine's Day.

Our sessions are now all day, i.e. 8.45 - 3.15, on Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays each week during school term time. Any new residents with children approaching their 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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

We are running a mobile recycling initiative, so if any reader has an old mobile phone 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' Ladies

At our afternoon meeting in January, Frances Hart spoke about **Canals and Waterways**; the talk touched on History & Biography, Geography & Mechanics - all illustrated with beautiful slides. We were amazed to learn so much, so easily. We meet at 2pm again on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, when David Morton's illustrated talk is about **Buckingham Palace**. There will be a **Bring & Buy** stall.

Meetings return to 7.30pm in March, on the first Tuesday of each month. The subject on 3<sup>rd</sup> is **Chocolate** - Julian Saunders has a wealth of stories to tell and perhaps some samples....

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome at our meetings; a nominal £2 charge includes refreshments. Just telephone Sarah on 01379 687337 for more details.

## Garden Club

After our usual break in January, we are looking forward to our first meeting of 2015 on 4<sup>th</sup> February, when we shall welcome Claire Simm from the British Trust for Ornithology, who will talk about **"Garden Birds"**.

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

## Lophams' Village Hall

**The Lottery** - We are just starting the sixth year of the Lophams' Village Hall lottery! As mentioned recently, our 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. If you're not in the lottery, there are still a few free slots if you'd like to join in (ring 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 at the December Farmers' Market for those who have been "in" for at least three months. The Lottery winners for December were: 1<sup>st</sup> prize £184.00 - B Jilley; 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes of £46.00 - D Hammond and J Farren-Bradley. The 2014 Bonanza Draw prize, of £272.75, was won by E Birchall,

**Farmer's Markets** are usually the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm, so the next is on 24<sup>th</sup> February - our Birthday Market. (Details from Mike on 01379 687235)

In addition to the Lottery draw, there is a **monthly raffle** with one superb prize, which includes an item from every stall - a wonderful array of goodies for the larder.

**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](http://www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk).

## North Lopham Parish Council

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> at 'The Mess'. The full Council & Parish Clerk, were joined by Jim Waters (Secretary to Kenninghall Planning Group), Cllr. M Chapman-Allen (District Councillor), Cllrs J Crisp and J Pursehouse (SLPC), and 8 parishioners from N and S Lopham.

**Neighbourhood Plan;** Jim Waters gave the reasons for and against a neighbourhood plan (NP) as it related to Kenninghall and could relate to the Lophams; he also explained the steps required to produce an NP and have it adopted into the Breckland Local Plan (BLP) where it would have the force of law. The new BLP sets planning policy for the next 20 years. PCs and other recognised bodies are invited to produce NPs to dovetail into this plan. Effective public consultation within the area covered by the NP must take place and the results be reflected in the NP. Costs could be up to £10,000 but grants are available up to £7,000. Once adopted into the BLP, future planning decisions must take account of the NP and some planning decisions could be taken at local level. NPs must be in line with National Planning Policy, demonstrate a strategy for future development and be compatible with EU law. NPs should identify not only areas where development is thought undesirable but also areas and conditions where development would be preferred. A lengthy step-by-step process must be followed to ensure that the NP fulfills all requirements for consultation and planning law before it can be adopted, BDC is legally bound to give assistance with this process. It is a real opportunity to take some local control over local planning. NLPC and SLPC will decide if they wish to proceed with NPs either singularly or together. Volunteers from the community would be needed to help deal with the work involved. Councillor Makowski-Heaton will take charge of this for NL. **Parish Council Website;** A new standalone NLPC website is under construction and will be operating soon. **Biomass;** It seems likely that NL will see a big increase in heavy haulage traffic when the biomass plant begins operating, enquiries are being made to see what steps may be taken to mitigate the effects. **School Signs;** An advisory 20mph speed limit will operate between the existing flashing warning lights when they are on. New signs will be installed at a cost of £180. **Footpath;** Norfolk Highways quoted £11,000 to install a footpath between the Old Bull and the Cherry Tree junction. Partnership funding not available now, so no further action. **Clearing Primrose Lane;** a quotation of £600 to be shared 50/50 with SL was accepted. **Phone box;** can be adopted for £1.00, maintenance falls to NLPC. To proceed. **Path to Village Hall;** no progress. **North Lopham Charities Trustees;** 3 vacancies, M Cox re-elected; A Osler and D Hammond elected. **Precept;** set at £3,500 for the next year. **Community Hub;** meeting to discuss this with Village Hall committee is being arranged. **Vice-Chair;** Councillor Tate resigned as Vice-Chair but will continue as a councillor. Her replacement will be elected at next meeting. **Village Sign;** Mike Daley, who made the sign 30 years ago, will deal with this. **Grass Cutting;** The contract has been reallocated at a much lower cost. **M Newby's burial;** due to particular circumstances notified to the PC, it was agreed to waive the normal burial fee. **Monthly meetings;** because of increasing council workload, the number of meetings might be increased to 12 per year in line with most other local PCs. Referred to next meeting. **Next meeting** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

## St Nicholas' Church.

The second half of the Christmas season provided more very happy and memorable occasions:

At the **Family Carol Service** the children read the Nativity Story in a delightful modern version, before Team Vicar Revd. Wendy gave us her message.

**The Crib Service** on Christmas Eve was wonderfully well attended - over 100 people in total, with every age decade represented - from William at 6 weeks to one visitor aged 97 years! The children placed the figures in the crib scene, as the traditional version of the Nativity unfolded.

**Christmas Sunday:** the Revd. Wendy led a Christmas Communion on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

The main season ended with **The Epiphany Carol Service:** the visit of the Wise Men with their gifts was the inspiration for more wonderful readings & music, plus another visit from Revd. Wendy.

**If you are reading this in time, please note that there will be a special Plough Sunday service at 11am on 25<sup>th</sup> January, led by the Revd. Chris Davidson.** (This service has been moved from Fersfield because of urgent repair work there).

**Lent** begins with Ash Wednesday on 18<sup>th</sup> February - extra services and courses will be held in Diss.

The first Social event for this year will be the **Starters & Sweets** evening at the Village Hall - hopefully just before Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Please watch for local posters with full details.

## Holy Bingo

The next sessions are on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February & 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2pm. New faces will be especially welcome. Please telephone 01379 687679 if you need help with transport.

## St Andrew's Church

We were pleased to welcome the Revd. Captain Michael Reeder back to his home Church to take the Holy Communion Service on Christmas Morning, this service was very well attended.

The Concert held at St Andrew's Church in July last year has raised **£1000 for Cancer Research**. Very many thanks go to Thetford's Thursday Nights Ladies and to the two ladies who play in harmony for their performances and to all the contributors.

Thanks also to Archant Gold and a local benefactor for their support in raising the magnificent sum of £1000, which has gone to Cancer Research.

## Carols & Auction at The Kings Head

The event on 21<sup>st</sup> December followed the traditional format - brisk auctioning of a huge range of goods & services, interspersed with the singing of Carols. Volunteers Paul and Chris ably assisted Auctioneer & MC Richard Vere, while his runner was kept very busy collecting money from successful bidders. The main profits from the occasion will be used to help purchase a **Defibrillator** to be mounted outside the pub, for the use of any local residents in the event of sudden heart failure. It will be a real boon for the village, as we are over 20 miles from the nearest hospitals. Many thanks go to our hosts, Angie and George for their welcome (and the mince pies) and to everybody who donated goods, or came to bid for them. The raffle - a beautiful cake, made & decorated by Chrissie Callow, boosted the total raised so far to over £1,520!

## The Lophams' Society

**A note for your diary:** The Lophams' Society are preparing the questions for **The Spring Quiz** which will take place at the Village Hall on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Admission will be £6 per person and will include a cheese ploughman's supper. Maximum of six players per team, per table can be booked in advance by telephoning Roy Clark on 01379 688408 or Granville Horan on 01379 640355.

## Redgrave and Lopham Fen

### Jam masterclass

Sunday 8 February, 10am - 3pm  
Join popular local master jam maker, Janet Peachey, to learn how quick and easy it is to make jam and conserves, and use a variety of fruits to create different flavours. £25/£21.50 + £7.50 on the day  
Booking essential 01473 890089

### Find out about volunteering

Wednesday 11 February, 10am - 12noon  
Come and find out about volunteering opportunities both at the Fen and at Knettishall Heath. Just drop in. No experience necessary.

### Skulls & skeletons activity day

Tuesday 17 February, 10am - 2pm  
Activities, games and crafts.  
For 6 - 10 year olds. £6 each

Booking essential 01379 688333

### Bird box building family afternoon

Wednesday 18 February, 2pm - 4pm  
Make a nest box and bird feeder to take home. Plus trail and crafts. £5 per bird box  
Booking essential 01379 688333

### 'The wildlife & landscape history of the south Norfolk claylands' a talk by Helen Baczkowska of Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Tuesday 24 February, 7.30pm  
Organised by the SWT Valley Fens Wildlife Group. £2 per person (includes refreshments)  
£25/£21.50 Booking essential 01473 890089

### Botanical Illustration

Saturday 28 March, 10am - 3pm  
Join professional botanical artist, Christine Grey-Wilson, on this relaxing and supportive workshop looking at a range of illustration techniques. The emphasis will be on botanical accuracy and seasonal plant material such as spring flowers and bulbs.

£25/£21.50 Booking essential 01473 890089

### Regular events

#### Guided fen walks

Saturdays 7 Feb, 7 March 10.30am - 1pm  
Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill.  
£3 Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

#### Wildlife Watch Group

Saturdays 14 Feb, 14 March 10.30am - 12.30pm  
A club for 6 - 12yr olds, £2  
Contact 01379 688333

## 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 10.30 am. Services for February & March will be on 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Services for February

North Lopham	South Lopham
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	<b>1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	
9.30am HC	-	
11am Fam S	-	
	<b>8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
11am Fam S	-	
	<b>15<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
11am Fam S	9.30am HC	
	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	
11am Fam S	9.30am MS	

## South Lopham Parish Council

8<sup>th</sup> January at Valley Farm. Present six councillors with Roy Clark (Lophams' Society) and Peter Coster (Little Ouse Headwater Project), with one apology.

(The Chairman reminded the meeting that more could be heard about Neighbourhood Plans at the North Lopham Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm on 14<sup>th</sup> January)

The Clerk gave a **financial report**. The budget for 2015/16 was approved after small adjustments to take into account the election contribution. **Planning**. Mrs Martin reported that permission had been granted for the extension to Old School Cottage; Breckland had refused permission for redevelopment of the building at Low Common; The owners of Noddle Farm had given notification of redevelopment of a redundant farm building; Query concerning the hedge next to development site at Pooley Street, she had investigated; Query in relation to bird scarers off Blo Norton road; the Clerk reported that the person had now contacted the farmers concerned. **Highways**. Jim Pursehouse was in touch with NCC Highways. Broken signs removed from A1066; War Memorial corner posts re-erected; oak tree off A1066 due to have its crown taken out; bridge at Low Common repaired; Primrose Lane flooding resolved for the time being; A1066 - agreed that Steve Reynolds should proceed with his proposal for the east end of the village regarding reducing speed with the addition of movement of signs at the west end of the village.

The Council wishes to remind parishioners of the position regarding **Bonfires**. Nuisance must not be caused. Be considerate to neighbours. Do not light on a regular basis. Do not allow smoke to drift across the highway. Be aware of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and penalties.

**Lophams Society**. Roy Clark gave an encouraging report on last year's activities. The Society is thriving and a full programme is planned for this year.

**Little Ouse Headwater Project**. Peter Coster delivered an interesting report on the origins and objectives of the project and its land acquisitions. It was agreed that he should, again be the parish representative on the project.

**Next meeting** 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 7.30pm Valley Farm.

Contributions for next issue by;

**18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

Please email to  
lophamsnews@gmail.com