

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No.404

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JANUARY 2016

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

St Andrew's School

St. Andrew's pupils, staff, parents and governors have enjoyed a busy end to the autumn term.

Every pupil at St. Andrew's worked as part of the whole school team to produce the production 'Children of the World'. They contributed to celebrations from Ireland, China, Malawi, USA, Australia and Poland. Songs were learnt and dances performed, whilst also reminding the audience about the true meaning of Christmas.

On Thursday 17th December, all pupils were invited to enjoy a day of Christmas festivities. Excited pupils arrived in non-uniform and enjoyed their Christmas lunch, a visit to Father Christmas and the opportunity to pet reindeers and ride donkeys. The latter was a wonderful family event and was hosted by FoSTA.

On the last day of term children participated in the end of term Christmas service at St. Andrew's Blo' Norton. Children sang carols, shared readings and prayers and celebrated achievements.

Happy New Year!

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 Mrs Norgate 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

A Happy New Year from the staff at St Andrews Pre School. We had a busy Christmas period; visiting the Church to see the cribs, having our nativity play and Christmas party, and doing lots of Christmassy crafts.

This term we are looking at animals and their habitats, pre school will be turned into a rain forest, a farm, a desert and the sea bed (amongst other things) over the next few weeks. It will be an exciting journey of discovery.

We are open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8.45am to 3.15pm and have some places available. For further information, or to arrange a visit, please contact Jan Feaver (pre school manager) on 07854 091257.

We do like to be involved in the community and visit the Church quite often. We visited a farm in the summer and got up close and personal with Whitney, Shirley and the other cows!! We like to go for walks around the village and visit the duck pond, have a picnic down the footpath, watch the farmers at work throughout the changing seasons or just splash in the puddles! If you see us, stop and say hello, we love to meet people from the community.

Lophams' Village Hall

Dog Training. Some good news for all those who bring their pets for training at the Village Hall. We have a new trainer, Robert Jessop, who already knows some of the dogs in this area and who is a very experienced trainer. Sessions will be most **Thursdays** in 2016 (not usually the first week of the month), with a meet and greet at the hall on January 7th, around 6pm. His telephone number is 01379 873144 if you wish for more information.

The Lottery. The December draw at the Market on Sunday 20th will have the usual three prizes, plus the Bonanza draw of nearly £300, for those who have been 'in' for at least three months. It is great to have a full complement of 100 members, with a corresponding monthly first prize of £200. We do want to maintain this situation, so please get in touch if you would like to join as soon as a new vacancy occurs. Please ring 01379 687718 for more information or contact Eileen (01379 687608) or any committee member. The Lottery winners for November were:- 1st prize £200 S Blyth and 2nd prizes of £50 each Jackie Brown & J Farren-Bradley and I Bowden. In addition to the Lottery draw, the monthly raffle with an item from every stall, was won by Sarah Frizzell.

Farmers' Market. The January Farmers' Market reverts to the fourth Saturday, 23rd, from 9am till 12.30pm. (Details from Mike on 01379 687235).

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

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.

Dog Training. See above. Details will be posted next issue.

To book the hall for private functions, please contact 01379 687679. To find out more

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 December Mrs Rosemarie Jacob gave us a most entertaining afternoon by sharing with us some of her experiences she encountered in her days as a Newsagent. On a bright winter's day, some seasonal refreshments gave the afternoon a festive touch; it being the last meeting before 2016.

On January 5th Malcolm Crowe will bring along some of his traditional handcrafted games and on February 2nd, Roy Tricker will be our speaker. **Both meetings will be in the afternoon.**

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



Garden Club

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. Please telephone 01379 687833 for further details.

On 3rd December we enjoyed our Christmas Dinner at the restaurant at the Wyvale Garden Centre in Bressingham. We were made very welcome by the restaurant staff who served us a delicious meal and worked hard to ensure that we all enjoyed a very festive evening.

We do not have a meeting in January, so our first meeting in 2016 will be on 4th February when David Bolton will give a presentation entitled "Scenes of Norfolk".

North Lopham Parish Council

January's meeting is on **Wednesday 13th**.

Village Defibrillator. Our defibrillator has been safely installed in the refurbished red telephone box in the centre of the village. Over the coming weeks, some useful information will be on display there too.

The PC plans to arrange some training in the use of the new equipment, so this will be an agenda item at the January meeting. If **you** are interested in learning more, do please go along.

St Nicholas' Church

North Lopham Methodist Church

Methodist friends enjoyed their Carol service in St Nicholas' Church in December, and invite anyone from the community to the next informal service, with coffee, on Wednesday 27th January at 10.30am.

North Lopham Crib Festival. Many thanks to everyone who helped, in any way, to make this such a successful event and to all who came along to enjoy the cribs.

We are now well into the seasonal specials!

The response at the **Toy Service** was amazing; a big car packed with gifts for desperately deprived families in the Thetford area and £140 for Action for Children, the umbrella organisation that helps them.

The **Advent Carol Service** was much enjoyed by all who shared in it. The Home Team led a programme of special readings, with hymns from the new Advent booklet for our six parishes.

The **Family Carol Service** was a very happy occasion, very well supported by folk of all ages. The children 'allowed' one of our senior members to light all the candles, but then took a big part in the service; reading all of the lessons, forming an impromptu choir to sing "Little Donkey" and taking the collection. After the service, they needed no encouragement to help consume some delicious cake & biscuits!

The remaining services will be reported next time, but do please note: **All age Christmas Communion** will be held at **11am on Sunday 27th December** and will include the baptism of Angela Perry, well known to many readers.

On Sunday 10th January, we will hold an **Epiphany Carol Service at 4pm**. More wonderful readings, hymns and carols to enjoy. Do please come along!

Everyone at St Nicholas' Church sends sincere thanks to everyone who has helped and supported us during 2015, and send warm greetings to all readers, wishing them a peaceful Christmas and a good New Year to follow..



St Andrew's Church

On Tuesday 22nd December The White Horse, South Lopham, played host to our annual **Carol singing** accompanied by Rona on the accordion and Keith on the guitar.

Our thanks go to Nigel and Tracy Martin for their excellent refreshments and hospitality and to all who came to support this event.

Lophams' 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. Many thanks to those who provided mince and apple pies for the

North Lopham Kings Head - Carols & Auction event

The Kings Head was absolutely packed for this popular annual event, the Sunday before Christmas.

The whole village had been saddened by the deaths of Neil Walker and of Dick Knight during the previous week, so the regulars were unanimous in wanting to support the Norfolk & Norwich Big C fund this year, as well as EACH, which plays a big part in helping children with life threatening illnesses. There will also be a donation to the Pre School.

The programme followed the usual pattern; singing carols, interspersed with the auction of a huge array of goods and the ongoing sale of raffle tickets for a beautiful cake, made and iced by Chrissie Callow. During a lull in the proceedings while glasses were refilled, slices of yummy cakes made by Teresa Sturman were consumed. By the end of the afternoon, almost £ 1,500 had been raised, so grateful thanks go to auctioneer Richard, his helpful elf Emma, to everyone who provided the goods for sale, then made successful bids to buy them, and finally to our hosts George and Angela who made us all so welcome.

Redgrave and Lopham Fen

Wildlife Watch Group

Saturday 9 Jan 10.30am-12.30pm
A club for 6-12yr olds. £2.

Contact
marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com
or call 01379 688333.

Guided Fen Walk

Saturday 2 Jan 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.

Services for January

North Lopham	South Lopham
	3rd January
9.30 HC	-
11am Fam Service	-
	10th January
11am Fam Service	-
4pm Epiphany Carols	-
	17th January
11am Fam Service	9.30 HC
	24th January
11am Fam Service	9.30 MS

A message about The Harling Flexibus, from Judith Powles

The bus operates under contract to Norfolk County Council and the contract is due to be renewed from July next year. I am wondering if the service needs tweeking at all? I am writing to all Parish Clerks of villages that are served by the Flexibus to see if they have any ideas, which they would like me to consider.

If anybody in your village has any journeys they would like me to consider please ask them to either phone me or email me. I cannot guarantee that I can accommodate the requests but I am interested in providing a more flexible service. In the past, journeys have concentrated on getting people from surrounding villages into Attleborough, Thetford or Diss. But I do feel that there should be scope to do village to village at some time during the day. Any such journeys would have to be pre-booked as they are now.

Please feel free to contact Judith with any ideas or questions:
Judith Powles, Travel and Transport Officer (Central), Community and Environmental Services Department (telephone 01603 224353).

Editor's Note

It is good to announce that The Lophams' News has a new editor. Mrs Julie Cundick will take over for the next issue. It should be a smooth changeover, especially if all correspondents send in their copy on time! The email address remains the same, as will the copy date of 18th of the month, please join me in wishing her well.

I would like to thank you all for your messages and good wishes as I focus my attention on other areas of my life. Live well, laugh often, love much, Lee

Contributions for next issue by:

18TH JANUARY

Please email to
lophamsnews@gmail.com