

# THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No. 403

PUBLISHED EACH MONTH SINCE 1982

DECEMBER 2015

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY AND HEALTHY CHRISTMAS SEASON

## St Andrew's School

It has been a busy month at St. Andrew's C of E VA Primary School. At the end of last half term, years 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in cluster cross-country at Diss High School. A third of the pupils qualified to take part the area finals at Earlham Park in November. Year 1 and 2 also enjoyed going to the Diss cluster multi-skills event, mixing with pupils from other primary schools.

School Council have also been active. They organised a very successful 'scary cake sale' before half term where they raised money for Macmillan Nurses and a pyjama day raising funds for Children in Need.

October also saw the return of a successful book week. Children wrote book reviews, read together and came dressed as book characters. Marilyn Brocklehurst from the Norfolk Children's Centre visited to talk with parents about encouraging their child to read for pleasure.

On November 11<sup>th</sup> year 5 and 6 represented St. Andrew's at the village Remembrance Service at the War Memorial.

If you would like to know more about St. Andrew's or come and visit, please contact the school office on 01379 687253.

## St Andrew's PreSchool

The children enjoyed getting to meet and know some of the "people who help us" in our daily lives in the last half term. Now that the excitement of Bonfire Night is over, thoughts turn towards Christmas preparations - making cards and decorations and sharing in the seasonal special events, starting with the Nativity displays in the church Crib Festival.

We have some spaces available and invite any new residents with children approaching their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday, or a bit older, to get in touch to arrange a visit. Do note that **all** 3 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free sessions each week. Following our **good** OfSTED rating we can now offer free funded places to eligible 2 year olds as well! Just drop in on Mon, Wed or Thurs to view the setting and meet our team. Our contact number is 07854 091257.

## Lophams' Village Hall

**The Bonfire and Fireworks Event.** After an anxious few days wondering if the weather would be kind, the rain stopped and a drying wind blew some of the wetness away - just in time! We were grateful to all those who brought along material for the enormous fire, and send sincere thanks to Jim Harris and his team who built it up. The fire burned slowly but steadily until the end of Sunday, leaving just a heap of ash. The firework display was stunning, watched by a great crowd as they enjoyed the hot food and drinks on offer. A big vote of thanks must go to everyone who helped in any way, out in the field, inside the hall, or clearing up afterwards, with a special mention for those who helped push off the cars that got rather stuck! The good news is - we made a small profit on this year's event!

**Dog Training:** Sadly, trainer Elaine Brown has decided to retire, so will not run any more classes after the training day at the hall on 21<sup>st</sup> November. We are actively seeking a new trainer to take on the classes in the near future. Meanwhile sincere thanks to Elaine for her years of very professional classes. Our best wishes for a happy retirement.

**The Lottery.** 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. 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, i.e. from October. The Lottery winners for October were:- 1<sup>st</sup> prize £200 M Cox; and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes of £50 each J Keylock and I Bowden.

In addition to the Lottery draw, Mrs Young, from Garboldisham, won the monthly raffle of one superb prize, including an item from every stall.

**Farmers' Market.** For December only, the Farmers' Market is on a **Sunday** - the 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**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).

## 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 November Mary and Jane of the Windmill Ringers entertained us. These two ladies played us a most delightful selection of music on their hand bells and they can be heard again playing at Blicking Hall over Christmas.

Our December meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month will be held at **2pm** when Rosemarie Jacob will talk about "A day in the life of a Newsagent". Seasonal refreshments will be provided by the committee, giving us chance to catch up on a Winter's afternoon at the start of the Christmas season.

Looking ahead to our first meeting of 2016 we will be meeting again in the afternoon when Malcolm Crowe will bring along some of his traditional handcrafted games.

Our Cake Stall at the October Farmer's Market raised £109. Thanks go to all who helped to supply a well-stocked stall and all those who supported us by buying our cakes.

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

## The Lophams' Society

We will be hosting a pre-Christmas village get-together on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** in the Village Hall between 6.30 and 8.30pm. This is a

**free** event and it is hoped that residents of the Lophams both past and present will come along and join us in raising a glass of Christmas cheer. This year will differ slightly from previous Lophams' Society Christmas events as in addition to the traditional mulled wine and mince pies, we will be offering a selection of wines and cheeses together with an assortment of festive nibbles. Soft drinks will also be available for those wishing to keep a clear head. The aim of **this year's get-together** is to attract as many residents as possible including families, couples, singles and those new to the Lophams and indeed the Lophams' Society. Small children are welcome but may be disappointed to find that Father Christmas will not be joining us this year. So please come along between 6.30 and 8.30pm for a drink, a nibble and a natter and let's get Christmas under way.

## North Lopham Parish Council

Met on 11<sup>th</sup> November, with all current members, including new member Mike Tipple, M Chapman-Allen (BDC) & 4 parishioners. **Lophams News:** Current editor, Lee Baker, retires after the Dec edition. New editor, Julie Cundick, from S Lopham will take over. A token of thanks will be presented to Lee Baker. **Telephone Box:** Tony Wigby will supply and fit flooring at no charge, thanks expressed to him. The defibrillator is installed; PC voted to adopt its maintenance so it can be commissioned, no charges for first 7 years. A visitor information board will be installed displaying a map and other items of interest, cost ~£100. Thanks expressed to David Hammond for his work on this. **Extinguishment of footpath off Jubilee Lane:** completed. **Footpath extension to Cherry Tree Close:** Funding promises of ~£1,500 received. Application to NCC Partnership scheme made for 50% of cost, if approved, application to BDC for remaining £5,000 will be made. **Neighbourhood Plan:** A further meeting is planned with BDC. **Solar Farms:** No further details yet submitted to BDC. **NLPC Vacancies:** 1 remains, William Nunn has applied; to be considered. **Community Speedwatch:** Support has quickly waned, very disappointing. New co-ordinator is to be sought. **Village Sign** at the North end of village has been moved and 30mph repeaters upgraded. **Broadband:** Parishioner with telecoms background reported ongoing problems. Superfast upgrade not planned for several years at least. **\*\* Cllr Chapman-Allen to take this issue up, she needs ammunition so if you suffer with poor broadband please voice your concerns to her.\*\*** **Pothole repairs:** money has run out. **Precept:** increase required to cover future funding requirements. Decision at next meeting. **Kings Head Lane:** outline approval for 3 houses has been granted on condition that no more will be permitted.



## North Lopham Methodist Church

Methodist friends will hold an informal Carol service with coffee in St Nicholas' Church on **16<sup>th</sup> December** (the third Weds) and would welcome anyone from the villages to join them at 10.30 am.



### St Nicholas' Church

On **Remembrance Sunday** there was a special act of remembrance at the 11am Family Service. The names of all those from the village who gave their lives in the two world wars were read before Brennan and Ian Harper read out the names of the 18 US airmen who died when their aeroplanes collided over the Lophams seventy years ago. We were especially glad to welcome eight youngsters to this service - the maintenance of the ceremonies will fall to their generation in a few years time.

**Armistice Day - 11<sup>th</sup> November.** At the Annual Ceremony at the War Memorial at 11am, juniors from St Andrew's School joined veterans, local residents and representatives of the American Air Force. As 2015 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the air crash over Lopham, when 18 US airmen lost their lives a special US Honour Guard was on parade, alongside the Union flag. The children played a full part in the occasion - sharing the citations and wreath laying, before Mia played the National Anthem on her trumpet and they all sang a special Remembrance song.

**North Lopham Crib Festival:** If you are reading this before the end of November, The fifth Crib Festival will run from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>, between 11am and 5pm and on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon until 4pm, when Mary, Joseph and the donkey will set out on their journey round the area seeking a night's shelter with willing hosts - *Posada* - before they return to the church for the Crib service on Christmas Eve.

**Seasonal Special Services.** We hope to welcome friends new and old to some or all of these:

**The Toy Service** - 11am on **St Nicholas' Day**, 6<sup>th</sup> December. Gifts for very deprived families in the Thetford area, wrapped and labelled to show the age and sex for which they are intended, will be delivered to the local branch of Action for Children.

**Advent Carols** - 4pm on **13<sup>th</sup> December** will include some of the most beautiful music and readings for this season.

**Family Carol Service** - 11am on **20<sup>th</sup> December** - the children will read a delightful version of the Nativity Story, interspersed with familiar carols and songs.

**Crib Service** - 4pm on **Christmas Eve** - a quiet interlude before the excitement of Christmas Day. The children will place the figures in the Stable as the story unfolds.

On **Boxing Day** (St Stephen's) there is Matins at 10am.

**All age Christmas Communion** - 11am on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December.**

### North Lopham Kings Head - Carols & Auction event

George & Angie warmly invite **you** to come and join the regulars at the Kings Head on 20<sup>th</sup> December, from 3pm for the Carols & Auction Event, the time when Christmas really gets going! Carols are sung in between the bidding for a host of exciting lots, with items for absolutely all ages included. All the money raised is donated to local good causes.

### South Lopham Parish Council

**Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015** at Valley Farm, Low Common, South Lopham. **Present** Councillors J Crisp, Mrs S Martin, D Huggins, T Frizzell, J Pursehouse, S Reynolds and Mrs C Phillips (Clerk). The Responsible Financial Officer, Mr G Phillips in attendance for agenda items 6 and 7 (financial report and draft budget 2016/17). **Financial:** Mr Phillips reported the current balances and the meeting approved payments to Lophams' News and to the RBL wreath for Remembrance Sunday. A donation to St Andrew's church was approved. Renovation of the village sign was discussed; estimates to be obtained, probably sufficient in reserves to pay for this work. Councillors considered the 2015/16 budget on the basis of actual expenditure at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015; the draft budget for 2016/17 was discussed and possible items for inclusion such as War Memorial refurbishment and any work required to the bus shelter. Final budget to be agreed at January meeting. **Planning:** **a)** land south end of Bricklin Lane- visit by enforcement officer awaited. **b)** appeals pending - Field Shelter on land adjoining Low Common. Permitted development of barn at Noddle Farm. **c)** application for permission to extend Weavers Thetford Road, recently registered. **Highways:** **a)** gully on A 1066 on Thetford Road - NCC to repair in near future. **b)** running water on A 1066 east of the White Horse - due for investigation by NCC on 12<sup>th</sup> November. **c)** damaged tree on A 1066 east of the White Horse - Highways notified and will remove shortly. **d)** hedge on Blo Norton road - owners to be contacted re possible highway encroachment. **Works:** Councillors to inspect and consider refurbishment of War Memorial 2016. Bus shelter to be inspected and any necessary repairs and refurbishment reported to the Council. **Website:** this has now been updated. **Date and time of next meeting** 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 7.30pm at Valley Farm.

### St Andrew's Church

The Service of Remembrance, conducted by The Revd. John Curtis, was held at St. Andrew's Church and attended by a good congregation. The Roll of Honour was read after the two minutes silence to remember those who were lost in the two World Wars. A wreath was laid by Parish Council Chairman Mr John Crisp. After the Service the wreath was placed on the War Memorial.

There will be **carol singing** at The White Horse, South Lopham on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7pm by kind invitation of Nigel and Tracy Martin, all welcome.

**Decorating the Church** for Christmas will take place on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December** in the **morning**; we look forward to seeing anyone able to help.

The Church Wardens and PCC wish to express their **thanks** to those who have worked tirelessly to **tidy the Churchyard** over the past year and our team of **cleaners** and **flower arrangers**.

**We would like to wish all our parishioners a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.**

### Samaritan's Purse

Many thanks go to everyone who has contributed to this year's Shoe Box Appeal. 64 gaily decorated boxes are on now on their way to bring joy to deprived children far away. (A special thank you for the two boxes left on Southlands' doorstep anonymously!)

### Lophams' Holy Bingo

Continues in the Village Hall, on the first Monday each month at 2pm. New faces are always welcome to come and share in fun sessions, with plenty of time for a chat. There will be mince pies at the December meeting, on 7<sup>th</sup>. (Please telephone 01379 687679 for further details or for help with transport).

### Redgrave and Lopham Fen

**Wildlife Watch Group**  
Saturdays - 12 Dec, 9 Jan  
10.30am-12.30pm  
A club for 6-12yr olds, £2  
Contact  
marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com  
or call 01379 688333

**Children's activity: Winter wildlife**  
Tuesday 22 Dec, 10am-2pm  
For unaccompanied 6-10 year olds  
£6 per child, please book  
01379 688333  
redgrave.education@suffolkwildlifetrust.org

**Guided fen walks**  
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 December

North Lopham	South Lopham
	<b>6<sup>th</sup> December</b>
9.30 HC	-
11am Toy Service	-
	<b>13<sup>th</sup> December</b>
11am Fam S	-
4pm Adv Carols	-
	<b>20<sup>th</sup> December</b>
11am Fam Carols	9.30am HC
	<b>27<sup>th</sup> December</b>
11am Fam HC	

Contributions for next issue by;

## 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Please email to  
lophamsnews@gmail.com