

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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St Andrew's School

It is hard to believe that we are already in November. It has been a busy term at St Andrew's Primary School with the pupils thoroughly enthused with their super heroes topic. Some of the key learning has ranged from designing and describing their own super heroes, researching the influence of Florence Nightingale & remembering those who bravely fought in the wars. The pupils have also enjoyed celebrating harvest at St Nicholas' Church, together with learning about different aspects of friendship in Collective Worship.

It has been a sports filled term so far with pupils participating in new sports such as karate & tennis. Lunch times have seen the introduction of extra sporting opportunities, including archery. All of Key Stage 2 attended the first round of the cross country at Diss High School & it was a privilege to take several Key Stage 2 pupils to Fritton Lake as they qualified for the second round of the Cross Country tournament.

A new School Council has been elected & they have planned many exciting fund raising activities for Children in Need. Throughout this half term, the younger pupils are learning about road safety, Endeavour Class visited Gressenhall & years 1 & 2 enjoyed multiskills at Diss High School. Discovery class have also had a visit from the police to talk about the work they do & show them the inside of their police car. The Christmas play has been chosen & this year it will be Baa Baa Bethlehem & we are all looking forward to learning the songs for the performance.

If you wish to make an appointment to visit or would like more information about our school, please contact Mrs McGarr, 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

We are well into the second half of the term now with exciting events coming up for the Christmas season. We are performing a nativity play for families on Monday 11th December, & are holding our Christmas party on Wednesday the 13th December. We will also be holding a Christmas raffle at the school Christmas Fair on December 14th & joining the school for their Christmas lunch on the same day. We will also as usual be doing lots of Christmas craft activities & decorating the setting.

Our theme this half term is Traditional stories, we have started with the Three Little Pigs & enjoyed making large houses from sticks, straw and bricks. We will be looking at other stories & end the term with the Christmas story.

We have some places available, & we operate on Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays during term time. For further information or to arrange an informal visit & meet our friendly staff telephone 07854091257.

The Lophams' Society

Get into the spirit of Christmas by coming along to our **FREE CHRISTMAS DROP-IN** at the Village Hall on Friday 15th December between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. The Lophams' Village get-together is an open event for all residents (both past and present). This is an invitation to join us for some festive food and drink and to meet up with friends and neighbours both old and new.

This year there will be the added attraction of a **FREE DRAW** which will see two lucky winners take home a luxury hamper filled with Christmas goodies.

So please come along, we look forward to seeing you

Events at Redgrave & Lopham Fen, nr Bressingham IP22 2HX December/January

Wildlife Watch Group Saturdays 9 Dec, 13 Jan 10.30am-12.30pm A club for 6-12 year olds, £2 Contact marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com or call 01379 688333

Time to paint Friday 26 Jan 10am-2pm Bring some artwork and join like-minded people in a relaxed, informal setting £5 donation, includes tea/coffee and cake or biscuits All welcome, no need to book Contact: Deborah Key 01379 688333

Guided fen walks Saturday 6 Jan 10.30am-1pm Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill £4, meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

Felted robin workshop Sunday 3 Dec 2pm-4pm With local needle felter Jilly Trafford £15, booking essential

Knettishall Heath – 6 years on Tuesday 30 Jan 7.30pm Evening talk with Valley Fens Wildlife Group £2 per person (includes refreshments) All welcome, no need to book

For further details and to book, visit www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org or call 01473 890089

Lophams' Ladies

- meeting at the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month, at 2pm in the winter months. Norfolk Workhouses' was a fascinating subject in November, with excellent slides showing 'then and now', with new builds still showing traces of their past. The mood will definitely be light hearted on 5th December, as Mike Bowen asks "Did you Jive in 55?" with appropriate musical examples, followed by seasonal refreshments.

On January 2nd Geoffrey Leigh will introduce us to a "Very English Gentleman" – Prince Freddie du Leep Singh, of Blo' Norton. Admission to either meeting is just £2, to include refreshments. For further information, please telephone Carole on 01379 423143.

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.

We very much enjoyed Melanie Collins' talk on Hostas on 2nd November when she gave us lots of information on how to care for these lovely plants in our own gardens.

We shall not be having our usual meeting in December, but instead are looking forward to our Christmas meal together. This will be on 7th December in the restaurant at the Wyevale Garden Centre in Bressingham 7.00pm for 7.30pm. and we are sure to enjoy a very festive evening.

We do not meet in January and so our first meeting in 2018 will be on 1st February when Richard Maybe will give a presentation entitled "Food for Free".

Please contact 01379 687833 for any further details.

North Lopham PC - met on 8th November

Present: Six members & the Clerk, S Askew (NCC), 2 members of public. Apology W Nunn

Thanks to Jeremy Callow, Peter Cook, Mike Tipple and Mike McManus for dealing with various overgrown hedges and trees the new dog bin, also Letchmere edges and drain.

Precept has to be set at next meeting – the projected cost of completing the trod must be allowed for.

School crossing update Mr Askew advised that NCC highways officer recommended red tarmac and a dropped kerb to provide a designated crossing point. Cost £2,300 50% payable by NLPC. Parish Partnership funds might be available next year. Mr Askew has some discretionary funds available now which could assist. Councillors not convinced by red tarmac but liked dropped kerb. Double yellow lines outside the school reconsidered. Consider for next round of PP funding applications.

Mr Hammond has asked for a **progress report** on possible service road to Crown Milling, a written enquiry will be made.

The final payment has been made for the so far completed **trod**. The PP application for 50% (£2170) towards the remaining section will be decided in January.

The **road drains** will be jetted during November

"Surprising people" have been seen leaving **dog mess** in Tanns Lane. How many more flipping times do we have to say it? "Pay attention and pick it up, please!"

Highways - the road markings at the Harling Rd/The Green junction are badly worn and the salt in the grit bin in Kings Head Lane has solidified, both require attention. The clerk will enquire of the man who tidies the burial ground about also strimming round the mere edge

Next meeting 10th Jan 2018

St Nicholas Church

Methodists' Services - continue to meet in church for an informal morning service followed by coffee & chat each month. In December the focus is on Carols at 10.30am on Wednesday 13th

Samaritan's Purse: Shoebox Appeal: Thanks to all the generous people who filled and decorated 50 boxes this year. We should know their final destination in the New Year.

The Knitted Bible Festival 2017 exceeded our wildest hopes. It attracted many people from Norfolk, Suffolk and much further afield too - half term visitors to the area from Derbyshire, Yorkshire and the West Midlands, visitors from Kent and Essex, even people from across the sea - on holiday from France and from Texas!! A group of architects on the last day included several from Europe and one originally from Persia. There were school teachers and church leaders taking photographs for future reference, and craft clubs looking for ideas!

We really did enjoy meeting so many wonderful folk; and it was lovely to see younger members telling the older ones what the stories were all about. Some people started looking up the bible references while they were still with us; others were off home to do their homework! And we have been challenged to continue with even more scenes for 2018, so do 'Watch this space'!

Remembrance provided many special moments this year. The ceremony at the War Memorial on 10th November was attended by a USAF Officer and St Andrew's School Juniors, alongside residents and veterans. The children shared in all aspects of the occasion - reading prayers, helping to lay wreaths, planting crosses and finally singing a special Remembrance song. Sam B played the National Anthem perfectly on his cornet. On Remembrance Sunday the children also shared in a short ceremony at the start of the Family Service. **December** brings Advent and Christmas, with many seasonal extras to enjoy. It is our hope that lots of local residents will be drawn to share in some or all of them. They include: **The Toy Service** on 3rd at 11am. If you would like to give joy to a very needy family in this area, ie Thetford, please bring a gift, wrapped & labelled with the age and gender for which it is intended, and these will be delivered in good time. **The Advent Carol Service** is on 10th at 4pm, with a feast of lovely readings and special music for the season. **The Family Carol Service** on 17th at 11am is a chance to sing well known favourite carols and hear the children read The Story. Our **Crib Service** on 24th at 4pm is an oasis for busy parents, before the magic of Christmas Day takes over. Again the children are fully involved. 31st December is a fifth Sunday, so the service will be in Diss at 10.30am

As always at the end of the year, the churchwardens and church council say a big thank you to all those who help in any way with care of the church, or with its activities, throughout the year, not least the loyal team who deliver the magazine. Without Your help, all the efforts of the contributors and production team would be wasted! Christmas Blessings & Happy New Year to All!

St Andrews Church

Remembrance Service

The service of Remembrance on Sunday 12th November 2017 when we remember those who gave their lives in the world wars, was led by the Revd. Maggie Swayze, this moving service was very well attended. The Roll of Honour for South Lopham was read by Mr Peter Reeder and the wreath was laid by Parish Council Chairman Mr John Crisp, and after the service the wreath was placed on the War Memorial

Carols at The White Horse

The PCC would like to invite you to an evening of Carols at The White Horse, South Lopham on Tuesday 19th December at 7.00pm all are very welcome. The PCC and Church Wardens would like to thank all those who have worked tirelessly for the upkeep of the Churchyard, our team of cleaners, our flower arrangers and everyone who has supported St. Andrew's Church over the past year. We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year

South Lopham Parish Council

The Council met on 7th November at Valley Farm. Four members and the Clerk Mrs Phillips present together with Mr Askew, County Councillor, specifically to advise on highways. Members were pleased to hear that Mrs Chapman Allen continues to improve.

SAM2 and Village Gateways: the Clerk informed the meeting of the present position. Cost of speed signs very nearly covered with assistance of County Councillors members contribution. Gateways not to be proceeded with at present.

Financial Report: statement of current balances and accounts/ invoices for payment delivered by clerk and approved.

Draft Budget for 2017/2018 precept: explained by the R.F.O Mr Phillips. Allowing for reserve, liabilities in 2018 and projects slight increase in the precept will be required. To be confirmed.

Planning: Mrs Martin provided update. New application on the A1066 agreed by councillors.

Highways: Mrs Shipperlee dealing with potholes.

Community: Jim Pursehouse reported on successful Nov 5th bonfire on the playing field.

Works: Simon Puttock has removed Primrose Lane bench for refurbishment.

Hedge/Trees bordering highways: Trimming still needs by some owners- PLEASE ACT WITHOUT DELAY.

Footpaths: Some are still impassable - PLEASE UNBLOCK!

Litter Pick: Sunday 19th November 2017 10.00am, meet White Horse.

Next meeting: 4th January 2018 7.30pm at Valley Farm

Holy Bingo: We meet on the first Monday each month at 2pm in Lophams' Village Hall; the December session is on 4th for the usual fun time, with mince pies and plenty of chat, alongside the actual bingo games.

If you need a lift, contact Jennie on 01379 687679 for transport.

Lophams' Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee is very grateful to everyone who supported the **Bags For Help** campaign at Tesco this summer. We were the lucky winners, so have £3500 towards the children's play equipment planned for installation on the playing field at the Village Hall. It is a great start to the fund-raising for this project which we are very keen to see succeed. We have also applied for another grant with Aviva so fingers crossed! We hope that local people will put forward any ideas or help with fund-raising, so that we can complete this project by the spring

Lophams' Bonfire and Firework Event: was a great success! The heavy morning rain stopped in time, and a bumper crowd came along to watch the enormous bonfire until the wonderful firework display was the focus of all eyes. As ever, we send a big thank you to all those who brought along garden prunings etc for the fire, and to Jim who built it so successfully, to those who provided food, drinks and children's glow-sticks and to those who joined in.

The evening of comedy and song with Pat Nearney and Danny Platon will be reported next time.

The Village Hall Lottery continues to raise invaluable funds for the development fund, with a full complement of members at the moment. If you would like to go on the list for a place when a vacancy occurs, please speak to Jane on 01379 688183 or any committee member. Regular draws take place at noon at the Farmers' Market each month. All who have been in for three months are entered into the Christmas Bonanza draw at the December Farmers' Market. The prize fund has topped £300 for the very first time! The October winners were: £200 prize - A Wallis; £50 prizes - B Goodey & J Vere. K Hatton won the goodies basket.

Farmers' Markets: take place every month, usually on the 4th Saturday, from 9am till 12.30pm, with a wide range of stalls to choose your locally produced goods. Choose your fresh Christmas produce on 23rd December. Details from Mike Shipperlee on 01379 687235

Judo is on Mondays & Wednesdays - (contact Howard on 1379 688258)

Lophams' Art Group: meets on Wednesday mornings, from 9.30am. The cost is £15 each per month, and includes refreshments and a visit from an 'expert' once each month. Contact Jennifer on 01379 687282 for details.

Pilates: sadly, Pilates has ceased due to lack of regular support.

Dog Training: Most Thursday evenings with Rob Jessup; Rob's telephone number is 01379 873144.

To book the hall for private events, 'phone 01379 687679, or visit the website.



Services for December

| North Lopham | South Lopham |
|---|--------------|
| 3rd Dec | |
| 9.30am HC | *** |
| 11am Toy Ser | *** |
| 10th Dec | |
| 11am Harvest Fam S | *** |
| 17th Dec | |
| 11am Fam S | |
| 4pm Adv Ser | 9.30am HC |
| 24th Dec | |
| 4pm Crib Ser | *** |
| 31st Dec (fifth Sunday) | |
| Diss HC 10.30am | |

Contributions for next issue by;

14th December

Please email to
lophamsnews@gmail.com