

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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St. Andrew's School: We can't believe that we are in Lent already; the start of 2020 has whizzed by so quickly. The children visited the Theatre Royal for this year's pantomime 'Cinderella' and had a wonderful time, and we are all extremely grateful to FOSTA for their financial contribution to enable this to happen. We are still learning about 'Innovators' this term and children in Endeavour will be looking at adventure and mystery stories and The Romans. Victory class will be identifying different kinds of animals including humans and different stages of "matter" in science. The children in Discovery class are looking at the history of Steiff Teddy Bears and different stories containing bears. As we approach World Book Day, the children are looking forward to bringing in their book character designs by either fruit or vegetable. For Sport Relief this year the children are going to be bringing in their bikes and can have the opportunity to buy and decorate biscuits. For science week we are having a morning learning about forensics in a fun way. Children will also be bringing in their experiments to show the others in the school. During Collective Worship we are looking at Forgiveness and the importance of Lent to Christians. 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: Greetings from everyone at Pre-School. We have had a busy few weeks as Spring gets going. There was Pancake Day fun, then lots of craft opportunities for Mothers' Day. As the weather gets warmer we love being outside when the sun shines, using our bigger toys, and planning which vegetables and salads we will grow this year. If you would like to come and visit us please get in touch. We are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.45am until 3.15pm, and take children from age 2 years old. All this is subject to being able to stay open through the current health crisis. Please phone 07854 091257 for more information or to arrange a visit. We would love to see you - Louise, Pre-School Manager.

Lophams' Ladies: We meet in the Village Hall on the first Tuesday each month, at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Visitors and potential new members are always welcome. Admission is just £2, which includes refreshments. We have a varied and interesting programme of topics, and are hoping to attract men in the coming months, so do consider whether you would be interested - a name change could be a possibility. ***This was to have been discussed at the AGM on 7th April, unfortunately due to Covid-19 this has had to be postponed, and all future meetings cancelled until further notice.*** At the February meeting, Frances Hart donned a sumptuous costume to illustrate her talk, 'Rings on my fingers', which revealed some of the secrets of Celia Fiennes' colourful life. In March, our own Ann Seddon led a craft evening making greeting cards. Such was her skill that everyone was pleased with the results. When the AGM is re-scheduled, please come along, and bring your ideas and suggestions with you. The Club has been running for a long time and we hope it will develop in new ways, with more people joining.

Garden Club: It has been decided that given the current guidelines on Covid-19, our meeting scheduled for 2nd April is cancelled. Please telephone 01379 687833 for any further details.

The Lophams Society: Due to the health risks and Government advice regarding the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid-19), the Lophams' Society Committee has decided to cancel the Spring Quiz scheduled to take place on 24th April. For further information please telephone Roy Clark on 01379 688408.

South Lopham Parish Council met on 3rd March. Six members present plus the Clerk and Steven Askew (NCC) for part of the meeting. Apologies from one member and Mrs. Chapman Allen (BC).

Highways: Dustbin speed limit stickers still available. Thanks to Steve Askew for funding these from his council budget. Letters have been sent to a number of residents where overgrown hedges and trees are hindering motorist's visibility. The speed and size of vehicles using Parish roads was discussed. Speeding vehicles are a continual issue. A recent initiative checking the validity of HGV vehicles on restricted roads in the area has found most had a valid reason for doing so.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust: A copy of the expired lease of a small piece of land adjoining the Fen was produced. This was discussed further, and it was decided that the Chairman would read the old copy and the Clerk would check the council's liability policy and both would report at the next meeting.

War Memorial: The Council has accepted a quotation for the renovation work to be carried out later in the year. Application for grant funding is in hand.

Planning: A letter from the BC Enforcement Officer regarding the use of land at the corner of Brick Kiln Lane was discussed. The council still find this matter unsatisfactory. It was agreed that the use of this land now be brought to the attention of Environmental Health with the assistance of our County Councillor. Another planning application was discussed and response agreed, and also the position regarding the location of field shelters for horses on agricultural land (to be researched by the Clerk).

Footpaths: Rob Webb continues to work on keeping Parish paths open. Two council members recently attended a footpaths seminar. Efforts are being made to undertake tree planting on suitable land in the Parish.

Sam2 Speed Sign: Apologies to the Parish that this was out of action for so long. It is now functioning again, located facing South in Church Road.

Litter Pick: Our Parish has too much litter on verges and paths discarded, in the main, by lazy thoughtless people. If you agree PLEASE JOIN a two hour pick organised by Jim Pursehouse on 19th April 10.00am at the White Horse.

Next Meeting: 12th May at 7.30pm (*tbc*) Valley Farm.

St. Andrews' Church

Services: There will be no Services in St. Andrews' Church from the 22nd March until further notice, however the church will still be open for private prayer.

Graveyard Working Party: This has had to be cancelled but if you are visiting the church, please feel free to collect a few sticks and put them on the bonfire.

The Lopham Walking Group: We enjoyed some early March sunshine as we met for our monthly walk. This month was a 5 mile circular walk around Kenninghall and Banham, following footpaths, farm tracks and woodland. There was a good turnout of 16 members. We meet on the first Friday each month, the next walk is on 3rd April. Most walks are local and approximately 5miles in length at a steady pace. New faces are always warmly welcome. Anyone interested please phone 01379 688406 or 01379 688272

Redgrave and Lopham Fen, nr. Bressingham: In line with Government guidance about Covid-19 and the need for social distancing, all Suffolk Wildlife Trust offices, Visitor and Learning Centres are closed. All school visits, volunteer work parties, activities and events, up until the end of April, are cancelled. The closure will be reviewed at the end of April. The Reserves will remain open for individual enjoyment.

The Art Exhibition due to be held on the May Bank Holiday weekend (9th and 10th May) is unfortunately cancelled. For further details and clarification visit www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org or call 01473 890089.

North Lopham Parish Council met on 11th March. **Present:** All Councillors, J. Crossley (Clerk), M. Chapman-Allen (BDC), Jonathan Spinks (County Broadband), 5 parishioners.

Matters Arising: The Chairman apologised for previously missing three consecutive meetings and offered to relinquish his post - no takers.

Issues raised: The representation of NLPC's views on Meadow Lane development at BDC planning committee discussed and resolved. It was agreed that in future, for clarity, individual NLPC Councillors must sign plans to say if they approve or not. The majority will be NLPC's view.

County Broadband: JS explained CB's aim is to provide Hyperfast internet service to rural areas in line with Central Government initiative. At least 30% of households must provisionally register before 1st May for the scheme to progress. These will be connected free if scheme goes ahead. Funded by HMG and Aviva. Benefits and costs were discussed; NLPC agreed to a circular going out to all households to explain this (**re-iterated below**).

Reeds in Mere: One estimate for clearing was £1,000 plus VAT. Other estimates to be sought.

Village Clean Up: 28th March.

SNAP: No report.

Double Yellow Lines outside School: NCC says definitely NO.

Affordable Housing Survey: Letters sent; the report of results will be discussed at the next meeting.

Trod Parish Partnership Scheme: Scheduled for 2021 when NLPC has saved enough money for its 50% contribution.

Finances: Various payments approved.

AOB: Moles in churchyard - no action.

Overgrown Hedges: Letters to offenders followed by possible involvement of NCC highways who may bushwhack them (and the hedges)!

Next Meeting: AGM 13th May (*tbc*).

North Lopham could miss out on Upgrading its Broadband Network:

North Lopham has the chance to secure Hyperfast full-fibre broadband through County Broadband. Thousands of premises in over 130 villages across East Anglia have already agreed to join CB's new network which does not use the old, unreliable copper wires to connect to internet, TV and 'phone services. Construction will begin here if at least 30% of residents and businesses sign up and these will get free connection, the school will receive a free connection and service. If the network is installed, residents who did not pre-register may still connect later but there will be a charge. North Lopham has until 1st May 2020 to reach 30% take up otherwise it will lose this opportunity to modernise its telecommunications systems for the foreseeable future. Visit www.countybroadbandfibre.co.uk/futureready to find out more.

St Nicholas' Church:

Holy Bingo: *For the time being, Holy Bingo sessions are suspended.* It would be lovely to restart them, or something similar later in the year. Are there enough people who would like to come for a whilst afternoon, or "knit and natter" from time to time? Please do contact Jennie on 01379 687679 if you would be interested.

Lent Lunches: These were planned to help the Bishop's Lent Appeal, they are now to be cancelled this year after just the first one, hosted by Diane - our thanks to her. This year's appeal is supporting our Link Diocese of Papua New Guinea, which is in desperate need of cars to transport personnel between small, scattered, communities. Any donations received will be passed on to the Diocesan Office.'

Church Services: Please note that we have been advised not to hold public worship in any of our churches until further notice. They will still be open as usual for private prayer and reflection. We do hope that people will want to come into our buildings, but respectfully ask that the special hygiene requests are met. In case of doubt, contact a churchwarden.

Services for April: There will be no services, even over the Easter season.

Evening Chorus Stroll will take place on Sunday 3rd May between 7.00pm to 9.30pm. Park opposite Thelnetham Windmill, IP22 1LD. An alternative walk to catch the evening chorus on International Dawn Chorus Day. A local expert will take us round to see and hear the birds and other wildlife out on the Fens towards dusk. Please wear sturdy footwear and suitable clothing. Bring binoculars if you have them. **Booking essential as numbers are limited.** Suggested £4 donation. **TO BOOK** contact Conservation Manager, ellie.beach@lohp.org.uk or call 07919 912045. **At the time of going to print, it is still expected that this event is going ahead, however nearer the time, subject to Government advice, a decision will be made as to whether it should be cancelled or not**

If you are Self-isolating, help is at hand: William Nunn is co-ordinating a team of local volunteers (*if you would like to be a volunteer please call him on 01379 688254 or 07443 567354*). If you are self-isolating due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) and need help with anything (shopping, posting mail, a friendly phone call or urgent supplies) please contact William on the numbers above and he will put one of our local volunteers in touch with you. Coronavirus is contagious - please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.

Lophams' Village Hall and Playing Field

Eileen: The members of the Village Hall Committee send their very best wishes to Eileen for a steady recovery from her recent, severe stroke, and hope to see her with us before too long.

BRIMBO: The annual BikeMeet with Auto-jumble will be held on the playing field on Sunday 10th May, (*subject to confirmation*) from 10.00am, with refreshments available in the Hall. Pitches are available for £12.00; admission is just £2.00. Details from Rodney, on 01379 688208.

Lopham Village Rally Advance Notice: This has been booked for Sunday 26th July. All details will be published nearer the time, but do please put the date in your diaries now.

The Village Hall Lottery: During the last ten years, over £37,000 has been distributed in prize money and over £19,000 has been contributed to the Village Hall Development Fund. Sincere thanks from the Hall Management Committee to all those who have participated, your support has allowed us to make important improvements to the building and its surroundings. Please remember that 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 aren't in the lottery but would like to join, please ring 01379 688183, supply your contact details and you will be notified as soon as a vacancy arises. The February winners were: 1st prize - P. Blanchet; and 2nd prizes P Blanchet and C. Huggins; Mr. Bassett won the basket of goodies.

Farmers' Markets usually take place on the fourth Saturday each month, from 9.00am until 12.30pm, with a wide range of stalls to choose your locally produced goods. The next Market is on 25th April (*subject to confirmation*). For details, contact Mike Shipperlee on 01379 687235.

Keep Fit for Mums and Tots is on Mondays from 9.30am (*subject to confirmation*) - (contact Rose, of Hill Fitness, on 07795 029981).

Judo is on Monday evenings (*subject to confirmation*) - (contact Howard on 01379 688258).

Lophams' Art Group meets Wednesdays 9.30am to 12.30pm at Lophams' Village Hall; we welcome new members of all levels of ability, so if you would enjoy discovering or improving your artistic talents in a supportive and non-critical atmosphere then you should phone or text Tim on 07854 900103 for more details. On 12th February Emily Pocner's simple printmaking tutorial was another chance for us to enjoy flexing our creative muscles in unfamiliar territory. Some pleasing results fired the enthusiasm of some members to continue developing their skills in this medium. Katie Millard's watercolour tutorial on 25th March was cancelled (Covid-19). Chris Gamble scheduled to visit on 22nd April is also cancelled. Visit by Trevor Osborne on 6th May is very much subject to confirmation. **To find out more phone or text Tim.** There are now examples of the Art Group's work on display at the Village Hall, take a look when next you visit the Farmers' Market.

Dog Training is on Wednesday evenings with Rob Jessup (*subject to confirmation*); Rob's telephone number is 01379 873144.

Botolph's Bowmen meet on the Playing Field on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, plus Sundays (*subject to confirmation*). To find out more, visit their website link: botolphsbowmen.co.uk.

Diss Family History Group meets on some Tuesdays at 1.30pm (*subject to confirmation*).

CHURCH SERVICES

For the foreseeable future there will be no Church Services, although both St. Nicholas' and St. Andrews' are open for private prayer.

Contributions for next issue by:

18th April

Please email to

lophamsnews@gmail.com