

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No.383

PUBLISHED EACH MONTH SINCE 1982

APRIL 2014

Breaking News - A Public Meeting to air views re Solar Farm issues will take place on FRIDAY 4th APRIL in the Village Hall at 6pm, with representatives of AVIC and Richard Pike Associates, Breckland & local Councils and local residents. Please Be There!

St Andrew's School

St. Andrew's pupils, parents, staff and governors are already half way through an action packed half term. Since returning after half term, the children in Key Stage 2 have enjoyed History brought to life when they went to see Horrible Histories at the end of February at Theatre Royal Norwich. Many are now looking forward to travelling to London to see a West End Production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

The football and netball team have also been very busy and should be congratulated on their fantastic results in the small school league!

World Book Day was a great event at the start of March, which saw pupils sharing their love of books. Many produced potatoes dressed as their favourite book character, while others took photos of themselves reading in extreme places!

This week the children have been taking part in National Science Week. They have enjoyed a Science Ninja day with Discovery pupils making bubbles, Victory class launching rockets and Endeavour decorating materials. Children are now looking forward to sharing their Science projects from home with the whole school.

St. Andrew's now looks forward to the forthcoming events: Hi 5 Netball, Easter Egg Hunt, Easter breakfast and Easter Service.

St Andrew's Pre School

The sun is shining and the daffodils blooming – and we will soon have our new outside garden area for the children to get messy in!

We would like to say a massive thank you to Angie, George and everyone at The Kings Head Public House for the generous donation. We truly appreciate the continued support given by the community.

Alongside our Easter Raffle we are also planning a Bingo Night combining Fun and Fundraising on an evening in May 2014, full details will be confirmed nearer the time.

We are running a mobile recycling initiative, so if you have an old mobile languishing in a draw, let us take it off your hands and turn it into much needed pennies and pounds for the pre-school.

As always, we encourage prospective parents to drop in, view the setting and meet our team. Please note our new contact number is 07854 091257.

FoSTA

We are planning to hold our, ever popular, **Yard Sales**, again and following suggestions from those who took part last year are having them earlier this year. So put **Sunday 1st June** in your diary and think about joining us. We will be opening the school gates for those of you who would prefer to car boot and the preschool will host the refreshments. More info nearer the time.

Lophams' Village Hall

The 13th Birthday of our Farmers' Market in February was celebrated in style with a photo call from the Diss Express and a free draw to win a bottle of champagne and bunch of red roses. Julie Crossley was the lucky winner.

A new venture in May will be a day for **vintage bike enthusiasts**, on Sunday 11th, Do look out for posters and flyers nearer the time.

The Lottery is a fun way to support the hall development fund, with three chances each month of winning a prize. February's winners were: 1st prize of £178 - D Blanchard, with 2nd prizes of £44.50 going to R Bassett & J Farren-Bradley. Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter, Eileen, tel; 01379 687608, from Village Hall Treasurer, Tim Colyer, tel; 01379 687718, from other Village Hall Committee members (see website for details), or at the Farmer's Market and at Village Hall Events.

Farmer's Markets are on the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am to 12.30pm. The April Market is on 26th. For details, call Mike on 01379 687235.

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 01379 687882 for more details.

Yoga with P: is on Thursdays in the early evening. Booking is essential, so contact pieterella.jarvie@gmail.com (01379 890955 or 07932010720).

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.

Lophams' Ladies

Meeting on the first Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall; 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

In March we resumed to our evening time and welcomed Ken Samman from the "Garden Enclosure" at Banham Zoo. Ken brought along a selection of plants and talked about ways to brighten up our gardens, not only for the coming season but also to add year round interest.

April 1st will be our **AGM**. The theme will be "Nostalgia Time" and we ask members or visitors if they have a Family Tree to bring it along for a display along with photos of our Weddings and "Guess the Baby".

On May 6th we have an evening outing to "Cocoa Mama"; a chocolate shop in Eye. We will meet in the Village Hall car park to share lifts and the cost will be £5.

Once again newcomers and visitors are always welcome - phone 01379 687337 for details.

Garden Club

We held our **AGM** on 5th March and this was followed by a presentation entitled "Garden Antiques" by David Holmes. David brought along a number of old gardening implements and also showed slides of various lawn mowers, watering cans, shears and spades used over past years. It was fascinating to see how these items have changed over the years and become so much easier for us modern day gardeners to use.

Our next meeting will be on 2nd April, when Guy Barker will give a presentation "Harbingers of Spring". Guy will give us ideas on what to plant to introduce colour and variety to our gardens for the new season. He will also bring a selection of plants for us to purchase.

Looking further forward, we will welcome John Tate to our meeting on May 7th. John will be giving us lots of advice on "Garden Ponds".

We meet at Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always very welcome. Please telephone 01379 687833 for further details.

The Lophams' Society

Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday 11th April 2014 at the Lophams' Village Hall.

This will be followed by the **Lophams' Village Open Meeting**, which will include representatives from both North and South Lopham Parish Councils.

Doors open 7pm. All residents welcome. Refreshments will be provided courtesy of the Lophams' Society.

St Nicholas' Church

Starters & Sweets. The Village Hall was the venue for a delightful evening tasting soups, cold starters and an array of delicious sweets on 21st February. The evening took on a new ambience when the lights went out just as all the soups were served, but everyone enjoyed continuing the tasting by candle and lamplight! Raffle tickets were on sale while the puddings were being eaten - luckily the colours were very different. A very happy occasion raised over £300 for funds, so many thanks go to all those who contributed in any way.

NB Two very special dates in May: **Friday Night is SNYSB Night on 23rd and a Concert by Ryan Lewis on Friday 30th in aid of Pancreatic Cancer Research.**

Mothering Sunday is on 30th March. We will have an all-age Service at 11am, in celebration of Families, especially Mothers. Do come along and join us..... there will be cake and extra treats afterwards.

Holy Week begins with the Palm Sunday Evensong on 13th April, so there will be NO Evensong in North Lopham that day; we are all invited to St Mary's Diss at 6pm. Services throughout the week continue in Diss church.

On **Good Friday** there will be a 'Last Hour at the Cross' in North Lopham, starting at 2pm. After the service, and during Saturday we will decorate the church for Easter. Any gifts of flowers and foliage, or help with the arranging will be gratefully received.

Easter Day is 20th April. There will be an Easter Communion for all ages, at 11am, followed by an Easter Egg hunt. We hope lots of people will join the celebrations!

North Lopham Lent Lunches

The lunches on Tuesdays during Lent, continue until April 8th, between 12 noon and 2pm, to raise money for poor pastors in Papua New Guinea, to help provide books and bibles. Details of venues are on local posters. For further information or help with transport, just phone 01379 687679.

Redgrave and Lopham Fen

Sat 5 April, 10.30am – 1pm. **Guided fen walk.** £3 Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required. **Tue 8 April**, 2pm – 4pm. **Spring and sunflowers family afternoon.** £2.50 per person. Booking essential 01379 688333. **Wed 9 April**, 10am – 2pm. **Wild about art activity day.** For 6 – 10 year olds. £6 each or 2 siblings for £10. Booking essential 01379 688333. **Sun 13 April**, 10am – 3pm. **Plant Sale** plus second hand tools and donated plants. £1.50 adults, children free. Hot and cold refreshments available. Dogs on leads welcome. **Tue 15 April**, 2pm – 4pm. **Easter egg quest family afternoon.** £2.50 per person. Booking essential 01379 688333

South Lopham Parish Council

Meeting held at Valley Farm with John Crisp in the Chair and Clerk Mrs Phillips. There were two apologies from Councillors and four members of the public were in attendance.

The Clerk gave a brief **financial report** and a statement of current balances. The **budget for 2014-2015 was approved** including a sum for the provision of grass cutting at St Andrews Church. Revised standing orders were approved.

Brief individual reports were given by Councillors except for planning. This item was wholly occupied by the application submitted for a **Solar Farm on the south of the A1066**. A substantial majority of Councillors voted to reject this. It was reported that a great number of parishioners are extremely concerned about the proposal. Members of the public Messrs Briggs, Coster and Brown addressed the meeting on different aspects of the matter at length. Further developments are awaited.

Lophams' Society. 1. Quiz in Village Hall 28th March. 2. Village AGM Friday 11th April to which all are encouraged to attend. Wine will be served before hand and the meeting is particularly informative for all residents. The **next South Lopham Parish Council meeting** will be held at Valley Farm Low Common on **8th May 2014** 7.30pm.

North Lopham Parish Council: 12th March

All councillors, a representative of AVIC and of Richard Pike and approximately 50 members of the public were present.

Solar Farm The AVIC and RP reps addressed the meeting but refused to answer questions. Though no applications will be made while Whitebreads Farm is on the table, **all four sites are still being considered, not just Whitebreads Farm.** They offered another postponement and another consultation, details of both remain unconfirmed. The PC wants an impartially chaired public meeting involving Breckland Council, RP, AVIC and all affected PCs so that issues can be properly aired before the closing date for comments on the application.

Affordable Housing no real progress.

Drains in Tanns Lane the broken cover has been temporarily made safe.

Highways Potholes have been repaired in Kings Head Lane and Common Road. Drains in The Street have been jetted, tree roots blamed for blockages. Speed awareness signs have been installed.

The mobility ramp in the school car park is often blocked by parked cars, **please leave it clear!**

War memorial needs to be cleaned, costs will be investigated.

VAS (Flashing speed limit sign) **Application** has been successful, 50% grant leaves PC to find £2,800. Contact was made with Crown Milling who indicated that they may find sponsorship for this sum. A resident pointed out that speeding vehicles close to the school are still commonplace.

Village Clean-up was set for **Saturday 12th April.**

Local Gov. Boundary Commission proposal that N Lopham joins Kenninghall for electoral purposes was rejected.

A Vacancy will exist on the Parish Council after the next meeting when Heather Potter stands down. Anyone who wishes to serve on the PC should contact the Parish Clerk on 01379 688298.

AOB A complaint has been received about speeding motorbikes on the by-ways.

Next meeting 14th May 2014.

North Lopham Methodist Church

The monthly informal service & Coffee Morning continues on the 4th Wednesday each month at 10.30 am and usually includes a short service of worship followed by a Coffee Morning from 11am until 12 noon. The next is on April 23rd.

St Andrew's Church

The **Easter Service** at St. Andrew's Church will be HC at 9.30am on Easter Sunday the 20th April.

The Church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday morning the 19th April, any help would be appreciated.

There will be a **Coffee Morning** in the Church on Wednesday 14th May 10.00am - 12.00noon, with a Cake Stall, Raffle, Bring and Buy etc. Please come along enjoy a Coffee and a Scone.

Two dates for your diary (further information in next issue).

A **Flower Festival** will be held in St. Andrew's Church on Saturday and Sunday 12th and 13th July.

The **Thursday Night Ladies Choir and Four Hands in Harmony** return for a concert in the Church on Saturday 26th July in aid of Cancer Research.

Lophams' Holy Bingo

It is always good to see new faces - we hope there will be some younger ones on April 7th at 2pm, as the Easter school holiday will have started. Please telephone 01379 687679 if you need help with transport.

Services for April

North Lopham	South Lopham
	6th April
9.30am HC	-
11am Fam S	-
	13th April
11am Fam S	-
6pm ES at Diss	-
	20th April
11am Easter HC	9.30am HC
	27th April
11am Fam S	4pm ES

Contributions for next issue by;

18th APRIL

Please email to lophamsnews@gmail.com

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Talk

Tuesday 29th April 7.30pm - a talk by Samantha Gay - **News from Knettishall Heath**; followed by the group's short AGM.

Everyone is welcome to the Redgrave and Lopham Fen Education Centre, £2 including refreshments. Further info on 01379 608313.