

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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

St Andrew's School

Over the last month, children at St. Andrew's have participated in a range of activities and consequently reaped much success. At present the focus for Collective Worship is Friendship. At the end of October, St. Andrew's children enjoyed hosting a Chinese themed day for their partners at All Saints, Winfarthing. During the day children made Chinese lanterns, dragons and scrolls, stir fry, a model of the Great Wall of China, listened to Chinese music and found out about schools in China.

Future events at St. Andrew's include a dedication service for the new partnership, a Christmas production titled 'A Dancing Christmas Party', an end of term service, Christmas parties, Christmas lunch and trip to the theatre.

St. Andrew's is now busy showing round prospective parents of children due to start school in September 2012. If you have a child who will be 4 years old before 1st September 2012 then please contact the school on 01379 687253 or by e-mail head@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk and come and look around. We would love to hear from you. *Louise Norgate, Executive Headteacher for All Saints and St. Andrew's Partnership.*

FOSTA - Festive Treats & Treatments Event. The hall and classrooms were crowded with visitors sampling the delights on offer - from handmade creams and chocolates to actual massage treatments. The organisers provided delicious refreshments and sold tickets for a raffle, which included a prize from every stall - an amazing array of goodies. In just a couple of hours they raised a wonderful £550 for their funds. Grateful thanks to everyone who supported the event in any way at all!

North Lopham Parish Council

Dawn Eagle was elected **Chair** until the January 2012 meeting. **Village clear up.** 16 volunteers, adults and children, cleared litter, mainly from the stretch between Church Corner and the Village Hall. Also, the pond area was tidied and the drain cleared. Thanks to all who took part and to George and Angie at the Kings Head who supplied hot drinks and biscuits afterwards. **Planning.** Among a number of applications, Breckland has refused 3 wind turbines, although the PC had raised no objections. Amendments to the plans for 40, The Street is pending. The application to adopt the tracks to the west of The Street has been accepted by Norfolk, and will happen in 2023. **Roads and Footpaths,** un-cleared fallen leaves are a hazard. The dog warden has been contacted about fouling; he will carry out random checks and consider new signage. **More complaints** have been received about speeding HGVs. It is proposed to install a **litterbin** and **grit bin** by the school and a **grit bin** in Kings Head Lane. **Thanks to Gerald & Heather Potter** for cutting the hedges round the burial ground. For the next meeting; to consider provision of a **community car** as there is in Kenninghall.

Next meeting; is on 11.01.2012

Lophams' Village Hall

Bonfire & Firework event: After a wet and miserable start, the rain did stop in time for the bonfire & fireworks on 5th November, though it was still very misty. The fire burned wonderfully well (and lasted 'til Monday evening) and the fireworks were really beautiful. We are very grateful to all those who brought burnable material to the field - mostly really good, with very little unsuitable stuff to be rejected. Thanks are due to many people - the fire building team led by Jim & the teleporter, the firework crew, those who set out the field and did carparking duty, the food and drinks providers, and those who brought extra attractions along. There were some very good Guy Fawkes entries for the children's competition - so everyone was awarded a prize! **The Lottery** - our opportunity to support the Village Hall and have a bit of fun too - is drawn during the Farmers' Market, at 12 noon. The number of entries continues to grow - meaning a larger prize fund each time. October winners were: M & L Collier - first Prize (£188), with M & D Tipple and R Pursehouse - second prizes (£47 each) New members, and those who need to renew are urged to get in touch: Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter, Eileen (01379 687608), Tim Colyer (01379 687718), Committee members (see website for details), or at the Farmers' Market and Village Hall Events. **Farmers' Markets** are on the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm, except the Christmas Market on **Sunday 18th December**, when there will be an extra **Bonanza Lottery prize**; 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. **Art Classes** are most Wednesdays, from 9.30; contact Susie Turner on 688128. **To book the hall for private functions**, please contact 01379 687679. To find out more about the hall generally, visit the website: www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk

Lophams' Ladies

In November Judy Tann enthralled us all with her large collection of Cross-Stitch Samplers. Most of these beautiful works of embroidery were done by children in the 19th century - some by five and six year olds and others by older girls. All the work showed great detail and all were no doubt done in preparation for their work in service. December 6th is our Christmas Lunch at the Kings Head (12 noon for 12.30pm). Looking ahead to 2012; in January we are going to hear about the work of "The Mission to Deep-Sea Fishermen" and in February Roland Buggy is going to talk about his visit to Antarctica. These are afternoon meetings (2.00pm) as indeed is the March meeting. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall (except in January the venue may need to be changed) - for details phone 01379 687337 - members and visitors always welcome.

Garden Club

We meet at Blooms Garden Centre, 1st Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm, visitors and new members are always very welcome.

At our November meeting we welcomed Colin Thorburn who gave an excellent presentation entitled "Orchids". Colin first gave us a general introduction to orchid growing which was followed by a slide presentation showing a range of orchids and also the overseas locations where these stunning plants are found.

December 7th is the date of our Christmas Dinner provided by the staff at Blooms.

For ticket availability or other information telephone 01953 681989.

North Lopham Kings Head - Carols & Auction event

Sunday 18th December, starting as soon as possible after 3pm. The regulars invite all local people to join them for this annual occasion, when we aim to have lots of fun as we raise funds for special charities - chosen by our hosts and the regulars. The auction is interspersed with singing favourite carols, the Cake raffle and extra fun moments - so do come and join in!

Samaritan's Purse

Grateful thanks to all those who filled and decorated shoeboxes this autumn; they will soon be on their way to take Christmas joy to some very deprived children. We will discover where they are going to when they are collected on 23rd November.

South Lopham Parish Council

The following points arose at the Meeting held on 10th November:-

- 1) The Chairman paid **tribute** to the service to the Parish Council over approximately forty years by **Alan Howard** who sadly died recently.
- 2) The Chairman gave a report on the search for a new **Parish Clerk** (see below).
- 3) The Precept for the year 2012-2013 was agreed for submission to Breckland Council.
- 4) Peter Coster reported on various issues concerning **Highways**. In particular, strenuous efforts are being made to persuade the County Council to move back the 30 m.p.h. limit signs so as to slow down traffic on its entry into the village from the Diss direction.
- 5) The Chairman reported that the name of **Ralph E. Howell**, a former resident of the village, had been **added to the War Memorial** and he will be mentioned at the Armistice Day ceremony on the 11th. (He was killed in Singapore in February 1942).
- 6) The Chairman **thanked** those who participated in the **litter pick** on Sunday, 30th October. Regrettably, the work was not very well supported by residents of the village.

The Council invites applications for the position of **Parish Clerk** following the resignation, for personal reasons, of Lynn Perry. The Council meets two-monthly on the second Thursday of the month. A modest remuneration of £1200 per annum is payable. The Council's business is fairly straightforward, as it owns no special assets. Applications to the Chairman, Robert McCaw, at robmad@btinternet.com - telephone 01379 687776.

South Lopham Estates Charity

Any South Lopham resident in need?

Part of the purpose of this Charity is to give modest sums of money (say up to £100 - but could be more in appropriate cases) to residents of South Lopham who have a specific financial need. We are particularly interested in helping young people with the expenses of education and training, including travel.

Other applications for consideration could include (a) anyone suffering as a result of a bereavement or an unforeseen setback, or (b) problems or expense as a result of illness in the family such as travel to a hospital or care home, or (c) to assist any resident who has insufficient disposable income to enable him/her to enjoy the occasional treat, or (d) any other cause which the Trustees consider deserving.

If you believe that you or someone in your family may qualify for such assistance would you please contact the Secretary on 01379 687337 for further details and a simple application form for completion.

If you are aware of any other resident in specific financial need, please let the Secretary know so that we can approach that person to see if we can help.

Please be assured that all applications will be treated sympathetically and with complete confidentiality. Issued on behalf of the Trustees.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Services for December

4th December – 2.30pm

Carol Service conducted by Rev Brian Trudgian of Diss Friends taking part in Service Refreshments served afterwards and collection for **Action for Children** Everyone Welcome

18th December – 10.30am

conducted by

Mrs Blake and Weibel

A warm welcome to all.

St Nicholas' Church

Remembrance 2011. Once again, the ceremonies to mark the anniversary of Armistice Day were very memorable in North Lopham. On 11th November, the juniors from St Andrew's School joined villagers, veterans and members of the local branch of the RBL for a moving ceremony at the War Memorial, led by churchwarden Richard Vere. During the service, some of the year 6 pupils shared in the readings or assisted in laying the official wreaths, and all the children sang a special Remembrance song after the National anthem. Every child planted a cross round the memorial plinth. They were very interested to see a personal letter and medal sent by King George V after the death of one lady's grandfather in World War 1. A simple remembrance ceremony was included in Evensong on 13th November, led by Revd Rob Mellowship, Rector. **The Festival of Nativity Crib scenes** is proving to be a great hit. We do hope you have been able to visit and see all the wonderful displays. **Advent to Epiphany:** As always, there are many special dates in the coming weeks: **The Toy Service:** 4th December at 11am - Gifts for very disadvantaged families - adults and children - just along the road in Thetford will be blessed then delivered in good time. (Please wrap your gifts, and indicate on the label the age & sex for which it is intended). **Advent Carols:** 11th December at 6.30pm - a feast of beautiful music and readings to help set the scene for the season to come. **Family Carols:** 18th December at 11am - our younger members retell the Nativity Story, with suitable carols for all to enjoy. **The Crib Service:** 24th December at 4pm - the heart of Christmas for many families. The children place the figures in the stable as the story unfolds *** **The FIRST COMMUNION OF CHRISTMAS** *** at 11.30pm, following Carols from 11pm. It's the first time for five years that the benefice 'Midnight' has been in North Lopham, so will be a very special occasion.

We send a sincere thank you to everyone who has supported the church and its activities throughout 2011, & wish all readers a Happy Christmas, and Healthy 2012!

St Andrew's Church

The Rev.d Reg Dakin conducted the **Remembrance Service** on Sunday 13th November at St. Andrew's Church. Stephen Turner carried the Standard of the Royal British Legion, Kenninghall Branch. The names of those who gave their lives was read by Mr Ian Murdoch, the Last Post and the Reveille were sounded by Trumpeter Douglas Porter and the lesson was read by the Chairman of the Parish Council Mr Robert McCaw. At the conclusion of the Service the Chairman of the Kenninghall Royal British Legion presented a Long Service Medal to Mr Ian Murdoch.

The **Christingle Service** will be on Sunday 18th December at 4.00pm This is a very special service where Christingles are received made from oranges, a lighted candle, a red ribbon and sweets, each part acting as a symbol of the Christian faith, and on Christmas morning Canon George will take the Group Family Communion at 9.30am.

Decorating the Church for Christmas will take place on Monday 12th December in the morning we welcome anyone able to help.

Carolling for Biblelands

To help the handicapped & orphaned children of the Middle East will take place during the week up to Christmas Eve.



The Lophams Society - Christmas Drop-In

The annual drop-in will be held at the Village Hall on Friday, 16th December commencing at 6pm and finishing at 9 - 9.30 pm Father Christmas will be in attendance with some goodies for the children. Mulled wine and a buffet will be provided and there will be carol singing as usual. All is free of charge. We hope to have a good attendance from North and South.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Valley Fens Local Group South Lopham

On Tuesday 31st January 2012, the talk by Robert Maidstone is: 'Squash it or Not!' Insects in your garden. Meet at Redgrave & Lopham Fen Visitor Centre. £2 entry includes tea/coffee & biscuits. Contact 01379 608313.

Services for December

North Lopham South Lopham

4th December

9.30am HC -
11am Toy S -

11th December

11am Fam S -
6.30pm Adv C -

18th December

11am Fam C 4pm Christingle

24th December

4pm Crib S -
11pm Christmas HC -

25th December

- 9.30am Christmas HC

The Little Ouse Headwaters Project

Restoration work on wetlands to the east of Redgrave has won a top national award. Members of the Little Ouse Headwaters Project, based in Blo' Norton and surrounding parishes, received their prize at a ceremony in London last week, their second major award in ten years.

The Project, which has been buying and restoring wetlands and fens in the Little Ouse valley close to the source of the river, was honoured for its work at Parker's Piece and Bleyswycks Bank in Theltham, which was partly funded by the Biffaward scheme. The LOHP is run entirely by volunteers, and beat off strong competition from across the country.

Major works on the sites included the scraping away of the degraded top layer of peat and creation of open water, which have made these areas now more attractive to the valley's unique wildlife - and public access has also been created on formerly private land. It was these works that particularly impressed the judges of the 2011 Biffaward Award for Rebuilding Biodiversity.

Delighted with the prize, given annually by Biffaward, the waste disposal company, Project chairman Nigel Clark said: "This is brilliant news. Two major national awards in our first ten years shows that we are doing something that is really special. It makes all the hard work of our volunteers worthwhile."

Honorary Secretary Jo-Anne Pitt added: "This latest prize means that more people will hear about our activities and perhaps join us in preserving the wetlands, such an important part of our landscape heritage."

Contributions for next issue by;

18TH DECEMBER

Please email to
lophamsnews@gmail.com