

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

St. Andrew's Primary has enjoyed a busy month. At the end of the last half term, we received a long overdue visit from Ofsted. It came at the end of a tiring eight week term, but pupils, staff, governors and parents were proud to celebrate the success of the school. Ofsted graded St. Andrew's 'a good school' in all areas: achievement of pupils, quality of teaching, behaviour and safety of pupils and leadership and management!

The start of the second autumn half term saw two new pupils on role plus two lionhead rabbits. The rabbits have been very popular with the children who have learned how to take good care of them by feeding, cleaning and grooming them.

On Thursday 15th November St. Andrew's pupils joined their partnership school All Saints and had a special service with the Bishop of Norwich to celebrate the first year anniversary of the partnership. It was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

St. Andrew's pupils also made a valuable contribution to Children in Need as children paid £1 to come to school in their pyjamas and bought cakes during break time.

St. Andrew's pupils are now busy preparing for forthcoming events. The school is looking forward to another partnership day, Christmas production, Carol Service, Christmas lunch and parties. If you would like to know more about St. Andrew's either visit the website: standrews.schoolpartnership.org or make an appointment to visit the school on 01379 687253.

Lophams' Ladies

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

In November we were pleased to welcome several visitors at our open meeting. Jim Bacon from Weatherquest and a familiar face on the Look East Weather slot gave us a most informative and thoroughly enjoyable talk, including sharing his experiences in front of the camera when technology was not so advanced.

December 4th will be a Christmas Lunch at the Kings Head and on January 8th a member of the "First Responders" will be coming to talk. This meeting will be at **2.00pm** in the Village hall.

New members and visitors always welcome. Tel: 01379 687337 for details.

Lophams' Village Hall

Bonfire & Firework Event: After hugely variable weather in the preceding days, 3rd November was almost perfect, very cold but dry and free of wind. Thanks to all those who donated materials and Jim Harris' skill with the teleporter, the bonfire was set up in record time. The firework team soon had the electronics sorted, so all was ready for the main event. The fire took its time to get going strongly, but then kept going till Tuesday, despite Sunday's non-stop downpour! The fireworks went off wonderfully, in a non-stop display of light and patterns, admired by everyone. The hot food and drinks in the hall were very welcome, and the children loved the novelty items on sale. There were some beautiful bright entries for the Firework picture competition - congratulations to Niamh, Phoebe and Joanna, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the over eights, and to Freddie, Caspar and Mia who came 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the seven & under group. Thanks go to all those who helped in any way - out on the field or in the hall. Although the occasion didn't make a profit, it was generally felt to have been worthwhile. **The Lottery** - our opportunity to support the Village Hall and have a bit of fun too - has a number of renewals due at the moment. Do sign up quickly to avoid missing a monthly draw. In October C Watson won the 1st prize of £188.00; 2nd prizes of £47.00 each went to A Mitchell and P Reeder. 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), from Village Hall Treasurer, Tim Colyer (01379 687718), 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 - 12.30pm. December's Christmas Market is on 22nd, when the Lottery will have a Christmas Bonanza prize as well as the usual three. 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 687718 for more details. **Yoga with P:** is on Thursdays between 5.30pm and 8pm. Booking is essential, so contact pieternella.jarvie@gmail.com t: 01379 890955 m: 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.

Active Norfolk Village Games. Congratulations to Ashley Maskell for winning the Village Games 2012 Junior golf competition on 4th November. Also winning the nearest the pin competition on the day to come away with two trophies. Ben Sturman in the senior competition finished in tenth place, a great effort as he was giving his opponents 2 or 3 shot start on each hole; it was a handicapped scoring system. Points awarded from their performances go towards next year's Breckland Games Competition, so a great start to retaining our Village Champion status for 2013. On January 27th 2013, at the UEA Sportpark, The Lophams are looking for 4 teams to play Handball, Dodgeball, Volleyball and Ultimate Frisbee. We are looking for anyone from teenagers to under heart attack age to join our teams. Call Jim Pursehouse on 01379 687330 or 07796212857, or email jim.pursehouse@btinternet.com to volunteer your enthusiasm and skills (before I can call you!). Dates for diary: Netball Tournament 28th April (Dereham). Sports Taster Day (Village Hall) date tbc. Breckland Village Games 23rd June.

Garden Club

On 7th November Matthew Tanton Brown came to talk about "Plants for the Dry Garden". Matthew brought along a great many plants to illustrate his talk and was able to recommend which plants were best for dry soil in full sun or dry soil in shaded areas. His talk was both highly informative as well as amusing and was greatly enjoyed by us all.

We are looking forward to December 5th when we shall enjoy our Christmas Dinner, and tickets are on sale for this event.

We do not have a meeting in January, so our next meeting will be on 6th February 2013 when we will welcome Elizabeth Browne from the "Urban Jungle".

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

North Lopham Kings Head - Carols & Auction event

Sunday 23rd December, starting as soon as possible after 3.30pm. 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

Thank you to all those who filled boxes for the 2012 appeal - especially those who joined in for the first time. Nearly fifty boxes should be well on their way by now - to Belarus, the home area for the Chernobyl Children who visit Diss & District each summer.!

North Lopham Parish Council

Met on 14th November, when councillors were joined by two members of the public. **Finance** - The council approved three items of expenditure - £225 to restore the memorial to the American airmen which has become illegible, £25 to the British Legion, and £20 for 20 A3 self-adhesive posters for 'wheelie' bins, to remind drivers of the speed limit - following the SNAP meeting. **Planning** - Two pending applications at 14 The Green, and 11 The Street were approved. **Highways and Footpaths** - Pavements cleaned by Serco need to be redone. The resurfacing at the Harling Road junction is already breaking up, new road markings yet to be completed - Highways informed. Drain which floods Church Road has been jetted again, Kings Head Lane drains to be jetted. Wide vehicles are damaging the verges. Overhanging hedges still a problem. Less dog fouling in Primrose Lane since the notices have been put up. Thanks to Laurie Farren-Bradley for grass cutting in Back Lane. **Village Clean Up** - Nine people turned up on a nasty day and collected two bags of rubbish, mainly from Church Road beyond the speed limit sign, thanks to them. Thanks to Mike McManus for tidying the trees at the pond and to George and Angie for refreshments afterwards. **SNAP** - After a presentation by Mike Cox at the latest SNAP meeting, North Lopham was made a speeding priority area. An application for a 20 mph limit around the school is under consideration - hopefully with more success than last time. Next meeting - 9th January 2013.

