

# 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> will be a Christmas Lunch at the Kings Head and on January 8<sup>th</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the over eights, and to Freddie, Caspar and Mia who came 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £188.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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](mailto: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](http://www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk).

**Active Norfolk Village Games.** Congratulations to Ashley Maskell for winning the Village Games 2012 Junior golf competition on 4<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jim.pursehouse@btinternet.com) to volunteer your enthusiasm and skills (before I can call you!). Dates for diary: Netball Tournament 28<sup>th</sup> April (Dereham). Sports Taster Day (Village Hall) date tbc. Breckland Village Games 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

## Garden Club

On 7<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 - 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

## The Lophams' Society

There was a good turnout at the Society's **Autumn Quiz** held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November at the Village Hall, where eight teams vied enthusiastically for top place. At the end of the evening it was table 1 who took the honours (and the wine) and table 5, who were runners-up, took some consolation in the chocolates. The interval supper was provided by Cynthia Huggins and Bill Bedford who were ably assisted, as always, by a stalwart team of helpers. Chairman Granville Horan thanked Robert McCaw for providing an enjoyable set of questions and Simon Dilloway who, as question master, ensured that the evening moved along at a brisk pace.

A warm welcome is extended to all residents of North and South Lopham to **The Lophams' Society Christmas Drop-in** at the Village Hall on **14<sup>th</sup> December**. Entrance is free so come and join us between 6 and 9pm for some festive food, mulled wine, soft drinks, music and carol singing. There will also be a visit from Father Christmas for our younger residents.

## Lophams' Bingo

Bingo sessions continue on the first Monday in the month, at the Village Hall from 2pm to 3.30pm.

The members have booked a Christmas Lunch at the Kings Head on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December - no Bingo that afternoon!

It's good to have young players during school holidays.... on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

(Please note - serious bingo players could find the social aspect disconcerting; fun is the main objective!)



## St Nicholas' Church

The **Remembrance** services were much appreciated by those who attended to remember those from N Lopham who gave their lives in the two World Wars and all those who suffer as a result of those, and more recent conflicts.

**Art Exhibition 2012:** was a truly magnificent show of some 150 to 160 pictures, beautifully displayed on giant screens. People came from near and far to admire the art work, and a very pleasing number showed their appreciation by buying pictures - over £4,000 of sales resulted, with 25% coming to the church. With the help of the large Raffle, and the Refreshments sales, the total raised nearly reached £1,500. £100 has been sent to Sight Savers, but still leaves a goodly sum for funds. Church members say a huge thank you to all who took part, but very especially to Tony & Gill, who inspired it and planned the details so meticulously.

**The Festival Of Crib:** brings the Church Year to a close, and sets the scene for the seasons of Advent to Epiphany. There will be significant extras, plus many of the beautiful Nativity scenes folk enjoyed last year, so we hope many readers will have been to share the event, especially the children's corner with its Angel Crafts to enjoy.

**Advent to Epiphany.** So many services and events make the winter months special. The PCC and people of St Nicholas' Church hope that many readers will come along to share in some of them and feel the warmth that Christmas can bring:-

**The Toy Service** at 11am on 2<sup>nd</sup>: St Nicholas' Day, actually on 6<sup>th</sup> December, is marked at this service to which you are invited to bring a gift, wrapped and labelled with the age & gender for which it is intended, so that we can make Christmas special for some deprived families 'just down the road' in Thetford, who would otherwise have no gifts to look forward to. All the parcels will be delivered to Prospect House, a project run by Action for Children, in good time for distribution before 25<sup>th</sup> December. **Advent Carols** at 6.30pm on 9<sup>th</sup>: includes some of the most beautiful words & music for this season. **Family Carol Service** at 11am on 16<sup>th</sup>: The younger members of the congregation will tell the story of the Nativity, interspersed with well loved carols and songs. **The Crib Service** at 4pm on Christmas Eve is a magical time for all ages to come together as the figures are placed in the stable scene as the story unfolds - a little oasis of calm before the excitement of Christmas Day. There will be Morning Prayer on St Stephen's Day - 26<sup>th</sup> December, at 10am. **Postscript** - At the end of a momentous year, the churchwardens, PCC and people of North Lopham say a sincere thank you to all those who have helped in any way with the care of the church, its grounds, or its activities in the community throughout 2012, and wish all readers a Happy Christmas, and Good Health to enjoy the New Year 2013.

## St Andrew's Church

Christmas Services.

The Christmas Service at St. Andrew's Church this year is the Midnight Communion Service on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December with Carol Singing at 11pm followed by Holy Communion at 11.30pm.

## Remembrance 2012

Members of the community, veterans and the RBL Standard for the Lophams' and Kenninghall, were joined by the oldest pupils from St Andrew's School for a simple but very meaningful ceremony at the War Memorial on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November. The children played a full part in the short service - reading part of the Exhortation & Koheima epitaph, as well as their own prayers. They assisted with the wreath laying before planting individual crosses round the memorial, and sang a special Remembrance song to round off the occasion.

## Services for December

**North Lopham    South Lopham**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> December

9.30am HC -  
11am Toy S -

### 9<sup>th</sup> December

NB No Morning Service  
6.30pm Adv Carols -

### 16<sup>th</sup> December

11am Fam Carols 9.30am HC

### 23<sup>rd</sup> December

11am Fam S 6.30pm ES

### 24<sup>th</sup> December

4pm Crib Service 11pm Christmas HC

### 30<sup>th</sup> December

One HC Service for all Parishes at Diss  
10.30am

## Little Ouse Headwaters Project (LOHP)

Annual talk, members' evening and AGM: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012, 7.30pm at Redgrave Activities Centre, IP22 1RL. AGM at 7.30 followed by a photographic round-up of our September event 'Food and Folk on the Frith' then at 8pm, our annual talk 'Flowers of the Little Ouse headwaters - a national treasure' by Jonny Stone, an expert in the very special flora of the LOHP sites.

Seasonal refreshments and a raffle will follow the talk (contributions of finger foods and raffle prizes very welcome!). All welcome - free to members but we will appreciate a donation of £2 from non-members to cover costs.

## South Lopham Parish Council

The following points arose from the meeting held on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012:- **1)** Robert McCaw announced that he and Madeleine had sold their house and were moving to Wiltshire. Completion is sometime between mid-January and the first week of February 2013. The next meeting on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January would therefore be his last as a councillor and as Chairman. Would anyone interested in joining the Parish Council please let Robert know on 01379 687776 or robmad@btinternet.com. **2)** Having discussed the budget for next year (2013/2014) the Council resolved to increase the precept from £2,900 to £3,000. **3)** With a view to discouraging motorists from speeding through the village it has been decided to purchase A3 sized posters saying in bold lettering "SLOW DOWN IN OUR VILLAGE" for sticking to wheelie bins when they are put out for collection on Fridays. Would anyone willing to display such posters please request some from the Parish Clerk, Caroline Phillips, at clerk@southlopham.co.uk or from Robert McCaw (as in 1. above). **4)** Rob Webb reminded the meeting that Norfolk County Council no longer carry out any maintenance on local footpaths. It is therefore the primary responsibility of the landowner to make sure that all public rights of way are kept clear. **5)** Granville Horan (attending on behalf of the Lophams' Society) expressed his disappointment at the poor attendance at the Music Evening held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at the Village Hall. Parishioners are urged to give greater support to local events, failing which, the Society will no longer feel able to put them on and may end up having to disband. **6)** Granville suggested that all local organisations should publish their future events in, say, the Cock Crow so that clashes may be avoided. He will attempt to follow up by contacting various local societies.

Contributions for next issue by;

# 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Please email to  
lophamsnews@gmail.com