

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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FEBRUARY 2013

St Andrew's School

Happy New Year from St. Andrew's Primary!

St. Andrew's has enjoyed a fantastic start to the New Year. Within the first week of 2013 they joined All Saints at Winfarthing, with a trip to Theatre Royal to see the pantomime Aladdin!

On the 17th and 18th of December, children worked hard to put on a whole school production titled 'What Christmas means to you' in the School Hall. The event was well attended with comments such as 'this was the best production to date'. Congratulations to all who took part!

This was then followed by a wonderful Christmas lunch, cooked by NORSE and served by staff and a visit from Father Christmas. The term finished with a well attended Carol Service at St. Andrew's South Lopham.

St. Andrew's now looks forward to the term ahead. Plans to date include a dance festival for the younger pupils, cross-country, enrichment maths club, and a trip to London to see Shrek the musical.

If you would like to join us for **Community Lunch**, £3.50 per person, then please contact the school on 01379 697253. The forthcoming dates are Thursday 21st March, Thursday 18th April, Thursday 23rd May, Thursday 20th June and Thursday 18th July. We look forward to meeting you!

Lophams' Village Hall

February sees the 12th birthday of our Farmers' Market! The Lottery - our opportunity to support the Village Hall and have a bit of fun too - is just into its 4th year. A proportion of the income each month goes into a Bonanza fund to provide a special prize in December, in addition to the usual three. The Bonanza Draw is quite separate from the normal draw and every number is included, which resulted this time in the same person winning both a second 'ordinary' prize and the Bonanza!! Perhaps someone can work out the odds of that happening; they must be huge. L Inglis won December's 1st prize of £184.00; 2nd prizes of £46.00 each went to S Sarbutt & G Rednall. S Sarbutt's Bonanza was a wonderful £281.25. Lottery prizes distributed so far total £10,621.00. To date a further £5,719.00 has been deposited in a Village Hall Development Fund, which has the present aim of resurfacing of the car park. Thanks, and good luck in the future to all our current supporters. Anyone who wishes to join is invited to make contact: 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 the website for details), or at the Farmers' Market and at Village Hall Events.

Farmer's Markets are on the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am - 12.30pm. The February Market is on 23rd. For details, call Mike on 01379 687 235.

Judo is on Mondays & Wednesdays - (Details from Howard on 01379 688 258).

Dog Training is held most Tuesday evenings, our trainer Elaine (07845 776 110) 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 a welcome new addition to the weekly programme. Sessions are on Thursdays, 5.30 - 6.30pm and 7 - 8pm. Booking is essential, so contact pietermella.jarvie@gmail.com t: 01379 890955 m: 07932010720.

To book the hall for private functions, please contact 01379 687 679. To find out more about the hall generally, visit the website at www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk.

Lophams' Ladies

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

On January 8th Jo Pitt, a member of the "First Responders", came to talk about her role as a member of one of these groups of volunteers. Based locally, they can respond to a "999" call in a matter of minutes and assess a situation or start emergency treatment ahead of the paramedics and ambulance. Jo outlined the training she was given and brought along her equipment (all supplied by herself) and gave us a demonstration of CPR.

On February 5th we have a talk on "The Wicked Stage" by J. Kimber. We will also have a **'Bring and Buy'** at this meeting.

On March 5th we have a talk on 'East Anglia by Bus Pass' with Pip Wright.

April 2nd will be our **AGM** but we will also have a talk on Preserves with Janet Peachey.

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

Garden Club

After our usual break in January, we are looking forward to our first meeting of 2013 on 6th February when we shall welcome Elizabeth Browne from the **"Urban Jungle"**.

On March 6th we shall have our **AGM**, which will be followed by a presentation **"Gleanings from Gertrude Jekyll"** by Shelagh Ashe.

Our meetings take place in the restaurant area of Blooms Garden Centre on the first Wednesday of each month starting at 7.30pm; visitors and new members are always very welcome. Telephone 01379 687833 for further information.

North Lopham Parish Council

Please Note; PC meetings now take place in 'The Mess' building at St. Andrew's School.

Meeting 9th January; apologies received from Councillor Bird; two members of the public attended.

Lophams' Links, which tried to raise funds for a play area has disbanded through lack of support. They will repay £200 donated by NLPC. **Affordable Housing and Play area;** Discussions involving the Duke of Norfolk, his Trustees and the tenant about a scheme whereby a mixture of affordable housing, private housing and possibly a play area may be built on land adjacent to Primrose Lane are in their early stages. **20 mph speed limit;** a site visit by Norfolk Highways, the police, Councillors and interested members of the public will take place on 15th January at 10 am. Meeting at 'The Mess'. (Note this meeting was postponed because of the snow). **Speed awareness** stickers have been delivered and will be distributed for display. **More potholes** have been reported to Highways. **Complaints** about overgrown hedges and wide vehicles damaging verges have been received. **Dog fouling** in Primrose Lane appears to be reduced - good news. The revised **precept** is yet to be confirmed. **Village Charities Officers elections;** M Cox and J Vere were re-elected. R Cook wished to step down and was replaced by D Eagle. The Clerk, on behalf of NLPC, expressed appreciation of the role Robert McCaw, retiring Chairman of SLPC, has played in enhancing cooperation between the two PCs. Next meeting; Wednesday 13th March 2013, 7.30 pm, at 'The Mess'.

St Nicholas' Church

The Christmas season is almost over! We are very grateful to all those who took part in any of the special services, and to those who decorated the church so beautifully so that everything was in place for Christmas Day.

The gifts brought to the **Toy Service** were very welcome at Prospect House in Thetford. We heard of one Mum who cried with joy one year ago when parcels were delivered - without them her family would have had not one present!

Each of the **Carol Services** was special - with a particular theme and congregation.

The **Crib Service** on Christmas Eve was made extra special by the presence of Heidi, (just four weeks old!) and new residents in the village too.

In a first for North Lopham, the Revd Chris Davidson came to St Nicholas' Church on 13th January to celebrate **Plough Sunday**. Traditionally, all the ploughs in a village would be blessed on this day, at the start of a new agricultural year. On this occasion, Family Communion ended with everyone going outside for the blessing of two ploughs - one ancient, single furrow, hand drawn plough by the church door and a second, multi-furrow modern plough drawn by a large and impressive tractor parked on land round the corner. Despite the damp dull morning, everyone present enjoyed the experience, and the warming refreshments that followed back in the church. Perhaps next year we will have ploughs from other villages taking part.....

Ash Wednesday is on 13th February. You are warmly invited to share in a Fellowship Lunch at Southlands, N Lopham at 1pm, to launch this year's Lent Lunches.

Lent Lunches will be held on Tuesdays from 19th February between 12 noon and 2pm, in homes around the village. Everyone is welcome to come and share bread, cheese & pickle, plus fruit juice and hot drinks. All money raised will go to the Diocesan Lent appeal to help two projects in Uganda. See local posters for venues.

A Lent Course will take place each Wednesday in Lent, starting on 20th February at 1.30pm, again in homes in the village. We hope people from all the parishes will come to share these sessions.

Starters and Sweets: Something to look forward to in the dull dark days is an evening of tasting all manner of delicious starters and desserts, as you meet friends old and new at Lophams' Village Hall on Friday 15th February, from 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome - there will be hot and cold choices, items suitable for vegetarians or those on restricted diets.... and of course a Raffle! Soft drinks and tea or coffee will be provided, but please bring your own alcohol if desired. For more details and tickets at just £5 contact Jennie Vere on 01379 687679, or the Parish Office at Diss 643783.

Carol Singing & Auction at The Kings Head

There were new faces as well as faithful regulars in a packed pub on 23rd December for the Carolling and Auction event, kindly hosted by landlords George and Angie Estcourt. Between the singing of favourite carols, a huge range of wonderful items was auctioned by Richard, ably supported by Angie and with Doreen acting as chief 'runner' to keep track of all the payments. Apart from just one break for seasonal eats, the action was non-stop, ending with the draw for a beautifully decorated Christmas cake made by Chrissie Callow. In less than three hours a magnificent total of over £1,600 (and still growing) was raised for local charities. A huge thank you must go to everyone involved - the donors of goods, the buyers on the day, those who provided practical help and of course our Hosts - for making such a great result possible.

South Lopham Parish Council

The following points of interest arose from the Meeting held on the evening of Thursday, 10th January:- **1)** Robert McCaw retired as Chairman and as a Councillor because he and his wife Madeleine are leaving the district in early February. **Nominations are invited for the position of Councillor.** Anyone interested should contact the Clerk, Caroline Phillips, on clerk@southlopham.co.uk - telephone number 01379 687950. For the moment the office of Chairman will rotate among the Councillors. **2)** The Council has now purchased a supply of **Slow Down In Our Village** posters for attaching to wheelie bins. Anyone who would like to participate in this scheme should contact the Clerk as above. **3)** The Precept for the year 2013/14 has been confirmed at £3,000. Owing to revised arrangements regarding welfare relief £237 of this amount will be paid by central Government, through Breckland Council. **4)** The Council noted that in various areas around the village there is **water on the roads** caused by over-flowing ditches and blocked drains. We are endeavouring to deal with this situation through the Highways Authority. If anyone becomes aware of such an issue could they please contact the Clerk, as above. Recent experience indicates that such water flows are not generally caused by a burst main, so please check the situation before calling Anglia Water. **5)** Could all **dog walkers** please remember to equip themselves with doggie-doodie bags to avoid the fouling of the village footpaths.

Lophams' Bingo

The next session is on **Monday 4th February** at 2pm. Why not come along and have a go?

St Andrew's Church

On Thursday 20th December we welcomed Head teacher Mrs Louise Northgate and the Staff and pupils of St. Andrew's School for their Carol Service, which was followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

The Midnight Communion Service on 24th December was taken by the Revd Reg Dakin and had a good attendance.

The Lophams' Society Christmas Drop - in

Despite the evening being wet and windy the Christmas Drop - in event held on the 14th December was a great success. Over 80 adults and children turned up at the village hall to enjoy a festive spread washed down with plentiful amounts of mulled wine and soft drinks. The Deneside Ramblers provided the music throughout the evening and kept the atmosphere seasonal with carols and a Christmas singalong. Following the visit from Father Christmas, Jennie Vere organised the children into an impromptu and energetic performance of The Twelve Days of Christmas, a great curtain raiser for the celebrations to come.

The Lophams' Society's next event is a **Quiz Night** to be held on **15th March**, the proceeds of which will go towards funding next year's Drop - in on 13th December 2013.

Little Ouse Headwaters Project (LOHP)

History Walk

Saturday 16th February 10.30am
Thelnetham Village Hall
Enjoy a day's walk with Professor Tom Williamson, exploring the fascinating history of the Little Ouse Valley landscape.
Booking advised 07747 691285
Visit www.lohp.org.uk for more info.

South Lopham Estates Charity

(Registered Charity No. 2217240)

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 increased 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 Keeley Chapman on 01379 687985 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

Services for February

North Lopham South Lopham

	3 rd February	
9.30am HC	-	
11am Fam S	-	
	10 th February	
11am Fam S	-	
6.pm ES	-	
	17 th February	
11am Fam S	9.30am HC	
	24 th February	
11am Fam S	6.30pm ES	

Contributions for next issue by;

18th FEBRUARY

Please email to
lophamsnews@gmail.com