

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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FEBRUARY 2014

St Andrew's School

St. Andrew's pupils, parents, staff and governors would like to wish you a Happy New Year!

With the school term now well under way, children are furthering their learning about weather locally, nationally and globally!

Last Friday pupils from all classes enjoyed an 'all expenses paid' educational visit to Theatre Royal Norwich to see the pantomime 'Cinderella'. The trip was a huge success and children were left buzzing about 'favourite scenes and lines from the production'.

Friends of St. Andrew's are also busy preparing a St. Andrew's Talent Show for the beginning of February and a Valentine's Breakfast.

St. Andrew's now looks forward to the forthcoming events: Horrible Histories, Hi 5 Netball, Anglian Water visits, Reading Cafe and Cross Country.

St Andrew's Pre School

After a wonderful Christmas break, we start the New Year welcoming new families to the village and new children to the Pre School.

Following generous charitable donations and funding, we are excited about transforming our garden area. We are hoping for new sunshades, matting, plants and extra gardening bits to keep the children healthy and happy when the sun comes out!

We are currently running sessions on Mondays 8.45-11.45, and Wednesday and Thursday 8.45-3.15. Do note that all 3 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free sessions each week. Please pop in or contact Jan and Tonya on 07962 219523 or attwood145@btinternet.com.

Lophams' Ladies

Meeting on the first Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall.

At our January meeting, David Derrick; our local beekeeper, gave us a most interesting, and informative, talk sharing with us his extensive knowledge on the subject of bees and of the craft of beekeeping. On February 4th we will have an introduction to Tai Chi with Martin Fayers. We will also have a **Bring and Buy** at this meeting. Both these meetings will be in the **afternoon starting at 1.45pm for 2.00pm.**

Looking ahead to March 4th, we resume to our evening meeting time of 7.15pm for 7.30pm when Ken Samman from **'The Garden Enclosure'** at Banham Zoo will bring a display of some plants which would brighten our spring gardens.

We do welcome visitors and new members to these meetings. Please phone 01379 687337 for further details.

Lophams' Village Hall

2013 ended in style with the **Christmas Farmers' Market**, at which mulled wine and mince pies were served and which included the Lottery draw - a wonderful **Bonanza prize** of £282.75 was won by M Birchall plus the three usual prizes - first prize of £184.00 - D Huggins, second prizes of £47.00 each - D Blanchard and M J McCaw.

Lottery is a fun way to support the Village Hall development fund, with three chances each month of winning a prize. 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 till 12.30pm. The February Market is on 22nd. 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 pieternella.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.

Garden Club

As we do not meet in January, we are looking forward to our first meeting of 2014. This will be on Wednesday 5th February when Jamie Blake will talk about **"The Alan Bloom Years."**

Looking further forward, we shall hold a short A.G.M. on 5th March, which will be followed by a presentation entitled **"Garden Antiques"** by David Holmes.

We hold our meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre at 7.30pm and visitors and new members are always very welcome. Please call 01379 687833 for any further details.

North Lopham Parish Council

Affordable Housing; no progress to date. **Roads and Footpaths;** road sweeper is still not going to the far end of Tanns Lane; grit bins have not been replenished. Some residents' hedges are still obstructing footpaths and should be trimmed. No progress on road signs, missing and damaged ones have been reported to highways but the kerb drop has been done. **Rangers;** these council employees will sweep pavements, tidy verges, clean road signs etc. Suggestions for work they might do are requested, contact the Parish Clerk, or see notices to be posted at the King's Head and village notice boards. **Traffic Calming;** a bid has been put in for a speed awareness sign to be placed at the northern approach to the village. A decision will be given late in January; some funding towards installation will be required from the village if the bid succeeds. **Pond Maintenance;** one possible volunteer has made contact regarding tidying the pond and one to retreat the benches. **Methodist Chapel;** a representative from the Methodist Churches outlined their plans for the future of the North Lopham Chapel, the 2nd oldest still in use in East Anglia district, a listed building and an important feature in North Lopham. They wish it to remain a place of worship and to build on its historical significance by creating a museum of Methodist artefacts. To maintain its place in the community they are asking for suggestions from local residents for new uses for the building and land, please contact the Parish Clerk with your ideas. **Solar Farm;** an update about this was given from the floor. Since the information meeting in November, 3 applications have been withdrawn, 2 only until clarification about grid connections has been obtained. Breckland has decided that the 4th does not need an Environmental Impact Assessment. An appeal against that decision has been lodged with Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. A planning application is due to be submitted in January, NLPC will contact the agents to request that the promised 2nd public information meeting is held before this happens. **Precept;** it was agreed that this should be raised to £3,300 for the next year. **Joint Open Meeting;** will be on 11th April, at the Village Hall.

St Nicholas' Church

The special services for Christmas continued with the **Crib Service** - an occasion that brought in folk from near and very far - visitors from the North and from across the sea in Belgium! The children placed all the figures in the Nativity scene, and also led some of the singing.

12th January: was both Plough Sunday and our celebration of the Epiphany. The Revd Chris Davidson led a Family Communion and **Blessing of Ploughs** in the morning, (though the word plough hardly describes the modern cultivator!) Lay Reader Sue Drake joined us for the **Epiphany Carol Service** in the afternoon - more beautiful music and readings to round off the main Christmas season.

The official end is on 2nd February - Candlemas! This will be marked at the 9.30 Holy Communion and also at the Family Service at 11am.

A date for your social diary - Starters & Sweets

Something to look forward to in the dull, dark (& cold) winter days! Come and join us at Lophams' Village Hall on Friday 21st February at 7.30pm for a fun evening of tasting home made goodies - lots of Starters to try, including home made soup, then an array of delicious Sweets, with some that are suitable for those who must avoid sugar, and a cheese board. Tickets are just £6. Soft drinks will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own alcohol and glasses if you wish.

Village Games

On Sunday 12th January the Lophams' village games teams were in action again at the UEA in Norwich. We were the only village in Norfolk to field a team in all five sports; volleyball, handball, dodgeball, ultimate frisbee and, for the first time, rush hockey.

After skills and rules were practised for an hour, a round-robin tournament began. A hugely competitive and enjoyable day followed with our volleyballers finishing 3rd, dodgeball and hockey 4th, handball 2nd and ultimate Frisbee 3rd. At the final presentation, our very own Joshua Conquest was awarded the fair play trophy for his spirited displays in the frisbee. Our sporting hero families were: Pursehouse, Sturman, Rednall, Conquest, Somers, Owen, Samuel, Flemming, Nunn, Armes, Ahrens and House.

The next sport is netball in April so don't miss out. Contact Jim on 687330. Facebook Lophams Village Games.

Eye Bach Choir

40th Anniversary Concert

Saturday 8th March 2014
at 7.30 pm in Eye Parish Church
Dixit Dominus ... Handel
Jesu Priceless Treasure (chorales) ...
J.S.Bach
Excerpts from *Occasional Oratorio* & *Judas Maccabeus* ... Handel
and other works
with
The Eye Bach Choir Chamber Orchestra
and soloists

North Lopham Methodist Church

Does anyone have a suggestion for a new use for the Methodist Chapel and land? This important, listed building is to be preserved and will continue to be used as a place of worship and possibly as a museum of Methodist Artefacts but could it have other community centred uses too? Please submit your ideas to the Parish Clerk. An open day is planned for May, details TBA.

The monthly **informal service & Coffee Morning** is becoming well established 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 till 12 noon. The next is on **February 26th**.

St Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's Church had a very enjoyable evening of **carol singing** accompanied by the Deneside Ramblers and Jennie Vere on Friday 20th December at The White Horse, South Lopham, by kind invitation of Nigel and Tracy Martin and our thanks go to them for their hospitality.

We were very pleased to welcome the Revd. Maggie Swayze on Christmas morning to celebrate our Holy Eucharist Service, which was very well attended.

King's Head Carol & Auction Event

The traditional Christmas auction with carol singing took place on the Sunday before Christmas Day. The regulars donated a wonderful array of items to be auctioned and the pub was crowded with people to make bids, in between the singing of well-known carols. Many thanks must go to George & Angie for hosting the event once again and providing delicious eats at the end. Also to Erica, who acted as auctioneer's runner and to John and Paul who gave Richard a break from auctioneering, as well as to all the generous donors and those who bought. The proceeds of the event, boosted by the raffle of a beautifully decorated cake made by Chrissie Callow and of an enormous chocolate robin(!) together with the profits from the men's Cake Bake, have passed the £2,000 mark - a stunning result. This will be shared by some very worthy causes - larger amounts to the N & N Big C Cancer fund & the Stroke Association, with smaller amounts to our own Kumo Judo Club & Pre School.

Events at Redgrave and Lopham Fen

Saturday 1st February. 10.30am – 1pm. **Guided fen walk.** Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill. £3. Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

Wednesday 5th February. 10am – 12noon. **Find out about volunteering.** Come and find out about volunteering opportunities both at the Fen and at Knettishall Heath. Discover how you could get involved with work parties, educational activities and events. There are lots of roles from conservation work to admin. Come and find out more - just drop in. No experience necessary.

Saturday 8th February. 10.30am – 12.30pm. **Wildlife Watch Group.** A club for 6 – 12yr olds, £1. Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508.

Tuesday 18th February. 2pm – 4pm. **Bird box building family afternoon.** Make a nest box and willow bird feeder to take home. £5 per box. Booking essential 01379 688333.

Wednesday 19th February. 10am – 2pm. **Tracks and trails activity day.** For 6 – 10 year olds. Explore the Fen and track the wild animals that live there. £6 each or 2 siblings for £10. Booking essential 01379 688333.

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Saturday 8th March. 10.30am – 12.30pm. **Wildlife Watch Group.** A club for 6 – 12yr olds, £1. Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508.

Saturday 29th March. 10am – 3pm. **Botanical Illustration.** Join professional botanical artist, Christine Grey-Wilson, on this relaxing and supportive workshop looking at a range of illustration techniques. The emphasis will be on botanical accuracy and seasonal plant material such as spring flowers and bulbs. £25/£21.50. Booking essential 01473 890089.

Lophams' Holy Bingo

Several new members joined at the end of 2013 - and were able to join us for a special lunch at the King's Head. Bingo continues through the winter - at 2pm in the Village Hall, on 3rd February. Please telephone 01379 687679 if you need help with transport.

Services for February

North Lopham South Lopham

2 nd February	
9.30am HC	-
11am Fam S	-
9 th February	
11am Fam S	-
4 pm ES	-
16 th February	
11am Fam S	9.30am HC
23 rd February	
11am Fam S	4pm ES

Contributions for next issue by;

18th FEBRUARY

Please email to
lophamsnews@gmail.com