

# THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

## St Andrew's School

In the run up to the Christmas break, Year 2, 3 and 4 have enjoyed learning about habitats and were extremely enthusiastic after their Educational Visit to Lopham and Redgrave Fen.

FOSTA launched the festive season with a Christmas Shopping Night at the end of November. Thank you to everyone who came, the evening was delightful and raised £380 for the school.

With the festive season well underway, the whole school worked hard to create a phenomenal production of A Magical Christmas Jigsaw. Feedback from the audience was that it was the best Christmas Production they had seen the school put on! So well done to all the pupils, staff and parents who assisted. The production was then followed by a traditional carol service at St. Andrew's, South Lopham, Children sang, read and provided musical interludes. Mince pies and mulled wine were then served by FOSTA from the back of the church.

Finally the term finished with a Christmas breakfast, lunch, parties and visit from Father Christmas.

Happy New Year!

If you would like further information about St. Andrew's Primary, or wish to make an appointment to visit, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 01379 687253 or by e-mail head@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk. We would love to hear from you!

## St Andrew's Pre School

We have had a really special half term, getting ready for Christmas. We went to the church to read the story about Jesus being born, then had a lovely time watching the big school play in the last week. Our party was very exciting - with Santa's visit!

Our sessions are now all day, i.e. 8.45 - 3.15, on Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays each week during school term time. Any new residents with children approaching their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday, or a bit older, are warmly invited to get in touch to arrange a visit with a view to joining us. We offer your child a safe way to make friends with those they may then grow up alongside and can also help them to get to know the "big" school too. Do note that all 3 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free sessions each week.

As always, just drop in, view the setting and meet our team. Please note our new contact number is 07854 091257.

We are running a mobile recycling initiative, so if any reader has an old mobile phone languishing in a drawer, let us take it off your hands and turn it into much needed pennies and pounds for the pre-school.

## Lophams' Village Hall

The Sunday Christmas Market is a great way to end the year, with all the excitement of the Bonanza draw. Hope **you** were able to come along! In addition to the Lottery draw, there is a monthly raffle with one superb prize, which includes an item from every stall - a wonderful array of goodies for the larder.

**The Lottery** - We are just starting the sixth year of the Lophams' Village Hall Lottery! As mentioned last month, our principal purpose is to maintain the fabric of the hall as an attractive venue for the use and benefit of local people and that the proceeds from the Village Hall Lottery are designated entirely for this. If you're not in the lottery, there are still a few free slots if you'd like to join in (ring 01379 687718 for more information or contact Eileen (01379 687608) or any committee member. There are three chances each month of winning a prize, plus a Bonanza draw at the December Farmers' Market for those who have been "in" for at least three months. The Lottery winners for November were: 1<sup>st</sup> prize £182.00 - J Doust; 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes of £45.50 - D Hammond and A Jacob.

**Farmer's Markets** are usually the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm, so the next is on 24<sup>th</sup> January. (Details from 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 Jennifer on 01379 687282 for more details.

**Yoga with P:** we hope will return soon - Watch this space!

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).

## Lophams' Ladies

The year ended with our Christmas lunch at Wortham Tea Rooms; we enjoyed a delicious meal together when they opened on a Tuesday just for us.

The next two meetings will be in the afternoon, starting at 2pm, so that we can get home before dark in the winter months.

On 6<sup>th</sup> January, Frances Hart will be our speaker, talking about Canals and Waterways; she has been to us before so we know her talk will be interesting. In February, David Morton's illustrated talk is about Buckingham Palace. There will be a Bring & Buy stall.

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome at our meetings; a nominal £2 charge includes refreshments. Just telephone Sarah on 01379 687337 for more details.

## Garden Club

Meets at Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always very welcome.

We enjoyed our Christmas Dinner on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Once again, the catering staff at Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre worked very hard to make us welcome and, as always, provided us with a delicious meal. We then took part in a light-hearted quiz, followed by the drawing of the winning raffle tickets. I think that all who attended would agree that it was a most festive and enjoyable evening.

We do not meet in January, so our next meeting will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015 when Claire Simm from the British Trust for Ornithology will talk about "Garden Birds".

## Lophams' Society's Christmas Drop-in

The Lophams' Society held its free Christmas drop-in on the 12<sup>th</sup> December where, once again, the hall was transformed with Christmas lights, decorations and a Christmas tree. Candles adorned a table of festive food and the spicy aroma of mulled wine added to the atmosphere. Children from St Andrew's School got things under way with a lively rendition of Christmas songs, accompanied and directed by Jennie Vere. This year, thanks to a generous donation from the White Horse public house, we were able to invite children's entertainer Magic Charlie to keep the children amused until the arrival of Father Christmas, who handed out gifts towards the latter part of the evening.

Unfortunately it appeared that attendance was slightly down on previous years and it would have been nice to have had the company of a few more familiar faces amongst the guests as the drop-in is a free event for villagers of all ages. Thanks to all those who did attend and to the committee members for all their hard work on the night.

## North Lopham Parish Council

Next meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at The Mess, next to St Andrew's School.

**Neighbourhood Care:** We are being warned of a severe few months of very cold weather to start 2015. North Lopham folk have a wonderful record in keeping an eye out for the well being of all residents, so please be extra vigilant during the very icy days that may lie ahead.

### St Nicholas' Church

**Methodist Service** - Informal Methodist worship and Coffee Mornings are now being held in St Nicholas' Church at 10.30am on the fourth Wednesday; 24<sup>th</sup> January is the next one. The December meeting had a seasonal flavour - the mince pies & sausage rolls were delicious!

**North Lopham Crib Festival** - The Festival was a wonderful end to the church year. Over 120 Nativity sets, from large to minute were on display and the range of styles & materials were bigger than ever. The first ever coach party visit, from Basildon in Essex, really put us on the map and may lead to others next year - all very exciting. We are very grateful to all those who loaned us display items, or who helped with stewarding and refreshments - it was a real team effort. We didn't set out to make money, so were thrilled to add £680 to our funds for improving the church and its amenities.

**The Toy Service** - Parcels for deprived families in the Thetford area have been delivered to the Action for Children offices (now in Attleborough!) The staff were thrilled and astounded to receive such a large donation of gifts. (A similar load from Roydon Church boosted ours). They have many needy folk to care for.

**The Advent Carol Service** - included some of the most beautiful music & readings for the season. Team Rector, Canon Tony Billett, was able to join us for this.

**At the Family Carol Service** the children read the Nativity Story in a delightful version, before Team Vicar Rev'd Wendy gave us her message.

**The Crib Service** was at 4pm on Christmas Eve: A quiet interlude before the excitement of Christmas Day. The children place the figures in the crib scene, as the traditional version of the Nativity unfolds.

**Christmas Sunday:** There was also a Christmas Communion at 9.30am on 28<sup>th</sup> December, again led by the Rev'd Wendy.

The main season ends with

**The Epiphany Carol Service**, when the visit of the Wise Men with their gifts is the inspiration for more wonderful readings & music. Do join us at 4pm on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

As we come to the end of 2014, the Churchwardens and PCC members send thanks to all in the community who have helped us in any way this year - with preparations for events, or coming along to share in them. We are especially grateful to all those who decorate the church building for the special seasons, and make it so welcoming for all who cross the threshold.

We hope that all readers enjoyed a very happy & peaceful Christmas, with good health in the year to come.

### North Lopham Kings Head - Carols & Auction event

Will be reported next time.

### St Andrew's Church

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December we welcomed St. Andrew's School children for their **carol service**. The children gave readings and said prayers and some of the talented young instrumentalists performed at the end of the service. Canon Tony Billett gave the blessing, which was then followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Rona accompanied the **carol singing at The White Horse**, South Lopham on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December on her Accordion and Keith on the Guitar. All had a very enjoyable evening and, in particular, the rendition of The Twelve Day of Christmas brought out some fine vocals. Our thanks go to our hosts, Nigel and Tracy, for their hospitality and refreshments. The Raffle made £70 for St. Andrew's Church.

### Lopham's Village Games

After over-indulging over the Christmas period now is the time to join the Lopham's Village Games Team for the "Alternate Village Games" on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at the UEA Sportspark in Norwich.

Your Village needs You! Teams are needed for Men's Dodgeball, Women's Indoor Cricket, Wheelchair Basketball (able bodied people are allowed), New Age Curling and Gymnasticators. We are looking for volunteers from 10 years and up, emphasis is on fun, so join us now for a chance to represent your Village.

Call Jim Pursehouse on 01379 687330 or find us on Facebook Lopham's Village Games.

### Lophams' Holy Bingo

The last session for 2014 included seasonal refreshments as well as the usual fun & banter. The next session is on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm. New faces will be especially welcome. Please telephone 01379 687679 if you need help with transport.

### Redgrave and Lopham Fen

**'The fen raft spider'** a talk by Dr Helen Smith. Tuesday 27 January, 7.30pm. Organised by the SWT Valley Fens Wildlife Group. £2 per person (includes refreshments). All welcome, no need to book.

**Jam master class.** Sunday 8 February, 10am - 3pm. Join popular local master jam maker, Janet Peachey, to learn how quick and easy it is to make jam and conserves, and use a variety of fruits to create different flavours. £25/£21.50 + £7.50 on the day. Booking essential 01473 890089.

**Find out about volunteering.** Wednesday 11 February, 10am - 12noon. Come and find out about volunteering opportunities both at the Fen and at Knettishall Heath. Just drop in. No experience necessary.

**Skulls & skeletons activity day.** Tuesday 17 February, 10am - 2pm. Activities, games and crafts. For 6 - 10 year olds. £6 each. Booking essential 01379 688333.

**Bird box building family afternoon.** Wednesday 18 February, 2pm - 4pm. Make a nest box and bird feeder to take home. Plus trail and crafts. £5 per bird box. Booking essential 01379 688333.

**'The wildlife & landscape history of the south Norfolk claylands'** a talk by Helen Baczkowska of Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Tuesday 24 February, 7.30pm. Organised by the SWT Valley Fens Wildlife Group. £2 per person (includes refreshments). All welcome, no need to book.

#### Regular events

##### Guided fen walks

Saturdays 3 Jan, 7 Feb, 10.30am - 1pm. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill. £3 Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

##### Wildlife Watch Group

Saturdays 10 Jan, 14 Feb, 10.30am - 12.30pm. A club for 6 - 12yr olds, £1. Contact 01379 688333.

### Neighbourhood Plan:

Have you ever wondered what a Neighbourhood Plan is all about, and what it could do for our villages? If so, do come along to the North Lopham Parish Council Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January, when Jim Waters, who is the Secretary to Kenninghall's NP Committee, will outline some of the steps that would be required should we decide to develop Plans of our own. It may well be advantageous to develop a joint Plan with South Lopham. If a decision is subsequently made to move forward on this issue the Parish Councils will need **your** help to map the future of **our** villages.

### Services for January

North Lopham	South Lopham
	<b>4<sup>th</sup> January</b>
9.30 HC	-
11am Fam Service	
	<b>11<sup>th</sup> January</b>
11am Fam Service	
4pm Epiph Carols	-
	<b>18<sup>th</sup> January</b>
11am Fam Service	9.30 HC
	<b>25<sup>th</sup> January</b>
11am Fam Service	9.30 MS

Contributions for next issue by;

**18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

Please email to  
lophamsnews@gmail.com