

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No.394

PUBLISHED EACH MONTH SINCE 1982

MARCH 2015

St Andrew's School

St. Andrew's pupils and staff began 2015 and have had a very busy month. The theme of Transport and Travel is well underway. Children in Discovery Class have ordered vehicles through time and enjoyed a journey on a vintage bus whilst in Endeavour Class children have visited Duxford Imperial War Museum to learn about the history of aviation.

Also during the last month, all of Key Stage 2 took part in Diss Cluster Cross Country at Thorpe Woodlands, with a quarter of the children at St. Andrew's qualifying for the South Norfolk Cross Country at Wymondham College and year one and two took part in the popular Diss Dance Festival.

A well-attended film night organised by FOSTA took place after school, where children enjoyed the films Johnny English and the Borrowers while eating hot dogs and popcorn. FOSTA then organised a Valentine disco at the end of half term with a chocolate fountain!

Pupils now look forward to a range of learning opportunities in March. These include a trip to London to see Wicked, participation in the Diss Science Quiz and achievement of the Quality Kite Mark for RE.

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

When the days are cold, damp and dull, it's good to have lots of things to do indoors - during March we will be planning what to do to celebrate Mother's Day and then Easter. We hope for sunny days too, to enjoy some garden activities!

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 2nd 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

It is good to have new regular bookings for the Spring months - Sure Start activity sessions on the second Monday in the afternoon, and training for Home Start volunteers on Thursdays each week.

The trustees are currently in discussions regarding moving the access gates to make a larger area available for car parking for those wishing to use the field when the gates are locked.

The Lottery. As mentioned recently, the 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 in December for those who have been "in" for at least three months. The Lottery winners for January were: 1st prize £194.00 J Vere; 2nd prizes of £48.50 - S Blyth and B Thorndyke.

Farmers' Markets are usually the 4th Saturday each month, from 9am until 12.30pm, so the next is on 28th March (Details from Mike on 01379 687235). 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. In January, Mr & Mrs Ramm of Bressingham won this.

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.

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.

Lophams' Ladies

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

In February, David Morton gave us a most interesting and informative talk on the history of Buckingham Palace by leading us through the changes that various monarchs have made throughout time.

On March 3rd we look forward to Julian Saunders talking on the subject of Chocolate and April 7th will be our AGM followed by a play read by some of our members.

Please note that we resume to meeting in the evening as from March.

We always welcome visitors or new members; phone 01379 687337 for further details.

Garden Club

Important Notice. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we shall no longer be holding our meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre but instead will meet on the first **Thursday** of each month at the usual time of 7.30pm at the **Lophams' Village Hall**.

We welcomed Claire Simm from British Trust for Ornithology to our meeting in February. Claire gave an interesting and informative talk about the important role our gardens play in supporting our wild birds. The plants and trees attract insects, which in turn attract the birds to feed and, of course, we can also play our part by providing clean water and food in bird feeders.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on **Thursday 5th March at Lophams' Village Hall** when we will have a short A.G.M. followed by a talk by Alan Briggs entitled "**From Suburb to Smallholding**".

Visitors and new members are always welcomed to our meetings. Please call 01379 687833 for any further details.

North Lopham Parish Council: The Red Telephone Kiosk

The telephone box opposite the post office is no longer used for making calls, so the Parish Council have been able to "purchase" it for £1. (As happened in South Lopham a few years ago).

It would be good to have a use for this listed building, so that it is a real community asset. One suggestion that has been aired is as a home for a defibrillator (see the Carols & Auction report) but other suggestions are invited.

So, do put on your thinking caps and bring any ideas along to the next Council meeting, which is on Wednesday 11th March, in the Mess at St Andrew's School.

St Nicholas' Church.

The Plough Sunday service, led by the Revd Chris Davidson, ended with the blessing of a plough and very modern tractor; just outside the church graveyard, which proved to be the perfect position. The children thoroughly enjoyed sprinkling the implements, having sprinkled the rest of the congregation earlier, when we renewed our Baptism vows!

We are now in the season of **Lent**. Extra services and courses are held in Diss, but we maintain the North Lopham tradition of **Lent Lunches**, mostly on Tuesdays, between 12 noon and 2pm, in homes around the village. All the funds raised by these informal bread, cheese and pickle events will go to the diocesan Lent Appeal to support the suffering church in the Holy Land. Details of the venues can be seen on local posters, and in the weekly Team News. Please come along and join in. If transport is a problem, just phone 01379 687679 to arrange a lift. Please note that the second lunch will be on Wednesday 4th March at Southlands - to avoid a clash with the Wake for Iris Speer on the Tuesday. (Mrs Speer was our oldest resident, and a supporter of Lent Lunches when they first started. Sadly she died on 10th February in a care home).

Mothering Sunday, on 15th March will be marked with a Special 11am Service in Celebration of Families, especially of mothers, with extra treats at the end, so do come and join us.

On 1st March there will be an extra Music Praise & Worship in St Nicholas' Church, at 4pm. If traditional services are not for you, perhaps you would like to join us???

The MPW team will be at South Lopham on 29th March, also at 4pm. All the parishes will go to Diss church that morning, as Palm Sunday is a 5th Sunday.

Holy Week & Easter will feature in the next News.

Can you help? The Brass cleaning team at North Lopham (which has given such wonderful service for many, many years) has dwindled gradually as people have moved away, or even passed away. We would be very grateful if anyone who has a couple of hours to spare twice a month would get in touch (01379 687679) with a view to joining the team, so that we can fill the vacant slots. Thank you!

Holy Bingo

The next session is on Monday 2nd March at 2pm. We will decide then whether to have a session on 30th March, instead of Easter Monday - the date will appear in the next Newsletter. New faces are always especially welcome. Please telephone 01379 687679 if you need help with transport.

St Andrew's Church

Easter Service. This year the Easter Service at St. Andrew's Church is Holy Communion on Easter Day, Sunday 5th April at 9.30am. All welcome.

Church Flowers. Decorating the Church for Easter will take place on Saturday 4th April in the morning, we look forward to seeing anyone able to help with this or indeed anyone wishing to join the Flower arranging rota or help with flowers in the Church, at any time, will be very welcome.

The Lophams' Society

The Lophams' Society are holding their first **Quiz Night** for 2015 at the Village Hall on Friday 27th March, starting at 7.30pm. Entrance is £6 per person, which will include a cheese ploughman's supper. The bar will be open as usual. A maximum of six (6) players per table. So come along as a team or join a table for an enjoyable evening. The quiz is always a popular event and tables can be booked in advance by telephoning Roy Clark on 01379 688408 or Granville Horan on 01379 640355.

Redgrave and Lopham Fen

Botanical Illustration

Saturday 28 March, 10am - 3pm. Join professional botanical artist, Christine Grey-Wilson, on this relaxing and supportive workshop looking at a range of illustration techniques. £25/£21.50 Booking essential 01473 890089.

'Butterflies and moths' - a talk by Robert Maidstone

Tuesday 31 March, 7.30pm. Organised by the SWT Valley Fens Wildlife Group. £2 per person (includes refreshments). All welcome, no need to book.

Easter holiday activities

Activity days for 6 - 10 year olds. 10am - 2pm, £6 per child.

Tuesday 31 March - **Wildlife fact or fool.**

Tuesday 7 April - **Wildlife whodunnit!**

Unaccompanied children only. Booking essential 01379 688333.

Family events, 2pm - 4pm, £2.50 per person.

Wednesday 1 April - **Easter fun at the Fen.**

Wednesday 8 April - **Feathered friends.**

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential 01379 688333.

Plant Sale

Sunday 19 April, 10am - 3pm. Annual event with a wide variety of plants from over 20 award-winning and specialist nurseries. Plus second hand tools and donated plants. £1.50 adults, children free. Hot and cold refreshments available. Dogs on leads welcome.

Weave a willow plant wigwam

Saturday 25 April, 10am - 1pm. With local basketmaker Karen Lawrence. £20 inc. materials. Booking essential 01473 890089.

'Garden birds' - a talk by Clare Simm of the BTO'. Followed by the AGM.

Tuesday 28 April, 7.30pm. Organised by the SWT Valley Fens Wildlife Group. £2 per person (includes refreshments). All welcome, no need to book.

Guided fen walks

Saturdays 7 March, 4 April 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 14 March, 11 April 10.30am - 12.30pm. A club for 6 - 12yr olds, £2. Contact marcus.halmshaw@btinternet.com or call 01379 688333.

North Lopham Methodist Church

Methodist friends now hold an informal service and coffee morning in Church on the fourth Wednesday each month - and would welcome anyone from the village to join them at 10.30 am. The service for March will be on 25th.

Lophams' Village Games

The Lophams' competed in the Norfolk alternate Village Games at the UEA Sportspark on February 8th. Our ladies cricket team proved too hot for their opponents; winning all four matches to be crowned champions of Norfolk. The two teams we entered in new age curling finished as runners-up and fourth, whilst our two dodgeball teams came in third and fourth.

Thanks to all our players who turned out, gave their 'all' and played in great spirit. Our next sporting sortie will be a **netball tournament on April 26th** for females over 14yrs, again in Norwich. Volunteers, call Jim on 687330. Join us on Facebook us - Lophams village games team.

Anyone who has a t-shirt from any previous games, please can you return it (clean) asap.

Many thanks to the Village Hall for their continued sponsorship.

Services for March

North Lopham	South Lopham
	1st March
9.30am HC	-
11am Fam S	-
4pm MPW	
	8th March
11am Fam S	-
	15th March
11am Mothering Fam S	9.30am HC
	22nd March
11am Fam S	9.30am MS
	29th March
Communion S	4pm MPW
10.30am in Diss	

Contributions for next issue by;

18th MARCH

Please email to
lophamsnews@gmail.com