

# 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 pupils and staff are now back from half term and busy planning their Christmas festivities. Children are auditioning for parts in the Christmas Production, a Carol Service is planned for the last week of term, Christmas Lunch booked and a Christmas Shopping night organised by FOSTA for the 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Endeavour Class would also like to share how they represented the school at the North Lopham War Memorial on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Endeavour reports... 'We took part in a special service to remember and pray to the soldiers that died in the war. Mia Played the trumpet and we had two minutes silence. In the silence we thought about the soldiers that died in the war. We also sang the national anthem and our remembrance song. Each member of our class put a poppy down and help lay the class wreath. At the end of the service we asked questions to veterans about their medals. We listened to the famous story about the plane crash over the Lophams. "I think it is important to remember the soldiers." Hollie. "If we didn't have the soldiers we wouldn't have the same life we have now" Niamh. "They gave their today for our tomorrow" Harry. "We need to remember the soldiers who died for us".'

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 PreSchool

This half term will have all the pre-Christmas preparations and activities leading up to the final exciting days, including seeing the big school Christmas production and our party with a very special visitor!

Our sessions are now all day (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 of 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.

## Lophams' Village Hall

Conditions were just about perfect for the **Lophams' Bonfire and Firework Event** on 1<sup>st</sup> November. A great crowd gathered to enjoy the hog roast, hot dogs and drinks in front of the bonfire, before one of the best firework displays ever. Many thanks go to those who brought such good burnables for the fire and to Jimmy Harris & his team for building it - when the fire finally burned out, it left just an ashy patch. A big vote of thanks goes to everyone who helped in any way, whether out on the field, in the hall, or with the clearing up afterwards.

**The Lottery.** The October draw marked the end of five years of the Lophams' Village Hall lottery! During that time, over £17,000 has been distributed in prize money and over £9,000 has been applied to the Village Hall Development Fund. Sincere thanks from the hall management committee to all those who have participated, your support has allowed us to make important improvements to the building and its surroundings. Since the building work to improve the facilities for the less able was completed, new blinds have been fitted and the recessed down-lighters in the main hall have been replaced with low energy LED units, thanks to Village Green Blinds and Joe Bernard for their efforts. Please remember that 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 October were: 1<sup>st</sup> prize £184.00 D Somers; 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes of £46 - C Watson & P Moralee.

**Farmer's Markets** are usually on the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am to 12.30pm, but the Christmas Market will be on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December. (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 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

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

In November, Patrick Barker talked on "**Trees and the Law**". An Arborist by profession working for Suffolk Council, Patrick dealt with all problems relating to trees and hedges, mainly where folks property was concerned! He enlightened us by the meaning of Common Law as opposed to Statutory Law; Conservation Areas and Preservation Orders; a most interesting and informative talk.

December 2<sup>nd</sup> is the date of our **Christmas Lunch**. We are returning to Wortham Tea Rooms and bookings can be made through Sarah on the number below.

January 6<sup>th</sup> and February 3<sup>rd</sup> will be afternoon meetings; 2pm in the Hall when talks will be on "**Canals and Waterways**" and "**Buckingham Palace**". We always welcome visitors or new members; phone 01379 687337 for further 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.

The subject of our last meeting in November was **The Cornfield Flowers Project** in the North York Moors National Park. Our speaker Ian Carstairs, one of the founders together with botanist Nan Sykes and ecologist Rona Charles, showed slides illustrating how the project works to restore local plants to the countryside, raises awareness amongst the general public of the plight of arable flowers and also encourages farmers to care for plants on their land. Ian told us that we can all do our bit to help by growing wild flowers in our own gardens.

We shall not have our usual meeting in December, but instead are looking forward to our **Christmas Dinner** on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Tickets are now available and the cost is £15 for members and £17.50 for non-members. Please call 01379 687833 for further information.

We do not have a meeting in January, so our **next meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> February** when Claire Simm from the British Trust for Ornithology will talk about **Garden Birds**.

## North Lopham Parish Council

12<sup>th</sup> November at 'The Mess'. **Attendance;** All councillors, Parish Clerk, 6 members of public. **Extinguishment of footpath** (Mr Brunning) 4 objections received by NCC; referred to the Secretary of State for decision. **War Memorial** cleaning has been completed.

**Methodist Chapel/Neighbourhood Plan;** 250 questionnaires distributed, 84 returned to date. **Adopting MC as a village asset;** 46

yes, 33 no, 5 don't know. Discussion followed; 46 in favour out of possible 250; unlikely to secure grant funding plus ongoing cost concerns. Voted not to pursue the acquisition. Other options; approach Village Hall Committee. **NP;** Many different comments received; affordable housing, speeding traffic and infill development the most common. Data analysis continues. Benefits of NP uncertain, cost is not clear but grants are available; further investigation required. **Thanks to those who filled in their questionnaire, if you haven't returned yours, please do.**

**Recycling;** profit from the bottle bank at the King's Head (£400 last year) goes to the Parish Council and helps lower the precept, profit from bottles in your black bin goes to Breckland. **Please continue to use the KH bottle bank!** **Website;** a new PC website is under construction, the village website will continue. Thanks expressed to Judy Farren-Bradley for her work over the past years.

**Highways: Partnership plan** funding is available again for small projects. **Road signs** are being restored, 20mph signs to be added to beacons by the school. **Flooding** on 19<sup>th</sup> September, some drains have been cleared since. **Action is being taken** to curb speeding and illegal HGV traffic. A 1-week traffic survey revealed over 500 vehicles exceeded the 30mph limit by enough to be prosecuted. **Footpath to Village Hall;** discussion with Mr Alston continues. **Pond tidying;** thanks to Eric Bird for helping to clear the wood pile. **Dog fouling;** new, metal notices have been obtained at no cost. **Grave reservation fee** increased to £40. **Precept** level to be decided by Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. **PC elections** in May 2015. **Clearing Primrose Lane** to share cost 50/50 with South Lopham. **Biomass plant;** HGV traffic should not pass through Lophams. Contractors contacted. **Grass cutting;** agreed to change contractor. **Quiet Lanes;** discontinued experiment.

**Community Speed Watch; Volunteers required,** for possible scheme with S Lopham - **please contact the Parish Clerk.** **A letter of appreciation** will be sent to St Andrew's school in respect of the performance of the pupils at the War Memorial on 11<sup>th</sup> November. **Next Meeting** Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 at Valley Farm, 7.30pm.

## The Lophams' Society

**Free** Christmas drop-in will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> December at the Village Hall between 6pm and 9pm. Join us for festive food, mulled wine, music and carols. This year, in addition to Father Christmas, we will have a visit from children's entertainer **Magic Charlie**, who will be joining us from 7pm to 8pm. So come along and join friends and neighbours in an early seasonal get-together.

## St Nicholas' Church

**Methodist Service:** Informal Methodist worship and Coffee Mornings are now being held in St Nicholas' Church at 10.30am usually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, but for December on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday - 17<sup>th</sup>, when there will be Carols followed by mince pies. **Welcoming the Revd Wendy Evans**, our part time Team Vicar, to North Lopham. The children from St Andrew's School joined local residents in Church on 7<sup>th</sup> November for a short service at which Rector Canon Tony Billett installed Revd Wendy in the incumbent's stall. The children sang two unaccompanied songs during the service, and gave Revd Wendy a huge bottle top Poppy picture and a wreath ready for Remembrance Sunday. Revd Wendy



told them a bit about herself, before presenting the weeks certificates and awards and giving the final Blessing.

Family Service was the setting for the Annual **Remembrance Service** in church, led by the Home Team, during which the names of all those from the village who gave their lives in the two World Wars were read, and wreaths were laid in front of the memorial. **Armistice Day** itself - 11<sup>th</sup> November, was marked by the Annual Ceremony at the village War Memorial at 11am, with the Royal British Legion Standard, veterans and local residents plus the older Juniors from St Andrew's School. They were joined by an Officer from the US Air Force, who read the names of the 18 US airmen who died in a crash over the village in 1945. The children planted poppy crosses and shared in the service, singing a special Remembrance song. Mia Somers played the National Anthem on her trumpet. Even the sun shone in a deep blue sky on the beautifully restored Memorial, so all in all, it was a very special occasion.

**North Lopham Crib Festival 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November.** We do hope that all readers will visit to the Festival at the end of November. On Advent Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November, the Festival will close with the sending of Mary, Joseph and the donkey figure on their journey round both Lophams, seeking a nights shelter with willing hosts - **Posada**.

The special services for Advent to Epiphany will follow the traditional pattern: **The Toy Service** at 11am on 7<sup>th</sup> December: Gifts for very deprived families in the Thetford area, wrapped and labelled with details of the age & sex for which they are intended, will be delivered to the local branch of Action for Children in good time to bring some happiness to very deserving folk. **Advent Carols** at 4pm on 14<sup>th</sup> December: includes some of the most beautiful music & readings for the season. **Family Carol Service** at 11am on 21<sup>st</sup> the children will read the Nativity Story in a delightful version, interspersed with familiar carols & songs. **The Crib Service** is at 4pm on Christmas Eve: A quiet interlude before the excitement of Christmas Day. The children will place the figures in the crib scene, as the Story unfolds. **Christmas Sunday:** There will be a Christmas Communion at 9.30am on 28<sup>th</sup> December, to which all are welcome.

## St Andrew's Church

Following the Installation of our new Team Vicar the **Rev'd Wendy Evans** at St. Mary's Church, Diss on the evening of Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November we welcomed her the following morning for a short Welcome, Liturgy, Coffee and Cakes, where she met members of our parish and as is the usual tradition she rang the Church Bell.

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November a **Remembrance Service** was held at the War Memorial for those who lost their lives in the two World Wars. Wreaths were laid by John Crisp representing the Parish Council and John Goddard representing The Royal British Legion, members of the parish also laid their own personal Tributes. The Service was led by the Rev'd Wendy Evans who was accompanied by the Team Rector the Rev'd Canon Tony Billett.

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December the children from St. Andrew's School will hold their **Carol Service** at St. Andrew's Church at 6pm, all are welcome to attend this service.

There will be **Carol Singing at The White Horse**, South Lopham, on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm all welcome.

Our **Christmas Day Service will be HC at 9.30am** where we will be pleased to welcome the Rev'd Captain Michael Reeder back to his home village to take the Service.

**Decorating the Church for Christmas** will take place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December in the morning; we will be pleased to see anyone able to help.

Thank you to all who supported the **Coffee Morning** on 15<sup>th</sup> November. A total of £178.00 was raised for St. Andrew's Church. The Church Wardens and PCC would like to take this opportunity to **thank everyone who has contributed to St. Andrew's Church** in any way over the past year, all help has been very much appreciated. We would also like to wish everyone a **Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year**.



## Samaritan's Purse

Many, many thanks to everybody who took part this autumn - the best year ever! Sixty-four beautifully wrapped boxes are on now their way to disadvantaged children in Serbia, in very good time for distribution for Christmas.

## North Lopham Kings Head - Carols & Auction event

George & Angie warmly invite **you** to come and join the regulars at the Kings Head on 21<sup>st</sup> December, from 3pm for the Carols & Auction Event, the time when Christmas really gets going! Carols are sung in between the bidding for a host of exciting lots, with items for absolutely all ages included. All the money raised is donated to local good causes.

## Lophams' Holy Bingo

The last session for 2014, at 2pm on 1<sup>st</sup> December, will include seasonal refreshments as well as the usual fun & banter; new faces will be especially welcome. Please telephone 01379 687679 if you need help with transport.

## South Lopham Parish Council

Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> November at Valley Farm. Present 3 Councillors with John Crisp in the chair, the clerk, Mrs Caroline Phillips, and 3 members of the public. Apologies received from 4 council members. The Chairman addressed the meeting briefly. He had attended an Area meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November which had been addressed by speakers from Breckland concerning Local Plan issues and NCC Highways concerning the Parish Partnership scheme and on Parish matters. The Clerk gave a financial report. **Accounts were produced** for approval and ratification. The final budget 2014/15 was produced and the draft budget for 2015/16 precept was approved. Quotations for the cost of **clearance of Primrose Lane**; agreed that the contract should be granted to P Frizzell, subject to final agreement by N Lopham P C. **Planning:** Application for planning permission for two buildings on land at Pooley Street; it was noted that permission had been granted. The landlord of the White Horse public house attended the meeting to explain to Councillors that the District Council required him to obtain planning permission for the marquee erected on the side of his property. The council will receive details of the application in due course. **Highways:** On 24<sup>th</sup> October Jim Pursehouse met the N.C.C highways engineer concerning the continued escape of water onto the A1066, vehicle damage to the posts by the war memorial, the village sign at the eastern end of the village, the drain outside Weavers, the speed limit sign, the tree at Lime Tree Farm, damaged bridge on Low Common road and improvements outside Pansthorne Farm. Pothole repairs have been carried out on Redgrave Road. Steve Reynolds has drafted a proposal to N.C.C. (supported by our District and County Councillors) for the extension of the 30mph zone on the A1066 at the eastern end of the village. Generally, the council wishes to draw to the attention of all property occupiers and owners their responsibility to trim back overhanging branches and hedges and to keep ditches clear to avoid damage to verges and to allow clear passage wherever possible. **Footpaths:** Rob Webb is working towards keeping our footpaths clear. **Community Speed Watch:** The Chairman raised the question of a Community Speed Watch scheme to be operated in conjunction with North Lopham. The **next meeting** is to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Valley Farm at 7.30pm.

## Services for December

North Lopham	South Lopham
	<b>7<sup>th</sup> December</b>
9.30 HC	-
11am Toy Service	-
	<b>14<sup>th</sup> December</b>
11am Fam S	-
4pm Adv Carols	-
	<b>21<sup>st</sup> December</b>
11am Fam Carols	9.30am HC
	<b>December</b>
11am Fam S	4pm ES
	<b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b>
4pm Crib Service	-
	<b>25<sup>th</sup> December</b>
-	9.30 Christmas HC
	<b>28<sup>th</sup> December</b>
9.30 HC	-

Contributions for next issue by;

# 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Please email to  
lophamsnews@gmail.com