

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No.379

PUBLISHED EACH MONTH SINCE 1982

DECEMBER 2013

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY AND HEALTHY CHRISTMAS SEASON

St Andrew's School

St. Andrew's pupils, parents, staff and governors have had a busy start to November. The school has continued to see an increase in numbers, welcoming three more families and six more children to the community.

The 1st November saw St. Andrew's formally federate with All Saints Winfarthing and move to one Governing Body across both schools.

FOSTA invited the children at the start of November to come to school with wacky hair as a celebration of bonfire night!

The 11th November saw the years 5 and 6 represent the school at the North Lopham war memorial, where they stood in silence remembering those members of the armed forces who had died in the line of duty.

Children in Need on the 15th November required children and staff to come to school in their pyjamas!

St. Andrew's now looks forward to next half term. Events include anti-bullying week, preparing for the Christmas Production, a film night and the annual school carol service.

St Andrew's PreSchool

The new school year has started well, with some beautiful weather up to half term, and lots of opportunities to play outside. As the colder, wetter days arrive, our thoughts and activities turn towards Christmas preparations.

"Did you know **All** three and four year old children are entitled to **15 hours of FREE** Early Years (EY) Entitlement per week? We also take children from age 2 (in nappies).

St Andrews Pre School is a local, committee run and fun setting for your children or grandchildren. It's also great preparation for when your child starts primary school. We have a few spaces for all sessions, on Mondays to Thursdays 8.45 - 11.45, continuing until 15.15 on Thursdays. Please pop in or contact Jan and Tonya 07962 219523 or attwood145@btinternet.com.

Garden Club

On 6th November we were pleased to welcome Ken Samman from The Garden Enclosure at Banham who came to give a presentation entitled "**The Winter Garden**". Ken brought along many plants to illustrate his talk and showed us that the garden in winter, far from being dull with not much happening, can be full of colour and scent if we choose our plants with care.

We are looking forward to our **Christmas Dinner on 4th December** which will be held at Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre and is always a very festive occasion. Please telephone 01953 681989 for tickets and further information.

We do not meet in January, so our next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th February 2014 when Jamie Blake will talk about "**The Alan Bloom Years**".

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.

Lophams' Ladies

Meeting on the first Tuesday of the month; 7.15pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall, except for January & February when we meet at **2pm** to avoid going home in the dark.

The Music Evening in November attracted several visitors; we heard songs from the shows in the first half, then enjoyed sharing in traditional Music Hall entertainment, with Gill Nicholls, after the refreshment break. Members plan to go out for a Christmas lunch on December 3rd.

David Derrick will speak about Bee Keeping on January 7th at 2pm., and there will be an introduction to Tai Chi in February. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us. Please phone 01379 687337 for further details.

Lophams' Village Hall

The **Bonfire & Fireworks Evening** went ahead very successfully on 2nd November, despite early rain and the increasingly strong wind. A really good crowd gathered on the playing field; the fire burned beautifully and provided welcome warmth. As last year, the fireworks were stunning and much admired. Teams of volunteers inside and out provided drinks and hot food, plus sweets and light wands for younger visitors. Such a big event needs huge amounts of organisation, so thanks must go to everyone involved - from those who brought along burnable material, Jimmy and the team who built the fire, Mike & the team who coordinated advertising, parking and clearing the site, plus all those who cooked and served food & drink.

By the time this newsletter is published, we hope you will have enjoyed the Art & Local Crafts exhibition by our own Wednesday Art Group and friends.

The Lottery is a fun way to support the hall development fund, with three chances each month of winning a prize; a big Bonanza draw, open to all who have belonged for the **previous three months** will provide an extra big prize at the Christmas Market on **SUNDAY 22nd December**. In October, the winners were: 1st Prize of £188.00 - B Unwins, and 2nd prizes of £47.00 each - S Dilloway and B Jilley. Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter, Eileen (01379 687608), from Village Hall Treasurer, Tim Colyer (01379 687718), from other Village Hall Committee members (see website for details), or at the Farmers' Market and at Village Hall Events.

Farmer's Markets are usually on the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm. (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 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 687882 for more details.

Yoga with P: is on Thursdays, in the early evening. Booking is essential, tel 01379 890955; or 07932 010720 or e-mail pieternella.jarvie@gmail.com.

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.

North Lopham Parish Council

Met on 13th November 2013. Six members of the public attended a lively meeting. **Rights of way tribunal:** 4 out of 5 routes have been adopted subject to no objections being received by 15th Nov 2013. **Neighbourhood plan:** Parish Clerk to consult with Mrs Farren-Bradley about this and report. **Drains in Tanns Lane:** Councillor McManus reported that the concrete manhole cover at the top of Tanns Lane is in a dangerous condition and that the benches by the pond need retreating. He also reported that he is unable to continue to maintain the pond margins and trees although he will continue to help with the 'Village Clean Ups'. The dangerous manhole cover will be reported to NCC & bsp. **Conservation area at the cemetery:** waiting for Spring. **Road sweeping:** road sweeper does not go right to the bottom of Tanns Lane. Parish Clerk will contact NCC about this. **Rangers:** need more work if the village is to continue to receive the service. A notice will be posted in the King's Head for members of the public to suggest tasks for the Rangers to do. **Dog fouling:** It's good that dog owners are using bags to clean up **but** please put them in the bins not in the bushes! **Traffic Calming:** 20mph restriction by the school is delayed due to lack of funding. 'Think' signs to be installed. VAS flashing speed sign would require £3,000 funding; a cost comparison with 20mph speed limit signs will be made. **Recycling:** Breckland are to revise recycling arrangements; more news awaited. **Solar Farm:** A public information meeting is set to be held at the Village Hall on **29th November 4-7pm** about plans to install a large solar farm between High Common Road and the A1066. In view of the very short notice given, the Council plans to inform all residents about the proposals and encourage them to attend. A **Vote of thanks to Mike Cox** was made for all his work as Parish Clerk. **Next Meeting:** 6th January 2014. **Can anyone help to maintain the pond?** If there's anyone out there who's prepared to help tidy round the pond on a regular basis, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01379 688298 for further details.

The Lophams' Society

A warm welcome is extended to all residents of North and South Lopham to the Lophams' Society **Christmas Drop-in** at the Village Hall on the **13th December**. Entrance is **free** so come and join us between 6 and 9pm for some festive food, mulled wine, soft drinks, music and carol singing. There will also be a visit from Father Christmas for our younger residents.

North Lopham Methodist Church

The monthly informal service & coffee morning is becoming well established on the **4th Wednesday** each month at 10.30 - 12 noon. Please note that the Christmas event, with carols & mince pies will be on **11th December**. If you've not been before, do come to this one!

St Nicholas' Church

November means **Remembrance**. A special service, led by Rev J Pares was held on

Remembrance Sunday afternoon. On Monday 11th, at 11am, the Junior pupils from St Andrew's School joined veterans and local residents at the War Memorial alongside members of the local Royal British Legion branch with their Standard for a Service, Silence and wreath laying ceremony. Afterwards, Wilum accompanied the National Anthem on his trumpet, and the children sang a special Remembrance song.



The **North Lopham Crib Festival** brings November to an end. It is open from Wednesday 27th to Sunday 1st December, from 11am to 5pm. with many new exhibits and ideas to explore - do come and have a look, enjoy refreshments and browse the seasonal stall goods. The Journeys of the Nativity Story are a special feature this time, so the first North Lopham Posada will begin its travels round the local district on 1st December, Advent Sunday, after the 11am service. Unsure what "Posada" is? It really means a 'resting place', or 'Inn'. The **Posada** figures - Mary, Joseph and the donkey - will travel round the village, seeking a night's rest with willing hosts....., until they return to church on Christmas Eve.

There will be all the usual special services for the coming season; all readers are warmly invited to join us for:-

8th Dec: **The Toy Service** is at 11am. All gifts will go to the nch Resource Centre in Thetford. **The Advent Carol Service**, with special readings and music is at 4pm. 15th Dec: **The Family Carol Service** at 11am will have children doing the readings and will include some of the best known carols. 24th Dec: is Christmas Eve. **The Crib Service** at 4pm is a special time for families, with the children, putting the figures in the stable as The Story unfolds. The Christmas Midnight Service is at St Mary's Diss - carols from 11, service at 11.30pm. 12th Jan: is our Epiphany Sunday, with an **Epiphany Carol Service** at 4pm - more beautiful music and readings to round off the main Christmas season.

May we wish all readers a Very Happy Christmas, and Good Health to enjoy 2014.

At the end of another busy year, we reflect on happy times and sad ones too. During 2013 there have been some very happy occasions, including four Baptisms, but we have said goodbye to too many faithful members - heartfelt sympathy goes to the families of the nine whose funerals have been held in our church. We miss them too.

St Andrew's Church

The Remembrance Service at St. Andrew's Church on Sunday 10th November was conducted by The Revd. John Curtis. Wreaths were laid in Church by Parish Council Chairman Rob Webb and John Goddard representing Kenninghall and Lopham's Royal British Legion. Afterwards the wreaths were laid at the War Memorial. We were pleased to welcome Jacob Bowhill a war veteran from this parish, and other members of the Royal British Legion.



The Christmas Service at St. Andrew's this year will be Holy Communion at 9.30am on Christmas day.

The Churchwardens and PCC would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported St. Andrew's Church in any way over the last year and would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

North Lopham Kings Head - Carols & Auction event

George & Angie warmly invite **you** to come and join the regulars at the Kings Head on 22nd 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 very good causes, often involving children. Do Come!

Samaritan's Purse

Very many thanks to all those who have filled and decorated shoe boxes this year. Nearly fifty boxes are now on their way to Northern Europe - we think they are destined for Belarus again, where people still suffer as a result of the Chernobyl disaster fall out.

Redgrave and Lopham Fen

Saturday 14th December 10.30am - 12.30pm. **Wildlife Watch Group**. A club for 6 - 12yr olds. £1. Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508.

Saturday 4th January 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.

Saturday 11th January 10.30am - 12.30pm. Wildlife Watch Group. A club for 6 - 12yr olds. £1. Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508.

Services for December

North Lopham South Lopham

	1st December	
11am Crib Festival HC	-	
	8th December	
11am Fam S		
4pm Adv Carols	-	
	15th December	
11am Fam Carols	9.30am HC	
	22nd December	
11am Fam S	4pm ES	
	24th December	
4pm Crib Service	-	
	25th December	
-	9.30 Christmas HC	
	29th December	
	10.30 HC at St Mary's, Diss	

South Lopham Parish Council

John Crisp was elected **Chairman** for the meeting held 14th November 2013 and to act until the January meeting. Apologies were received from Steve Reynolds, Rob Webb, and Jim Pursehouse. Granville Horan (Lopham's Society) and Julie Crossley (North Lopham Clerk) were also in attendance. The minutes of the meeting held 12th September 2013 were approved and there were no matters arising. The Financial Officer, Gary Phillips, presented a draft precept budget for 2014/15 and answered Councillors queries. Different aspects were discussed at some length after which Councillors were reminded that a final decision must be made at the January 2014 meeting. The conversion to online banking has been further delayed; the Council's account is an 'old style account' and simple conversion is not possible but Councillors agreed unanimously to continue the change when possible. A short report was read concerning highways and there were no specific matters concerning planning, community matters and works. Granville Horan reported to the meeting concerning the recent fireworks evening and quiz and reminded everyone about the Christmas Drop-In which will be held at the Village Hall on 13th December 2013. There was considerable discussion regarding the recent communication from Richard Pike Associates relating to a **Solar Farm** development locally. This is of great importance to everyone and an **open meeting** (at present) is **scheduled for 29th November** 2013 in the Village Hall but further details are awaited and will be communicated to everyone via notices and personal communication as soon as possible. Regretfully Caroline Phillips, our **Clerk**, is to **resign** her position following the next meeting of the Council. **The Council expressed their thanks for her hard work and applicants for this position** should contact Caroline clerk@southlopham.co.uk for further details, or the current Chairman jgcrisp@icloud.com.

Contributions for next issue by;

18TH DECEMBER

Please email to
lophamsnews@gmail.com