

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No407

PUBLISHED EACH MONTH SINCE 1982

APRIL 2016

St Andrew's School

Saint Andrew's children, staff, governors and parents are fast approaching the end of the spring term.

During the spring term the children have enjoyed the theme 'Passport Around the world'. In Discovery class a travel agent shop and hot air balloon arrived to help pupils plan their own imaginary holidays and adventures. Victory class learnt about natural disasters around the world and Endeavour class studied the European Union. To bring the topic to a close the School Council have requested and organised a special 'Jungle Day' where pupils come to school dressed as an animal from the Jungle.

Also during March Key Stage 2 children enjoyed an educational visit to London to see the musical the Lion King. This was a fantastic day out and all spoke positively about the performance. Children were praised for their exemplary behaviour.

FOSTA have been active during March by encouraging the children to celebrate St. Patricks day by coming to school dressed in green, and organising a Bunny Drive!

St Andrew's Pre School

Happy Easter from all of us at pre school. We are busy at the moment preparing to have an Easter bonnet parade and afternoon tea for families. The children are going to make cakes for parents/carers and serve them at tables. The families can then watch the parade and be entertained by the children singing, we will also have guess the number of Easter chocolates in the jar to raise funds. We also plan to have an Easter egg hunt, and lots of Easter crafts

Next term we will be exploring nursery rhymes.

We have had lots of donations of toys over recent months for which we have been very grateful, however we have run out of room to store any more for the time being until we have a sort out and tidy up! We would though be grateful for some balls small and large if anyone is getting rid of any. We received a good rating from Ofsted at our last inspection.

We are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.45am - 3.15pm and currently have vacancies on all days. For further information call Jan Feaver on 07854091257

Lophams' Village Hall

A Village Hall AGM: has been booked for Tuesday 24th May at 7.30pm - hoping that this will be a more popular day than a Friday! We really do want to see lots more residents coming along to hear about the hall, and even be inspired to get involved - joining the Management team with new ideas, or our band of regular helpers. The hall is OURS - all residents of the Lophams; this is YOUR chance!

Do remember that without a team to care for it & run it, the Hall would effectively "die!"

The Birthday Farmers' Market was a bumper one, with a 'free' raffle for a bottle of champagne to mark the occasion (won by P Woodcraft from Kenninghall) The hens on the verandah outside were a great attraction - sadly, it was just too cold for chicks to come as well!

The Lottery: It is great when there's a full complement of 100 members, with a corresponding monthly first prize of £200, so please get in touch if you would like to join as soon as a new vacancy occurs. There was one vacancy last month (which has already been filled) so the first prize was £198.00, won by P Packer; second prizes of £49.50 were won by M Baker and P Sturman. Please 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.

Farmers' Markets are on the fourth Saturday from 9am till 12.30pm., so the April date will be 23rd. (Details from Mike on 01379687235)

Judo is on Mondays & Wednesdays - (Details from Howard on 1379 688 258)

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.

Dog Training: Most Thursday evenings with Rob Jessup; Rob's 'phone number is 01379 873144

Bookings - to book the hall for private events, telephone 01379 687679, or go to the website.

Lophams' Ladies

On 1st March, members enjoyed a delicious meal out, at the White Hart at Roydon.

The **AGM** takes place on **April 5th** in Lophams' Village Hall at 7 for 7.30pm. Visitors or potential new members are very welcome to come along and meet us, then share in an informal Quiz session. We hope to learn more about the EACH NOOK project at the meeting on 3rd May

For more information, please contact Sarah on 01379 687337

Garden Club

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in Lophams' Village Hall and visitors and new members are always very welcome. Please telephone 01379 687833 for further details.

On 3rd March we held a short AGM which was followed by "Gardeners Question Time". Our panel of experts, John Tate from Swallow Aquatics, Andy Bailey from Diss Garden Centre, Andrew Daniels from Howards Nurseries and Gary Olderton answered many diverse questions from the best way to look after and Amaryllis to why there is not a country-wide way of recycling plastic flower pots. (It's not cost-effective, apparently). Our next meeting is on 7th April when Joan Garnham will give a presentation entitled "Small Garden Trees".

We shall not have our usual meeting in May but are instead looking forward to a visit to **Stody Lodge Gardens** to see the wonderful Rhododendron and Azalea Gardens. This will be on **Sunday 1st May**, cost £16.00 per person which includes coach travel and entry to the gardens. We will meet at 11.30am at Simonds Coaches Offices in Oak Drive Diss where we can leave our cars in their car park. Please telephone 01953 681989 for tickets and further information

North Lopham Parish Council – met 9th March 2016

Present: D Hammond (Chair) J Crossley (Clerk), M McManus, D Eagle, R Carley, J Tate, M Tipple; 5 members of the public. **Apologies:** W Nunn.

Visitor Information Board: First proof expected on Friday. DH thanked Jennie Vere and Tony Osler for their input. Final cost tbc but board will be aluminium, eye catching and hopefully fitted before next PC meeting. MMcM recommended using anti-tamper fittings. This completes the telephone box project.

Footpath: £6.5K from NCC has been approved stc. £1.6K has been pledged by residents and BDC has been approached for 'Match funding'. Total cost is £12.8K, BDC considering request for £4K leaving shortfall of £704. BDC has asked what NLPC's contribution is, DH proposed £704 to the meeting, unanimously agreed.

Speedwatch: Going well, thanks expressed to volunteers. DPD vans seem consistent offenders, Crown lorries consistently operate within the rules, their drivers should be applauded. Discussion followed, re the number of lorries, the situation re access, the measures already taken to limit effects and the limits to further action.

Local Plan/Neighbourhood Plan: Too important and complex for adequate coverage here; please refer to full council minutes on Parish Website or from Parish Clerk.

Village Open Meeting: DH reported that J Crisp (SLPC), R Clark (Lop Soc) had asked if, after poor attendance last year, should VOM be repeated? Discussion about level of publicity, levels of support, incentives. No decision.

DPD Vans: Complaints about speeding- DH will contact Snetterton depot manager.

Dog Mess: More complaints received esp about area around dog bin near Cherry Tree Close. **Control your dog and clean up!!**

Overhanging hedges and muddy footpaths: More complaints, one contributes to the other. NCC is aware and will be contacting owners direct.

Village Clean up: Saturday 15th May 2016 at 09.30 at the Mere (pond) gloves and bags and grabbers provided. **Next meeting AGM 11th May**



St Nicholas' Church

Lent Lunches on Tuesdays raised funds for the diocesan Lent Appeal, helping the church deliver education projects in Papua New Guinea. Many thanks to our hosts and all those who supported them - to date £225 has been raised. Good Friday & Easter Day will be reported next time.

On **Mothering Sunday** the Communion service, led by the Rector, Canon Tony Billett, was followed by the Vestry Meeting, at which Alan Briggs and Richard Vere were elected to serve a further year - Thank you both - then a very Special Family Service which focused on Families, especially Mothers, & our Church family. Daffodil posies were presented to all, for their mothers, and those who have taken on that role. Posies were taken to other local ladies over the following days.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is a chance to hear about activities of the past year, receive annual accounts and other reports and elect the church council members (PCC). A joint meeting for Bressingham, Fersfield, North & South Lopham and Roydon will take place at Bressingham Primary School on 13th April at 7pm. The first part is shared - items relevant to all the parishes - then we split into our parish groups. All church members are welcome & may ask questions; those on the church Electoral Roll can vote for the new PCC. It's not as dull as you might think - come along and find out!

On April 21st **HM The Queen celebrates her 90th birthday**. Coincidentally, the eight bells in North Lopham Tower were rung in 1926, and dedicated, before a first full peal on 21st April!! For several decades now, a full peal has been rung to celebrate both "Big O" anniversaries. The tradition will be maintained this year - thank you to all the ringers involved.

St George's Day falls just two days later, so we plan to continue celebrating with a special sung Book of Common Prayer Evensong at St Nicholas' Church at 4pm on Saturday 23rd, and traditional English hymns, followed by a tea with birthday cake etc. Please do come along and join in.

Knitting The Bible:

Grateful thanks to those who have already responded to the appeal for knitters, or wool for the project to knit figures for **scenes from the bible** for a display at the end of October. It isn't too late to get involved - just phone 01379 687679 or e-mail jennyvere@btinternet.com - for details!

Volunteer Drivers

The Clerk to the Parish Council has been contacted by the Norfolk non-emergency patient transport service. The service provides transport for patients living in Norfolk to hospitals throughout East Anglia and beyond. The Co-ordinator would very much like to hear from caring calm and reliable individuals with their own car. The organisation is particularly short of drivers in this area. Please call Jules Alderson on 01603 883860 or e mail

Redgrave and Lopham Fen IP22 2HX

April

- Hunting & hiding activity day for 6-10 year olds on 5/4
- Spring safari family morning on 6/4
- Young naturalists on 7/4
Full details www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org
01473 890089

North Lopham Methodists

Methodist friends invite local residents to the monthly service in the church, with Coffee, on the fourth Wednesday each month. The March gathering was a Methodist Communion Service. It's back to normal on 27th April

Defibrillator Training:

Tuesday 26th April 7.00pm at The King's Head for all those who have already signed up. A few more may possibly be accommodated but they must speak to Angie or the Parish Clerk first!

The Lophams' Society.

Time to dust off the thinking caps as the Lophams' Spring Quiz will take place in the Village Hall on Friday 15th April at 7.30pm. Entrance is £6 per person which will include a cheese ploughmans supper served in the interval. The bar will be open for those wishing to lubricate their little grey cells. Teams of six players per table maximum and single players and couples are especially welcome to join us on what always proves to be a most enjoyable evening.

For further information or to book a table please telephone 01379 688408.

Holy Bingo continues in the Village Hall, when new faces are always welcome to come and share in fun sessions, with plenty of time for a chat. Just for April, we will meet on the second Monday - 11th - at 2pm., so do put it in your diary, and come along. (Please telephone 01379 687679 for further details or for help with transport.)

St Andrew's Church

A **Coffee Morning** was held in the Church on Saturday 19th March, and we were delighted to welcome many people from this parish and the wider benefice. Coffee, scones and Easter biscuits were enjoyed and a lovely large Easter egg was the main raffle prize. Thank you to all who came to support this event, £260 was raised for St. Andrew's Church.

South Lopham Parish Council

Meeting 4th March 2016 at Valley Farm Low Common.

Six members present, one apology and the Clerk Mrs C Phillips. The responsible Financial Officer Mr G Phillips present to report on financial and budget matters. Apologies from District Councillor, Mrs Chapman Allen.

In his opening remarks the Chairman informed the meeting that the Lophams Society had decided to discontinue the annual Village meeting in view of the poor attendance during recent years. This decision had been taken on the understanding that the meeting would be reinstated should there be sufficient interest in future.

Financial : Mr Phillips presented a report including the current balances. The 2016/17 budget was finalised to take into account the increase in cost of the Lophams News and the refurbishment of the village sign. The Clerk reported on the present position regarding a Breckland Pride grant for the work on the village sign this year. The usual monthly accounts were approved and a donation of £50 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance was agreed.

Planning: boundary screening and planting at Pooley Street approved. The Enforcement Officer has still not visited the site at the corner of Brick Kiln Lane and Low Common and has again been reminded. A new application for permission for the erection of three houses in the Street has been received; plans were viewed at the meeting and will be circulated. Considerable concern was expressed about the access and proximity of the proposed dwellings to neighbouring houses.

Highways: members agreed that reduction of speed on the A1066 was still a priority matter and contact with the NCC and our Councillor will be maintained in an effort to improve the speed reduction signs. On the same road there is still a problem with water on the highway and drainage. Church Road drainage repairs are complete. Large potholes repairs are required on Brick Kiln Lane and Blo Norton road.

Works: village sign grant application awaited. Bus shelter, more suitable weather awaited in order that necessary work may be carried out. Litter Pick 10th April meet at White Horse car park 10 am, all volunteers very welcome
Parish Website: now updated.

Other Business : the Queens birthday 21/04/16 beckons. This was discussed by members and it was decided that there would be no official event organised by the Council on behalf of the Parish.

Date of next meeting: 5th May 2016 7.30pm Valley Farm.



Services for February

North Lopham	South Lopham
	3rd April
9.30am HC	-
11am Fam S	-
	10th April
11am Fam S	-
	17th April
11am Fam S	9.30am HC
	24th April
11am Fam S	9.30am M.S

Contributions for next issue by;

18th APRIL

Please email to lophamsnews@gmail.com