

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No 416

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St Andrew's School

The end of last term was very busy at Saint Andrew's; children, staff and parents enjoyed the fundraising activities organised by FOSTA. We had a visit from Father Christmas and two of his reindeer as well as two donkeys who provided rides for the children. The Christmas production 'A Dancing Christmas Party' was a great success with reception children providing a wonderful nativity tableau and all children contributing with their fantastic singing and dancing. We completed our festivities with a visit to South Lopham church for a wonderful service that really showed off the talents of all our children.

Each week the children from year 3 and 4 have been swimming and their confidence in the water is really developing. Children from years 3,4,5, and 6 also attended the Cross Country trials and our congratulations go to those who went through to the next round and subsequently the finals to be held in February. The children from years 4,5, & 6 visited the Science Museum in London and had a wonderful day out with the added bonus of seeing many of the London sights. Although very late back, all children and staff had a brilliant time and are asking to go back again!

The new term ahead will see us going to visit the pantomime in Norwich and staff are busy organising events for the new topic ahead 'Time Travel'. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Christmas and New Year and I look forward to the seeing you in the new term.

For more information, or to visit the school, telephone the Office On 01379 687253

Crossing Patrol: A Community Protest at the proposed threat to the Lollipop lady aroused considerable media interest. Consultation runs until 8th January – please visit the site, and add your comments:

<https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/consultation/roadcrossingpatrols/>

St Andrew's Pre School

Greetings and a very happy Christmas from everyone at St Andrews Pre school.

As I write this our term is drawing to a close with one week left to go. We have had a very hectic term preparing for Christmas and doing fun activities. We also welcome a new member of staff, Emily who will be taking up her role in the new year.

Next term our theme will be transport and hopefully we will be able to get the fire engine back for a visit!

We currently have places available and are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.45 -3.15 term time only. We received a rating of 'good' at our last Ofsted inspection. For more information or to arrange a visit please call us on 07854091257.

Lophams' Village Hall

The kitchen refurbishments have included the installation of a de-humidifier, with heater, so we hope to avoid any mould growth on the smart white tiles. A new cooker and replacement doors for the 'older' units will complete the look. The Committee is currently hoping to improve the outside amenities on the field, to make this wonderful space more useful as an activity area. Ideas from readers would be welcome, as would suggestions for other events inside – especially if accompanied by offers to help with any organisation!

The Lottery: Apart from a small blip caused by a late renewal last month, membership has remained at the full hundred this Autumn, with a corresponding £200 first prize; the December Bonanza draw will be reported next time! We want to maintain the 100, so do get in touch if you would like to join as soon as a new vacancy occurs. Please ring 01379 687718 for more information or contact Eileen (01379 687608) or any committee member. The winners in November were first prize of £198 – D Beales; second prizes of £49.50 – C Ward & M McCaw. 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.

Regular bookings

Farmers' Markets: are on the fourth Saturday from 9am till 12.30pm, the next date is 28th January. (Details from Mike on 01379 687235)

Judo: is on Mondays & Wednesdays - (Details from Howard on 1379 688258)

Lopham Art Group: meets on Wednesday mornings, from 9.30am. The cost is £15 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 telephone number is 01379 873144.

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

Lophams' Ladies

Meets in the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month - 2pm on 3rd January.

The Christmas meeting was a real festive treat; Arthur Barrett's enthusiasm for Gilbert & Sullivan (and Railways, and Christmas!) was infectious. Members enjoyed singing along to some of the video clips and cd recordings he used to illustrate his talk. The committee served seasonal refreshments at half time; these also proved very popular with everybody.

The Dogs Trust will be the subject in January; visitors and potential new members will be very welcome.

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.

On 1st December we spent the evening in the restaurant at Wyvale Garden Centre, Bressingham enjoying our Christmas Dinner. As usual, the staff worked very hard decorating the tables, making us all very welcome and serving us all with an excellent meal. The meal was followed by a raffle with some lovely prizes and we all enjoyed a very festive evening.

As we do not meet in January, our next meeting will be on 2nd February when Ben Potterton will give a presentation entitled "Snowdrops".

Please telephone 01379 687833 for further details

News from North Lopham

Thanks Mrs Kay Wood would like to send a big "Thank you!" to all the kind people in the village who helped her through her recent illness – walking the dog, shopping, visiting and all the other jobs that are impossible during surgery and recovery.

She said, "I really didn't know just how many friends I had in North Lopham. Please thank them all."

North Lopham Parish Council: next meeting is on Wednesday 11th January

Holy Bingo

Continues on Monday afternoons at 2pm in the Village Hall – for January, the session will be on the 9th – the second Monday.

New faces are always welcome to join our fun sessions – the social chat is more important than the Bingo!!

For help with transport, just telephone Jennie on 01379 687679

St Nicholas' Church

Sad news: The longest standing residents of the village will be sorry to learn of the death of Daisy (Clarke) sister to Raymond and Stanley. Their sister, Ivy Reeves, asked us to let people know that Daisy has died, and the funeral was on 1st December. We send the sympathy of all who remember her.

The **Methodists' Carols & Mincepies** morning on 14th December was led by Sheila Jobes from Thetford. The January service reverts to the fourth Wednesday – 25th, at 10.30am.

The **Toy Service** was a lovely occasion, with the children kept very busy bringing up all the parcels from the back of the church until the altar was completely covered, with more presents piled on the floor. The Action for Children team members were thrilled to receive them all, and looked forward to matching each gift with the right recipient in the Thetford area.

It was a delight to share the **Advent Carol Service** on 11th December with friends from across the Team. Grateful thanks go to all those who shared in the reading, reflections and prayers and to everybody for some great singing!

The **Family Carol Service** is always a real chance to share the Christmas Story in more modern language, and to sing fun carols alongside those that also tell the story. Thank you all who took part

The other special services will be reported in the next issue. (**Crib Service** on 24th December & **Epiphany Carols** on 8th January, both at 4pm.)

Please note that there will be the 'usual' services on New Years Day – Holy Communion at 9.30 and Family Service at 11am. Why not make a Resolution to join us?

We are very grateful to everyone who helps to decorate the church for the main Christmas season – putting up the tree and decorating, as some people are thinking about taking theirs down! Ours will stay in place throughout January, as the Epiphany is remembered.

As the year end approaches, the members of St Nicholas' Church say a big **thank you** to all those who have supported us throughout the year, with the care of the building & grounds, the services & extra events that have taken place, and the outreach to others in the village & beyond.

We wish you a Happy and Blessed Christmas, and a Peaceful, Healthy New Year.



St Andrew's Church

Coffee Morning - The PCC would like to thank everyone who helped and came to support the Coffee Morning on Saturday 19th November and are pleased to report £244 was raised for St. Andrew's Church.

Carols at The White Horse - An enjoyable evening of Carols was held at The White Horse, South Lopham, on Thursday 15th December 2016. The PCC would like to thank our hosts Nigel and Tracy Martin for their hospitality and excellent refreshments and to all who came to support this well attended event.



The Lophams' Society

The **Christmas Drop-in** on the 16th December was well attended (although slightly down on last year's numbers) and residents old and new were invited to come along and get into the Christmas spirit by joining us in the Village Hall which was decorated for the occasion and infused with the smell of mulled wine. The opportunity to catch-up with friends and neighbours whilst enjoying some festive food and drink made for a most convivial atmosphere. For those residents new to the Lophams, who may have come along as strangers, it was good to see that they went home having met and made new friends in the village.

Once again many thanks to the committee members for all their hard work to ensure the evening was a success.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Many Thanks to all contributors and readers of the Lophams News & wishing you all the best for 2017



Services for January

North Lopham	South Lopham
	1st Jan
9.30am HC	*****
11am Fam S	
	8th Jan
11am Fam S	*****
4pm Epiph Car	
	15th Jan
11am Fam S	9.30am HC
	22nd Jan
11am Fam S	9.30am M.S.
	29th Jan
A fifth Sunday – HC at 8am & 10.30am in Diss	

Kings Head Carols and Auction

North Lopham Kings Head was absolutely packed for the annual **Carol Singing and Auction** event the Sunday before Christmas, to raise money for Nelson's Journey – a Norfolk Charity giving comfort and support to bereaved children – and the Norfolk & Norwich Big C Appeal – which has helped so many of our residents in their long battle with cancer. Auctioneer Richard Vere was ably assisted by runner Emily, who collected the money from successful bidders for the many and varied lots on offer, in between the breaks for carols. In addition to the auction, the draw for a beautiful Christmas cake, baked and decorated by Chrissie Callow took place. The lucky winner offered the cake back for auction, to further swell the funds.

Very special thanks go to George & Angie Estcourt for so generously hosting the occasion, and serving delicious mince pies before the end. Thanks too to all those who provided all the goodies on offer and came along to bid for them, a real community effort. The result will be reported in the next issue

Events at Redgrave and Lopham Fen, nr Bressingham, IP22 2HX January 2017

Guided Fen Walk

Saturday 7th January, 10.30am-1pm

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill. £4 adult, £2 child. Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

All event details can be found at www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Contributions for next issue by:

18th January

Please email Julie
lophamsnews@gmail.com

Thank You