

# THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No.359

PUBLISHED EACH MONTH SINCE 1982

APRIL 2012

Remember the **Lophams' Jubilee Celebrations** on the afternoon of **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** at the Village Hall. Entrance is free. There will be many attractions and activities. There will also be a dance in the evening (entry £5). Watch this space for further news.

## St. Andrew's School

As the end of a very busy term approaches, we have lots to celebrate. Hard work in the classrooms has been complemented with hard work, and success, in sporting activities. Endeavour Class have performed with tremendous enthusiasm in Sportshall Athletics, Tag Rugby and Cross Country, usually against much bigger opponents, and have always brought credit to the school. Special mention of Aaron Frith who came 12<sup>th</sup> in the Southern Area Y3/4 Cross Country, and to Lucy Bernard who was third in the Y5/6 event, and goes forward to County finals! This term the worship theme has been Humility - as demonstrated by Ash Wednesday, Lent and St David as well as in bible stories. The children celebrated both St David's and St Patrick's Days by wearing the appropriate colours & learning about the saints. 1<sup>st</sup> March was also World Book Day; thanks go to Mrs Lewis who organised a quiz across the partnership. Congratulations to our winners - Sam, Izzy, Niamh and Nathan. Science Week in March enthused everyone in many ways, thanks to Miss Mitchell's hard work; the results of the experiments and investigations make a fascinating display in the school hall. Before term ends, there are exciting extras - live music at the Theatre Royal, a trip to The Wizard of Oz, netball & football matches and the Partnership Easter Experience at Winfarthing followed by lunch together. Happy Easter!

## St. Andrew's Preschool

Preschool have been very busy making Easter baskets and bonnets and are really looking forward to having an Easter Egg hunt before the end of term. We had a great visit to see our friends at 'big' School and loved it when their class teacher came to read us a special story at Preschool. Our Preschool is open on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday and we offer a fantastic environment where children are encouraged to learn through play. We have brilliant facilities both for inside and outdoor play. We welcome children from their second birthday at Pre School, (even if in nappies.) Please contact Tonya our manager for more information - 07962 219523.

## FOSTA

**Beetle drive:** - This was a great success, plenty of fun and prizes. A grand total of **£116** was raised. Thank you to all who helped on the night and those who provided cakes for the refreshments. **Bag 2 school:** - There was a mountain of blue and black bags in the school hall on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. A total of 360kg of textiles was collected. The total amount raised was **£180**. Thank you to everyone who donated. The next collection will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012. **Pancake breakfast:** - Following a bit of a shaky start (problem with the cooker not working!), the pancake breakfast was a great success. Some children boasted that they had managed to eat 5 or more pancakes. Thankfully this did not affect the cross-country participation. A total of **£15** was raised. Thank you to all the parents who helped out, thanks to those who ran home and made pancakes, thanks to all those who helped cook pancakes, and those who helped with the lemon, syrup and sugar. FOSTA is looking to purchase an AMP and mike for the school to help with Church services, sports days and performances.

Up coming events (dates to be confirmed). **Summer BBQ and Fete** planned for July. **Lophams' FOSTA Yard Sales** 16<sup>th</sup> September.

## Lophams' Village Hall

**David Copperfield - performed by Mad Dogs & Englishmen:** We do hope many readers were able to see the production in March.

**The Lottery** - our opportunity to support the Village Hall and have a bit of fun too - continues to attract new members. Recent winners: In February the 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £190.00 was won by A Briggs; 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes of £47.50 each were won by F Weber and D Blanchard. New members, and those who need to renew are urged to get in touch: Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter, Eileen, tel; 01379 687608, from Village Hall Treasurer, Tim Colyer, tel; 01379 687718, from other Village Hall Committee members (see the website for details), or at the Farmers' Market and at Village Hall Events.

**Farmers' Markets** are on the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm. February's was our 11<sup>th</sup> birthday, so attracted a visit from the press. The **April** one is on 28<sup>th</sup>. For details, call 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.

**Art Classes** are held on Wednesdays; mornings sessions are fully booked, but there are a few spaces for the 1 to 4pm slot, the tutor is Susie Turner. (687434)

Through the summer, there will be some 'one-off' Saturday work shops, with a range of techniques & teachers. Details are included on the website.

**To book the hall for private functions**, please contact 01379 687679. To find out more about the hall generally, visit the website: [www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk)

## Lophams' Ladies

Members have travelled in both distance and time recently! Ronald & Edna Buggey brought the slides and photos of their visit to Antarctica ten years ago to the Village Hall in February. As well as views of various kinds of penguins, members saw the remains of whaling stations, explorers' huts and scientific installations, plus the world's most southerly post office - which is still occupied and used! In March, Frances Hart dressed up as "Mrs Mozart" to describe lesser-known facts about the composer. Her fascinating talk was illustrated with delightful music extracts. Meetings go back to evenings at 7.30 in April; the **AGM** on 3<sup>rd</sup> will be followed by a talk "**The Wheel of the Year**" by Anne Marie Clark. Peter Booth Smith is to talk about "**The Tea Trade**" on May 1<sup>st</sup>, when there will be a **Bring & Buy** stall. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, ring 01379 687337.

## Garden Club

On March 7<sup>th</sup> we held our **AGM**, which was followed by "Gardeners Question Time" co-chaired by Stella Taylor and Andy Bailey. This session was much enjoyed by us all and especially so by those of us that Stella and Andy were able to help by answering our specific questions.

Our next meeting is on April 4<sup>th</sup> when we shall be joined by Sue Wooster from Bellflower Nursery, Langham Hall who will give a presentation entitled "Campanulas".

Looking further ahead, we look forward to welcoming garden designer Lucy Redman to our meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our meetings take place in the restaurant area of Blooms Garden Centre on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always very welcome.

## Rolfe's Track

On Saturday, 10th March Peter Coster led a walk of twelve local residents, on behalf of the South Lopham Parish Council, along Rolfe's Track. Peter explained the history and background to the Track including its adoption as an official public right of way in which his own efforts were key.

## North Lopham Lent Lunches

This year, all the money raised will go to the diocesan project to help women in Papua New Guinea, our link area on the far side of the world. The lunches launched on **Ash Wednesday** and continue until Holy Week on Tuesdays between 12noon and 2pm in homes round the village. Grateful thanks go to all those who opened their homes for these occasions, and provided bread, cheese and pickles, plus delicious extras for us to enjoy.

## North Lopham Parish Council

The March meeting was held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> with Heather Potter in the chair. The dangerous tree near the school has been removed. No new **planning** applications have been received. **Paths/Highways:** New 30mph signs to replace those missing at the southern end of the village are still on order. Meadow Farm entrance has not been repaired, the workmen went to the wrong place. Kings Head Lane subsidence has reoccurred; the entrance to Tanns Lane is breaking up. Several complaints have been received about **damage to verges** caused by vehicles being parked on them, footpaths being obstructed because wheelie bins are left out for too long and dog faeces being left in plastic bags by paths. Would residents please respect the verges, take in bins promptly and use the dog waste bins provided. Possible funding to provide dropped kerbs opposite the PO and School is being investigated.

Lopham Links, to save time and money, are negotiating with the White Horse pub to site the play area there. The council agreed not to withdraw its donation provided a satisfactory long-term contract can be agreed. **Diamond Jubilee celebration;** a further £100 funding has been obtained from Breckland Council.

Next meeting: Open meeting Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April at Village Hall with SLPC and Lophams' Society. Our own **AGM** is on 9<sup>th</sup> May at the Methodist Schoolroom.

## St Nicholas' Church

As readers will know, our Rector, the Rev. Rob. is off on a period of extended sickness at the moment. Our prayers go to him and Jan, and their family. We are very grateful to the retired priests who give their time so generously to maintain the sacramental services.

**Mothers' Sunday** was on 18<sup>th</sup> March - families, especially Mothers were celebrated at the 11am All Age Service; there were posies for the ladies present, and those who were not well enough to come along. **Palm Sunday** is on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The entry of Jesus to Jerusalem will be remembered at a 9.30am Holy Communion, then at the 11am All Age service. On **Good Friday, 6<sup>th</sup>**, there will be an hour at the foot of a 14ft. cross, from 2 to 3pm. After this service, the church will be open for its transformation from starkness to beauty in readiness for Easter Day. Gifts of flowers and foliage, or help with the arranging will be most warmly welcomed. **Easter Day** will be celebrated at two 'Home Team' services - an All Age service at 11am, then Easter Praise with members of the benefice choir at 6.30. **Do join us!** N.B. Those who like to celebrate Easter at Dawn on Easter Day are invited to go to St Mary's, Diss, at 6am, for a Walk down to the Mere for the Service, followed by breakfast at the U R Church. There is Easter Communion at Bressingham 9.30am.

**Starters & Sweets** was postponed from an icy February evening, and will now be held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April. As 21<sup>st</sup> is the birthday of HM The Queen, and 23<sup>rd</sup> is St George's Day, we hope to have a suitably English flavour for the event! Tickets are still just £5, from Jennie or PCC members, so we hope many people will come along to enjoy sampling the range of delicious foods on offer. Soft drinks will be provided - bring your own alcohol if desired.

**Annual Meetings:** It's that time again! **Vestry meetings** to elect churchwardens will be held in each church - details will be posted at each venue in advance. The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** for all five parishes will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April in Bressingham School, 7.15 for 7.30 start. All are welcome to hear about the life of the church in 2011; those on the Electoral Roll elect the PCCs for the next year.

**Bishop Graham** will be at South Lopham on 29<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am for a Communion service with dedication of all the work done there in recent years, so that will be the only service that day.

## Redgrave and Lopham Fen – Plant Sale

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 10am – 4pm

Over 20 award winning and specialist nurseries. Perennials, shrubs, ferns, herbs, trees, alpine, seeds and more. Plus secondhand tools, donated plants and mulch. Hot refreshments available. Dogs on short leads welcome.

## South Lopham Parish Council

The following points arose out of the Meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2012: **1)** In relation to **planning**, it was noted that the Settlement Boundary in South Lopham had been abolished. This means that there is a strong presumption against all new development except certain categories, e.g. low cost housing. **2)** Norfolk County Council had agreed to paint a "**slow**" sign on the road by the village name sign on the way in from Diss. The Council would not agree to move the 30 mph sign back towards Diss. **3)** Discussions are taking place with Norfolk County Council and Breckland Council concerning the **upkeep of certain rights of way**. It is hoped to produce a plan of such rights of way in South Lopham. **4)** The attention of the Council had been drawn to the issue of **dog fouling** around the village. Some owners are wrapping the waste in polythene bags and leaving it next to the paths. This is thoroughly anti-social and the offending owners are strongly urged to dispose of the waste at their homes. **5)** It was decided by a majority vote not to ask for the return of the Council's £200 contribution to Lopham Links to help with the funding of a children's' playground at the Village Hall. This issue arose because owing to the non-availability of grants and funding it has not been possible to proceed with the original plan. The alternative proposal is for the playground to be located in the garden of the White Horse Pub. Final terms for such playground have yet to be agreed with the White Horse but negotiations are at an advanced stage. **6)** A report about the preparations for the **Jubilee Celebrations** on 2<sup>nd</sup> June was considered. There is a need to recruit further **volunteers** to help with preparations and on the day itself. Anyone interested should contact Granville Horan on 01379 640355 or granvillehoran@hotmail.com. The book exchange at the telephone kiosk in Primrose Lane will be replaced in due course by a cardboard cutout of the Queen and certain other artwork as part of the Jubilee Celebrations. **7)** The **Annual Village Meeting** will take place at 7 for 7.30 p.m. on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April. All residents are urged to attend so that they can hear the report of the Parish Council and local groups. It is an opportunity to raise questions about the Council or any local issue. The Meeting will be followed by the equivalent for North Lopham and then by the AGM of the Lophams' Society. The Society will provide complimentary wine, soft drinks and nibbles. **8)** Approximately £160 of the Malson legacy remains unspent. Various ideas were mentioned and residents are invited to submit suggestions, possibly at the Village Meeting.

## North Lopham Methodist Chapel

1<sup>st</sup> April 2.30pm  
Preacher Rev Brian Trudgian of Diss.

Tea and Refreshments afterwards.

15<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am  
Preacher Rev. Edna Buggay of Diss

29<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am  
Preacher Mr S Aspinall of Stanton

Everyone Welcome to all the services.

## St Andrew's Church

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am there will be a **Service of Dedication** following extensive restoration work of this fine Country Church. The Rt. Reverend Graham James, Bishop of Norwich, will be preaching. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

We would like to thank Gill and Nigel Mutimer and Friends of Banham Community Church for their help in tidying the Churchyard.

## Suffolk Wildlife Trust Valley Fens Local Group South Lopham

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
Talk by Jackie Clarke "Why Ring Birds?"  
(Followed by the AGM)

7.30pm at Redgrave and Lopham Fen Visitor Centre. £2 entry includes tea/coffee and biscuits  
Contact no: 01379 608313

Feel free to just come for the talk if you do not wish to stay for the formal meeting afterwards.

## Services for April

North Lopham	South Lopham
--------------	--------------

	1 <sup>st</sup> April	
9.30am Group HC	-	
11am Fam S	-	
	8 <sup>th</sup> April	
11am Easter Fam S	-	
6.30pm ES	-	
	15 <sup>th</sup> April	
11am Fam S	9.30am HC	
	22 <sup>nd</sup> April	
11am Fam S	6.30pm ES	
	29 <sup>th</sup> April	
-	10.30am Group Service with Bishop Graham	

Contributions for next issue by;

18<sup>th</sup> APRIL

Please email to  
lophamsnews@gmail.com