

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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MAY 2012

Jubilee Preparations

Volunteers are required for general setting up on Friday 1st June and the morning of 2nd June and for dismantling on the Sunday.

Helpers are also required for the door-to-door delivery of the Jubilee Programme in both South and North Lopham. The delivery will take place during the second week of May (and possibly the third).

We require gazebos or small marquees. Does anyone have one or access to one or more?

If anyone can help with any of the above, could he or she please contact Granville Horan on 01379 640355 or email to granvillehoran@hotmail.com.

St Andrew's School

It is hard to believe that a whole year has passed since Mrs Norgate joined us as our Headteacher, and two terms since the Partnership with All Saints at Winfarthing was established! There is a new sense of purpose and vision for everyone to share. Hard work and the highest standards are the norm, but accompanied by lots of extras to enjoy - the joint trip to the Wizard of Oz was tremendously exciting; the Partnership Easter Experience gave the children a deeper understanding of this important festival. Well done to all who entered the Science Week competitions - though they did not win, the standard was very high. Congratulations to Niamh S who did win in the Energy Busters competition! There was an impressive array of certificates to present at the end of last term to those who had been involved in all manner of sporting activities, especially for swimming. At the weekly celebration assembly, it is good to see awards for out of school ventures - Music, Judo and Karate have featured recently. This term's Value for Life is Reverence and Respect - looking at Role models who can inspire us to show how we value Creation and our Environment; Other People and Each Other. We focused on St George on his special day, and wore red & white as we reflected on his example. The children are now benefiting from new woodland seating in an outside classroom, a new friendship bench and scooters to play on at break times. School Council is organising events to pay for the new soft furnishings in the library. As the annual tests come round, it is good to have very special events to look forward to - We have been invited to take part in a Chyme Concert in Diss at the end of May, and to be very involved in local celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Our school is currently looking for people to be associate members of the School Governing Body. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact the school, using the contact details below. You can find out more about the school by visiting the website: www.standrews.schoolpartnership.org, by telephone on 01379 687253 or by email to executivehead@schoolpartnership.org We would love to hear from you, or have you come and visit.

St Andrew's Preschool

We are very proud of our new sign and noticeboard letting all who pass by know where we are and who we are. These were purchased using funds generously given after the Kings Head Carol & Auction event in December, for which many thanks! We are open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week, with a wonderful, caring environment in which children can learn and develop through play, using a huge variety of equipment both indoors and outside. Children are welcome to join us from their second birthday. To find out more, or to arrange a visit, just contact Manager Tonya on 07962219523.

Lophams' Village Hall

AGM: The Annual Meeting will be held on Friday 25th May, at 7.30pm. All residents and/or village organisations are invited to send a representative to hear about activities during the last year, and ask questions or make suggestions for the future. The usual meeting of the management group will follow the AGM. **A Sports Taster Day** on Sunday 13th May will be a fantastic opportunity for both adults and younger folk to try, for free, lots of activities both indoors and out. Look out for posters (& the enclosed flyer with this copy of the News), then come along and "Have a go!" Between 2pm and 5pm. **The Lottery** - our opportunity to support the Village Hall and have a bit of fun too - had another large pot of prize money in March. T Colyer won the 1st prize of £190.00; 2nd prizes of £47.50 each were won by J Pursehouse and D Huggins. 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 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. Next one 26th May. For details, call Mike on 01379 687 235. **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; morning 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 workshops, 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 at www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk

Lophams' Ladies

Meeting in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

At our April meeting, Anne Marie Clark gave us insight into the "Wheel of the Year"; the annual cycle of the changing seasons with eight main festivals. Yule / Winter solstice and Midsummer are well known; perhaps lesser known are Candlemas (Feb 1st); a time of preparation to make way for the new Spring and Lammas (July 31st); celebrating the first harvesting of crops. On May 1st Mr Peter Booth Smith will be talking about the "Tea Trade". At this meeting we will also have a Bring and Buy stall. In June we focus on the Diamond Jubilee weekend and join the celebration at the Village Hall on June 2nd.

New members and visitors always welcome - details Tel 01379 687337.

Garden Club

On April 4th we welcomed Sue Wooster of Bellflower Nursery who gave a talk entitled "Campanulas". Sue accompanied her talk with a selection of slides taken from her own National Collection of Alpine Campanulas as well as pictures of these beautiful plants taken in different parts of the world in their natural surroundings. She also brought a selection of plants, which we were able to purchase during the evening.

Our next meeting is on May 2nd when we shall be joined by garden designer Lucy Redman, and the following meeting on June 6th will be spent visiting the gardens at Bressingham Gardens.

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. For further information please telephone 01379 687833.

South Lopham Estates Charity - Vacancy for Secretary

As previously reported, Sarah Frizzell is retiring as Secretary after many years valuable service. Applications for the post are therefore invited. The duties are not onerous and the Charity is run in an informal manner and meets two or three times a year. The history and background involving local plots of land are very interesting, as is dealing with the Church and School Authorities. Anyone interested should contact the Chairman, Robert McCaw, on 01379 687776 or robmad@btinternet.com.

North Lopham Lent Lunches

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. Thanks too to those who came along to support them! The six lunches raised £290 to help efforts to empower women in Papua New Guinea.

Village Meetings

The annual Village Meetings of South and North Lopham were held on the evening of Friday 13th April at the Village Hall and were attended by approximately 65 residents.

Robert McCaw gave a report of the activities of the South Lopham PC over the last year. Worthy of particular mention was his tribute to Peter Coster who will be retiring from the PC after eight years service, four as Chairman. He will be greatly missed. Applications to fill the vacancy are invited. This was followed by questions, the main one being a complaint about the danger caused by heavy lorries entering the village from Thetford. Michael Wragg (of Weavers) and Harry Carter (of Fieldings) had made many representations to the Highways Authority and to William Nunn but all to no avail. Peter Coster, on behalf of the PC, would consider whether any help could be given.

In the absence of a permanent Chairman, Mike Cox, the Parish Clerk, gave the report for North Lopham. Mr Hogg asked a question regarding dangerous parking on the grass verges close to the school. Tracey Umfreville would contact the Head Teacher in order to discourage the offending parents.

There followed short statements by the following local groups: St. Andrew's School (Tracey Umfreville), St. Andrew's Church (Peter Reeder), St. Nicholas Church (Jenny Vere), The White Horse (Tony the Landlord), The Kings Head (Mike Cox on behalf of George the Landlord), Lopham Links (Donna Potter), Lophams' Gardening Club (Gill Osler), Lophams' Ramblers (Mike Cox for Jackie Brown), Lophams' Ladies (Sarah Frizzell), South Lopham Estates Charity (Robert McCaw), Little Ouse Headwaters Project (Peter Coster for Dr. Helen Smith), Lophams' Village Hall (Jenny Vere), Lophams' Pre-School (Mike Cox) and North Lopham Charities (Mike Cox).

St Nicholas' Church

Easter Celebrations: We were able to mark the most significant events of the season in North Lopham. The Revd. Reg Dakin dedicated the palm leaf crosses before the Palm Sunday Communion Service; there were plenty to share with those who came to the 11am service. On Good Friday, The Revd. Ben Sasada guided the meditation at the foot of a 14 foot cross in the chancel arch. All those who came thanked him for a very moving service. The building was transformed afterwards for Easter, with wonderful displays and vases of flowers, so looked its festive best for Easter Sunday, when the home team led both services. Grateful thanks to all those who helped. There were both 'real' and chocolate eggs for everyone at the 11am, and more little chocolate ones in the evening, when Easter Praise was shared with members of the benefice choir.

Happy Birthday, Your Majesty! The bells at St Nicholas' Church rang out in a peal dedicated to The Queen on the eve of her birthday. The bells were dedicated after re-hanging on 21st April 1926, so-so peals have been rung to celebrate significant birthdays since her 50th. It seemed appropriate to ring this year as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. **Starters & Sweets** on the evening of the 20th had a traditional English flavour, marking both the birthday and St George's Day on 23rd.

At the **Vestry meeting** Jean Stringfield stood down as churchwarden; everyone wished to record thanks for all she has done in recent years. Alan Briggs was elected to serve alongside Richard Vere for the next twelve months.

NB: The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** is on 26th April in Bressingham School.

Special Services for May:

Ascension Day is on Thursday 17th. We hope to have a 10am Holy Communion Service in Church.

Pentecost - The Birthday of the Christian Church is on 27th. There will be a Party Family Service for all at 11am, with balloons, games and cake to share. Do come along!

Little Ouse Headwaters Project

Dawn Chorus Walk, led by John Hill. **Sunday 6th May 4.15am for 4.30am at Blo'Norton Village Hall.** Celebrate International Dawn Chorus Day and the arrival of most of our spring migrants, with an early start to hear bird song in the Little Ouse Valley, followed by a welcome bacon butty breakfast (veggie available) and hot drinks at Blo'Norton Village Hall. Wear very warm waterproof clothing & bring binoculars. £3 each – booking essential on 07747 691285. Visit www.lohp.org.uk.

AGM of The Lophams' Society

Granville Horan as Chairman welcomed the members and gave a report on the year's activities. Sarah Martin gave the Treasurer's Report. This was followed by a progress report by Granville on the preparations for the Jubilee Celebrations. The next item was the approval of an additional clause to the Constitution providing for the appointment of an Honorary President. The first holder of this office is Simon Dilloway.

There followed the election of officers. All existing officers and committee members were re-elected. Jill Partridge was elected as an additional committee member.

There being no questions, or any other business, the meeting was closed.

Events at Redgrave and Lopham: May/June 2012

Friday 4th May, 10am–2pm. Reptile monitoring & surveying.

An introductory course on the biology, habitat requirements and conservation of Suffolk's reptiles with John Baker.

£25/£21.50. Booking essential 01473 890089.

Saturday 5th May, 10.30am – 12.30pm. Guided Walk.

Volunteer-led seasonal walk to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen.

Adult £3, child £1. Booking preferable 01379 688333.

Saturday 12th May, 10.30am–12.30pm. Wildlife Watch group.

A club for 6 – 12yr olds. £1, details 01379 688333.

Sunday 13th May, 10am – 4pm. Spring birds.

Improve your observational skills and gain confidence to recognise birds by sight and sound, with Paul Holness.

£20, £17 concession. Booking essential 01473 890089.

Saturday 26th May, 10am – 3pm. Botanical Illustration

Looking at a range of illustration techniques using seasonal plant material with an emphasis on botanical accuracy, with Christine Grey-Wilson.

£20. Booking essential 01473 890089.

Wednesday 6th June, 2–4pm. Minibeast Safari Family afternoon.

An afternoon of pond dipping, bug hunting, crafts and games.

Children £3.50, Adults £1.50. Booking essential 01379 688333.

Saturday 9th June, 10.30am–12.30pm. Wildlife Watch group.

A club for 6 – 12yr olds. £1, details 01379 688333.

Saturday 16th June, 10am – 3pm. Botanical Illustration.

Looking at a range of illustration techniques using seasonal plant material with an emphasis on botanical accuracy, with Christine Grey-Wilson.

£20. Booking essential 01473 890089.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Services for May

13th May 10.30am

Preacher Rev. Edna Buggy of Diss

27th May 10.30am

Preacher Mr S Jobes of Thetford

A warm welcome to all.

St Andrew's Church

At the Annual Vestry meeting on Sunday 15th April, Peter Reeder and David Huggins were re-elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

On Sunday 29th April we look forward to welcoming The Rt. Reverend Graham James, Bishop of Norwich, at 10.30am to preach at the service of dedication after extensive restoration work of this fine Country Church. We hope many parishioners will be able to attend.

A **Miscellany of Music** for all to enjoy will be presented on **26th May** by "The Thursday Night Ladies Choir", with singer Katie Howard & flautist Alan Howard with "Four Hands in Harmony", playing piano duets. The evening will include refreshments, and all funds raised will go towards the church Organ fund. Tickets, price £5 will be available from PCC members.

Ceilidh

For Lophams' Churches - **Friday 11th May**, from 7.30pm.

Do come to a Barn Dance with a difference at the Village Hall, for a really fun evening, with Music and Calling by The Deneside Ramblers (Rona Reeder and friends) plus a break for special hot dogs. Tickets are just £6 and there will be a Bar.

Services for May

North Lopham	South Lopham
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6th May

9.30am Group HC	-
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11am Fam S	-
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13th May

11am Fam S	-
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6.30pm ES	-
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20th May

11am Fam S	9.30am HC
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27th May

11am Fam Pentecost	
PartyS	6.30pm ES

Contributions for next issue by;

18th MAY

Please email to
lophamsnews@gmail.com