

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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DECEMBER 2016

St Andrew's School

The children write: So far this term St. Andrew's has had some very fun and exciting times: Banham Zoo came in with some animals to show all of Discovery and Victory. Victory hosted a tea party for all their parents. Endeavour had an exciting trip to the Natural Science Museum in London.

This school has just reintroduced playtime Buddies; Fred, Scarlet, Izzy and Chloe help with playtime activities. There has also been Cross-Country running - when two children reached the county semi-finals! - and Film Night when we watched Minions and Corpse Bride. We are looking forward to all the December events! We thank our FOSTA for all the support they give to the school

The Governors add: There is also a great deal of classroom activity; staff and children work incredibly hard! During this half term there are preparations for the end of term events, including a Show on 8th December, and the Carol Service at South Lopham Church on Thursday 15th December at 2pm, to which local residents are warmly invited. For information about St Andrew's please contact the office on 013679 687253

St Andrew's Pre School

Greetings from St Andrews Pre School. How the time is flying by; preparations are well under way for Christmas. Our party/concert will take place on Monday 12th December when we will be singing the Christmas songs that we have been practising. We also expect a visit on that day from a man in red with a white beard!!!

We will be having Christmas lunch, visiting the school to watch the rehearsal for their Christmas production and visiting the church to see it decorated for the festive season and to hear the nativity story, and lots, lots more.

We are open 3 days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8.45-3.15 during term time. We were rated 'good' by Ofsted at our last inspection. Places are available on all days currently, for further information or to arrange a visit please contact Jan on 07854091257.

STOP PRESS - St Andrew's Lollipop Lady may be axed!

All residents with a concern for the safety of our primary age children read the following at <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/consultation/roadcrossingpatrols> and respond appropriately. Thank you.

Lophams' Village Hall

The Bonfire and Fireworks Event 2016 was a real success once again, despite wind and rain on and off throughout the day, and many other local events the same day! Many thanks to all those who brought so much burnable material of the right kind to enable Jim with his teleporter to build an enormous fire, which was burning brightly by the time the gates opened at 6pm. Cold and damp outside meant that the hall was well filled with people enjoying all the hot food and drink on offer until the beginning of the firework display - which many people said was "the best" - and attracted them to the Lophams, even though there were many other similar events in the area. The committee members send grateful thanks to everybody who helped in any way to make the event successful - Jim and the crew who built the fire, the company who provided the firework display, and all who helped with car parking or stewarding out on the field, or with stalls and catering inside the hall.

The Lottery: Apart from one small blip, membership has remained at the full hundred this Autumn, with a corresponding £200 first prize each month, and all members eligible for the December Bonanza draw! We want this to continue, 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 October were: first prize of £200 - C Huggins; second prizes of £50 - J Leeder & D Hammond. 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, except December so the next date is Sunday 18th December (Details from Mike on 01379 687235)

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 £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

- meeting at the Village Hall on the first Tuesday each month; during the winter we meet at 2pm. Visitors are always welcome.

Annie Chapman was an inspiring speaker in November, talking about the history of the Pink Ladies and their tractor drives to raise funds for Breast Cancer Awareness - almost half a million pounds already! Handling the actual torch she carried for the 2012 London Olympics was a special thrill. Gilbert & Sullivan will be a musical treat at the Christmas meeting (2pm), when committee members will provide seasonal refreshments.

The £91 raised by our cake stall at the October Farmers' Market was a welcome boost for funds.

For more information, please contact Sarah on 01379 687337

Garden Club

On November 3rd we welcomed Janet Whiteside who gave her presentation "Ideas for Christmas". Janet is a very accomplished flower arranger and demonstrated lots of ideas for Christmas decorations ranging from wreaths to be hung on the front door to beautiful floral arrangements using greenery and seed heads from her own garden, neighbours gardens and items found on walks in the countryside. Janet very kindly donated many of the finished arrangements to be given as prizes in our raffle.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Dinner on 1st December. This will be held in the restaurant at Wyvale Garden Centre, Bressingham and is sure to be a most enjoyable evening.

We do not have a meeting in January, so our next meeting will be on 2nd February when Ben Potterton will talk about "Snowdrops". Please telephone 01379 687833 for further details.

North Lopham Parish Council - met on 9th November.

Present: Councillors Eagle, McManus, Hammond (Chair), Tate, Tipple, Carley; Parish Clerk; ward representative Chapman-Allen, 3 residents. Apologies: Cllr Nunn.

Footpaths: PC objections to adoption of Jubilee Lane as a restricted byway were deemed inadmissible by NCC.

Fencing round the Letchmere needs replacement. Cllrs McManus and Hammond to assess. Advised by Cllr Chapman-Allen of possibility of up to £1000 funding from 'Pride in Breckland' fund. She would provide supporting letter.

Next year's budget and precept must be confirmed in January.

Partnership Scheme/Traffic Calming: a chicane would cost £30,000 - £50,000 and not included in PS! Contacted Crime Commissioner, Lorne Green, about speeding; new 'special constables' are being trained in speed camera operation to augment Speedwatch schemes.

Neighbourhood Plan: long discussion about possibility of setting up a separate committee, not part of PC, to assess desire for a Neighbourhood Plan within the village. Would also possibly have a monitoring function to assess and record planning applications and decisions and report to PC.

Breckland Local Plan: Further delayed, until 2018, but will include limits on development within the settlement boundary and impose tough conditions on any proposals outside the SB. Far greater powers will be conferred to PCs in respect of planning decisions.

The 'trod': thanks to Mr and Mrs Homes for removing their hedge.

Annual donation to CAB of £50 was agreed.

Estimates for clearing/mowing Primrose Lane next season received, confirmation of the figures and proposed work is required.

Next meeting Jan 11th 2017

St Nicholas' Church

Samaritan's Purse: Grateful thanks to all who supported the appeal this year (including the anonymous donor of a box left on the doorstep!) Almost 70 boxes are now on their way to bring Christmas joy to children in Eastern Europe & beyond.

North Lophams' Knitted Bible Exhibition: The theft of the lead on the South Aisle roof, just as we were about to launch the Knitted Bible Festival was a tremendous shock. Fortunately, there was no damage to the interior of the church, so the roof was made watertight & secure, and the Festival went ahead. The response was amazing! E Anglian visitors came from Kings Lynn, Cromer, Downham Market, Oulton Broad & Bury St Edmunds. More distantly, they came from Yorkshire and County Durham; a couple from Canada came by accident, but left in raptures! The comments in the Visitors' Book and in the Suggestions box were extremely positive, so work will soon begin on some more scenes. By this time in 2017 we hope to be able to tell the whole of the essential Bible story in 50 scenes with knitted figures! Many many thanks to all who helped in any way to make such a big impact!

Remembrance: Conditions were just about perfect on 11th November for the Remembrance ceremony at North Lopham War Memorial. The wind dropped to a gentle breeze, just enough to ruffle the flags, and the sun shone brightly on the uniforms of the US airmen and juniors from St Andrew's School. Beth and Max shared in the readings during the short service; Charlie and Izzy helped lay wreaths for the adults, then Jack and Melody laid a wreath on behalf of all the children, and crosses were planted round the war memorial base. After the National Anthem, Fred played an encore on his trombone before all the children sang their special remembrance song to conclude the formal proceedings.

On Remembrance Sunday, a special Act of Remembrance was included in the Family Service in St Nicholas' Church. In addition to the reading of names and wreath laying, we were privileged to hear some of the experiences of a family with a relative who died in Burma - at Khohima, and a poem written about those times.

The Advent to Epiphany season will soon be here, with all the special services and events that brings. Highlights are:

Posada: During December, Mary, Joseph and the donkey will be travelling round the area, looking for places to stay, on their way to church for the Crib Service on 24th December. If you would like to give them a night's rest, just telephone 01379 687679 (Jennie)

The Toy Service at 11am on 4th December, the nearest to St Nicholas' Day. We hope to receive gifts, wrapped and suitably labeled, for some of the families cared for by Action for Children (Thetford area). It is so important to remember that there are people in desperate need so close to our own comfortable village.

The Advent Carol Service at 4pm on 11th December – a chance to share some of the beautiful readings and music for the season.

All Age Family Carol Service at 11am on 18th – our young people read the lessons and we all enjoy singing familiar carols.

The Crib Service at 4pm on 24th December – a few moments for families to focus on the story at the heart of the celebrations.

North Lopham Methodists Methodist friends invite local residents to the monthly service in the church, with Coffee, at 10.30am. In December, the Carols Event will be on 14th The January service reverts to the 4th Wed -25th

Holy Bingo Continues in the Village Hall on the first Monday each month at 2pm, when new faces are always welcome to come and share in fun sessions, with plenty of time for a chat. The Christmas special session is on December 5th then the first for 2017 is on January 9th – NOT on 2nd as that is the New Year Bank Holiday. (Do telephone 01379 687679 for further details or for help with transport.)

South Lopham Parish Council

Parish Council 3rd November at Valley Farm. Present four Councillors and the Clerk with one apology. The Council was pleased to have both our District Councillor Marion Chapman Allen and our County Councillor Steve Askew.

Chairman: The Chairman paid tribute to David Huggins who sadly died in October. David rarely missed a meeting and kept himself involved despite in recent times being unwell. He will be sorely missed in the village and the meeting expressed their appreciation for the work David had done over the years.

Highways: The Chairman summarised a meeting he and the Clerk had had with County Highways. It is not possible to do anything other than reduce the speed of traffic within the present 30mph zone. The clerk will pursue a Parish Partnership Funding bid to purchase a SAM 2 speed sign and investigate whether Highways will replace or upgrade the existing flashing signs on the A1066. Steps will also be taken to canvas interest from within the village to set up a speed watch team. Enquiries will be made concerning the use of a SAM 2 flashing sign on the Redgrave road in addition to Church Road. Planning: Mrs Martin outlined the present position on all current matters (See Breckland Planning web site)

Footpaths: Letters and a map of our footpaths had been sent to the relevant landowners. New finger posts had been ordered and will be delivered when available. Highways have been approached to see if the verges along the A1066 can be mowed and widened to allow access to Parish footpaths. Highways have strongly recommended that the Council do not encourage walkers alongside the A1066 on safety grounds. Estimates were circulated for further work on trees and to clear Primrose Lane, further estimates to be obtained.

Councillor: The Council is still one member short. Meetings are held bi-monthly and if any Parishioner wishes to participate by becoming a Councillor please contact the Clerk Caroline Phillips, 01379 687950 or the Chairman John Crisp 01379 687953 and they will be happy to discuss the work of the Council with you.

Mobile Library Service: Norfolk County Council have requested that the Council remind everyone that the mobile library visits our area and inform them of the timetable. The Library is free and open to all ages, not only for books but other Library services. There are three stops in South Lopham and dates of the next visits are on 24th November, 22nd December, 19th January, 16th February. More information is available on the NCC web site www.norfolk.gov.uk. The mobile Library office can be contacted on 01603 222303 or email central.mobiles@Norfolk.gov.uk.

Next meeting: 5th January 2017

St Andrew's Church

The PCC and Church Wardens were saddened by the news of the passing of David Huggins. David had been an active member of the PCC, had served as a Church Warden and treasurer of the Friends of South Lopham Church, a faithful friend to St. Andrew's Church and the Village.

Carols at the White Horse On Thursday 15th December there will be an evening of Carols at The White Horse South Lopham at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, by kind invitation of Nigel and Tracy Martin, all welcome.

Christmas Service This year the Christmas Service at St. Andrew's Church will be on Christmas Day at 9.30am with Holy Communion.

The PCC and Church Wardens would like to thank everyone who has helped with St. Andrew's Church throughout this year and we wish all our parishioners a peaceful Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year

The Lophams' Society

On Friday the 16th December the Lophams' Society will be hosting its pre-Christmas get-together in the Village Hall between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. This is a **FREE** event and all residents of the Lophams' both past and present are invited to come along and join us in raising a glass of Christmas cheer. As well as mulled wine and soft drinks there will be a selection of finger food including French bread and cheese, biscuits, mince pies and festive nibbles. Many of those who attended last year's drop-in were complimentary about the new-style get-together and we hope that this year's event will be just as enjoyable.

So if you haven't been before or haven't "dropped-in" for a couple of years **please** come along and join us for a drink, a nibble and a catch-up and help get the festive season underway.

Services for December

North Lopham	South Lopham
	4th Dec
9.30am HC	***
11am Toy S	***
	11th Dec
11am Fam S	***
4pm Adv Car	***
	17th Dec
11am Fam Car	9.30am HC
	25th Dec
***	9.30am HC

Contributions for next issue by;

16th December Please

Please email to
lophamsnews@gmail.com