

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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JANUARY 2014

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

St Andrew's School

St. Andrew's pupils, parents, staff and governors are busy enjoying the Christmas festivities.

The school has continued to see an increase in numbers, welcoming two more families and children to the community.

The beginning of December saw a successful film night for pupils organised by FOSTA.

The school was also represented at the Lophams' Drop In, where the children sang a number of Christmas songs for the community.

The last week of term has been full of Christmas Cheer. Following weeks of hard work, the children performed 'Baa baa Bethlehem' a humorous story about sheep, with a serious Christian message and lots of memorable songs. This was followed by a Carol Service in the Church, where the choir sang songs of their choice and children performed solos on trumpets and flute. A traditional Christmas lunch followed by parties and a visit from Father Christmas have also been enjoyed.

St. Andrew's now looks forward to the Christmas break followed by a trip to the Theatre next half term.

St Andrew's Pre School

Everyone at Pre School is getting very excited as the end of term celebrations give us lots of excitement - going to the big-school Christmas play, and our own party with it's very special guest! We'll all be ready for a bit of a rest before Santa's extra special trip to see us at home.

St Andrew's Pre School is a local, committee run and fun setting for your children or grandchildren. It's also great preparation for when your child starts primary school. **We have a few spaces at the moment**, so please remember that ALL 3 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free sessions each week. Our sessions are changing slightly in January - still five per week, but with one on Monday morning from 8.45 - 11.45, and two on both Wednesdays & Thursdays, starting at 8.45 and continuing till 3.15 in the afternoon. For more information, please pop in or contact Jan and Tonya - 07962 219523 or attwood145@btinternet.com.

Lophams' Village Hall

The Art Group Exhibition of paintings and crafts was a great success. The exhibitors were pleased with their own sales; the Christmas cards and refreshment sales raised £800 for the McMillan Cancer charity - a fantastic result.

We hope lots of readers have enjoyed a visit to the Christmas Farmer's Market and the Bonanza Draw in addition to the monthly prizes. The November prizewinners were 1st prize £186.00, S Savereux and 2nd prizes of £46.50, L Perry and J Vere.

Lottery is a fun way to support the Village Hall development fund, with three chances each month of winning a prize. 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 Farmer's Market and at Village Hall Events.

Farmer's Markets are on the fourth Saturday each month, from 9am till 12.30pm. The January Market is on 25th. 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.

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 01379 687882 for more details.

Yoga with P: is on Thursdays in the early evening. Booking is essential, so contact piaternella.jarvie@gmail.com (01379 890955 or 07932010720).

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 on the first Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall.

In early December, members enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Wortham Tea Rooms.

On January 7th David Derrick, our local bee keeper, will talk to us and on February 4th we will have an introduction to Tai Chi. We will also have a Bring and Buy at this meeting. Both these meetings will be in the **afternoon starting at 2.15pm for 2.30pm.**

We do welcome visitors and new members to these meetings. Please phone 01379 687337 for further details.

Garden Club

We enjoyed our Christmas Dinner on 4th December. Once again, the catering staff at Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre worked very hard to make us welcome and provided a delicious meal. We were then entertained by our guest speaker, Norma Howes, who amused us with stories and poems of her life as one of H M tax inspectors. I think all who attended thought it a most festive and enjoyable evening.

We do not meet in January, so our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 5th February** 2014 when Jamie Blake will talk about **"The Alan Bloom Years"**.

We hold our meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre at 7.30pm and visitors and new members are always very welcome.

Lophams' Society's Christmas Drop-in

The village hall was once again transformed with decorations, fairy lights and a Christmas tree for the Lophams' Society's Christmas Drop-in on the 13th December.

This annual event gives all those living in the Lophams' the chance to have a pre-Christmas get-together and catch up with friends and neighbours, prior to the big day.

A free buffet, mulled wine, live music, a visit from Father Christmas and a performance of Christmas songs from the children of St Andrew's School, under the direction of Jennie Vere, all helped to provide a festive atmosphere.

Thanks to all those who attended and to all those members of the committee who worked really hard to ensure that everyone had a good time.

North Lopham Parish Council

Next meeting is on **8th January 2014**. Can anyone help to maintain the pond?

If there's anyone out there who's prepared to help tidy round the pond on a regular basis please contact the Parish Clerk on 01379 688298 for further details.

St Nicholas' Church

The **North Lopham Crib Festival** had an amazing total of crib sets on display - was it 99 or the full 100? - Visitors found it took a lot longer than expected to look at them all. It was a thrill to have people coming along from such a wide area - the first folk to come were from Norwich, they were followed by visitors from North Norfolk and South Kent and many places in between. The more interactive elements were a great attraction - whether watching a camel emerge from a lump of wood, or a king from scraps of wool at one end of the church or creating a decoration for the tree in the opposite corner. We are very grateful to all those who so generously loaned their own cribs, and to those who helped in any way with the refreshments or stall. Plans are already being formulated for an even better event in 2014.

The special services for the season are at the halfway point at the time of writing - Extra visitors made the **Toy Service** very memorable; thank you to all who gave gifts; they have been safely delivered to Prospect House in Thetford to be shared with deprived families there.

The Revd. Maggie Swayze joined us for the **Advent Carols**. Her Reflection on the readings added a special dimension to the service.

It was lovely to have all of the readings taken by children at the **Family Carol Service** - thank you to Harry, Maddie and Thomas. The other children helped with lighting candles, leading some of the singing and taking the collection.

The **Crib Service** on 24th December will be reported next time.

St Andrew's School pupils held their Carol Service in St Nicholas' Church this year. It was lovely to hear such beautiful singing and such clear readers.

And so to the New Year: We do wish all readers a Happy and Healthy twelve months.

12th January: is both Plough Sunday and our celebration of the Epiphany
The Revd. Chris Davidson will be with us for a Family Communion and Blessing of Ploughs at 11am. Ploughs from other villages would be very welcome - just phone 01379 687679 so that we know how many to accommodate! The Epiphany **Carol Service** is at 4pm - more beautiful music and readings to round off the main Christmas season.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Talks

Everyone is welcome to these talks, which take place at the Redgrave and Lopham Fen Education Centre, £2 including refreshments. Further info 01379 608313

Tuesday 28th January 7.30pm - a talk by **Dr. Helen Smith** - 'The Little Ouse Valley Fens - the road to recovery'

Tuesday 25th February 7.30pm - a talk by **Martin Tickler** - 'House Martins'

Tuesday 25th March 7.30pm - a talk by **Gerald Jenkins** - 'The mystery of colour in nature and the rainbow'

Lophams' Bingo

Bingo continues on 6th January at 2pm, with the usual mix of banter and chat. New faces will be very welcome to join us, especially young people looking for something to fill the holiday hours.

Events at Redgrave and Lopham Fen

Saturday 4th January. 10.30am – 1pm. **Guided fen walk.** Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill. £3. Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

Saturday 11th January. 10.30am – 12.30pm. **Wildlife Watch Group.** A club for 6 – 12yr olds, £1. Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508.

Saturday 1st February. 10.30am – 1pm. **Guided fen walk.** Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Fen with enthusiast and naturalist John Hill. £3. Meet at the Education Centre, no booking required.

Wednesday 5th February. 10am – 12noon. **Find out about volunteering.** Come and find out about volunteering opportunities both at the Fen and at Knettishall Heath. Discover how you could get involved with work parties, educational activities and events. There are lots of roles from conservation work to admin. Come and find out more - just drop in. No experience necessary.

Saturday 8th February. 10.30am – 12.30pm. **Wildlife Watch Group.** A club for 6 – 12yr olds, £1. Contact Mike Wraight 01379 644508.

Tuesday 18th February. 2pm – 4pm. **Bird box building family afternoon.** Make a nest box and willow bird feeder to take home. £5 per box. Booking essential 01379 688333.

Wednesday 19th February. 10am – 2pm. **Tracks and trails activity day.** For 6 – 10 year olds. Explore the Fen and track the wild animals that live there. £6 each or 2 siblings for £10. Booking essential 01379 688333.



North Lopham Methodist Church

The Christmas event, with Carols & mince pies gave us an opportunity to use the chapel itself - it was lovely to share the morning with visitors from across the circuit. In January, we're back to the fourth Wednesday - all are welcome to come for a **brief service at 10.30am on 22nd**, followed by Coffee, Chat and Sale.

St Andrew's Church

A very successful **Coffee Morning** on Saturday 23rd November raised £230.00. Thank you to all who supported this event.

The Church Organ has now been cleaned and re-tuned by Rodney Briscoe of Diss. We would like to thank Mr Archie Wright for organising the fund raising concerts and to everyone who has contributed to this very important project.

We wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Services for January

North Lopham South Lopham

5th January
9.30am HC -
11am Fam S -

12th January
11am Plough Sunday HC -
6.0pm Epiphany Carols -

19th January
11am Fam S 9.30am HC

26th January
11am Fam S 4pm ES

Contributions for next issue by;

18th JANUARY

Please email to
lophamsnews@gmail.com