

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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Garden Club

At the March meeting our AGM was followed by a most informative talk given by Ken Samman of "The Garden Enclosure" at Banham Zoo. Ken brought along a large selection of plants, chosen to give different aspects of interest as the seasons change. This gave us all much inspiration when looking for plants that compliment each other and at a time when we can reorganise our borders and fill in some gaps! At our next meeting on April 7th we welcome Anne and John Bridge who are going to talk on "Springtime in Holland". New members and visitors are always welcome. We meet in the restaurant area of Blooms Garden Centre at 7.30pm. For more information phone 01953 681989.

Lophams' Ladies

Kevin Pilmer's famous Slides of the Lophams & Local Area were appreciated by an excellent audience, many of whom found it a trip down memory lane. Others were fascinated to discover how the place they call home changed during the 1900s. Peter Reeder thanked Kevin, his assistant Richard Vere and the Ladies for the refreshments. Members enjoyed a meal out together at the Kings Head, as an end of our year treat. The **AGM** will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 6th April at 7.30pm. After the business there will be a Members' Session - poetry, stories and music, to round off the evening. Visitors are welcome to join us - for details ring 01379 687337.

Lophams' Village Hall

Lottery News: The Lottery is our opportunity to support our Village Hall and have a bit of fun too! As entries continue to sell, the prize fund grows and so do the prizes - First prize in February, won by M Birchall, was £150, with £37.50 each for W Nunn & E Jacob!! Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from Eileen Jacob (01379 687515), from Village Hall Treasurer, Tim Colyer (01379 687718), from other Village Hall Committee members (see the website for details), at the Farmers' Market and at Village Hall Events.

The April Farmers' Market is on 24th April, from 9am till 12.30pm. For details call Mike on 01379 687235. **Judo** continues on Mondays & Wednesdays (details from Howard on 01379 688258). **Dog Training** is on most Tuesday evenings. Trainer Elaine (07845 776110) will provide information. 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

Email from David Perry - Last month I attended the **Farmers' Market** in the Village Hall and like many others bought a few raffle tickets thinking of it as a donation to the Village Hall, without really looking at the prizes. On returning home from other shopping, I was surprised to hear an

answerphone message informing me that I had won! The prize was delivered to my door and I then discovered what an extremely worthwhile prize it was. My wife and I were absolutely delighted with the various products and I would advise others to take a chance and buy some raffle tickets - *someone has to win!*

St. Andrew's School

The Spring Term is almost over and at last we can see signs that Spring is actually around the corner. The bulbs the children planted last Autumn are peeping through and there are some flashes of colour as the crocus buds dance in the breeze.

All children from the Partnership enjoyed another excellent visit to the **theatre**, this time to see George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl. It was an excellent visit accompanied by gasps from the audience as Granny became twelve feet tall, or should I say for the younger readers almost 4 metres tall! The following Tuesday, St Andrew's pupils went to **Walsingham Anglican Shrine** where they experienced some of the significant events of Holy Week in a very special setting. On both visits we were very proud of our young people and their excellent behaviour.

In '**Arts Week**', starting on 22nd March, various visitors to school will include a world famous Story teller, an artist who is going to work with older pupils to produce water colours and younger pupils to make masks and paint tiles, plus a variety of other art based work. Children will also have an opportunity to work with a drama leader to perform stories.

Lophams' Happy Circle

There were lots of members at the **Bring & Buy Sale**. We had Bingo and tea & biscuits, and welcomed some new members. The next meeting will be the **Tea Party** on 8th April, with entertainment from Mr Hubbard from Pulham playing the organ. Anyone wanting to know more please ring Daphne on 01379 687453 or Avis on 01953 681789.

Redgrave & Lopham Fen

(for bookings phone 01379 688333)

Easter Egg Hunt, Sun 4th Apr, 10am - 5pm. £1. **Sharing Nature Family Morning: 'Easter Chicks'**, Wed 7th Apr, 10am - 12noon. Children £4, Adults Free. Booking essential. **Activity Day: 'Meet the Tit Family'**, Tue 13th Apr, 10am - 2pm, for children aged 6 - 12 years. £6 Booking essential. **Sharing Nature Family Morning: 'Warty Toads and Hopping Frogs'**, Wed 14th Apr, 10am - 12noon, for children aged 4 - 8 years. Entry: Children £4, Adults Free. Booking essential. **PLANT SALE**, Sun 18th Apr, 10am - 5pm, Children free, Adults £1. **Art Classes for Beginners**, Mon 19th Apr, 10am - 1pm, for adults only, £7.50. Booking essential. **Botanical Illustration with Christine Grey-Wilson**, Wed 28th Apr, 10am-1pm, for adults only, £14 or £50 for 4 sessions. Booking essential.

North Lopham Parish Council

25 residents (including several who had very recently moved into the village) joined in the '**Spring Clean**' on 6th March. In glorious weather about 16 bags of rubbish were collected from around the village and, in the area of the pond, the shrubs were tidied, twigs cleared and leaves raked-up. Thanks to all who participated ... and thanks to George and Angie at The Kings Head for the very welcome refreshments after the event. Concern was expressed at the Parish Council meeting on 10th March about the apparent increase in '**dog-fouling**' in and around the village - often right in the middle of footpaths. We have three 'dog-bins' - please use them and be considerate to other users of the paths. There was more discussion of the project to have '**The Lanes**' to the west of The Street registered as Public Rights of Way. Despite some opposition the Parish Council voted by a narrow majority to send the evidence which has been collected in recent months to the Legal Department at Norfolk County Council to set the process in motion.



There was some discussion of the changes, proposed by Breckland, to the **Settlement Boundary**. We await the full consultation document later in the Spring, when the Council (and individuals) will have the opportunity to make a formal response. Unfortunately, we have been informed that the piece of land which had been identified as most suitable for a 'safe play area' within the village cannot be made available. Any more suggestions or offers would be much appreciated. The **next meeting will be Wednesday May 12th**. The Annual Village Open Meeting will start at 7pm and the Parish Council AGM will follow (probably starting about 8 pm). Please put the date in your diary now!

South Lopham Parish Council

Please make a note of the date of the **2010 Village Meeting - April 16th** - in the Village Hall. We shall begin at 7.30pm but you are welcome to join us from 7pm onwards. The Chairman will give his annual report on the Council's work. Representatives from all organisations in the village are invited to say a few words if they wish and of course the floor is open to all for questions and comment. The meeting is also the occasion of the **South Lopham Village Society's AGM**. Light refreshments will be available.

At the meeting on March 11th councillors were pleased to hear that the extension of the **30mph limit** on the **Blo Norton Rd** is now in operation but were disappointed that a similar extension of the limit on the 1066 at the Eastern end has been refused. A site meeting to discuss the matter will be requested. The road damage and standing water caused by the harsh weather have been, and will continue to be, reported to Highways in an effort to secure the mending of potholes and unblocking of drains and culverts. The Council has also been corresponding with **Breckland Planners** and will ask a representative to join us at a meeting for a discussion on the role of the Parish Council in the planning process. The 'purchase' of the **red telephone kiosk** is still undecided as is the spending of the £1000 bequest to the village by the late Bernice Malsom. Both will be matters for discussion at the Village Meeting.

We ask all residents to be vigilant regarding **fly tipping**. Recently a large number of car tyres were thrown from the bridge on Low Common Road, interrupting the flow of the river and moving downstream towards the Fen. Should anyone see or hear of similar acts anywhere around the village, please do not hesitate to contact **Breckland Council on 01362 853296** with details, if possible including registration numbers of any vehicles involved.

Lent Lunches

The final Bread & Cheese lunch for this year is at Brecklands, on Tuesday 30th March from

12 noon to 2pm. Donations given at breakfast after the Dawn service on Easter Day will be added to the funds already raised and go to the Diocesan Lent Appeal for Education projects in Papua New Guinea.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Preachers for April at 10.45am are;

- 11th April: Mr Mann.
- 25th April: Rev Colin Telfer of Diss.

Everyone welcome. *Preliminary notice* - The Chapel celebrates its 200th Anniversary on 8th & 9th May.

Church Annual Meetings

The **Lophams' Vestry Meetings**, to elect Churchwardens for the coming year, will be held on Sunday 18th April at South Lopham after the 9.30am service and at North Lopham after the 11am. All on the Electoral Register are eligible to come along and vote. The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** for the four parishes is in Bressingham School on Thursday 29th April at 7pm. Everyone on the Church Electoral Roll may come along to hear about the work of our churches, and to elect the Church Councils for the next twelve months.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

Women's World Day of Prayer: People from North Lopham joined Roydon friends for a lovely service devised by the Women of Cameroon and led by the Rector, the Revd Rob Mellowship, on 5th March. On **Mothering Sunday** we celebrated family life, with special thanks to mothers, at both 11am, All Age Worship, and 6.30pm Evensong, when the Benefice Choir led the music and sang two special items. Posies including daffodil buds were given to the ladies present and taken to others who could not attend.

On **Saturday 27th March** there will be a party for the under 12s in the Mess from 2.30-5pm, with games, crafts and food. We plan to make items for the **Palm Sunday** service at 11am the next day, which will start with a Palm Cross procession, from the outside if the weather is kind to us! All ages are warmly invited to come along to this. On **Good Friday** there will be a Family Special activity service at 11am, and on **Holy Saturday** young people are warmly invited to the Bonfire at 7.30pm behind church, when the First Light of Easter will be brought into the church building. The **Easter Day Family Service** is in South Lopham Church this year so we do hope that all our young people and parents will go that bit further down the road!

The traditional last hour at the foot of the Cross service will take place from 2 to 3pm on Good Friday (2nd April) in St Nicholas' Church, after which any one willing to bring flowers and foliage, or to help with decorating the church for Easter will be Very Welcome! The **Dawn East Communion** will be at Letchmere, at 6am on Easter Day, with breakfast - fruit juice, rolls, eggs & hot drinks - to follow at The Cottage, home of Laurence & Judy.

Please do not feel LOW on 11th April, the Sunday after Easter. At 6.30pm everyone is welcome to the **Music Praise & Worship Service**, following tea and biscuits at 6pm. The service will be led by Graham and Becky Tyrell, whose songs were so much enjoyed on their last visit. **St George's Day** (23rd April) has a special celebration of All that is England in St Nicholas' Church, with a traditional Evensong service at 7pm, and a bring and share supper (& songs!) afterwards at Brecklands, The Green, Jean & Chris' home.

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

Last month St Andrew's held the **Music, Praise and Worship** service which was well attended and enjoyed by everyone there. This year the **Easter Day** family service will be held at St. Andrew's Church on Sunday 4th April at 11am. If you would like to help decorate the church for Easter please come along on Saturday 3rd. April.

Services for April

North Lopham	South Lopham
4th April	
6am Dawn S - Letchmere	11am Family S
11th April	
11am FS	-
6.30pm MP&W	-
18th April	
11am Fam S	9.30am Group HC
25th April	
11am Fam HC	6.30pm ES

Contributions for next issue by;

18TH APRIL

Post to;

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