

# THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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December 2010



*We wish all our readers, contributors and those who prepare and distribute  
The Lophams' News, a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year*



## Lophams' Village Hall

"**Ruby and Her Horses**" was an informative and entertaining evening, enjoyed by over 90 people. Neil Lanham told his mother Ruby's story, with wonderful slides of the horses and events, plus accompanying folk songs, beautifully sung by Andrew. The event raised £364 for funds. Grateful thanks go to all who helped, especially with providing nibbles for the interval. **The Annual Bonfire and Firework** event went ahead in near perfect conditions. A wonderful crowd turned up to enjoy a real family evening, with novelties and a play area for the children and plenty of hot food & drinks available to keep out the cold. The Guy Fawkes competition winners were; 1st - Wilson Potter and Isaac Nunn; 2nd - Daniel Odgers and "anon" for a stylish 3D entry in a shoebox. Thanks go to Jim & the team who built the fire; Andy, Peter and the team who masterminded the fantastic firework display; all those who provided food & drink, and the stalwarts on gate & car-parking duty. A great evening, raised over £200 after all expenses!

**The Lottery** - our opportunity to support the Village Hall and have a bit of fun too - is one year old in November! The draw is made at 11.30am on Market mornings. The December draw will have an extra bonus prize of £250+, open to all those who have been members for six months! New members, and any who need to renew are urged to get in touch: Copies of the rules and entry forms available from promoter Eileen (01379 687608), from Tim Colyer (01379 687718), and other Village Hall Committee members (see website), or at the Farmers' Market and Village Hall Events. October winners: 1st - D Colyer (£160); 2nd - F Weber & P Moralee (both £40.00). **The Christmas Farmers' Market** is on Sunday 19th December, 9am-12.30pm. For details call Mike on 01379 687235. **Judo** is on Mondays & Wednesdays, details from Howard (01379 688258). **Dog Training** is held most Tuesday evenings. Call trainer Elaine (07845 776110) for details. **To Book the Hall** for private functions call 01379 687679. Hall information at [www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk)

## Lophams' Ladies

In November **Malcolm Crowe** brought along a wonderful selection of his handcrafted traditional wooden toys he sells under the label "Capricorn Crafts". Malcolm talked about how he had developed the

toys, and as a teacher, he used these skills to encourage his pupils in design and technology. We also had the opportunity and could not resist a spot of Christmas shopping for the young and "not so young" in our families! **On December 7th** we are booked into the Kings Head in North Lopham for our **Christmas Lunch** (12noon for 12.30pm). Phone 01379 687679 if you still need to reserve a place or if you need any further details about the group.

We welcome guests (not just ladies) and new members at our meetings. Normally we meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. However in January and February, our meetings will take place in the afternoon at 2.30pm. In January we have a talk titled "The Real Lark Rise" given by Mr D Eddershaw. In February we have a talk on the Kenninghall Land Trust given by Mr Norman Groves.

## Garden Club

*Meeting at Blooms Garden Centre on 1st Wed each at 7.30pm. Guests and new members welcome.*

**At our November meeting**, Tim Fuller from local nursery "Plantsman's Preference" gave an excellent presentation titled "Good Companions". Whether sun or shade, sandy or clay soil, Tim showed us how combinations of Hardy Geraniums Sedges and Grasses, plus some unusual perennials, all three in which Tim specialises, work well together. **Our Christmas Dinner** is on 1st December, provided by the staff at Blooms. We welcome George and Angie Estcourt from The Kings Head in North Lopham. George will be our guest speaker. For ticket availability or other information call 01953 681989. There will be no meeting in January. We will resume in February with Mr Julian Turner speaking on Potatoes - Varieties and Cultivation.

## The Lophams' Society

**Christmas Drop-In:** The Society will be holding its usual Christmas get-together for the residents of North and South Lopham from 6pm onwards at the Village Hall on Friday 17th December. There will be mulled wine, soft drinks and plenty to eat and Father Christmas will be there for the children. As previously, the occasion is free of charge and we hope that as many residents as possible will find the time to drop in. **The Society's Quiz** in November was very successful and attended by about 75 people.

## St. Andrew's School

News often has both happy and sad aspects! When Mrs Heads, deputy headteacher, told us her exciting news that she is expecting a baby we were delighted for her but sad for the school. She is an absolute "rock" and will be greatly missed. Governors held interviews recently and are pleased to have made a good appointment for maternity cover - Ali Ranson who is a very bubbly, experienced teacher who is currently working as an adviser. We are looking forward to working with her. There is a collection for a suitable gift for Mrs Heads - any contributions can be left at the school office.

Among the special days this term, **Book Day** inspired children and staff to come in a variety of wonderful costumes; **Comic Relief** was celebrated with a gallery of pictures depicting Pudsey Bear. A series of special **Art mornings** with Mrs Hensser has enabled the children to produce a set of wonderful murals for the outside walls of the school. A huge thank you must go to her for sharing such great expertise with us. In the last week of term we look forward to a Partnership Christmas event comprising a craft morning, **Christmas lunch** and carol singing all together, to the Infants' Nativity in the afternoon of 15th & 16th and to the Carol Service in South Lopham Church on Wednesday 15th at 6pm, when we hope to see many parents and local friends.

**An Open day** for parents of prospective Reception children for next year will be held on Friday December 3rd. If you have a child who was born between September 1st 2006 and August 31st 2007 then do come along at 9.30am to see what the school can offer. **Community Lunches** resume in January, as we break up before the third Tuesday in December.

Everyone connected with St Andrew's School wishes readers a very happy Christmas and New Year.

## South Lopham Estates Charity

**50 Years' Service** - In 1960 three Trustees were appointed to the Charity. Remarkably, they are all still in office after fifty years. They are Alan Howard (also the Treasurer for



much of that time), Peter Reeder and David Huggins, all of whom are local farmers. To mark the occasion they were presented with a scroll (beautifully produced by Mrs Irene Howard) by way of acknowledgement and thanks. **The Charity** owns five plots of agricultural land around South Lopham which are let out and the proceeds go to the Church for educational purposes with a quarter reserved for needy local people. If you are a "needy" person resident in South Lopham, or know of someone who is, could you please inform Robert McCaw on 01379 687776 or email to robmad@btinternet.com

## Redgrave & Lopham Fen

for bookings phone 01379 688333 or redgrave.centre@suffolkwildlifetrust.org

**Christmas Workshop:** Sat 4th Dec, 10am-4pm. Make a wreath or table decoration using foliage. All materials provided, beginners welcome. £10 per 1hr session, including a mince pie and coffee. **Guided walk:** Sat 4th Dec, 10.30am-12.30pm. A gentle stroll with our volunteer guide for all ages. Adults £3, children £1. **Christmas Fayre:** Sun 5th Dec, 10am-4pm. Including tree dressing, crafts to try, stalls, winter BBQ and seasonal foods. Free entry. **Botanical Illustration:** Wed 8th Dec, 10am-1pm. Covering a range of illustration techniques with Christine Grey-Wilson. £14 (£50 for 4). Booking essential. **Festive Activity Day:** Tue 21st Dec, 10.30am-2.30pm. Outdoor activities, crafts and games. Ages 6-10. £6/child (family rate £10 for 2 children). Booking essential.

## South Lopham Parish Council

Two specific items are worthy of mention from the November meeting: 1) Lyn Perry was appointed Clerk in place of Lyn Llewellyn with effect from 1st January 2011, and in the meantime they will work together. 2) There was further discussion about the use to which the telephone kiosk can be put. For the moment the favourite idea is to display children's artwork. A bottle of champagne is on offer for anyone who comes up with what the PC considers to be the best alternative idea. Suggestions should be sent to Robert McCaw on robmad@btinternet.com, or by phone to 01379 687776.

## Other News

**Armistice Day** - An act of remembrance took place at the war memorial when we remembered the end of the First World War, and all who gave their lives then and since. Wreaths were laid by Ian Murdoch representing the Royal British Legion and Robert McCaw on behalf of the Parish Council.

**Shoebboxes for children in Eastern Europe:** Thank you to all those who supported the scheme. 65 filled and decorated boxes are on their way to Belarus, the area from which the Chernobyl children come each year.

## North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Services for December are;

- 5th December at 2.30pm - **Carol Service** conducted by Rev Brian Trudglan. Refreshments after. Collection for NCH. Please come and support us.
- 19th December at 10.30am - Preacher Rev Brian Trudglan.

Happy Christmas, and a welcome to all.

## St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

**November's Remembrance** was especially poignant and memorable this year, with so many 70th anniversaries, and ongoing casualties in Afghanistan. The oldest children from St Andrew's School joined local veterans, RBL members & residents for the wreath laying at the War Memorial. There was an excellent gathering for the **Royal British Legion branch Service** at St Nicholas' Church on the 14th, with the Standard paraded, and a bugler to sound Last Post and Reveille. We were privileged to have the Revd Reg Dakin, himself a veteran who saw action in the field to tell us something of his experiences and give a powerful message for today. Again, the children played an important part - William shared in reading the Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph; Harry & William read special prayers, David & Thomas took the collection.

*The highlights of the Advent & Christmas season are:-* **The Toy Service** on 5th December at 11am. A chance to help disadvantaged families in Thetford. We invite you to bring a gaily wrapped gift for a child or adult (labelled with age & sex indicated) to be taken to Prospect House, the Action for Children family support centre. All gifts should be new rather than secondhand. **The Advent Carol Service** at 6.30pm on 12th. Wonderful music, mystical readings and a chance to prepare for the spirit of the Nativity story once again. **The Family Carol Service** at 11am on 19th. When the children tell the Christmas story, helped by traditional carols & music - with the children performing. **The Crib Service** at 4pm on Christmas Eve. At the heart of the season, when whole families share in putting the figures into the stable scene as the story unfolds - an oasis of quiet and wonder before the excitement reaches its climax. **The Group Christmas Communion** is at 10am on Boxing Day - also the feast of St Stephen. We hope to see many readers at these special occasions. Any help with transforming the building from the dark green foliage of Advent to the sparkling setting for the crib scene would be gratefully received in the days before the Family Carol service.

**The Kings Head Carol & Auction** event starts at 3pm on Sunday 19th. All money raised will help charities with a local dimension, as well as our local young people's groups. And look out for posters with details of

village carolling to help the orphaned and handicapped children of the Biblelands.

**Thanks go to** all those who have supported the church in the last year - coming to events, helping to care for the building and its grounds, making donations of many kinds. Your support is invaluable. A Happy and Blessed Christmas and New Year to all.

## St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

**The Norfolk Churches Trust Annual Cycle Ride** - Our thanks go to Ben and Louise who cycled for St. Andrew's and The Norfolk Churches Trust and raised a grand total of £209.

We look forward to **St. Andrew's School Carol Service**, on Wednesday 15th December at 6pm. **The Christingle Service** is on Sunday 19th December at 4pm. This is a very special service which supports the Children's Society, where Christingles are received by everyone made from oranges, a lighted candle, a red ribbon and sweets on cocktail sticks, each part acting as a symbol of the Christian faith. **The Christmas Day Service** is a Family Holy Communion at 9.30am. The Church will be decorated for Christmas on Tuesday 14th December in the morning. We welcome anyone able to help. **Carols at the White Horse** are on Tuesday 14th December at 7.30pm, accompanied by Rona on her piano accordion.

## Services for December

North Lopham	South Lopham
<b>5th December</b>	
9.30am HC	-
11am Toy S	-
<b>12th December</b>	
6.30pm Adv Carol S	-
<b>19th December</b>	
11am Fam Carol S	-
4pm Christingle	-
<b>25th December</b>	
-	9.30am Christmas HC
<b>26th December</b>	
9.30am Group HC (St Stephen)	-

Contributions for next issue by;

**14TH DECEMBER**

Post to;

Profile Business Supplies,  
Old School Hall, Well Street,  
Bury St. Edmunds, IP33 1EQ

or e-mail to;

news@thelophamsnews.co.uk