

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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February 2011

Lophams' Ladies

At our January meeting Mr D Eddershaw gave a captivating talk on "The Real Lark Rise". We were shown archive slides of the cottage and school and Post Office where Flora (Laura) first worked and listened to excerpts from Flora Thompson's book. Our speaker demonstrated how this semi-autobiography gave great insight into life in the latter part of the 19th century in rural Oxfordshire. No wonder this well known book based on all true characters has become a popular TV series. On February 1st Mr Norman Groves will be talking about "The Kenninghall Land Trust'. Please note this meeting will start at 3pm in the Village Hall and there will also be a bring and buy stall. On March 1st we resume to our evening time of 7.30pm and welcome Rosemarie Jacob to talk on "Corset Consultant Experiences'. As always we welcome visitors and newmembers (01379 687337 for details).

Lophams' Village Hall

The Lottery: our opportunity to support the Village Hall and have a bit of fun too had a special attraction in December, when the Draw at the Christmas Market had the first Christmas Bonanza bonus prize of £265.25 - open to all those who had been members for six months. This was won by D Huggins. The monthly prizes were won by F Weber (£160), L & L Kercher and P. Blanchet. (£40 each). New members, and any who needs to renew are urged to get in touch. Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter Eileen (01379 687608), from Village Hall Treasurer Tim Colyer (01379 687718), from other Village Hall Committee members (see the website), or at the Farmers' Market and at Village Hall Events.

Farmers' Markets are on the fourth Saturday each month, 9am-12.30pm (next on 26th Feb). 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, and also on some Saturdays, thanks to growing demand. Trainer Elaine (07845 776110) will provide information. **To book the Hall** for private functions, please contact 01379 687679. www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk

Lopham links update ...

We have had three companies visit the Hall site and they are providing quotes and designs for the play area/ recreation area. We have submitted an application to the community spaces fund from the Big Lottery, hopefully we will hear back from this in the next few months. There are a few stages to this process so we will keep you posted. The group are looking at additional funding and how the area can be maintained and managed. If anyone has any ideas or wishes to offer any comments or support please contact us at lophamlinks@gmail.com

Garden Club

The first meeting of the year on February 2nd will be a talk on Potatoes - Cultivation and Varieties given by Mr Julian Turner. At our meeting on March 2nd we have a short AGM followed by Angels Youngman giving a talk on "Green Gardening. Our meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the restaurant area of Blooms Garden Centre. New members and visitors always welcome (01953 681989 for details).

The Lophams Society

The Christmas Drop-In evening went with a swing, aided by the excellent music provided by Shona and the Deneside Ramblers. There was also some very enthusiastic carol singing and of course Father Christmas was present, much to the delight of the youngsters. Their elders enjoyed the varied food and mulled wine provided by the Committee. Given the poor weather, the Committee was delighted that nearly one hundred villagers turned up from both North and South Lopham.

St. Andrew's School

The school staff and children used Christmas as a time to think of others and raised money for the Air Ambulance at the Nativity performances and Carol Service. The School Council organised the Pudsey Bear day for Children in Need. Bethan Hensser worked with groups of children to produce eight wonderful murals for the outside of the school. They are stunning! If you are passing do have a look down the school drive they will make you smile. We hope to have a date in the Spring when local friends can come to view the full set.

As we wait to hear news of a new arrival in Mrs Heads' Family, we have enjoyed the first two weeks of Mrs Ali Ranson's input as

her maternity cover. The children are engrossed in an Antarctic project which includes all subjects in the curriculum, and everyone is gaining hugely from her experience as an RE adviser. At the end of last term the Governors in both schools unanimously took the decision to dissolve the partnership between Bressingham and St Andrew's schools. There is a process to go through but during this time the partnership will continue to function. After that we are sure that the two schools will continue to work together as neighbouring schools.

St Andrews Pre School

We have welcomed some new children this term and we are all still enjoying the new play equipment purchased recently with grant money from Norfolk County Council. We have a few more items to purchase which will enable the children to make the most of the outdoor area, where we will be putting our new gardening equipment into practice in the spring. Children aged 2 and above are always welcome. Drop in and see us at The Mess or ring Tracy Stevenson on 07789 682931 if you are interested. We also have a **Parent and Toddler** group on Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm, open to all children 0-5 and their carers.

Redgrave & Lopham Fen

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

Botanical Illustration: Wed 9th Feb, 10am-1pm. Covering a range of illustration techniques with an emphasis on botanical accuracy with Christine Grey-Wilson. £14 (£50 for 4). Booking essential. **Activity Day - Mruder on the Fen:** Tue 22nd Feb, 10.30am-2.30pm. Solve the clues to find



the culprit. Age 6-10. £6 children. Booking essential. **Family event - Make a Bird Box:** Wed 23rd Feb, 10am-12noon. Come and make a bird box and feeder to encourage birds to your garden. Children must be accompanied. £5 per box. Booking essential. **Youth Forum:** Thu 24th Feb, 10.30am-3pm. Come and have a voice in the work of Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Team activities, wildlife experiences, practical conservation work. Age 11-18. Free. Booking essential.

Other News

The King's Head Pub was full to capacity for the annual Carolling and Auction event, hosted by Angie and George Estcourt. Between the carols, a huge range of lots were auctioned by Richard Vere, with assistance from Paul Whittaker and John Home, keeping runner Doreen Tipple on the go for nearly two and a half hours. The raffle for a beautifully iced cake, made by Chrissie Callow, was made after a short break for mince pies to keep everyone going. Very many thanks go to all those who donated all the goods for sale, and to those who came along and bought them. A magnificent £1,700 was raised at the event. The main charities to benefit this year are Priscilla Bacon Lodge and Nelson's Journey, with smaller gifts to local organisations working with young people.

Village Carol Singing - Special thanks to Sheila, Danny, Tom, William and Mary for helping us to collect £100 for Biblelands funds, and to all those who opened their doors to us on such a cold evening.

South Lopham Parish Council

At the 13th January a presentation was made by Breckland Council explaining their **Mobile Council Service**. This involves a bus calling at villages once per month to provide various services, e.g. help with any Council related matter such as Council Tax, other Council services, entitlement to benefits and a course on use of computers and accessing the Internet. If you would like to take advantage of this service please phone Lynn Perry (01379 688336 - South Lopham) or Mike Cox (01379 688355 - North Lopham).

Telephone Kiosk - The main proposal was to invite villagers to submit works of art or handicraft or poetry for display in the kiosk. Would anyone who would like to take advantage of this facility please notify Lynn Perry (above). Other ideas included a classified advertisement board and a book exchange. Any other ideas welcome. The Council agreed to make a contribution

towards the "**Lopham Links**" proposal to construct a children's play area. This idea is still at an early stage but it is enthusiastically supported in both North and South Lopham. There was a long discussion of a proposal from Norfolk County Council **for the Parish Council to take on more local works** such as grass cutting, weed control, gritting roads and paths, looking after road signs and various other functions currently provided by the County Council. If anyone would be interested in taking on any of such tasks on a paid or voluntary basis could he or she please notify Lynn Perry (above).

There was also discussion about the proposed **Localism Bill** which is much in the news at the moment. The general view was that while the PC remains open to any specific suggestions of ways in which it could advance the objectives of the Bill it was felt that it was directed more to larger local authorities. It was decided to purchase another **grit bin** to be located at the junction of the A1066 and Blo Norton Road.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Preachers for February at 10.30am are;

- 13th February; Mrs M Gibson of Thetford.
- 27th February; Rev Richard Hills of Thetford.

On **8th February** there will be a **Coffee Morning** from 10-11.30am, with Hymn Sing-a-Long. Everyone warmly welcome.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

This winter has brought both happy and sad days to North Lopham. It is good to have Joan Muncila back among us after her big knee operation. She sends grateful thanks for all the cards and messages sent while she was in hospital. We have said goodbye to some of our best known senior citizens this month - our sympathy and prayers go to the families of Mrs Nellie Bush & Mr Wilfred Emms. And we also send our sympathy to the Revd Harold Smith, Rector from 1980 to 86, on the death of Barbara, after a long and painful illness, very bravely borne.

Thank you again to all those who worked so hard to ensure that the church was beautifully decorated for the main services of the Christmas season.

A Starters & Sweets evening will be held on Friday 4th February, at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £5, from PCC members, entitles you to sample as many of

the savoury and sweet goodies as you wish. Soft drinks and tea/coffee will be available, but you are asked to bring your own alcohol and glasses. There will be a raffle with prizes which fit the foodie theme, so do come and join us. For further information, or for help with transport, phone 01379 687679.

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

St. Andrew's Day Coffee Morning - Due to the extreme snowy conditions this event was cancelled, but we are hoping to schedule another one in the spring.

Carols at the White Horse - Led by Rev'd. Rob, with Rona on her accordion and Keith on the Guitar, this was a well attended and very enjoyable evening, and lovely to see new faces. Our thanks go to our hosts Martin and Tina who supplied the refreshments. £54 was raised in the raffle for the Church.

A big thank you to our band of cleaners, Jackie Brown, Kath Hatton, Brenda Murdoch, Irene Bowden, Gill Mutimer and Jill Brundell who do an excellent job keeping the Church beautiful inside. Also our thanks go to Peter Sare for cutting the Churchyard hedge and to everyone who has helped and supported St. Andrew's Church over the past year.

Services for February

North Lopham South Lopham

6th February

9.30am HC -
11am Fam S -

13th February

11am Fam S -
6.30pm ES -

20th February

11am Fam S 9.30am HC

27th February

11am Fam HC 6.30pm ES

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18TH FEBRUARY

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