

# THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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



