

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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January 2010

The Lophams' News

The Lophams' News is delivered to every house in the two villages. Its aim is to inform us all of what is to happen, and has happened each month, covering all activities. News items are therefore welcomed from every organisation, club or committee, which are of general interest. We thank all our contributors, and those who give such willing & practical help each month. The Editor and publisher is Mr S Milbourne, and our distributors are; in South Lopham - Mr R Carter, Mr R Demoore, Mrs S Frizzell and Mr S Milbourne; and in North Lopham - Mr C Berry, Mrs R Cook, Mrs D Green, Mrs J Keylock, Mrs J Tate, Mrs J Vere and Mrs T Vernon.

Lophams' Village Hall

The first draw for the **Lophams' Village Hall Lottery** took place at the November Farmers' Market. First prize went to a supporter from London, with the two second prizes going to Lopham residents. There will be a monthly draw at every Farmers' Market from now on, the prize money depending on the money in the kitty, so more people taking part will swell the funds available. Full details and entry forms are available at the Market and Village Hall events, or via committee members (contact 687515 or 687718).

The January **Farmers' Market** will be on Saturday 23rd, 9am-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

Lophams' Ladies

Members enjoyed making their own very professional looking crackers at the Christmas meeting, before seasonal refreshments were served and everyone had a gift from beneath the Christmas Tree.

Next year's programme will continue the very varied pattern of meetings, on the first Tuesday each month, at 7.15pm for 7.30pm start. Visitors and potential new members are always welcome. On January 5th a founder member is coming to talk about the Kenninghall Lands Trust.

The Garden Club

For our Christmas Dinner we were once again served with a really excellent meal by the staff at Blooms. Our "after dinner" speaker was weatherman Jim Bacon, who gave us all such a wonderful insight into his

work on and behind the scenes at Look East. As we do not meet in January our first meeting for 2010 will be on Wednesday 3rd February when we have Mike Toms from the BTO in Thetford to talk on "Garden Birds". New members and visitors always welcome. We meet in the restaurant area of Blooms Garden Centre at 7.30pm. For more information phone 01953 681989.

Lophams' Ramblers

As usual, our December walk was a short but enjoyable stroll around Knettishall Heath, followed by a very companionable pub lunch. We are now quite a large group, so if you see a crocodile of walkers in the Lophams' or surrounding villages it will probably be us.

Lophams' Happy Circle

We met at the White Horse for our beautiful Christmas Lunch, when nearly all the members attended. The next meeting will be on Thursday 11th February at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. If anybody would like to know anything before then please contact Daphne on 01379 687453 or Avis on 01953 681789.

St. Andrew's School

The **Decoration Making** morning at the beginning of December was a great success, with mixed age groups of children taking turns to make a whole range of imaginative decorations - crackers, stars, snowmen, angels, Christmas trees, hanging reindeer and stockings for Santa. After school, the staff worked very hard to decorate the hall, library and cloakrooms with the decorations, and it was a thrill to see the children's reaction as they came into the building the next morning. They will all be able to take their own decorations home at the end of term.

The Infants presented a wonder-filled version of the Nativity story, "Mary's Knitting", during the last week of term, for families and local friends to enjoy, with

delightful songs, dances and costumes. Class 3 helped with the background stars and the sound system, and Mrs Phelan and her helpers have ensured that everyone knows their words and actions.

The end of the week saw the Partnership trip to the Pantomime and the Carol Service in South Lopham Church, before everyone takes a well deserved holiday.

Many of the children have continued to think of others - by helping to fill shoe boxes for Eastern Europe or by bringing parcels for disadvantaged families cared for by "Action for Children" in Thetford. We are grateful to all those who have supported these and all the other activities throughout the term. A very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year to all our local friends!

The next **Community Lunch** will be on Tuesday 26th January, half way through the next half term. If you haven't been before, you would be very welcome. To book, just contact Jennie on 687679 by Friday 21st, then come to The Mess at 12 noon on the day. The cost is £3.50, payable on the day, and the children organise a raffle, with tickets just 10p each.

Little Ouse Headwaters Project

The AGM was held on Thursday 10th December. The year has culminated in the recent completion of a new footbridge over the Little Ouse, built entirely by volunteers and 350 hours of labour. The new "Bob's Bridge" will now give access to sites managed by LOHP on both sides of the river.

The Chairman paid a warm tribute to the work of Dr Helen Smith who was stepping down as Hon Secretary after serving since the project was formed in 2002. Helen will now become more involved in conservation management. Following the AGM this year's annual talk was given by Mike Linley who



gave an insight into his life as a Wildlife Cameraman, including 20 years as a wildlife film producer with ITN and the "Survival" series. www.lohp.org.com

A Walk to Bob's Bridge: There will be a walk to the new bridge on Sunday 3rd January commencing at 10.30am, starting from opposite Thelnetham Windmill, where cars can be parked. Warm clothing and good boots advised.

North Lopham Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 13th January, at 7.30pm in the Methodist Schoolroom as usual. One item on the agenda will be the search for a safe play area in the village (following up the discussion instigated by members of the public at the November meeting). If you have an ideas or suggestions please come along to the meeting or let any Councillor or our Clerk (Mike Cox), know in advance.

If you have access to the internet, all planning applications (including application forms, plans, design and access statements and comments from all consultees and members of the public) are now available on the Breckland website. You can even make a comment yourself online. Go to www.northlopham.org.uk, click on 'Council', then 'Current Planning Applications' and follow the instructions. Easy-peasy! If, on the other hand, you prefer good old-fashioned sheets of paper, Mike Cox (01379 688355) can let you see copies of the plans once they have been circulated round members of the Council.

Lophams' Postponed Harvest Supper

A "Hogs at Home" spit roasted pig was the perfect food for a cold, damp December evening in the Village Hall - especially as it was accompanied by jacket potatoes with all the trimmings, and followed by home-made apple pie and ice cream. After the meal Raffle tickets were sold during coffee and chat time, before the evening ended with a sing-along of carols and seasonal songs. Very grateful thanks go to all those who cooked beforehand, particularly to Cynthia who made a delicious vegetarian option, to those who provided prizes, and to the folk who set the Hall up in advance or dealt with all the washing up and clearing away!

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Very many thanks to everyone who attended the Carol Service. It was lovely to

see the Chapel full again. The collection raised £248 for Action for Children. Happy New Year to all.

Services for January are;

- 3rd January at 10.45am - Rev Edna Buggey of Diss.
- 17th January at 10.45am - Rev Richard Hills of Thetford.
- 31st January - Rev Eileen Ritchie of Garboldisham.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

The **Art Exhibition** was the 'best ever', to quote several visitors! We were privileged to have such a huge array of talent on display, and thrilled to have so many visitors. The church was packed on the preview evening. Guests enjoyed the company and the refreshments as they browsed round the exhibition. There was a steady stream of visitors throughout the weekend, and a very pleasing number of orange/red stickers on the paintings. A wonderful Raffle attracted many customers, and the homemade goods sold well too. By the time the Raffle was drawn and folk came to collect prizes or purchases, over £3,700 worth of art works had been sold. The commission on sales, plus the income from other sources, made over £1,300 for funds. A huge thank you to Tony and Gill Osler who masterminded the event, and to the many people who were drafted in to help ensure its success.

At the half way point, the **Advent to Epiphany** season has already provided many special moments. Two Advent Services have been held this year, both with music led by the Benefice Choir, but otherwise very different in content. There was a wonderful response to the **Toy Service** appeal and a packed car load of presents from North Lopham and Roydon churches has already been delivered to Prospect House in Thetford. The staff there were really thrilled and send very warm thanks to all those who gave the beautifully wrapped parcels. The rest of the seasonal services will be reported next time.

Christmas Communion in North Lopham is on Christmas Sunday (27th) at 10am. We send all readers best wishes for a healthy and peaceful New Year. **A Christmas Party for Children** from all the parishes is planned for Saturday 9th January in Roydon Parish Room - and parents are welcome too, from 4pm!! The main Christmas season ends with the **Epiphany Carol Service** on January 10th at 6.30pm. Again, there will be wonderful music (including the Carols about the Kings - with some solos to enjoy) and special readings. YOU are welcome to join

us all. The first ever **Christingle** at North is planned for Sunday 31st January at 4pm.

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

At the Christmas Coffee morning £256 was raised for church funds. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the day a success.

For many years the same people have arranged the flowers at St. Andrew's church. We are now looking for some new people to help, which will spread the load throughout the year. You do not have to be a professional flower arranger but just enjoy flowers. If you are able to spare a few hours and are willing to help on a regular basis, please contact Monica Reeder on 01379 687273 or Jackie Burroughes on 01379 688313, to have your name added to the rota or to discuss further.

The PCC would like to thank everyone who has helped at St. Andrew's during this difficult year. Particular thanks to the team of cleaners and the flower arrangers.

We wish a joyful Christmas to all, with best wishes for a peaceful New Year.

Services for January

North Lopham South Lopham

3rd January

9.30am HC -
11am Fam S -

10th January

11am Fam S -
6.30pm Epiph C -

17th January

11am Fam S 9.30am Group HC

24th January

11am Fam HC 6.30pm ES

31st January

10am Group HC -
4pm Christingle -

Contributions for next issue by;

18TH JANUARY

Post to;

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or e-mail to;

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