

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No.346

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March 2011

North and South Lopham Parish Councils

Village Meetings (Friday 15th April) - This year, for the first time, North Lopham Parish Council has agreed to hold its meeting immediately after that of South Lopham at the Village Hall. The South Lopham meeting will commence at 7.30pm and it's anticipated that the North Lopham meeting will start at 8pm (though this time is of course flexible). It is hoped that there will be a good attendance from both villages. Complimentary wine will be provided. Any local groups wishing to give a report to either of the meetings should notify the relevant Parish Clerk (North Lopham: MikeCox01379688355, SouthLopham: Lynn Perry 01379 688336).

After the conclusion of the North Lopham Meeting the **Annual General Meeting of The Lophams' Society** will be held. The Society now covers both villages and nominations for appointment to the Committee are encouraged, particularly from North Lopham. Prior notification to the Secretary, Paddy Miller (01379 687490), would be welcome but is not essential.

Elections - In May there will be an election for **Parish Councillors** for both parishes (and all others!). New blood is always welcome and indeed is highly desirable. You are urged to consider standing for election. The job is not particularly onerous and can be fun and interesting and it can be satisfying to become involved in and have an influence upon local affairs. For further information, please contact the relevant Parish Clerk (as above).

Little Ouse Headwaters Project

£370,400 has been awarded from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the LOHP, which was founded only 9 years ago and still remains run entirely by volunteers. This very substantial sum will ensure the continuation of important restoration work and fund a new development of the existing project, "Conservation & Learning in the Upper Little Ouse Valley". More details at www.lohp.org.uk

Lophams' Village Hall

The Hall kitchen is to be completely redecorated, with damp resistant paint during March, so users will need to use the tables store room instead for one week. We trust that will not be too much of an inconvenience. **The Lottery:** our opportunity to support the Village Hall and have a bit of fun too is drawn at 11.30am during Farmers' Market. The January first prize of £162 was won by V Bailey, with second prizes of £40.50 for A Briggs and J Bush. New members, and any who need to renew are urged to get in touch. Copies of the full rules and entry forms are available from promoter, Eileen (01379 687608), 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 to 12.30pm, the next on 26th of March. For details, call Mike on 01379 687235. **Judo** is on Mondays & Wednesdays. Details from Howard (01379 688258). **Dog Training** is most Tuesday evenings, and also some Saturdays, thanks to growing demand. Trainer Elaine (07845 776110) will provide information. **To Book the Hall** for private functions, please phone 01379 687679 or to find out more visit www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk

Lophams' Ladies

In January members enjoyed a **pantomime** in Old Buckenham. In February Norman Groves showed slides and talked us through how back in 2000 the initial concept of a community wood in Kenninghall became a reality. The "Kenninghall Land Trust" now boasts two woods including an orchard and an "eco" shelter for village gatherings; a project undertaken and enjoyed by the village as a whole. **On March 1st** we welcome Rosemarie Jacob who will talk to us on "Corset Consultant" experiences. Our meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month. More details on 01379 687337. Visitors and new members welcome.

Garden Club

At our first meeting of the year in February, Mr Julian Turner gave an illustrated talk on Potatoes. Julian's knowledge of the numerous varieties available, together with his own expertise on cultivation provided much advice. The East of England Potato Day at Stonham Barns was well worth a visit to try out some different varieties. **On March 2nd** we have our **AGM**. This will be followed by a talk on "Green Gardening" with Angela Youngman. **On April 6th** we have a talk on Vegetable Gardening with Mr Ric Staines. Our meetings take place in the restaurant area of Blooms Garden Centre on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 7.30pm. Phone 01953 681989 for more info. Newmembers and visitors always welcome.

The Lophams Society

The Society is holding another **Quiz Night** at the Village Hall on the evening of Saturday 26th March. Details will be

publicised within the next few weeks. Previous quizzes have always been much enjoyed by those attending, so make sure you mark your diaries so as not to miss out. A meal will of course be included in the ticket price and there will be a paying bar.

Lophams' Happy Circle

Some members were unable to attend our first meeting in February due to illness, and we wish them a speedy recovery. We had tea and biscuits, and a game of Bingo. The first outing of the year will be to Bay Tree Nurseries. Anyone wishing to join us will be very welcome. Just phone Avis on 01953 681789 or Daphne on 01379 687453.

St. Andrew's School

A well deserved half term break has finally arrived, after some very busy school weeks, which included an **Ofsted** inspection. The inspector was very appreciative of all the hard work done by staff and pupils, and was really impressed by the children's behaviour and responsiveness. Congratulations to our tag **rugby team** for their continuing excellent team spirit and commitment. They were not quite as successful in the Area finals as in the local competition, but played really well against much bigger and more experienced teams. A huge thank you must go to Mrs Bushnell for all her hard work, and to those who helped with transport. There were some beautiful designs for our **Valentine card competition**, and some delightful original rhymes too. Congratulations to Louis, Mason, Wilson, Niamh, Maddy, Harry and Mary, whose entries were just ahead of the rest. The School Council organised and ran a



table top sale, with half the proceeds for the Air Ambulance and half for extra fun games equipment. The total raised was £74.55. Many thanks to all those who supported the event, especially Mrs Bushnell for her leadership. The **eight wonderful murals** made with Mrs Hennser's guidance were installed during January. There will be an Open Afternoon on Tuesday 8th March from 2.15pm, when family members and our friends from the local communities are invited to come and have a close look. As it will be Shrove Tuesday, (scotch) pancakes will be served in the hall, and the children will provide some musical entertainment.

St Andrews Pre School

The new children have all settled in well and as the **Ofsted** Inspector noted at our recent inspection, "children are happy and confident". The standards at Pre School were judged to be "Satisfactory" and we were pleased to see many positive comments in the inspection report. Please take a look at the report either on the Ofsted website or look at our copy. Do come in and see us on our **Open Afternoon on Friday 11th March**, 2-3pm. If you have a child under 5 or if you are expecting, come and see what we offer in our Pre School sessions and our Mother & Toddler group (all carers, children 0-5 and parents-to-be welcome). We'd also be delighted to hear from you if you are interested in helping out with any aspect of the Pre School. Come and see us at the Mess or contact Committee Chairman Joe Bernard on 01379 688284. **Diss Children's Centre** will be joining us during our morning session on Monday 28th Feb for a Wiggle & Jiggle, in addition to their visits on 2nd Wed of each month to our Mother & Toddler group (2-3pm every Wednesday in the Mess).

Redgrave & Lopham Fen

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

Botanical Illustration: Wed 9th Mar, 10am-1pm. Covering a range of illustration techniques with an emphasis on botanical accuracy with Christine Grey-Wilson. £14 (£50 for 4). Booking essential. **Volunteer led amble** around the fen to learn about the Fen: Sat 5th Mar, 10.30am-12.30pm. Booking advisable. £3 adult £1 child. **Wildlife Watch Group:** Sat 12th Mar, 10.30am-12.30pm. A club for 6-12 yr olds. £1.50.

North Lopham Parish Council

The **cemetery wall** repairs have been completed at a cost of £954, covered by the Bernice Malson legacy of £1000. The **Lophams' Links play area** made a

request for funding to help cover the costs of their planning application. A sum of £250 from reserves was proposed and approved. Two of the three current planning applications, at Dairy Farm and Whitebread's Farm have been approved with conditions by Breckland, the third, at Meadow Farm, and a new application for a wind turbine at Grange Farm are under consideration. **The state of the local roads** is an ongoing cause for concern. Since the Barhale Area Manager inspected the road surface from Church Corner to Cherry Tree Close and Kenninghall Road pumping station, plus Tanns Lane, to see the 21 areas of concern left after the sewer installation, work has begun to make good the damage. Flooding continues at the chestnut tree bend on the road to South Lopham in spite of the drains being cleared. Primrose Lane/Jubilee Lane flooding persists. The burst water main in Tanns Lane required a road closure for repair. **Several acts of petty vandalism** have been reported, most probably committed by persons passing through the village. Walter Vernon has been re-elected to serve for a further four years as trustee of the **North Lopham Charity**. The next meeting is on March 9th at 7pm. Residents are very welcome to attend.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

The **Coffee Morning and Hymn** sing-a-long was well attended and enjoyed. The collection for upkeep raised £133. Thanks to all.

Preachers for March at 10.30am are;

- 13th March; Miss Hammond of Stanton.
- 27th March; Mr Hodson of Thetford.

Awelcome to all.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

Starters and Sweets Evening - The lovely crowd were encouraged to sample as many of the goodies available. Starters included hot soup, a range of pates, eggs, fish and salads to suit both meat eaters and vegetarians, and there was a mouth watering selection of puddings on offer, for those not too anxious about their calorie intake! The Raffle had a foodie theme - with a chocolate hamper as the centrepiece. Many thanks to all those who contributed to either the food or the raffle, and to the wonderful team who helped behind the scenes, setting up or clearing away. A happy evening raised £280 for funds. **The Women's World Day of Prayer** is on Friday 4th March. This year's local service, written

by the women of Chile, will be at St Nicholas' Church at 2pm, when Mrs Mary Knights is the speaker. Men are warmly invited to join in what is always a very enjoyable occasion, and stay for tea & biscuits afterwards. **Lent** begins on Ash Wednesday, 9th March. The services this year are at Roydon (9.30am) and at Fersfield (7.30pm). We are invited to share the Lent courses run by Bressingham Methodist Chapel on Tuesday evenings, or by Diss Churches together. There will be a **Fellowship Lunch** at Southlands from 1pm, to launch this year's Lent Appeal. **Lent Lunches**, in homes round North Lopham will take place on Tuesdays, from 12-2pm. Do come and joins us for bread & cheese and pickle to raise money to provide Nurses for Nepal. Do look out for details of the venues on local posters. Please ring 01379 687679 if you would like to come but need transport.

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

The East and West windows of the Church have been badly in need of restoration for some time, and the PCC are pleased to say work is now in progress, starting with the East window. Work is being carried out by Messrs Devlin and Plummer of Great Moulton. The PCC are extremely grateful to the Friends of South Lopham Church for raising the money for the restoration. We now have a **flower arranging rota** for the church. If anyone is interested in joining us please contact Jackie on 01379 688313.

Services for February

North Lopham	South Lopham
6th March	
9.30am HC	-
11am Fam S	-
13th March	
11am Fam S	-
6.30pm ES	-
20th March	
11am Fam S	9.30am HC
27th March	

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18TH MARCH
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