

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No.348

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Free Fire Safety Check & Smoke Detector Fit for the over 65's

Free Helpline: 0800 917 8137

Following the deaths of 5 people in fires in Breckland recently, **Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service** want to support those people who could be vulnerable in the County, by offering free smoke alarm fitting and fire safety advice, to prevent anymore tragic deaths or injuries. Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service is committed to keeping you safe from fire. We recognise that only a small minority of people will experience a fire in their home during their lifetime. Unfortunately when fire does occur it can have a devastating effect on all those involved. We also recognise that in Norfolk people who are more likely to suffer from the effects of fire are over the age of 65. It is for this reason that we would strongly recommend you to take us up on the offer of a Free Home Fire Safety Check and Smoke Detector fit. The visit will only take between 30-60 minutes of your time and remember this service is free and may prevent you from ever having to experience the devastating effects that a house fire can cause. Please also note that all Fire and Rescue Service personnel and our Partners will carry ID with them at all times.

Don't forget the Council Elections on 5th May - and also the referendum on the way national Election Votes are counted

Lophams' Village Hall

It is **80 years** since the playing Field and Hall were first established, largely due to the generosity of the then Duke of Norfolk in giving the land for a joint playing field to the two villages. It would be a great achievement if the Links Play Area could be established to mark the special year. **The Lottery:** our opportunity to support the Village Hall and have a bit of fun too, is slowly growing towards the 100 member target. March draw 1st prize C Watson (£180), 2nd Prizes A Reeder and A Jacob (£45 each). 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), 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 4th Saturday each month, 9am-12.30pm - the next on 28th May for details call Mike on 01379 687235). **Judo** is on Mondays & Wednesdays. Details from Howard on 01379 688 258. **Dog Training** is held 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 contact 01379 687679. More information on the website at www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk

Lophams' Ladies

At our April meeting Laura Hanratta, the area Fundraiser for "Action for Children" talked about the work this charity undertakes. It's aim to support vulnerable, disadvantaged and neglected children and young people. It also supports and helps families at difficult and critical times, young carers and disabled children. The meeting finished with our AGM. Sarah Frizzell continues as Chairman. Warm thanks were given to Rosemary Cook who decided to stand down from the committee after serving for many years. On **May 3rd** we

have a talk on St Edmundsbury Cathedral Millenium Tower with Horry Parsons. There will be a Bring and Buy stall at this meeting. We have a tour of the Cathedral planned for later in the year. On **June 1st** Jackie Clark from the 'British Trust for Ornithology' will talk on "Why ring birds?". Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and are open to all, new members and visitors. Phone 01379 687337 for details.

Garden Club

At our last meeting Mr Ric Staines gave a most interesting and informative talk on "Vegetable Gardening". His knowledge and enthusiasm provided us with much advice on how to get the best from our own gardens. Our next meeting is on **May 4th**, when we welcome Anne Etheridge who will share with us "A Passion for Plants". Our meetings take place in the restaurant area of Blooms Garden Centre on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 7.30pm. Phone 01379 687833 for more info. New members and visitors always very welcome.

The Lophams' Society

The Society is putting on an evening of live music by **The Waveney Hot Four** at 7.30pm on **Saturday 14th May** at the Village Hall. Entry is £7.50 per head, which includes a fish and chips supper. There will be a licensed bar. Dance, sing or just listen and enjoy. Pay on the Door. For further information contact Robert McCaw on 01379 687776 or robmad@btinternet.com

St. Andrew's School

The two inspections were very worthwhile experiences, affirming all the good things at St Andrew's and giving guidance to ensure continued improvements, and also real confidence as the school embarks on a new Partnership, with All Saints School at

Winfarthing. We have greatly valued the Partnership with Bressingham; the two schools will always 'look out' for each other, but their common foundation means that two church schools can move much closer to each other than the church/community pairing ever could. Until the formal change over at the beginning of September, Mrs Louise Norgate, head at Winfarthing will be seconded to Lopham for part of each week, to become familiar with St Andrew's, and make plans for the new school year. The first joint event for the two schools will be a Royal Wedding street party lunch on 28th April, with community singing to follow, and will be the first visit from Lopham to Winfarthing. The changes mean that county headteacher Sue Sweet will not have a formal responsibility for the school next term, so our Chair of Governors thanked her at the end of term Celebration Assembly, for all her hard work during the last two terms. It was Au revoir, though, not Goodbye, as she will be just down the road until the end of the school year. **The visit from three Mr Skinners** on April 1st was very exciting. They discovered some of the early history of their mother and her sisters as they chatted to three ladies who went to school with her; the older children found out first hand some of the joys and horrors of education 80 years ago and we acquired valuable extra information for local history research in future terms. **Community lunches** will move to Thursdays next term, the next on 19th May at 12 noon, so to book a meal we need to know by the morning of Monday 16th.

A Ladies' Pamper Evening is booked for Friday 20th May at St Andrew's School, starting at 7.30pm. Entry (£3), includes a glass of wine and nibbles, plus the chance to sample many kinds of beauty treatments, and bring your Spring wardrobe bang up to date with handbags, jewellery and clothing. There will also be stalls with furniture,



baking & Jamie at Home, so a night not to be missed! Proceeds are for the Friends of St Andrew's (FOSTA).

Redgrave & Lopham Fen

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

Wildlife Photographic Exhibition: Sat 30th Apr - Mon 2nd May, 10am-5pm. Exhibition of wildlife images by local photographers Matt Clarke, Phil Smith, Liz Cutting and Roger Hance, who will be on hand to give advice and provide useful hints and tips. Suggested donation £1. **Dawn Chorus:** Sun 1st May, 4.30am-7am. Volunteer-led walk to enjoy the dawn chorus, followed by a welcoming breakfast in the visitor centre. Adults £7, children £5. Booking essential. **Guided walk:** Sat 7th May, 10.30am-12.30pm. Adults £3, children £1. Booking preferable. **Wildlife Watch Group:** Sat 14th May, 10.30am-12.30pm. A club for 6-12 yr olds. £1.50. **Spring Birds Day:** Sun 15th May, 10am-4pm. Brush up on your observational skills. Suitable for beginners/less experienced. £20/£17. Booking essential. **Discovering Fen Plants:** Mon 16th May, 10am-3pm. Joint course with Tim Pankhurst from Plantlife. Free. Booking essential on 01722 342730. **Wildlife Art Exhibition:** 28th-30th May, 4th-5th Jun, 10am-5pm. Suggested donation £1. **Fen Pool Dipping:** Tue 31st May, 10am-12noon. Family event. £3.50 child, £1.50 adult. Booking essential.

Village Meetings of the Lophams' and AGM of the Lophams' Society

Around 80 people attended, including parish councillors. Free wine and nibbles were provided by the Lophams' Society and this helped to make it a sociable as well as a businesslike occasion. Robert McCaw, as Chairman, gave the annual report of the activities of the South Lopham Parish Council and Lindsey Westbrook-Lay did the same as Chairman of the North Lopham Parish Council. **Reports were given of the activities of the following organisations:** The Little Ouse Headwaters Project (Helen Smith), Lophams' Link (Mike Pursehouse), The Kings Head Public House (George Estcourt), The Village Hall (Mike Shipperlee), St. Andrew's School (Tracy Umfreville), North Lopham Pre School (Mike Cox), South Lopham Telephone Kiosk (Peter Coster), Breckland Council and Norfolk CC (William Nunn), Suffolk Wildlife Trust (Richard Young), St. Andrew's Church, South Lopham (Peter Reeder), St. Nicholas Church, North Lopham (Jenny Vere), Methodist Church, North Lopham (Valerie Garnham), North Lopham Local Charities (Mike Cox), South Lopham Estates Charity (Robert McCaw), Lophams' Ramblers (Mike Cox for Jackie Brown), Lophams' Ladies (Jill Brundell), and Garden Club (Eileen Jacob).

There followed the **AGM of The Lophams'**

Society at which the following business was dealt with: Chairman's Report by Simon Dilloway, ratification of change of name and adoption of new constitution. There were no nominations for the committee from the meeting. Accordingly, the existing committee was re-elected. There were also elections for Chairman (Simon Dilloway remaining in office) and Treasurer (Sarah Martin remaining in office). Paddy Miller resigned as Secretary, which office remains to be filled.

Notes: **1)** If anyone is interested in being co-opted as a member of the South Lopham Parish Council could they please contact the Clerk, Lynn Perry (01379 688336 or lynn.perry1@btinternet.com). **2)** The same applies to membership of the committee of The Lophams' Society or the office of Secretary. Contact Simon Dilloway (01379 687593 or dilloway@tiscali.co.uk). **3)** If any South Lopham resident believes they qualify for a grant from the South Lopham Estates Charity please contact the Secretary, Sarah Frizzell (01379 687337 or sarahfrizzell@hotmail.com).

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Services for May at 10.30am (all welcome);

- 8th May, Rev Brian Trudgan of Diss.
- 22nd May, Miss M Hammond of Barningham.

Lent Lunches

Support for the lunches this year has been really good - we have welcomed people from Roydon and Diss, plus one visitor from Dickleburgh! £388 has been raised so far to help provide Nurses for some of the many remote village areas in Nepal. Thanks go to all the hosts as well as to those who came along.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

Mothering Sunday was marked by a special Family Service. 33 posies were taken to ladies in their homes or given to those who came along. **The Pre-Easter Party** at St Andrew's School had a smaller attendance than last year - a swimming party for the whole school was on at the same time! - but those who came enjoyed themselves enormously. The palm trees & pictures were a lovely addition to the Palm Sunday service in church (special thanks to Eloise for an excellent donkey drawing). **The Annual Thanksgiving & Remembrance Service** will be at St Nicholas' Church this year on 8th May at 6.30pm. There will be special readings, music and hymns as we remember loved ones, light candles and collect a bulb to plant in their memory. Many people find this informal service a very helpful occasion. **Rogation Sunday** comes on 29th May, a fifth Sunday,

and a good opportunity to do something very different. A safari style Communion Service will begin at North Lopham church at 10am, then continue with sections at South Lopham and Fersfield, blessing the land and crops as we go, before the last part at Roydon Church, with a bring and share lunch to follow. Those who need to travel by car will probably transport the goodies for us! In the evening, Bressingham Church will host a thanksgiving for Marriage service and hope that many local couples will want to take part. **Thanks and a Request:** We are very grateful to the loyal team who polish the church brasses each month. If any reader could spare time to share this job, during one of the summer months, please contact Jennie on 01379 687679. Two or three sessions a year would be a tremendous help.

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

On Wednesday 18th May we look forward to a **Coffee Morning** in the Church 10am to 12 noon, plus a cake stall. Please come and join us for a coffee and a Scone. At the annual **Vestry Meeting** Peter Reeder and David Huggins were re elected as Churchwardens for another year. **Church Windows** - Thanks to Messrs Devlin and Plummer the west window will be reinstated before Easter. **Churchyard** - Our thanks go to Gill Mutimer and a family from Banham Community Outreach Church who came recently and helped to tidy the churchyard.

Services for May

North Lopham	South Lopham
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1st May

9.30am HC	-
11am Fam S	-

8th May

11am Fam S	-
6.30pm Rem & Thanks	-

15th May

11am Fam S	9.30am HC
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22nd May

11am Fam H Com	6.30pm ES
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29th May

Rogation Service, starting at North at 10am, South at 10.30am, then Fersfield & Roydon.

Contributions for next issue by;

18TH MAY

Post to;

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

or e-mail to;

news@thelophamsnews.co.uk