



The Lophams



After several months of road closures to enable the installation of long awaited mains drainage in North Lopham, the major works are now complete and the road from South Lopham, through North Lopham to Kenninghall is now open. Mains drainage was originally requested by the Parish Council in North Lopham over 40 years ago, and came to within a few weeks of installation in the mid -70's, but the scheme was cancelled due to financial constraints. At long last, after years of lobbying, Anglian Water, through its partner contractor Barhale, has carried out the installation, following on from the recently completed scheme in Kenninghall.

The Lophams (North and South) each have their own Parish Council, Church and pub, but most other facilities are shared. The Village Hall and Playing Field, first established in 1931 sits more or less mid-way between the two villages. The venue, which has been greatly extended and improved in recent years, is 'home' to the popular and award winning Farmers Market on the fourth Saturday of each month. The Hall also hosts activities

ranging from Dog-Training to Ballroom Dancing and Judo to 'Education Otherwise', as well as providing a convenient and accessible venue for private parties, wedding receptions, village clubs, sales and fundraising activities.

Lopham St Andrews CEVA Primary School serves the children of the Lophams and Blo Norton and currently has about 70 children on roll. Under the leadership of the recently appointed Headteacher, Simon East, the school is in partnership with Bressingham School and many activities are shared. 'The Mess' - the school dining room - is also the venue for the village Pre-School Group, which operates on each morning of the week.

The Post Office and shop (sited in North Lopham) along with the pubs (**The White Horse in South Lopham** and the recently re-opened **Kings Head in North Lopham**) complete the picture of thriving rural communities.

St. Nicholas Church in North Lopham and St. Andrews at South Lopham - soon to undergo a major roof repair thanks to a £170,000 grant from English Heritage - provide

centres for worship throughout the year and host music concerts, craft fairs and art exhibitions from time to time. The Methodist Chapel in North Lopham is believed to be the oldest in Norfolk still open for worship in its original building. In December next year celebrations will be held to mark the Chapel's 200 year anniversary.

Both villages have active community working groups. The South Lopham Village Society has recently been formed to 'foster community spirit and an inclusive social programme'. Parish Councils organize litter picks and 'spring cleans'. A recent project in North Lopham to improve the village pond attracted grants from Norfolk County Council and the National Lottery, and won an award from the Campaign to Protect Rural England. The project has also acted as a focus for volunteer working groups to improve the local environment.

Rural life in decline? Not in The Lophams!

Find out more at www.northlopham.org.uk and www.southlopham.co.uk

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