

# THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No.299

PUBLISHED EACH MONTH SINCE 1982

April 2007

## Lophams' Spring Yard Sales

Empty your cupboards, clear your clutter! Lophams' households Yard Sales on Sunday 22nd April (the day after the Garden Fete at the Village Hall) from 9.30am onwards; welcome to anyone who would like to join in.....the more the merrier. We will put up signs at each end of the villages nearer the date, all you have to do is sell, sell, sell (and buy, buy, buy). Again, we would ask for donations of 10% of your proceeds to go towards Fosta's appeal for Playground Equipment for St. Andrew's School. Let's make a truly busy and successful Lophams' Weekend of it. The King's Head will be serving Bacon Butties etc. for hungry bargain hunters. Please contact Marie Dyer on 01379 687677 or windyone@airstream.freereserve.co.uk to let me know if you would like to take part.

### North Lopham Playgroup

**Open Morning on Thursday 26th April, 9.30-11am** - Come and see how our group is run, and have lots of fun. Meet our playgroup team, Julie, Jo and Sally. Refreshments for children and parents/carers. We look forward to seeing you. Open to all playgroup age, starting from 2 years (nappies welcome). Book your place for September. For more details please contact Julie on 01379 687769 or Cherilyn on 01379 688116.

### Mother, Baby/Toddler Group

The Group meets every Thursday, 2 - 3.15pm (except school holidays) at The Mess (building in front of the school). Come along for a chat & coffee. Refreshments for the children. Lots of toys from birth to pre-school. We are a small friendly group. Hope to see you soon. For more details contact Cherilyn Wright on 01379 688116.

### Lophams' Happy Circle

There was a nice crowd of us at the first meeting of the year. February's meeting was cancelled due to the snow. We invited Rickinghall members, and like us, they enjoyed the singing and playing of musical instruments by North Lopham School. It was really lovely. The next meeting will be on 12th April. There will be a Bring & Buy stall. I look forward to seeing you all there. If anybody would like to join the Club, or would like to know anything about it, please get in touch with Daphne on 01379 687453.

### St. Andrew's School

Music was very high profile throughout the term. On 8th March, the junior musicians entertained the local Over Sixties group and their visitors from Rickinghall. Orchestra members played two items which the audience all recognised (they enjoyed hearing 'Yesterday' then shared in clapping the beat for 'The Birdie Dance'!) The singing club members sang some of the songs they are rehearsing in preparation for the second Partnership Concert featuring all the

musicians from our school and Bressingham, which will take place in Diss High School hall on Friday 23rd March.

The school building was a hive of activity throughout the half term break, as work was completed in Class 1 to improve the children's access to the Outdoor Area (which is also to be developed soon). In addition, two of the classrooms, the library and the library corridor were painted. We send grateful thanks to the volunteers who worked alongside staff and pupils to move all the furniture and equipment back and forth, before and after the decorating. We are very lucky to have such a supportive community! And we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our caretaker, Mrs Denise Baker, for coping with the disruptions to her schedule and the extra work that all this activity entailed. The church assembly in March gave us an opportunity to thank her and to celebrate her twenty years in the post at St. Andrew's, during which time she has also been a fund raiser and organiser of fairs, a school governor and a friend to both staff members and children. The children have enjoyed organising extra fund raising efforts recently. The money they raised just before half term was used for a new school flag, very kindly made by Mrs Irene Howard. Mr & Mrs Howard came to hand over the flag, and a book all about "Knots", during a Friday assembly. Everyone enjoyed a Red Day in support of Comic Relief, for which they raised almost £56.

Many of the juniors shared a day of football coaching at Diss High School, with a tournament at the close. The last week of term is designated as Arts Week, with a whole host of visits and experiences planned to enrich the curriculum.

### Village Hall

**Garden Spring Fayre** - This will be held on Saturday 21st April from 11am to 3pm. Entries from stall holders are going very well. Both private and charity stalls are welcome. There will be a fancy dress competition for children with three classes:- 6 years and under, 7-9 years, and 10-11 years. It is hoped Mr Christopher Fraser MP will judge the event from 12.15pm. Two bands will be present, the New Buckenham Silver Band, and the East

Harling and Bridgham Wind Band. Refreshments will be available. For further information, or to book a stall, please contact Mrs Jacob on 01379 687515.

**Farmers' Market** - The next market will be held at the Hall on Saturday 21st April from 9am-12.30pm. A new stall holder selling herbs will be present. For further information contact 01379 687235.

**EXTEND** (recreational movement to music for the Over 60s, and for the less able of any age): Classes with Polly, a qualified instructor, on Wednesdays, between 9.30am and 11am should start on 18th April. To find out more, please contact her on 01379 643212.

### Lophams' Ladies

Mrs Coy was welcomed to the March meeting by Sarah Frizzel. She had brought along an amazing collection of Dolls to show us, most of which were dressed in clothes she had made, and having a story attached to their acquisition. We will hold our AGM on Tuesday 3rd April at 7.30pm. Following this, Mrs A Topham will speak about the British Red Cross. The competition is a Folk Health Remedy. Visitors are welcome. Contact 01379 687337.

### Redgrave and Lopham Fen

(All enquiries & Bookings - 01379 688333)

We are holding our **Annual Plant Sale** on Sunday 29th April from 10am to 4pm. Sixteen specialist nurseries and other stalls selling gardening gifts and mulch etc.

**Sharing Nature: 4th April - Frogs & Toads, 11th April - Easter Bunnies.** Children aged 4-8 years, accompanied by an adult. £3. Booking essential. **Activity Days: 3rd April - The First Cuckoo. 10th April - Slithering Snakes and Scaly Lizards.** Children aged 6-12 years. £5. Booking essential. **Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday 10am - 5pm.** Solve the mystery egg trail and claim your very own chocolate Easter Egg. £1. No booking required. **Guided Walks, Easter**



**Monday 9th April.** 11am and 2.30pm. £3, children free. Please book.

## South Lopham Parish Council

Items for discussion at the March meeting included Rolfe's track on Little Fen, fallen trees on our roads, the police speed check on the A1066, heavy goods traffic on the Redgrave Road and links with the Village Hall Committee, South Lopham Estates Charity and the Fuel Allotment Trust. Details can be read in the Minutes. The village bus shelter took another step towards being the information hub of the community with the fixing of a large notice board to the rear wall. Organisations within the village are welcome to display notices there. Parish Council notices and Minutes will continue to be placed in the enclosed cabinet. The shelter really is at the centre of the village and the council would like to encourage residents to take a look at the notice boards to catch up on local news whenever they are passing by. The Council are hoping to move forward with compiling a walking map of the village - when completed that too will be displayed in the shelter. All notices relating to the May elections are in the shelter along with Breckland contact numbers for anyone wanting further information. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on May 10th at Memories beginning at 7.30pm, with the village open meeting and AGM. All are welcome.

## North Lopham Parish Council

It has been brought to our attention that some properties throughout the village do not have clear (and correct) house numbers easily visible from the road. This often causes problems and frustration for delivery and service people. Please check yours! The final plans for the improvements to Letchmere were discussed at the recent Parish Council meeting. Some of the work may not be finished quite as early as we had hoped, because of the heavy work-load of those involved, but we will take down the orange fencing as soon as possible after the grass has appeared. After many years' service on the Parish Council, Joan Muncila has decided not to seek re-election this time around. We all wish her well and thank her for her contribution to the community. This means that we will need at least one new Councillor to make up our full complement of seven. Information on how to become a candidate is available from Mike Cox (our Clerk on 01379 688355) or direct from Breckland Council. Nomination papers must be delivered to Breckland Council Offices by 4th April. An election will be held if there are more than seven candidates. **Reminder:** Any organisation or group wishing to give a report to the Annual Open Parish Meeting (7.30pm on Wednesday May 9th, in the Methodist Schoolroom), should give a copy of their report to the Clerk, Mike Cox, by April 10th.

## Charity Presentations at the King's Head

The money raised at the Carols & Auction Event last December was presented to four local good causes recently. New landlords Owen and Sarah welcomed back Rena, whose last big occasion at the King's Head was the annual Charity event, to share in the presentation. The £1,400 raised was divided four ways - Diane received a £400 cheque for the Air Ambulance; Karen received £400 for Quidenham Hospice and the Revd Philip Young collected a similar amount on behalf of St. Nicholas' Church in the village. A cheque for £200 was collected by Cherylin, to help the Lophams' Playgroup!

## North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Services for April will be on the 1st, 15th and 29th, all at 10.45am. All are welcome.

## St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

**The Women's World Day of Prayer - 2nd March** - The service this year, which was drawn up by the women of Paraguay in South America, was led by Gladys Knott with Lorna Burroughes as guest speaker. There were opportunities to take part for those who came along, as we learned something of the work and faith of Christians who live a much harsher life than we enjoy. **On Mothering Sunday** we celebrated family life, with special thanks for Mother Church, as well as our own mothers. Daffodil posies were given to all the ladies present, and were taken to those who were unable to join us for the service. **Holy Week & Easter** always includes many special services (see Cock Crow). **Palm Sunday service at 11am on April 1st** will focus on the entry of Jesus to Jerusalem. **On Good Friday** there will be an outdoor Stations of the Cross at 11am, for all ages, and at 2pm we can share in a meditation on the Last Hour at the Cross (after this service, and on the Saturday, we would appreciate any gifts of flowers and foliage, or help with decorating the church, in readiness for the glory of Easter.) **On Holy Saturday** we commemorate the return of the Light to the Church with a bonfire outside at 7pm, followed by the lighting of the Paschal Candle and Easter Vigil. **Easter Day** Family Communion is a service for all ages (there will be some surprises for the younger members of the congregation!). At 6.30pm, Easter Praise is an opportunity to sing the glorious Easter hymns and hear very special readings too. We hope many from the village will share the service at 6.30pm in Roydon on 15th, when we say Goodbye to Rev. Philip & Anna and thank them for all they have done during their time in our parishes. **Give God the Glory** returns to North Lopham Church on 22nd April (not in March as originally advertised). The Music Group practises from 3pm, and is always keen to have new members. The worship, for the young in

heart of all ages, begins at 4pm. **St. George's Day** on Monday 23rd April will be marked by a "Celebration of all that is England" in St Nicholas' Church at 7pm, followed by a Bring & Share supper at Jean & Chris Stringfield's home. **The Church Annual Meeting** will be at St. Andrew's School on Thursday 26th April at 7pm.

## St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

**The PCC** is urgently looking for a new Treasurer and a new Secretary. After some years carrying out both jobs, Alan Howard will be retiring in April. Ideally, these are two separate posts and anyone interested should contact Reverend Rob Mellowship or Peter Reeder (Churchwarden) for more information. There will be a **Vestry Meeting** at midday, after morning service on 1st April, to elect the churchwardens. All parishioners are invited to attend this meeting. Anyone who would like to help decorate the church for **Easter Sunday** will be very welcome. Just turn up on Friday or Saturday, or ring Monica Reeder on 01379 687273 for further information. **The Easter Sunday Dawn Service** will be held at 6am in the Visitor Centre at Redgrave and South Lopham Fen. Everyone is invited to this special service, and breakfast will be available afterwards. **Dates for your Diary:** May 2nd, PCC Coffee Morning at Church. May 20th, Bishop David will be officiating at the Confirmation Service. May 27th, Give God the Glory 4pm at church.

## Services for April

North Lopham	South Lopham
<b>1st April</b>	
9.30am HC	-
11am Fam Serv	11am MS
<b>8th April</b>	
11am Easter HC	Dawn HC
6.30pm Easter Pr	at the Fen
<b>15th April</b>	
11am Fam Serv	9.30am HC
<b>22nd April</b>	
11am Fam Serv	6.30pm
4pm G. G. the G.	Rem & Thanks

**CONTRIBUTIONS  
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE  
BY 18TH APRIL  
PLEASE TO  
THE COURT  
SOUTH LOPHAM**