

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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April 2008

South Lopham Village Meeting

All residents of South Lopham are invited to attend this year's Annual Village Meeting to be held at the Village Hall on Friday 25th April at 7.30pm. This will be great opportunity to meet other people in the village, to hear about what's happening locally and to have the opportunity to discuss local issues. The Parish Council are keen to have your participation, so please make a note of the date and come along, you will be made very welcome. Refreshments will be provided. Let us not be strangers in our own village.

Garden Club

At the Annual Meeting reports were given on the speakers and visits during the past year, all of which were very popular. The coming twelve months will include some well known speakers and one of the visits will be to the Sandringham Flower Show. Officers elected were: Chairman Gill Osler; Vice Chairman Tom Bellis; Secretary Eileen Jacob; Treasurer Anne Frith and the other committee members are Jan Tate, Olive Jolly, Lena Kercher, Andrew Bailey, Jill Hewitt and Les Kercher. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday evening each month at the Garden Centre. The speaker for April is Martyn Davey, talking on "Lawn Care". New members are very welcome. For further details contact 01379 687515.

Lophams' Ladies

Mr Brian Chester spoke at the March meeting about Publishing and Local Journalism, which members found very interesting. The AGM will be held on Tuesday 1st April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This will be followed by a musical evening when a Polython will be played. If anyone would like to join us they are very welcome. Help can be given with transport. Please contact Mrs S Frizzel on 01379 687337.

Lophams' Happy Circle

At our last meeting we had a Bring & Buy Stall. It did brisk trade and was almost a sell-out. Our outings for the summer are: 8th May - Lowestoft, 12th Jun - Gressenhall Museum/Sandringham, 3rd Jul - Wisbech Rose Festival, 14th Aug - Clacton, 11th Sep - Bay Tree Nurseries & Springfields. If any non-member would like to join us I'm sure we'll be able to find room on the coach. The next meeting will be at the Hall on 10th April, when we will be having tea with Rickinghall Club. If anybody would like to know anything about the Club please ring Daphne on 01379 687453 or Avis on 01953 681789.

Lophams' Ramblers

If you would like to join some of us from Lophams Ramblers on Sunday 20th April, to raise money for Norfolk Macmillan Cancer

Support, please contact Jackie Brown on 01379 687260 for more information and sponsor forms.

Lophams' Village Hall

Ballroom Dance classes recommence on Sunday 30th March at 2.30pm, and will be held on alternate weeks. All standards are welcome, including beginners. Contact 01379 687515. **Dog Training** classes have finished for the time being following the retirement of Mr Harry Carter. We are grateful for all the time and work he has spent running the classes. He will be very much missed. **Spring & Garden & Craft Fair** bookings are already being made. This will be held on Sunday 4th May. Enquiries to Mrs Jacobs on 01379 687515.

London Marathon

From Mark Ahrens - On 13th April I am running the marathon to raise money for BIBIC (British Institute for Brain Injured Children). This is near and dear to my heart as my young daughter is severely brain damaged, and I know how difficult it can be, and how much help is required just to get by. If anyone would like to donate you can do so at www.justgiving.com/markahrens or by contacting me on 01379 688454. Thank you for any support you may be able to provide.

St. Andrew's School

The children have enjoyed some fantastic experiences in the last half term. The County Music Service ran a series of sessions based around Rock & Roll and associated songs for the oldest pupils, with a joint concert at Diss High School as the culmination. All the children from Year 2 upwards had an amazing day out to see 'The Lion King' stage show in London and have produced follow up work that shows just how much they were inspired by the performance. Years 4 to 6 went to the Norfolk Showground the following week to the BBC Making Steps presentation.

Our musicians joined Bressingham for the third Partnership Concert and put on a wonderful show. There were medleys of tunes from the Guitar Groups and the

Cellists and a great rendition of 'Thank you for the Music' by all the Brass and Woodwind players, interspersed with wonderful singing and playing by the Partnership Choir and Orchestra.

The first Community Lunch was enjoyed by eight senior citizens, hosted by the children of Year 3, who carried out their duties in exemplary fashion. The guests were very complimentary about their experience, so we look forward to continuing the lunches - on the third Thursday of each month, so the next one is on April 17th. As before, please contact Jennie Vere on 01379 687679 to book. The Eco Project is up and running, so look out for news of ways for the community to become involved. And Spanish is still on offer - please contact the school if YOU would like to join in.

It is a tribute to the hard work of all the dedicated staff that so much variety is possible. We say an enormous thank you to them all, as well as to Penny Sheppard who has led the team so effectively in the first three years of the Partnership. As we say goodbye to her and wish her great success in the new chapter of her career, we will be welcoming Mr Richard Ogilvie as temporary Headteacher in April and hope that he will enjoy working with everyone connected with the schools.

FOSTA Hog Roast and Quiz Night - Quiz Caller Alison Pursehouse, with technical help from Len Hobson, provided ten inventive rounds to keep the teams thinking. At half time, everyone enjoyed a Hog Roast, courtesy of Hogs at Home (Mike Shipperlee), delicious salads prepared by FOSTA members, and a bar staffed by their husbands, plus a raffle with many superb prizes. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make the evening such a success - over £700 was raised towards the children's playground refurbishment.

Redgrave & Lopham Fen (for bookings phone 01379 688333)

Children's Activity Day - Duckling and Diving: 1st April, 10am-2pm, £5. **Plant Sale:**



Sunday 20th April, 10am-4pm. Adults £1. For other events see www.suffolkwildlife.co.uk

North Lopham Parish Council

The March meeting of the Council was attended by 14 members of the public, in addition to all Council members and Mr William Nunn, our Breckland District Councillor. Apart from the usual agenda items there was a public discussion of possible development areas in the village. William Nunn told those present about the thinking behind the Breckland Development Framework. We hope to have a meeting later in the year at which members of the Breckland 'Policy Planning Team' will be available to hear our views.

Work is due to commence very shortly on the mains sewer in Kenninghall and we have been told that operations will begin in North Lopham later in the year, in time for completion late 2009. Nearer to the time there will be a public 'information meeting' (probably at the Village Hall) so that all residents can find out what the mains sewer will mean to them.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the 'Village Spring Clean' on Saturday 15th March. About 8 bags of litter were collected, and the village looked very clean and tidy! Please remember to make good use of the litter bin at 'Letchmere'.

By the time you receive this Newsletter we will know whether the Post Office is on the proposed list of closures, and also the fate of 'The Kings Head' at auction on March 19th. Clearly, the character of our village would suffer a major change if one or more of these facilities were to disappear. Rest assured that the Parish Council and Breckland Council will do everything in their power to ensure their preservation.

South Lopham Parish Council

The Parish Council met on March 13th and was pleased to hear that the long awaited Bottle Bank at the White Horse has arrived and that the trees along the verge on Blo Norton Road have been cut back, much improving the appearance of the area.

Planning permission has been granted for work at Eastview on the Redgrave Road and West Vue in Church Road but permission for further work at Allotment Farm on Thetford Road has been refused by Breckland. The planning department at Breckland are hoping to contact all Parish Councils during the consultation period for the Local Development Framework and we wait to hear when that may be. In an effort to streamline future applications for planning, a new government form known as 1APP will be in use from April. Reading materials made

available for reading at this meeting included the LDF and Waste LDF proposals.

Unfortunately the Parish Council training session planned for January had to be cancelled and we now hope to set a date for early Autumn. You are reminded that there is an Events Calendar on the village website www.southlopham.co.uk - where all events can be posted, including the new look Village Meeting on April 25th. Minutes of Parish Council meetings are also there.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Services for April at 10.45am;

- 6th April, Preacher Mr S Aspinal of Stanton.
- 20th April, Preacher Mr R Webber of Thetford.

A warm welcome to all.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

Ash Wednesday was an impressive start to Lent, with a lovely crowd gathering for the Fellowship lunch. Family Services have focused on getting in training to follow Jesus more closely. On **Mothering Sunday** we welcomed people of all ages to two special services. Revd Reg led the Communion service and blessed all the daffodil posies for distribution after that service, and for the Family Service which followed.

On **Palm Sunday** we remembered Jesus' entry to Jerusalem on a donkey. The setting was re-created as our Scene for the school Pilgrimage two days later, when the children thought about Hopes and Dreams and drew their ideas on pebbles or small cards to place at the foot of a cross.

On **Sunday 30th** there will be a **Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving** in Fersfield Church at 6.30pm - anyone who would like to remember a departed loved one will be very warmly welcomed (phone 01379 687679 to arrange transport).

HOLY BINGO - Everybody is welcome at the Village Hall on the first Monday each month, from 2-4pm for Bingo with our Rector Rob in the Chair as caller, and Jan there to check the cards. There is a Raffle and light refreshments are served by PCC members (North Lopham are the hosts on 7th April). If transport is a problem, please get in touch to arrange a lift (01379 687679 or 499).

Date for your diary: **Starters and Sweets Evening** - Friday 9th May in the Village Hall. All details later, but please book the date!!

Lent Lunches

Very grateful thanks to all our hosts and to everyone who came to share bread & cheese and extras on Tuesdays during Lent. We have raised well over £300 for disaster relief and education projects in Papua New Guinea.

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

On Sunday 17th February the **'Music, Praise and Worship'** service was joined by the Evangelist Music Group and David Crawford. This was a very joyful occasion appreciated by everyone who attended. We now look forward with anxious anticipation to the investigative work on the church roof.

Friends of South Lopham Church - The Friends are holding a **Car Boot Sale** on Saturday 19th April between 10am and 12 noon at the Lophams' Village Hall. Pitches are £5 per car which can be reserved in advance by ringing either 01379 687260 / 687579 or 688123 and will be available from 9am. Tea, coffee and bacon rolls will be available. Why not take the opportunity and do your spring cleaning and come along and make yourself some money by selling what is of no further use to you but could be to someone else! **The Strawberry Tea** will be on Sunday 29th June, 3-5pm, and will be held at the Village Hall this year because of the start of the restoration work to the church.

Services for April

North Lopham South Lopham

13th April

9.30am HC 11am HC
11am Fam S -

20th April

11am Fam S -
6.30pm ES -

27th April

11am Fam S 9.30am HC

6th April

11am Fam Com 6.30pm ES

**CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
BY 18TH APRIL
PLEASE TO
The Court, South Lopham
or e-mail to
news@thelophamsnews.co.uk**