

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No.323

PUBLISHED EACH MONTH SINCE 1982

April 2009

Lophams' Village Hall

There is a **Garden & Crafts Fair** on Sunday 3rd May, from 11am, with refreshments & musical entertainment in addition to stalls (something for all ages). Phone Eileen on 01379 687515 for details and to book. On Friday 15th May, at 7.30pm, the very talented theatre group **Mad Dogs & Englishmen** will present a romp through the Monarchs of British History (with the juicy bits left in!!). Tickets are £5 from Jennie (01379 687679) or committee members. There will be a Bar & Raffle (free squash for school age audience members). Regular classes continue as usual. The **April Tea Dance** is on Sunday 19th from 2.30pm. The **Farmers' Market** plus **Car Boot Sale** is on 25th April. To book the Hall for private functions please phone 01379 687679.

Lophams' Ladies

Members and friends enjoyed an excellent evening meal at North Lopham King's Head in February. In April we have our AGM and a talk about Fairtrade. Visitors are very welcome, and help can be given with transport. Please contact 01379 687337.

Garden Club

At the Annual Meeting Officers for the coming year were elected: Chairman - Eileen Jacob; Vice Chairman - Gill Osler; Secretary Kate Briggs and Treasurer Ann Frith. Committee members are Tom Bellis, Jill Hewitt, Jan Tate, Andy Bailey, Les & Lena Kercher. Meetings are held at the Garden Centre on the first Wednesday each month. Guests and new members are always welcome. The April subject will be 'The Mole'.

Lophams Happy Circle

We recently had a Bring & Buy, with Bingo, tea & biscuits. Outings for the summer are: Bay Tree Nurseries on 14th May, Kings Lynn/Sandringham on 11th June, Wisbech Rose Festival on 2nd July, Yarmouth on 13th August, Wroxham/Wroxham Barns on 10th September. The bus will stop at South Lopham at 9am and Garboldisham shop at 9.10am. Anyone wanting to know more can ring Avis on 01953 681789 or Daphne on 01379 687453.

St Andrew's Pre-School

New committee members were elected at a wine and cheese evening. A very big thank you to everyone who offered their time and help. For those members who have 'done their time' but are still involved, thank you, your knowledge will be invaluable. It is heart warming to know that as so many good playgroups are closing due to lack of support, St. Andrew's group will go from strength to strength with a strong committee and great community spirit throughout the

village. The cheque that was presented at the North Lopham King's Head will help in a number of areas and will benefit all of the children who attend. We have loads of exciting events to look forward to, for both parents and children, and are always interested to hear from people looking to have an active role in the pre-school, whether you have children here or not, whatever your age! If you are interested ring Wendy Odger on 01379 687461.

South Lopham Village Society

We have a **Quiz Night** on Friday 3rd April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The £6 entry includes a chilli con carne & baked potato meal (and vegetarian version). There will be a bar. We plan to have tables of six. Phone Granville Horan on 01379 640355 to book and please don't be put off if you are unable to assemble a table - we should be able to fit you in somewhere. Don't forget the **Monday Evening Dinners** (£10 a head for 2-courses) at the White Horse pub. The next one is on 6th April (to arrive between 6pm and 8pm).

South Lopham Estates Charity

We have several parcels of land in the village which are rented out. The proceeds from the rents are distributed every year between education, the Church Parochial Council and those in need in the village. The Trustees invite tenders for renting Carrs Allotment, Pooley Street, and for 2¼ acres of pasture land. For further details please contact the secretary on 01379 687337.

St. Andrew's School

It has been great to see the children playing on the new play tower (funded by FOSTA). The March **Artsweek** was a terrific success, giving children across the Partnership many ways to work and play together. A **Street Dance** workshop, for Years 5 and 6, got the week off to a great start. Visits to the **Sainsbury Centre for Visual Art** were both

fun and a wonderful learning experience, as the children explored a world class gallery and took part in a workshop led by Bryony Graham, an artist in residence. Bryony enjoyed working with them so much that she visited Bressingham School to see both schools working together, making "This is Me" boxes, filled with special treasures. We were very grateful to the 12 students from Diss High School who came along to help with the craft work that day.

The Juniors have had a busy term outside, training for and taking part in various sporting activities. They were placed comfortably in the top half at the **Area Schools' Cross Country** run in Thetford Forest and did well in Cluster Schools Games Tournaments. In **History**, all classes have worked on life in the past. The Infants enjoyed a trip to the **Ancient House Museum** to see and handle artefacts. The Juniors have researched World War 2, and are busy rehearsing a Concert Party, to be presented in school, and a Partnership Concert at Diss Cornhall, both including music from that time.

Community Lunches have been a real success over the last year. The April date will be Tuesday 28th. New visitors are warmly invited to come and get to know the children better. Please contact Jennie on 01379 687679 by Thursday 23rd. The charge remains at £3.50. The children run a raffle, with tickets costing 10p.

Redgrave & Lopham Fen

(for bookings phone 01379 688333)

Resident Bird Song: Sat 4th April, 9am-1pm. £7.50 (£6 conc). Booking essential.
Activity Days (for 6-12's): The Crow Family on 7th Apr and Tracks and Trails on 14th Apr. Both 10.30-2.30pm, £5. Booking essential.
Sharing Nature (for 4-8's): Slugs and Snails on 8th Apr and Garden Wildlife on 15th Apr. Both 10-12 noon, £3. Booking essential.
Easter Egg Hunt: 12th Apr, 10am-5pm. £1.



Plant Sale: 19th Apr, 10am-4pm. £1.

North Lopham Parish Council

At the March meeting it was decided to take the investigation of '**Affordable Housing**' a little further by arranging for some Councillors to visit one or more of the projects managed by Hastoe Housing. A full report was given about the steps we have taken to get **drains and footpaths** cleared. In addition, those present heard that volunteers, Heather and Gerald Potter, had undertaken a large amount of work to try to improve drainage and clear away undergrowth on Primrose Lane, ahead of further work promised by County Council Highways. The Council has also taken the first steps to getting the 'lanes' to the west of The Street (Back Lane, Green Lane, Highfield Lane etc) included on the maps of public rights of way. The annual '**Spring Clean**' went ahead, with 14 volunteers collecting about 10 bags of litter from the roads and paths in and around the village. The group enjoyed a 'cuppa and biscuits' at The Kings Head, courtesy of George and Angie. Thanks to all who helped. There are to be changes to **Bus Services** in the area in a couple of months' time. Some scheduled services will remain but others will be replaced by a 'flexible' service, for which users will phone to book the bus a day or so in advance. We have been promised that explanatory leaflets will be available and we will also put up posters on the notice boards.

Date for the diary: Wednesday May 13th is the **Annual Parish Open Meeting** for North Lopham, starting at 7pm, in the Methodist Schoolroom. There will be reports from many village organisations and plenty of opportunity to raise any matter you wish!

South Lopham Parish Council

At the last meeting, councillors were pleased to hear that **The Green** had been repaired and it is hoped to begin a clean up of the memorial area as soon the weather improves. The past wet and wintry conditions have also played havoc with **road surfaces** throughout the village, it is hoped that repairs will be carried out swiftly. We can alert the appropriate authorities only when we are made aware of such hazards - please ring the Clerk on 687507 or Evelyn Logsdail on 687281 to inform us of dangerous potholes. Councillors are pleased to hear that the extending of the **30mph limit** on the Blo Norton Road is due to take place within the next 12 months. It was reported that many footpaths over cropped fields have remained open this year. The council acknowledge the work undertaken by landowners to make this

possible and it is hoped that property owners with bushes and hedges overhanging footpaths will also do their best to keep them cut back to allow access.

Dates for the Diary: **Annual Village Meeting** on April 24th, at 7pm, in the Village Hall. Every household should soon receive an invitation to attend, and so too will leaders of village interest groups, who it is hoped will be able to offer brief accounts of their activities during the past year. New finger posts signing **Rolfe's Track** are being made and it is hoped to hold an opening ceremony at the beginning of May.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Services for April at 10.45am are;

- 12th April, Preacher Mrs J Browne of Mildenhall.
- 26th April, Preacher Rev Colin Telfer of Diss.

All are welcome.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

Ash Wednesday was marked by a special service in Church and a lunch to launch this year's Lent Lunches, to raise funds for EducatePeru, where a Norfolk lady has established a school in one of the poorest areas on the planet. A **Women's World Day of Prayer** service focused on Papua New Guinea, a country with many links to Norfolk. At the **Mothering Sunday Family Service** posies were presented to all the ladies present and sent to others in the community. On **Palm Sunday**, palm crosses will be distributed at the Group Communion at the Family Service at 11am.

On **Good Friday**, there will be an informal Stations of the Cross for all ages at 11am, outside if possible, then the traditional Hour at the foot of the Cross from 2-3pm (anyone who would like to bring flowers, or help with decorating the church will be most welcome. Thank you, in advance). On **Holy Saturday**, at 7.30pm, the Paschal candle will be lit from a bonfire outside, then brought into the darkened building for the lovely Easter Vigil service. On **Easter Day**, families are warmly invited to South Lopham Church for the Easter Communion at 11am, then there will be an Easter Praise Service at 6.30pm at St Nicholas', when we will welcome the benefice Choir to sing extra items alongside the seasonal favourites. Please take this as YOUR invitation to come along.

The **Annual Meetings** for our churches are

on 22nd April, in St Andrew's School at 7pm. One of the North Lopham traditions is the **Celebration of All that is England** on St George's Day - 23rd April. Please join us at 7.30pm for an informal service including favourite "English" hymns, then come along to Jean & Chris' home for a bring-and-share supper.

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

Scaffolding is currently being constructed prior to work starting shortly on the nave roof. During this time it is hoped to continue using the chancel for services and therefore everyone is requested to use the chancel door to gain access to the church instead of the main porch entrance. The main gates have been removed temporarily for access by the builders.

Easter: There will be a service at St. Andrew's at 11am on Easter Sunday, when everyone is invited to attend. **Benefice Outing:** A benefice visit to Cambridge and a guided tour of King's College Chapel is planned for Thursday 30th April. The cost is £16 for over 65's and £17.50 for under 65's (includes coach trip to Cambridge, a guide and tour of the chapel). The outing is open to everyone in the village and if you would like to join the group, or need further information, please contact Diana Burroughes as soon as possible on 01379 688291.

Services for April

North Lopham	South Lopham
5th April	
9.30am HC	-
11am Fam S	-
12th April	
6.30pm Easter P	11am Fam Easter C
19th April	
11am Fam S	9.30am HC
26th April	
11am Fam H Com	-

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