

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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August 2006

Blo' Norton Fen Open Day

Little Ouse Headwaters Project (Winners Living Wetlands Award 2006)

The annual open day will take place on Sunday 13th August from 3pm until 6pm. Car parking and reception at Blo' Norton village hall, admission is free. Three accompanied walks around the projects local fens including the new bridge, will take place with the option of short walks at 3pm and 5pm and a slightly longer walk commencing at 4pm.

Also - advance notice of a "Bat Walk" at 6pm on Friday 1st September starting at Thelnetham Village Hall. More details about these events and the project can be found at www.lohp.org.uk (information provided by: P L Coster, Publicity Officer LOPH. Tel: 01379 688018).

Mrs O. V. Aston

We record the death of Mrs Olive Aston on 7th July 2006; Founder of The Lophams' News in 1982, and supporter ever since.

Lophams' Happy Circle

There were only 22 of us again for the trip to Southwold & Aldburgh. I can honestly say a great time was had by all. It was laughter from the time the coach picked us up until we got home again. Some members would like to have gone on the beach but they had been working on it. This might have meant there could have been some glass or something on it. The next trip will be to Lowestoft, on the 10th August.

Anyone wishing to book a seat please ring Avis on 01953 681789. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have sent cards, flowers, gifts and for all the visits I have had since I have been in hospital. I shouldn't think it will be long before I will be discharged. That will be nice. Once again, a big Thank You. Daphne (01379 687453).

Lophams' Ladies

Members with family and friends travelled to Oxburgh Hall recently on one of the warmest days of the summer. They enjoyed a conducted tour of the gardens and grounds, followed by lunch and a tour of the Hall. The August meeting will be held in Mrs Jill Brundell's garden. The competition is 'A Rose from your Garden'.

Jumble Car Boot Sale - This will be held on Saturday 16th September from 2pm. Car Boot £4. Contact 01379 687337.

South Lopham Parish Council

The Council met at Memories in South Lopham on Thursday 6th July. The council are pleased to announce that the new

South Lopham village website can now be accessed by all at www.southlopham.co.uk. The agendas and minutes of the council will be published here along with many other items of interest to residents and non residents alike world-wide. After a delay to allow some resident swallows to fledge, work has begun on replacing the bus shelter and the refurbishing of the war memorial continues with the placing of new kerbstones to keep the gravel tidy. Councillors expressed regret over the cancellation of the bus service from South Lopham to Bury St Edmunds and any residents wishing to voice their concern should contact their county and district councillors and the Passenger Transport Unit at County Hall. The service between Thetford and Disshas been guaranteed but if passenger numbers decline there is a chance that it too might be at risk in the future. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on September 14th.

Lophams' Village Hall

Kumo Judo Club - Congratulations to Colin Oates who recently won gold in Ireland to take the Commonwealth title and confirm his position as British number one at under 66kg. Colin will now compete at the European Team Tournament before starting to prepare for qualifications to the Beijing Olympics.

Farmers' Market - This will be held on 26th August from 9am - 1pm.

Yoga - A qualified 'Yoga for Relaxation' Instructor is interested in starting a day time class for the Lophams. To find out more phone 01359 221655.

North Lopham Parish Council

Dog Fouling - At the July meeting of the Parish Council, there was concern that some irresponsible dog owners are allowing their dogs to foul the paths and verges and not clearing up. This is despite

the recent installation of two more dog-waste bins. We have checked the current law. The Breckland Council Policy is as follows:

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 applies to any land (with just a few exceptions, such as land used for agriculture, and woodlands, marsh, moor and heath) which is open to the air and which the public have access to, (including roads, footways and verges where the speed limit is 40 mph or less). If a dog fouls on this land and the person in charge of the dog doesn't clear it up, they are guilty of an offence.

Breckland Council can give a Fixed Penalty Notice (£50.00) to anyone who commits this offence and if they don't pay within 14 days they could be prosecuted and receive a maximum fine of £1000. If you know anyone who is committing an offence under this Act, please contact the Breckland Dog Warden on 01362 656299. We want to keep our beautiful area pleasant for everyone to use. All information we receive will be treated as confidential.

Letchmere - Thanks to the efforts of a dozen volunteers on a very hot Saturday morning on July 1st, the inlet pipes to the pond have been extended and protected with sandbags. By the time you receive this newsletter, work should have begun to dredge the pond and re-instate it. After this there will be a period of drying out and 'settlement' before final levelling is carried out and planting can begin.

There is still concern that some people are ignoring our pleas not to feed the ducks (for the time being, at least, until numbers have reduced). There is masses of evidence to suggest that too many ducks (and leftover bread etc) will spoil our efforts to improve the pond, so please help us give the new pond the best chance of



success by not encouraging the ducks at this time.

Burial Ground - The Parish Council ('The Burial Authority'), has revised the burial ground regulations with regard to the design of memorials and positioning of vases etc, to bring them more into line with the rules for churchyards in the Diocese. The new rules are displayed on boards at the Burial Ground and copies are available from the Clerk, Mike Cox.

St. Andrew's School

The 'new' monthly Assembly in Church has been a real success - with families and local friends coming along to share the start of a school day. The June service was followed by "Grandparents' morning", when senior family members came to see what happens in primary schools these days. At the end of the month parents were invited to come and 'play' with ICT. The children showed them how they work with lap-top computers, interactive whiteboards and the internet, then invited their parents to have a go too. The Juniors had a very long day out, to the London museums - Class 2 to the Egyptian rooms at the British Museum, and Class 3 for hands on activities at the Science museum. En route they enjoyed seeing some of the famous sights in our capital city. Class 1 enjoyed an afternoon at Gaze's, handling and talking about lots of old farming implements.

Two performances of David the Giant Slayer were held in the Village Hall during the last week of term. Playgroup came to the dress rehearsal, which was followed by a Partnership Day, with Y6 and the infants at Bressingham and the Y3,4&5s from Bressingham coming to St Andrew's. Despite the intense heat, the children performed really well - many thanks to Mrs Sheppard and all who helped with the production.

To all those who have helped St Andrew's in any way during the last exciting year, we say a huge thank you Have a safe and happy holiday.

The **FOSTA Summer Fair** was held at the Lophams' Playing Field. In addition to the competitions to win the FOSTA Shield and the usual stalls, there were fun activities for all to share. Many thanks to all those who helped and to all those who came along, enabling them to raise over £450.

Redgrave & Lopham Fen

(All Enquiries & Bookings - 01379 688333)

August Activity Days: Tuesdays 10am - 2pm, for 6-12 year olds. 1st August - Save the Planet. 8th August - Meet the Aliens. 15th

August - Shelters. £5. Booking essential

Sharing Nature: Wednesday, 10am - 12 noon. 2nd August - Finding Billy's Beetle. 9th August - Daisy Chains and Dandelions. For children aged 4-8 years accompanied by their carers. £3. Booking essential.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust - wildlife photography competition. **Saturday 19th to Sunday 20th August, Saturday 26th to Monday 28th August, Saturday 2nd September to Sunday 3rd September, 10am - 5pm.** The very best in local wildlife & landscape photography. Exhibition of winning photographs and 'the best of the rest'. Entrance by donation.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Preachers for August;

- 6th August at 10.45am, Mrs Susan Goodwin of Botesdale.
- 20th August at 10.45am, Prof. David Bartholomew of Stoke Ash.
- Friday 25th August - 7 for 7.30pm, Supper & Auction. Price £4. Please book your seat by Monday 21st August.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

The **Family Service in Thetford Forest** was greatly enjoyed - we found delicious wild raspberries & cherries during the ramble, then held an informal service under the trees before the picnic and 'hide and seek'. Services follow the normal pattern in August - please tell any visitors they are always welcome. On 13th there will be Songs of Praise, so please let us know your favourite hymn, then come and join in the singing.

The **OPEN GARDENS & SCARECROW FESTIVAL** was a real thrill. The team for Gardeners' Question Time were excellent; the audience asked some very good questions, and shared the discussions, which were much enjoyed by visitors from near and far (New Zealand & Canada!!). The children's competition entries were exceptional - it was almost impossible to pick the winners. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way, or who came along to join in. We raised £620.

*** Exciting News: **Ryan Lewis and Friends** - The Super Six - are coming for a (last) concert before they travel in many directions - on **Saturday 12th August at 7.30pm**. Do please get your tickets (£5) in good time; it is sure to be a full house occasion!! ***

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

The grant application for just over £292,000 has been submitted to English Heritage, for the work to be done on the roof of St. Andrew's Church. Although our architect thinks that there is a good chance that we might get it, we will have to wait until about November to find out if it has been successful.

If the application is successful we will have to remove a section of the roof to see what condition the timbers are in. This in itself will cost about £2,000 - £3,000 and depending on their condition, may entail us having to increase the amount of our application, which is allowed by the grant application rules. The work is likely to take some time and the nave of the church will probably be encased in scaffolding and sealed off. We hope to keep the church open and running during the repairs by using the choir and chancel.

The Church will undoubtedly still have to raise money for a proportion of the work.

On Wednesday 16th August there will be a **Coffee Morning** at church 10am - 12 noon to raise funds for ongoing church costs. Everyone is welcome - raffle and home made cakes as always.

Services for August

North Lopham South Lopham

6th August

9.30am HC -
11am Fam Serv 11am MS

13th August

11am Fam Serv 9.30am HC
6.30pm Songs of Praise -

20th August

11am Fam Serv 9.30am HC

27th August

8.30am HC -
11am Fam Serv 6.30pm ES

**CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
BY 18TH AUGUST
PLEASE TO
THE COURT
SOUTH LOPHAM
BRESSINGHAM 687206**