

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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August 2009

Breckland Energy Competition

Did you see the 'Win Free Electricity for a Year' Competition in Breckland Voice? If not call the Breckland Customer Contact Centre on 01362 656878, or you can get an application form online at www.breckland.gov.uk/energy_competition

Closing date for entries is the end of August.

Lophams' Village Hall

At the AGM in June, reports about the Hall and its finances were heard, and some possibilities for the future were discussed. Committee members re-elected Malcolm Birchall as chairman during the business meeting which followed. The Hall now has its own website thanks to Tim, our new treasurer. www.lophamsvillagehall.co.uk

An Evening with Winston, the Singing Farmer, is on Friday 25th September at 7.30pm. Winston is a good entertainer, with songs, jokes & Norfolk humour, fit for all the family. Tickets at just £6 are available from the committee, or phone 01379 687515 or 687679. There will be a licensed Bar & Raffle.

Car Boot Sales accompany **Farmers' Markets** on the 4th Saturday of the month, with the next on 22nd August, 9am to 12.30pm. For Market details, call Mike on 01379 687235, for Car Boot details call Eileen on 01379 687515. **Judo** continues on Mondays & Wednesdays (details from Howard on 01379 688 258). **Dog Training** is on most Tuesday evenings. Trainer Elaine (07845 776110) will provide information. **Ballroom Dancing** sessions will start again after a short summer break. **Keep Fit** on Thursday's from 10-11am, with Ali Metcalfe, continue during August. **To book the Hall** for private functions, please telephone 01379 687679.

Lophams Happy Circle

There was a nice crowd of us who went to the Wisbech Rose Festival on 2nd July. The flowers looked beautiful inside and outside the church. We also had a nice look around the town. We are going to Great Yarmouth on 13th August. If anybody would like to go, please ring Avis on 01953 681789 or Daphne on 01379 687453.

Lophams' Ladies

The Car Treasure Hunt in Garboldisham & East Harling was enjoyed by all who took part. Supper at the King's Head rounded off the evening nicely. Thank you Angie & Co. In August we return to the Village Hall for an

amusing account about "Moving Mum", on Tuesday 4th at 7.30pm. Visitors will be most welcome. Please remember The Car Boot, Bric-a-Brac & Jumble Sale on 5th September when you are having a summer clear out. We can collect items if you ring 687337 or 687679.

South Lopham Village Society

The Society held its summer barbecue at the Village Hall on the evening of Saturday 18th July. Music was provided by the Dixielanders, who were on great form. The sausages and burgers went down well, while the punters enjoyed a drink and a game of boule and other field games.

St. Andrew's School

Year Six Has Got Talent - in abundance! With support from Year 5, they put on a wonderful variety show for families and friends, with their teachers and TA as the equally talented panel of judges. The **Summer Fair**, planned and organised by the School Council, was a very successful occasion, with some very original sideshows, and raised about £200 for funds.

Our school owes a huge debt of gratitude to many parents and friends from the community. As well as FOSTA members, they include people who help with grounds development, indoor DIY, volunteer TA duties, sports fixtures, cycling proficiency, expeditions and concerts, SATs administration, libraries, and voucher collections etc. But at the end of the school year the biggest thank you's must go to our wonderful teams of teachers and teaching assistants who work incredibly hard to ensure the best possible learning experience for all the children in their care.

At the Leavers' Assembly Andy Mash, Diocesan Director of Education, thanked Judith Jones for all her time at St Andrew's. We also said goodbye & thank you to Caroline Gionis, a much loved Reception & Infant teacher. We send them both very best wishes for continuing success in their careers, and wish Nicola Fortescue well for her maternity leave. After Mr Mash presented bibles to all the leavers, they gave the school

a magnificent bench for use at playtimes.

St Andrew's Pre School - What a wonderful turnout we had for the Pre-school sports day. Thank you to everyone who came along and gave their support. There were lots of stars on the day and many budding athletes for the future. Although we do everything we can to bring variety to the children on a daily basis, we are aware the smiling faces they look up to are always the same. Maybe you could spare half an hour to come in and read, or if you have an interest that you could share with the children that would be great.

Friends of St Andrews School - A big thank you to everyone who has supported FOSTA during this last school year. From Ceilidhs to quizzes, yard sales, raffles, music evenings and much more, we have had a very busy year and are so grateful to the support we receive from the villages. Our final event of the year was an evening of music at the Village Hall on July 11th, which raised £495. The result of our summer squares draw was; 1st - Anne Shipperlee, 2nd - George and Angie from The Kings Head, 3rd - Jean Stringfield. £80 was raised from Squares.

North Lopham Parish Council

At the July meeting of the Parish Council, Police Community Support Officer Virginie Tribut told us about the role of the 'Safer Neighbourhood Team'. Norfolk is a very safe area. Thankfully serious crime is rare, but it was stressed that it is important to contact the Police (via the non-emergency number 0845 456 4567) to pass on any concerns, no matter how trivial they might seem (suspicious callers, for example), as it might help build up a picture of a bigger problem. All members of the public are welcome to attend the 'Safer Neighbourhood Team' meetings held about every two months (details from Clerk Mike Cox or on the Notice Board at Letchmere) to hear about current priorities and suggest new ones.

If no further problems arise, the new sewerage system is set to 'go live' at the start of August. Letters confirming this



should be posted to residents near the end of July, but Anglian Water stress that no final connection can be made until the letter has been received.

Under a new scheme being trialled by Norfolk Highways we had two 'rangers' in the village in mid-July carrying out maintenance on footpaths, clearing gullies etc. We hope this will make for easier use of the paths by pedestrians, complementing the efforts of most residents to ensure there are no problems. If the scheme is successful, the rangers will return every few months to carry out similar jobs which have been identified as priorities by the Parish Council.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday September 9th. We usually have 'a good handful' of residents at the meetings and there is always an opportunity to 'have your say', so book the date and come along next time to see and hear what goes on!

South Lopham Parish Council

At the meeting on July 9th Robert McCaw was warmly welcomed as a newly co-opted member of the Parish Council. The council heard that the recently resurfaced footpath in Blo Norton Road had begun to show signs of wear and, although NCC were satisfied with the standard of work after a site inspection, the Parish Council agreed to express its concern once more. Residents in Blo Norton Road will be pleased to see that the 30mph limit there will be extended.

A further survey of traffic along Church Road will now be carried out to add weight to an appeal against the decision to turn down an application for a footpath to be made on this very busy road. Highways will be asked to improve the visibility of the weight limit sign at the junction with the A1066. It was noted that some repairs to drain covers in Redgrave Road were still outstanding and Highways will be contacted to get the work done as soon as possible.

The council was pleased to learn that all the footpaths in the village were being well used and in particular it is grateful to landowners for keeping cross field paths clear.

It is hoped the Flexibus will be well in use by the time this goes to press. The council would be happy to hear any comments about the way the system is running. Please contact the clerk on 687507.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Services for August at 10.45am are;

- Sunday 9th August; Preacher Mr David Freeman of Rickinghall.
- Sunday 23rd August; Preachers Mrs M Blake and Mrs J Welbel, both of Thetford.

A welcome to all.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

The **Benefice Festival** was greatly enjoyed by over 250 visitors in all, from as far away as the USA and Australia, plus those from all across East Anglia. Many thanks to those who opened their gardens, created wonderful floral displays or helped to stock the cake & preserves stall or serve refreshments. Many people came to the finale open air service with the Gislingham Silver Band and our own Choir. Each church will receive £300 from the final profit - a good boost for funds.

The **Hymn Marathon** for the Fabric Fund, on Saturday 1st August, will begin at 8.30am this time, as the challenge is to play the tunes of 600 hymns in the day! All are welcome to come and listen, or to sing along in the afternoon. The local team will be on hand to serve refreshments throughout the day, and Richard has been busy on the lathe, making wooden items for sale as a memento of the day, or to boost the funds. Thank you in advance to all those who support the venture

"**Lopham's Got Talent**" **Holiday Club** will take place in The Mess, from 2.30 to 5pm on August 3rd to 7th. All youngsters of primary school age are invited to come along; the slightly older ones will be welcome as helpers (and to share in the fun). Pre-school children can come too, but we ask a parent to stay with them. There will be games, crafts, songs, squash & biscuits and lots of fun, plus a chance to plan our own Talent Show, using ideas from the story of Jonah to inspire the acts.....!

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

After a very successful **Benefice Festival**, St. Andrew's share of the receipts, after expenses, was £300. Now that most of the structural work on the roof of the church has been completed the scaffolding will begin to be taken down during the coming week and the tiling will begin. Hopefully, with good weather, the project will be completed by mid-September.

Friends of South Lopham Church - Thank

you so much to everyone who supported the '**Garden Party**', on what was a lovely day, and hopefully you all enjoyed yourselves. The 'Friends' are very pleased to tell you that we made £725.09. What a success for the church! There are lots of people to thank, not only from our village, but surrounding villages. It was the combined effort of these people, along with you the supporters, that made the day so successful. Many, many thanks. Our AGM is on Tuesday 4th August 2009 at 7.30pm in the church. If anyone would like to become a 'Friend' and join the committee we would love to see you.

Other South Lopham News:

We were all sad to hear of the death of **Catherine Twidle**. Not only was she Head Teacher at South Lopham School, before it amalgamated with North Lopham, she had also been a Parish Councillor and was instrumental in setting up the "Friends of South Lopham Church" to help save St. Andrew's Church, which she loved so much.

At the recent Norfolk Show, **Peter Reeder** was presented with a glass decanter and Monica with a bouquet, from the Norfolk Stockmen, to recognise his 50 years of service at the show. On the same occasion he received an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Norfolk Show.

Services for August

North Lopham	South Lopham
2nd August	
9.30am HC	-
11am Fam S	-
9th August	
4pm H Club Finale	-
6.30pm Evensong	-
11th August	
11am Fam S	9.30am HC
23rd August	
11am Fam H Com	6.30pm ES

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