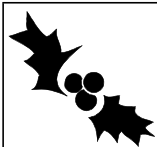


THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

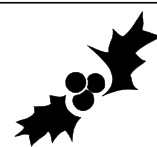
No.295

PUBLISHED EACH MONTH SINCE 1982

December 2006



*We wish all our readers, contributors and those who prepare and distribute
The Lophams' News, a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year*



The Lophams' News

Appreciation to Captain Mansbridge from the Church and Parish Councils - On behalf of all villagers, we would like to place on record our sincere gratitude to Captain Mansbridge for initiating The Lophams' News in 1982, then receiving the copy every month, editing it with Mrs Aston, and finally counting out and delivering the packets of newsletters to all the distributors. To have done this for 24 years is a great achievement. The Lophams' News is an invaluable resource for every household as a ready reference for all the activities taking place in our communities. Thank you from us all - we hope you have many months of reading the News without the responsibility. And thank you to Steve Milbourne for taking over the task - thereby ensuring that the News will continue in similar style for the future.

St. Andrew's School

The in-Church assemblies continue to attract parents and local friends. The November one was followed by Coffee and Crafts, arranged by the Friends of the School. December 19th is the last day of this term, so the assembly will be our Nativity Service, with the children telling the story of the first Christmas, with carols for families and friends to share, in addition to the children's special ones. If you haven't been before, this is one not to be missed! The North Lopham Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on November 10th saw Class 3 playing a full part alongside the veterans and representatives of the service men of both the UK and USA. After the wreath laying and planting of crosses, the children's 'Remembrance' song was greatly appreciated by the adults present; the children enjoyed talking to the American airmen afterwards. Sports fixtures with other, much larger schools have given our teams the chance to show their increasing skills; a recent win against one of the strongest local schools was a huge boost to confidence. Our team of infants came first in a multi skills tournament in Diss, so we have high hopes for the future!! The November Open Morning was very well attended by Playgroup children and their parents - some of the children seemed ready to start straight away, without waiting for next September! The whole school helped the 'Children in Need' appeal by paying to bring their teddies in fancy dress for the day.

Class 3 produced a short animated film featuring Pudsey Bear on their computers for the day. Watch out, Disney, there is real competition in Lopham. December always brings special occasions. A visit to the pantomime at Bury, jointly with Bressingham School, will be a highlight for the children; parents will be just as keen to see the Infants' Nativity on 11th and 12th, at 2pm in the School Hall. A Christmas Disco is planned for the evening of Friday 15th, and there will be Carols by Candlelight in South Lopham Church at 6pm on Monday 18th, plus the Nativity Service in North Lopham the following morning - the last day of term. *We wish all readers a Happy Christmas, and a Healthy New Year!!*

Shoe Box Appeal - Many thanks to those who have already brought filled shoe boxes along. There is still time to add to the stock - they will be collected at the beginning of December.

Lophams' Village Hall

Bonfire Evening - Committee members would like to thank everyone who supported the recent Bonfire Evening. The huge fire was expertly built for us by Mr Jim Harris. We are grateful to him and the firework team who worked hard to produce a breathtaking and safe display. They were - Andy Gray, Peter Shertzer, Neville Styles and Frank Webber. There was a record 42 entries in the children's bonfire picture competition, which were much admired. Winners were: Under 7 years - Maisie Holdsworth (1st), George Odger (2nd), Annabel Wharton (3rd), Joanna Rednall (highly commended). 8 years and over - Bethan Odgers (1st), Ellenor Harrington (2nd), Danny & Tom Rice (3rd), Louisa Tildsley (highly commended).

Social Dance - We are delighted that the work on the Hall extension is almost complete and have pleasure in inviting everyone to a Social Dance and opening of the Coffee Bar on Saturday 16th December at 8pm, when Modern, Ballroom, and Salsa Dancing can be enjoyed. Admission £5. Tickets from Mrs Vere on 01379 687679.

Lophams' Ladies

Mrs Stella Taylor gave an interesting talk about plants and flowers at the November

meeting. Members look forward to meeting for an evening meal in December. Newmembers are welcome. Please contact Sarah Frizzel on 01379 687337.

Lophams' Happy Circle

We had a brisk trade for the Bring & Buy stall, although there were a lot of members absent. For those who are going to the Rickinghall Party, could you please be there by 2pm. The next meeting will be our Christmas Party at the Village Hall. This will be on the 14th December at 2pm. I would like to thank the members for the lovely present I received at the last meeting. If anybody would like to join us, or wants to know anything about the Club, please contact Daphne on 01379 687453 or Avis on 01953 681789.

South Lopham Ramblers

After three years we are still going strong and meet once a month to walk around the village or local area, using footpaths and quiet lanes. If you would like to join us, or want to know more about the walks, please phone 01379 687260. We usually meet at the bus shelter opposite the memorial on the first Friday of each month at 9.30am and return about 12.30pm. Most of us are retired and the pace is gentle.

Redgrave & Lopham Fen

(All Enquiries & Bookings - 01379 688333)

Christmas Trees: 2nd & 3rd December, 9th & 10th December, 10am - 4pm. Vintage Christmas tree collection by Lindsay Abel. Decorated in different styles, including the 50's and Victorian. Café & Gift Shop Open.

Family Christmas Crafts: Sunday 3rd & Sunday 10th December, 12 noon - 3pm. Drop in event. Create something special for Christmas. All ages welcome. £1 per child. Café & Gift Shop Open.

Activity Day - The Snow Queen: Wednesday 20th December, 10am - 12 noon. For children aged 6 - 12 years old. Enjoy a little magic of Christmas with a touch of snow and ice. £3. Booking essential.



South Lopham Parish Council

The Parish Council met at Memories on Thursday 9th November for a meeting which opened with a presentation by Andrew Excel and Dorothy Casey from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Members of Redgrave Parish Council and Fen Trust joined several parishioners, past and present, and our District and County Councillors to hear why the SWT want to close the path known as Rolfe's track on Little Fen. There was some lively discussion during which the SWT put forward their case for closure, based on providing a safe breeding area for the marsh harrier. Parishioners expressed their concern at the lack of prior consultation. We look forward to hearing the results of further research by the SWT before any further action is taken.

The council were pleased to see that the works to enhance the War Memorial were completed in time for Remembrance Day.

It was disappointing to find that the new bus shelter had been vandalised just days after completion, thankfully a rare occurrence in our village. Repairs have been completed and we hope it will continue to be used responsibly by all.

The council was saddened to learn of another fatal accident in the village and the issue of road safety will be raised in the chairman's meetings with PC Archer. Home security will also be on the agenda following burglaries in the area. Please be vigilant and report any unusual vehicles in your neighbourhood.

Finally, parishioners will be glad to read that the annual precept has been reduced by £500 for the next financial year.

Adult Education (Norfolk County Council)

Why not join a FREE English or Maths class? You could work towards a qualification at any level. You will work:

- in a small, relaxed group
- at your own pace
- at your own level
- on topics of interest to you
- at a course near where you live

Free childcare may be available. For more information please ring Julia on 01953 455783 or e-mail julia.richards@norfolk.gov.uk

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Services for December.

- 3rd December, Carol Service at 2.30pm, conducted by Rev Colin Telfer. Refreshments after the service. Collection for the National

Children's Home. Please come and help support this cause.

- 10th December at 10.45am, Preacher Mr Colin Basham of Harleston.
- 24th December at 10.45am, Preacher Rev Colin Telfer of Diss.

A Happy Christmas to all.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

Remembrance Sunday - Everyone at the Family Service remembered those who have died over many years of conflict to ensure the freedom of our country. Evensong included a special Act of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for all those local people who were involved in the two World Wars.

Art Exhibition - Many thanks to Gill & Tony Osler for organising this year's wonderful Art Exhibition, and to everyone who helped or supported it in any way. The quality of the exhibits was the best yet, with delicately decorated pottery as an extra delight. The preview evening was a marvellous occasion, despite the torrential rain; it was a thrill to welcome so many new residents alongside familiar faces from the local villages. There was a steady stream of visitors each day, from far and wide (one visitor from Florida was actually on her way to Australia - some detour!!). A superb Raffle, plus refreshments and a well stocked cake & preserve stall, ensured that the event was a major financial help to finances (final result next time).

Advent to Epiphany - There are many special occasions during December. We hope to see new and familiar faces, and assure everyone of a warm welcome. The full list of services and carol events is available on a sheet in church. Highlights include: **The Toy Service & Advent Carol Service (10th)**, **Family Carols & Kings Head event (17th)**, **Crib Service (24th)**, and the **Group Communion Service on 31st**. In addition, we hope to sing carols in the village during the week before Christmas - notifying homes in advance, so that they know we come as friends!

The Toy Service - A special note for newcomers. We invite folk of all ages to donate a gift for a child or grown up, specially wrapped, and labelled to show the gender and approximate age for whom it is intended. All the gifts will go to the NCH home at Thetford, for families in special need. There are many people, just along the A1066 who may not otherwise receive a special gift this Christmas season.

We wish all readers a very Happy and Blessed Christmas season, and send all good wishes for a Good New Year in 2007.

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

On Sunday 5th November the Millennium Yew tree was planted in the churchyard and was blessed by Reverend Rob. Thank you to Jill Brundall for looking after the tiny sapling for the past five years, ensuring it grew large enough to plant.

The 'Holly Fair' Coffee Morning on 18th November was well attended. Thank you to everyone who helped and attended on the day - all proceeds to the church.

Make a note in your diary for an hour of **'Music and Worship'** for the young in heart and spirit on **Sunday 3rd December** at 4pm - everyone is welcome. If you play a musical instrument and would like to join in making music for the event then come along at 3pm. Please also make a note of the **Christingle Service on 17th December at 4pm**. If you would like to help decorate the church for Christmas please come along on Saturday 10th December or ring Monica Reeder on 01379 687273 for details. **On Christmas Day** the service will be at 9.30am at St Andrew's Church.

Services for December

North Lopham South Lopham

3rd December

9.30am HC -
11am Fam Serv 11am MS

10th December

11am Toy Serv 9.30am HC
6.30pm Advent C

17th December

11am Fam Carols 4pm Christingle

24th December

8.30am HC 9.30am HC
4.30pm Crib Serv -

25th December

- 9.30am Chr. Comm

31st December

10am Group HC -

**CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
BY 15TH DECEMBER**

**PLEASE TO
THE COURT
SOUTH LOPHAM
BRESSINGHAM 687206**