

# THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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



## Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance

This year, St Nicholas' Church was the setting for the Lophams' & Kenninghall Branch service on Remembrance Sunday. After the ceremony, wreaths were taken and re-placed on the village War Memorial. The Memorial was the setting for a moving ceremony on Friday 9th, when local veterans were joined by RBL standards from the area, personnel from USAF Lakenheath and Class 3 from St. Andrew's School. After the Silence, the laying of wreaths and reading of names, the children sang their Remembrance song and the two national anthems were sung, before the children had an opportunity to hear a little of the history of the last 90 years from Albert Crook, and to talk to the Americans.

## St. Andrew's School

November brought a great shock for everyone - when Penny Sheppard told us that she had been appointed to open a brand new large school with nursery, and would be leaving the Partnership at Easter. We all congratulate her on winning such a marvelous position, but will miss her greatly, after nearly three exciting years.

Special guests at the Church Assembly on the Diamond Wedding of HM the Queen and Prince Philip were the Revd and Mrs Dakin, who celebrated their own Diamond Anniversary earlier in the Autumn.

The School Council have worked very hard to organise some excellent fund raising events. A Cake Stall just before half term made £84 and the income from the Children in Need Day was well over £70 (they had an opposites day, with boys dressed as girls and vice versa - with some very impressive results!). Many thanks to Mrs Segovia for all her help with the organisation. The last weeks of term will include the usual December activities, with highlights being the Class 1 play, the Christmas meal and party, and the Carols event in South Lopham Church on 18th at 6pm, before we hold the Nativity service at North Lopham on the final morning. A very Happy Christmas everybody!!

## Lophams' Happy Circle

We held our meeting in the Village Hall last

week, plus a Bring & Buy. Although small in number, we had a very successful sale. The next meeting will be the Christmas Dinner on 13th December. If anybody wants to know anything about the Club please contact Daphne on 01379 687453 or Avis on 01953 681789.

## Lophams' Village Hall

**Bonfire Evening** - We would like to thank everyone who attended our 14th Annual Bonfire evening. The event was very successful, with more spectators than previous years. Everyone was thrilled with the spectacular fireworks display and huge bonfire. We would like to thank Andy Gray, Peter Shertzer, Neville Styles, Frank Webber and Steve Nott, who arranged and presented the display, and Jim Harris who built the bonfire. The competition for a decorated Guy Fawkes Hat had twenty excellent entries, and was kindly judged by Mr & Mrs McCann. Holly Rednall's entry was placed first in the seven years and over group, with Ella Levington first in the six years and under.

**The Judo Club** has run sessions at the Village Hall since 2000 however in recent years local support has dwindled to a point where the club now attracts players from Kings Lynn, Norwich, Yarmouth and indeed players from Miami have travelled to train at our Club. At present we boast players that are international and national champions and in successive years have produced 10 year old children that have become British Champions at the Olympic sport of judo, neither of whom being local. Even though we seek to serve our local community it seems there is a lack of interest within our surrounding villages which is strange given our success. In the clubs 15 year existence the mat fee of £1 has remained fixed, which means it must be one of the cheapest ways to keep fit and learn a sport from coaches that have achieved the highest status. Novice seniors and juniors are all welcome. We do not expect you all to travel the world and compete. If anyone is interested in taking up the sport please contact Howard Oates on 01379 688258.

## Lophams' Ladies

Members recently spent an enjoyable evening at the theatre in Bury St Edmunds. Here they saw Annie Get Your Gun performed. The December meeting will

include an exercise session and social evening. Contact 01379 687337.

## Lophams' Playgroup

We all enjoyed our Halloween Disco, raising £75 to help with playgroup funds. Special thanks to Joe for helping us again. All children are now busy making Christmas bits and pieces. We will be selling tickets for our Christmas Hampers again, through Playgroup or The King's Head Pub. We still have places available for children from 2 years to pre-school age. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. *Cherilyn & Julie*

## Lophams' Baby & Toddler Group

We meet every Thursday from 2 - 3.15pm at The Mess (in front of the school). We are a small, friendly group, with lots of toys for the children to play with. Come along for a coffee and chat. For more information contact Cherilyn on 01379 688116 or Gillian on 01379 687225.

## North Lopham Parish Council

At the meeting held on November 14th, Mrs Heather Potter was co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Graham West. A major item was discussion of information which had been received about the 'timetable' for the Post Office's planned closure of 2,500 out of 14,300 branches over the coming months. Breckland has asked Parish Councils to complete a questionnaire, by the end of November, to try to gauge the level of impact of any possible closures. It was decided that the Parish Council should produce a survey to get first-hand evidence about usage of the Post Office, to be distributed to all homes in North Lopham immediately after the meeting. By the time you receive this edition of Lophams News, it may be after the official 'closing date' for the return of completed surveys, but if, by any chance, you missed the deadline (25th November) and have any particular views to express, please get in touch with our Clerk, Mike Cox on 01379 688355. The Letchmere Restoration Project was awarded a certificate and brass plaque at the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) awards ceremony in



