

# THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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## Parish Council Elections

**A message from both Parish Councils** - Elections for both North and South Lopham Parish Councils will be held in May. This could be your chance to get involved in your Community! Official notices will be placed on the Parish Council Notice Boards in due course, but you might like to note that completed candidate nomination forms (which will be available from Parish Clerks or direct from Breckland) must be returned to Breckland Council Offices by noon on 4th April. For full details go to [www.breckland.gov.uk](http://www.breckland.gov.uk) and follow the menus to council > elections > elections diary.

### Norfolk Explorer Website

In an oversight last month the web address for the site was omitted. It can be found at [www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk)

### St Andrew's School

South Lopham Church was packed for Carols by Candlelight, with the choir, orchestra and Partnership Choir all present to play and sing very new, as well as traditional favourites, accompanied by Michael Dann. FOSTA served mulled wine afterwards on an evening that brought the Christmas message alive. The Christmas story was shared in North Lopham Church at the last assembly of term on 19th December. The new term is in full swing, with lots of learning, and also lots of fun in the various Clubs. Parents of Class 1 have a chance to work with their children and develop computer skills on Mondays for 10 weeks at Bressingham; all parents are invited to learn more about supporting Reading, at St Andrew's on Tuesday 6th February, from 7pm. The juniors are busy devising a section of the service at the Cathedral on Education Sunday, 4th February - performing there will be tremendously exciting - while the choir and orchestra have started work on the music for the 2007 Partnership Concert at Diss High School in March.

### South Lopham Ramblers

The new programme for walks in 2007 is now available. We usually meet at the bus shelter on the first Friday of each month at 9.30am and return by about 12.30pm. The pace is gentle and we use footpaths and quiet lanes in the area. If you would like to join us, or want to know more about the walks, please telephone 01379 687260.

### Village Hall

**Spring Garden Fair** - This will be held on Saturday 21st April. There will be a children's fancy dress competition with a local band accompanying the event. Stall holders are advised to book early. For

further information please contact Mrs Eileen Jacob on 01379 687515.

**Farmers' Market** - Visitors to the December market enjoyed a glass of mulled wine and mince pies served in the new extension, and accompanied by carols played by Imogen Shipperlee and Emily Pursehouse on their recorders. We are grateful to everyone for their support. The next market will be held on Saturday 24th February, 9am - 12.30pm.

### Special Concert 3rd February at 7.30pm

**Touch the Earth** make music to touch the soul and free the spirit. Beautiful ballads to wild dance with Native American flutes, didgeridoo, drums, fiddle and guitar. Amazing sounds all weaving into the web of life. Touch the Earth ([www.touchtearth.co.uk](http://www.touchtearth.co.uk)) were formed 2 years ago and are based in Kent. They have played festivals in the UK and Europe. They play at our Hall, with support from Mary Lovett, on Saturday 3rd February from 7.30pm to 11.30pm. Tickets £5 in advance, £6 on the door, £4 concessions, available from Peter Maxey on 01953 887940, [petemaxey@talktalk.net](mailto:petemaxey@talktalk.net)

### Lophams' Ladies

Members and one visitor were welcomed to the January meeting by Sarah Frizzell. As the speaker for the evening was unable to attend a 'One Minute Please' speaking session was enjoyed. On Tuesday 6th February at 7.30pm, Dr Helen Hill will speak about 'The Little Ouse Headwater Project'. The competition is 'A Winter Collage'. Enquiries, or help with transport to the evening, please contact 01379 687337.

### South Lopham Estates Charity

The Trustees of the South Lopham Estates Charity and their partners met at the home of Irene and Alan Howard on 10th January to present John Baskerville, immediate past chairmen, with a farewell gift. John was chairman for 21 years, and during this time, his considered judgement has served the

Charity well but, due to increasing commitments, he has reluctantly decided to resign. After a splendid supper, kindly provided by Allan and Irene Howard, Peter Reeder presented John with a gift and card to show the Trustees' appreciation of John's friendship and leadership since 1985.

### Redgrave & Lopham Fen (All Enquiries & Bookings - 01379 688333)

**World Wetland Day, Sunday 11th February, 10am - 4pm.** Guided walks (11.30 & 1.30). Make bird feeders, bird box building, 'some things fishy' trail. Adults £1, children free.  
**Tracks and Trails Activity Day, Tuesday 13th February, 10am - 12 noon.** Children 6-12 years. £3.  
**Squirrels, Wednesday 14th February, 10am - 12 noon.** Children 4-8 years. £3.  
**Fun with Amphibians Lunchtime Lecture, Wednesday 21st February, 11am - 1pm.** £4.

### North Lopham Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting in January, it was decided to ask Norfolk County Council to set in motion a process to formally divert the footpath which borders the north side of the school playing field so that it will no longer run alongside the school boundary. The diversion we propose would take the path along Primrose Lane for about 300 metres, before heading North North East along the (already well used) track towards the bottom of Tanns Lane. The School Governors, our County, District and Parish Councillors and members of the public present at the meeting were in support of this move - but we are aware that the required consultations will take some time to run their course. As reported last month, the seat at Letchmere has fallen apart and it has now been declared un-repairable. If we are successful with the grant application for the second phase of the work at Letchmere, we will be buying two seats (one of which will now replace the broken one) - but if the application is unsuccessful the Parish Council has already allocated some funds for



