

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

No.321

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February 2009

Redgrave & Lopham Fen

Events for February: **Sunday 1st: World Wetland Day Guided Walks**, 11,30am & 2pm, adults £3, children £1. **Tuesday 10th: Animal Homes**, activity day for home educated children (5-16), £5. **Wednesday 11th: Tracking Bird Populations**, £5, concessions £4, optional lunch £4. **Sunday 15th: Nest Box Day**, adults £2, children £1 (+£3 to build a box). **Tuesday 17th: Finches**, children (6-12), £3. **Wednesday 18th: Sharing Nature, 'Brambly Hedge and Friends'**, children (4-8), £3. **21st, 22nd, 28th & 1st Mar: Wildlife of the Sunrise Coast by Suffolk Photo Tours**, entrance by donation (suggested £1). **Sunday 22nd: Stamp and Embossing Craft Workshop**, £7.50. (for bookings phone 01379 688333)

Lophams' Ladies

Unfortunately, our January meeting had to be cancelled because of wintry weather. We look forward to having Alison Marchant with us on Tuesday 3rd February. She will speak about Hedge Laying and Hedgerows at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Visitors are welcome, and help can be given with transport. Please contact Mrs Sarah Frizzell on 01379 687337.

Lophams' Village Hall

Keep Fit (or get fitness back after the Christmas season!) with Circuit Training - a combination of core-muscle toning and cardio exercises suitable for all levels of fitness. A **'come and give it a go trial'** is on Thursday 12th February from 10 to 11am. Other days and venues are available, with Ali, a fully experienced personal trainer. She provides a small play area for children, though parents/carers are still responsible for their child. More information is available from Ali on 01953 681531.

Judo is every Monday and Wednesday. Details from Howard on 01379 688258. **Dog Training** classes continue on Tuesday evenings, except the first Tuesday of the month. Details are available from registered trainer Elaine on 07845 776110. **Ballroom Dancing** sessions have moved to the third Sunday afternoon each month (15th Feb), from 2.30pm, at a cost of just £4. Contact Eileen on 01379 687515 to find out more.

Farmers' Markets continue on the fourth Saturday each month - the next on 28th February. New producers of local produce are always welcome - just call Mike on 01379 687235 for details.

To book the Hall for private functions, please telephone 01379 687679.

South Lopham Village Society

The Society held it's festive get-together at

the Village Hall on 19th December. About 60 locals attended, with ages spanning the generations - under 5's to the comfortably mature - including Father Christmas who, despite his crowded schedule, was there to distribute his goodies to the children. The Hall was seasonably decorated, and mulled wine and tasty morsels were in plentiful supply. The evening ended with a raffle with lots of prizes. Lively folk music and carols were provided by The Deneside Ramblers and the revellers were in good voice! The committee hopes that the evening helped to further the Society's objective of fostering community life in South Lopham.

St. Andrew's School

Congratulations to the whole school for the lovely Nativity Service just before the end of last term. The readings, the singing and the orchestra/recorder groups showed just how professional the children are when performing, and how much we owe the school staff who plan the programme and lead rehearsals. As the theme was Light at Christmas, the story of Christingles was included, and each child had one to take home. A retiring collection was passed on to the church for the Children's Society, along with the money from their own Christingle service the following Sunday. The final treat of the term was a visit to Great Yarmouth Hippodrome Circus for both partnership schools - greatly enjoyed by everyone.

We would like to share part of our headteacher's report for Cock Crow magazine, so that readers have an extra chance to read his own vision for the children at St. Andrew's: *"In school we have a multiplicity of challenges, however, our main challenge is one that we will steadfastly stick to. That is to support every single child that we work alongside to achieve their very best. We also want our children to have happy, safe and fulfilling lives. We want our children to make positive choices and to grow up to be good contributors to society. We want our children to be able to work cooperatively*

and also develop independence and the resilience to overcome problems. The world seems to be changing at an ever increasing pace [or is that my age creeping up on me?] and I know that we must prepare our children to cope and succeed in that world. The ability to be able to communicate, to talk, to describe, to explain, to draw is vital. Our children need to be literate and numerate, maximise the use of new technologies and not be overawed by the prospect of travelling for work. It is said that the majority of jobs our children will seek when they leave school or university have yet to be 'invented'. Our children will pursue employment in a global market place, this is very different from the world of even thirty years ago. SATs, this is not a completely unrelated subject. The 'Standardised Assessment Tasks' remain as the single most powerful measure in how a school is judged. In my view no school is one dimensional and the Bressingham and St. Andrew's Partnership in particular has a great deal more to offer. I am very proud of our schools and of our children who can show enormous 'emotional intelligence' and creativity in a whole host of areas. I am looking forward to a time when the progress a child makes in all aspects of their educational development is valued, not just a narrow snapshot from a formal testing situation." (S East)

North Lopham Parish Council

A total of 12 people, including Councillors, attended the meeting on 14th January to hear the presentation by a representative of Breckland Council and of a Housing Association telling us about **'Affordable Housing'**. Several visits to the village had resulted in a short list of possible sites, which was presented along with brochures and other information describing how an Affordable Housing Scheme might work. There was then a discussion on the pro's



and con's and the criteria used to identify possible sites. All present thought the idea was worthy of further investigation and there will be more discussion at the next Parish Council meeting on March 11th.

A recent resurgence of '**dog fouling**', especially in the area around the school and along 'The Street', was brought to the attention of the Council. If you have a dog please remember to pick up waste and use one of our three 'dog bins'. If you see someone ignoring the law say something to them or report it. That is maybe the only way they will be persuaded to think again. The maximum fine for repeated dog fouling offences is £1000!

We have asked for the footpaths along 'The Street' to be 'sided out' (the verges cut back to reveal the full width of the path) and are hopeful this will happen in the Spring. Another '**Village Spring Clean**' day is being planned for Saturday 14th March (from 9am) when we will hopefully be able to remove litter which has built up over the winter and tidy the area around the Pond. All volunteers welcome; please make a note of the date now and join in the fun! At long last we have been told that work is to begin in March to widen the road slightly and complete the missing section of footpath along Church Road (opposite the Church). Traffic will be controlled by traffic lights (but no road closures!).

South Lopham Parish Council

Owing to a change of date for the January Parish Council meeting the Lophams' News will have gone to press before councillors have met. However there are a couple of issues about which residents may wish for reassurance before the next edition, the most important being the state of The Green. We await the re-opening of Church Road, which should herald the restoration of signs, bollards and turf. We are promised that this will happen soon and the weight limit signs will be back in place, facing the right way. There have been a number of complaints about HGVs still using this route. It is difficult to know which are on legitimate business and which are using it as a short cut, but with the signs reinstated and the end of the road works we hope heavy traffic will lessen. In the end it is a police matter if lorries are ignoring the limit.

The positioning of the new hard standing bus stop between The Court and The Green has posed problems, but a decision has been made and it should be in place by mid February. It's installation will mean more disruption in the village centre in the short term, but the long term aim is to improve

access to transport for all members of the community.

A report on January's meeting of the PC will be in the next edition of The Lophams' News.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Services for February at 10.45am are;

- 1st February,
Preacher Mr Roy Sayer of Diss.
- 15th February,
Preacher Rev Colin Telfer of Diss.

On 10th February there will be a **Coffee Morning** with a Hymn Sing-a-Long from 10am to 11.30am. Everyone welcome.

Christmas Carol & Auction Event

The King's Head pub was crammed with people for this year's Carol & Charity Auction - the first big event since new landlords George and Angela re-opened the pub. An amazing array of items had been donated for sale, to be auctioned by Richard Vere (with a little help from his friends!). Doreen Tipple worked tirelessly collecting the payments for lots sold and Chrissie Callow continued selling raffle tickets for a beautiful iced cake. Our hosts provided much needed sustenance from time to time, so the pub was still full of customers when the final carol was sung. With the help of sales since the day, over £2,000 has been raised!! Presentations to The National Lifeboat Institution and The Air Ambulance are planned for 1st March. George & Angela wish to thank all 'the locals' for the wonderful welcome they have had.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

The Christmas season continued in style - until 11th January! Highlights included - a **Family Carol Service** on 21st December, shared by people of all ages. The children lit candles, shared the readings and led some of the carols. George Odgers played Jingle Bells on the organ during refreshment time! Our **Carollers** raised £80 for Biblelands the following evening - thank you to them all. On Christmas Eve, the church was full of happy families for the annual **Crib Service**. On Christmas Morning, the Rector, Revd Rob, led a **Christmas Communion Service**. The **Epiphany Carol Service** was a fitting end to the season. MANY thanks to those who decorated the church so beautifully, or who contributed to any of the services.

Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday 25th February. There will be a **Fellowship Lunch** at 1pm at Southlands to mark the start of the Lenten season. All are welcome to come and share bread & cheese, plus soup if the day is cold. There will be a special Communion Service in church at 7.30pm.

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

Thank you to Sonya at the White Horse for making us all so welcome, providing plenty to eat and a raffle prize for the **Carol Singing** event. The singers were accompanied by the excellent Deneside Ramblers and £72 was raised for church funds. The Rector led a short prayer service and told several stories reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. He reported that there is no firm date yet for work to begin on the church roof, although he is hopeful for an April start.

Families and friends filled church for the **St. Andrew's School Carol Service** when pupils and staff provided a programme of music and drama, supported by Jennie Vere playing the organ. After the service, the children helped to serve mulled wine and mince pies. The **Christingle Service** was another well attended, lovely service which raised £82 for The Children's Society.

Services for February

| North Lopham | South Lopham |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1st February | |
| 9.30am HC | - |
| 11am Fam S | - |
| 8th February | |
| 11am Fam S | - |
| 6.30pm ES | - |
| 15th February | |
| 11am Fam S | 9.30am HC |
| 22nd February | |
| 11am Fam HC | 6.30pm ES |

**CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
BY 18TH FEBRUARY
PLEASE TO
The Court, South Lopham
or e-mail to
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