

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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Norfolk Explorer Website

Norfolk County Council's E-Map Explorer website is an interactive site containing historical maps and aerial photographs of Norfolk which provides a useful resource for those interested in their parish's history. It is free to use and provides access to over 600 images of parish maps, over 100 enclosure maps, first edition Ordnance Survey maps, over 8000 photographs from the 1946 RAF aerial survey, and over 4000 photographs from the 1988 aerial survey of Norfolk, plus historic maps of Norfolk.

Lophams' Village Hall

Committee members would like to thank everyone who has supported the Hall throughout 2006. We are delighted with the new extension and look forward to a busy 2007, with a garden event planned for April. The next Farmers' Market will be held on January 22nd from 9am - 1pm.

Lophams Ladies

The 2006 programme ended recently with members gathering at Hepworth for an evening meal which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

On Tuesday 2nd January, Tonya Atwood will speak about Ceramics. Members are reminded to bring along a Ceramic Tile with their own design marked on it.

If anyone would like to join us please come along to the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Newspaper Reports

If anyone has a news item or report for the Diss Express and Diss Mercury, please contact me on 01953 681201. (*Rosemary Cook - Lophams' Correspondent*)

St. Andrew's School

What an exciting end to a busy term with something extra-special every week! Some of our musicians helped & performed at 'Give God the Glory' in South Lopham Church. More sang in Diss Market Square before late night shopping. Everybody enjoyed the Partnership trip to the pantomime at

Bury St. Edmunds the following day.

Alongside normal lessons, Class 1 rehearsed a very special version of the Nativity. The parents, grannies and local friends who came to see the play were amazed at their professional performance - every word could be heard, every movement was precise, and the singing was delightful. Very many thanks to Mrs Knight and her team (including Class 3 for the very effective scenery). The children had a morning at Strangers Hall Museum the next day, as part of their History topic.

There was a good attendance for the November Assembly in St. Nicholas' Church. The FOSTA Coffee & Crafts Sale afterwards raised £71 for funds. The children have been learning the songs for the Nativity assembly there, in recent singing lessons. Members of the Partnership choir and orchestra have also practised for Carols by Candlelight in the churches at South Lopham and Bressingham.

The children have been active in supporting those less fortunate - they raised funds for Children In Need with a "Dress the Teddy Day", and Class 3 produced animated Pudsey adventure films using ICT. Everyone dressed in blue at the end of Anti-Bullying awareness Week.

A big thank you goes to anyone who has helped the school this year - accompanying the children on trips, assisting with classroom or sports activities, coming to events and collecting tokens or vouchers. It is good to have so much local support.

A very special thank you goes to Mrs

Heather Self, who has been a Mid Day Supervisor for over 14 years - helping in the canteen and playing with the children afterwards. They will miss her during the school day, but will still see her outside as she is to continue being our crossing patrol lady.

And so to seasonal extras! Everybody enjoyed Christmas Dinner together in the canteen. Class 3 made lovely Christingles for the service in South Lopham Church and many of the children came to an exciting Disco on 15th December.

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all readers!

North Lopham Parish Council

Pond (Letchmere) - Thanks to the donation of topsoil from Paul Sturman, the offer of free transport by Jonathan Rednall, and the hard work of a dozen volunteers on two Saturdays in December, most of the soil has now been spread and levelled ready for seeding in the spring. We have been given about 1000 daffodil bulbs for planting around the pond - thanks to Ken Salmon of 'The Garden Enclosure' Garden Centre adjacent to Banham Zoo. An application has been made for a grant from 'Awards for All' to provide fencing, seats, litter bin, notice board etc. We should know whether the application is successful by the end of January. This should give us time to order and install the items (if we have the money!) ready for a 'grand opening' in early summer. The 'Jubilee Seat' (dating from 1977) has finally



succumbed to the elements and has rotted in several places, allowing the seat section to fall away! It has been removed pending possible repair attempts, but it may have to be replaced by one of the new seats if the decay is too severe.

At the Parish Council meeting in November it was decided to increase the precept by £100 to £2300 to take account of increased costs of insurance and Clerk's salary. In addition to the usual items, the next Parish Council agenda will include a proposal to formally request that there be further consideration by Norfolk County Council of the diversion of Footpath No 1, from its route adjacent to the School playing field. We will also be discussing the format of the Annual Parish Meeting (scheduled for May 9th this year), with a proposal to give the opportunity to include reports from a range of village organisations - such as School, Church, Chapel, Village Hall ... and any others who might like to have a 'spot' on the agenda! Come along on Wednesday January 10th (at 7.30pm in the Methodist Schoolroom, as usual) to hear what is said.

Art Exhibition

Money is still coming in after the wonderful weekend in November, as artists complete extra commissions. To date, over £1,360 has been banked - a really excellent result - so we were able to send a donation to 'Sight Savers' to help those who do not have the blessing of good sight.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

The Carol Service which was held on 3rd December was well attended. The Rev. Colin Telfer conducted the service. Those taking part were Sheila Ling, Rena Foster, Roy, Irene & Clare Sayer, John, Lorna & Guy Burroughes, Richard, Vera & Archie Wright. The collection amounted to £171 for NCH.

We wish you a Happy & Peaceful New Year.

Preachers for January 2007 at 10.45am.

- 7th January, Fellowship.
- 21st January, Rev. Colin Telfer of Diss.

A welcome to all.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

Special Services - Many thanks to all those who shared in the **Toy Service** or **Advent Carol** event. Three sacks of beautiful parcels (plus more from Roydon Church) for the Toy Service have gone to the NCH Support Centre in Thetford. The 5-parish choir members who sang at the Advent Carols received many compliments for their anthem. We were pleased to welcome people from the other parishes to share in a beautiful service devised by Rev Rob Mellowship. We all extend sincere sympathy to him and all the family, on the death of Jan's Father Sid.

The remaining seasonal services will be reported next time. For now, many thanks go to all who have helped to make the church look so festive for Christmas - all are welcome to come and enjoy celebrating there with us. Have a healthy & Happy New Year.

Help in the church - We are very grateful to the loyal team who look after St Nicholas' Church, inside and out, throughout the year. We would be very grateful for new people willing to join the team. If you could offer an hour or two to help with general cleaning, polishing the brasses, or flower arranging, please telephone 01379 687679 to discuss (most help is needed in the Summer months, when it isn't too cold in the building!).

The Buggy Club a New Venture for a New Year

A new group for pre-Playgroup children and parents will start on Tuesday 9th January at 10.30am in St Nicholas' Church. It will last about 50 minutes, and

there will be time for mums & dads to chat over coffee while the children play, and some simple choruses and a story to listen to. We plan to meet the second Tuesday of each month initially. If you have a child/children under about 3, please come and join us.

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

The Glory to God Service for the young at heart was a lovely service and very well supported.

Carols at the White Horse Pub was once again a success and well supported. Thank you to all who came along to enjoy this festive occasion.

The Epiphany Carol Service is on Sunday 14th January at 6.30pm at North Lopham Church.

Services for January

North Lopham South Lopham

7th January

9.30am HC	-
11am Fam Serv	11am MS

14th January

11am Fam Serv	9.30am HC
6.30pm Epiph C	-

21st January

11am Fam Serv	9.30am HC
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28th January

8.30am HC	-
11am Fam Serv	6.30pm ES

**CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
BY 18TH JANUARY
PLEASE TO
THE COURT
SOUTH LOPHAM
BRESSINGHAM 687206**