

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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Carol Singing and Auction at the King's Head

The annual charity event had a special significance this year, as the regulars sang Carols and bid for a huge array of items they had obtained for the auction. The day was dedicated to two special ladies, Sharon and Polly, so the main recipient of the money raised is the Big C Appeal at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital. We were privileged to have Martin & Rocky with us, and thrilled that Polly could come along during the afternoon. Auctioneer Richard Vere and his runner, Doreen Tipple, kept everyone bidding till 4pm, when the raffle for a cake, made and beautifully iced by Chrissie Callow, was drawn. It is wonderful to report that the Big C will receive £1250, with the extra funds going to local good causes. Thank you to everyone who took part, especially to our hosts, Owen and Sarah.

Sadly, Owen & Sarah will be leaving the King's Head in mid-January because the freehold of the pub has been put up for sale by the current owners (Admiral Taverns). They have worked hard to provide a welcoming pub with a wide range of activities for all ages and tastes, with many fund-raising events. They will be greatly missed and we wish them and their family well. The new owners plan to install a manager, while the future of the pub is discussed. The Parish Council has been assured by Breckland Council that any attempt to secure change of use to 'Residential' would be firmly opposed on the grounds that this is the last remaining pub in the village.

Lophams' Village Hall

Committee members would like to thank everyone who has supported events held at the Hall throughout 2007, and those who have booked it for private functions. The committee will continue to work towards improving facilities for everyone. For private bookings contact 01379 687679.

Future events include a **Dance**, which will be held on Saturday 12th January from 8pm. 1960's music will be provided by "The Strollers". Tickets are £7.50, and can be obtained from the Farmers' Market or by contacting 01379 687515. A **Spring Fair** is planned to take place in May.

St. Andrew's School

At last, this ultra busy term is ending - but on a real high note. The celebration of the first twenty five years of St. Andrew's school occupied much of St. Andrew's Day. Mrs Twidle, head teacher in 1982, was among the guests for a Celebration Assembly during which the children sang both the songs written especially for the school (the first by David Self and Douglas Coombes, the second by Revd Rob and Pip Jepson). The Rector read the new school prayer, written by Jessica Cooper, and the new school standard, made and presented by Mrs Howard, was paraded for the first time. All the guests praised the Y6 pupils who took them round the school and showed them the history display. Some parents joined the children for a "Fishes & Loaves" lunch, then FOSTA organised an excellent supper and ceilidh evening for about a hundred people at the Village Hall. What a memorable day!

The Puppet Theatre show "The Selfish

Giant' was a well deserved treat for the whole school, as was the dress rehearsal for the Class 1 Nativity - "Donkey for Sale". The lucky parents who saw the afternoon performances all agreed that it was superb. The acting, singing and costumes, plus the set made by Class 3 and Mrs Bushnell, were all admired. Grateful thanks to Mrs Gionis and all her team! The children have worked hard in Singing Club and music lessons to produce the Carol Service in St. Andrew's Church, which will enable a wider audience to hear about the first Christmas once again. The whole school shared a Christmas dinner together, and are looking forward to some fun activities on breaking up day.

Lessons continue too, of course. Class 2 have been learning about the Victorians, so had a whole day at Gressenhall for hands on experience, and were able to make their own mincemeat in the last week of term.

Everyone in school says a big thank you to those from the community who have helped in any way this year - with in school activities and trips, or by collecting vouchers for us. An extra thank you to FOSTA for all the help with fund-raising and special events (the Christmas disco was great!). The supply of school tea towels they recently commissioned make good stocking fillers for grannies and friends and cost only £3.50 each from the school office. A very happy Christmas to everyone in our villages!

Lophams' Ladies

Everyone enjoyed a Social Evening at the December meeting. This began with an exercise session led by Polly. Games and competitions followed, and excellent refreshments were served.

On Tuesday 8th January, at 7.30pm, Bridget Hickey Williams will speak about her life on a smallholding. Visitors are very welcome, and help can be given with transport. Contact 01379 687337.

Lophams' Happy Circle

We met at South Lopham White Horse for a beautiful Christmas Lunch. We also had a Big Raffle. I think all the members enjoyed themselves. The next meeting will be on 14th February, when subs will be due. New members are welcome. Contact numbers are Daphne on 01379 687453 or Avis on 01953 681789.

Redgrave & Lopham Fen (for bookings phone 01379 688333)

Beginners Art Course - Experiments and exercises in how to draw and paint: Thursdays, 10am - 1pm. £22.50. Booking essential. **Botanical Illustration:** Wednesdays, 10am - 1pm, Jan 16th, Feb 6th, Feb 27. The course will cover a range of illustration techniques, the emphasis on botanical accuracy. £33. Places limited. **Make a Difference Day:** Saturday 19th January, 10am - 12 noon. Find out how you can help in our visitor centre or with our activities for children. **Dyes from Plants:** Wednesday 23rd January, 11am - 1pm. A talk and demonstration. £5, optional lunch £3 extra.

North Lopham Parish Council

Post Office Survey: Thanks to everyone who completed the survey form and 'posted' it



