

# THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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January 2009

## The Lophams' News

The Lophams' News is delivered to every house in the two villages. It's aim is to inform us all of what is to happen, and has happened each month, covering all activities. News items are therefore welcomed from every organisation, club or committee, which are of general interest. We thank all our contributors, and those who give such willing & practical help each month. The Editor and publisher is Mr S Milbourne, and our distributors are; in South Lopham - Mr R Carter, Mr R Demoore, Mrs S Frizzell and Mr S Milbourne; and in North Lopham - Mr C Berry, Mrs R Cook, Mrs D Green, Mrs J Keylock, Mrs J Tate, Mrs J Vere and Mrs T Vernon.

### Lophams' Village Hall

After the special Sunday Market for Christmas, **Farmers' Market** reverts to the fourth Saturday of the month in January (24th), 9am to 12.30pm. Bacon rolls will be on the menu throughout the winter months, plus toasted teacakes. New producers of local produce are always welcome - just call Mike on 01379 687235 for details.

**Judo** is one of our longest established classes, every Monday and Wednesday - trained by the Oates family, who have a string of international championships to their credit. 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 are held at the Hall on the third Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9pm, at a cost of just £4. Contact Eileen on 01379 687515 to find out more. **To Book the Hall** for private functions, please telephone 01379 687679.

### Lophams' Happy Circle

We had our Christmas Party recently at The White Horse. As usual, we had a beautiful meal. We now have a break until 12th February. If anybody would like to know anything about the Club please ring Avis on 01953 681789 or Daphne on 01379 687453.

### Samaritan's Purse - Shoebox Appeal -

Many thanks to all those who provided the piles of gaily decorated boxes for the children of Eastern Europe and beyond. They were all safely collected and have been sent off to their destinations in good time.

### St. Andrew's School

The whole school is moving into the end of term rush, with many activities going on

alongside the normal work in lesson time - craft surprises to take home and rehearsals for the Class 1 Nativity and the Carol Service. There are treats too - the staff joined the children for Christmas dinner in The Mess (it was a squeeze to get everyone in!) and they are all looking forward to going to the Hippodrome Show with their friends from Bressingham.

**The Nativity Play** was an absolute delight. The children had learned their words for both speaking and singing perfectly, and performed them like true professionals - no need for microphones for these young stars! The Juniors had helped Mrs Bushnell to make a wonderful set and scenery, and Mrs Gionis and her team had ensured that the costumes and props were just right. Thank you to them all for a such a memorable performance.

The St. Andrew's tradition of thinking about others continued this term when the children brought in loose change to "dress up" giant Pudsey Bears, managing to raise over £81 for **Children in Need**. We are very grateful to all those who donated coins and to the team who counted all the money.

St. Andrew's Day celebrations began early, with the **FOSTA Ceilidh** at the Village Hall. Lots of families joined in a very jolly evening. With the help of a generous raffle, the evening raised almost £100 for funds. The FOSTA team continued their efforts for the children by organising a Christmas Disco in school, and a Lucky Squares competition to be drawn before we break up.

After the last **Community Lunch** this term, our visitors were thrilled to be invited to see the Nativity Play. The first lunch of 2009 will be on Tuesday 20th. Do get in touch with Jennie, on 01379 687679, by the 16th if you would like to come along.

### St. Andrew's Pre-school

We have sessions available for children aged 2 or over, including those in nappies!

We are a small, friendly, playgroup, open Mon-Fri, 9.00am - 11.30am during term time, with lunch club spaces available on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday until 1.00pm. We also run a **Buggy Club** on Tuesday mornings for parents with under 2's from 10.30am - 11.30am. For more information please contact Gabi on 01379 688379.

### Norfolk Rural Community Council

**What do you want your community to be like?** Whether you want more affordable housing, a community shop, or simply more community activities, often it's down to local people to make things happen. However, developing and maintaining projects can seem daunting. Norfolk RCC is currently working to help community and charitable groups overcome the many challenges, whether with funding, business plans, expertise, or just a friendly ear. Contact Lucinda Leonard on 01362 698216.

### Redgrave & Lopham Fen (for bookings phone 01473 892430)

**A Future for Fen Raft Spider.** Wednesday 21st January, 11am-1pm. Hear about the exciting new plans being developed. £5, concessions £4. Booking essential. **Eye Local Group - Lakenheath Fen: The First Ten Years.** Tuesday 27th January, 7.30pm. £2.

### Little Ouse Headwaters Project

The AGM and Annual Talk on Thursday on 4th December saw many of our members and supporters come along to celebrate the LOHP's sixth year. The Chairman reported on another year of progress, with work well under way at Bleyswyck's Bank and Parker's Piece. During the year LOHP received over £180,000 for the restoration



project. This sum includes a Biffaward substantial grant of £40,900 towards the restoration of Parkers Piece and Bleyswycks Bank over the next two years. The project continues to be run on a totally voluntary basis and new members are always welcome. More information can be obtained from 01379 687680 or the website at [www.lohp.org.uk](http://www.lohp.org.uk)

## North Lopham Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday January 14th, in the Methodist Schoolroom at 7pm. Before the start of the formal Council business there will be a presentation by Breckland Council on 'Affordable Housing', and an opportunity to air your views and ask questions about how these housing schemes operate and help shape our policy for the future.

New bus stops have been installed by Norfolk County Council at each side of the road near The King's Head. The kerbing and paving is designed to make it easier for passengers to get on and off buses by effectively reducing the height of the step into the bus. Representatives of the Parish Council hope to attend a meeting being organised by the Transport Authority about the provision of a 'Flexible Bus Service' in the Old and New Buckenham area, similar to an apparently successful scheme operating around Watton. We hope to learn how these schemes work and whether there could be benefits from a similar scheme in this area in the future.

We were pleased to welcome our MP, Christopher Fraser, to perform the 'Official Opening' of The King's Head on December 10th. The kitchen has now had a full re-fit and food is being served at lunchtimes and evenings. The bottle bank has been installed. Please be considerate when you use it, to minimise inconvenience to passers-by, George and Angie at the King's Head (on whose land it is sited) and nearby residents.

After the Christmas and New Year break, work will re-commence on the sewerage scheme on January 5th. The only area of major disruption will be around Church Road / School Corner, where there will be prolonged periods of total road closure because of the narrow road and sharp bend. There will also still be some activity on other sites as the 'laterals' are installed and the pumping stations are completed.

## Message from Kay Wood

I would like to say a big thank you to all the kind people of North Lopham who were so

supportive when my husband John died. Also, for all the continuing help.

## North Lopham Methodist Chapel

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. The Chapel was full for the **Carol Service**, with the collection raising £206 for the National Children's Home. Services for January at 10.45am are;

- 4th January, Preacher Mr S Aspinal of Stanton.
- 18th January, Preacher Rev Edward Softley of Creting St. Peter

Everyone welcome.

## St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

All five churches of the Upper Waveney Benefice came together for two services on **Advent Sunday**. The Group Communion Service was led by the Revd Reg Dakin, with the Revd Ben Sasada as preacher. The Benefice Choir led the music and, because it was also St Andrew's Day, sang a special hymn written by the Rector last year, with music composed by Mrs Pip Jepson. An Advent Evening service was led by R Vere and the Home team, with readings and prayers by people representing the five churches.

The **Toy Service**, led by the Home Team on 7th December, the day after St. Nicholas' Day, saw a wonderful crowd of young and old, bringing a mountain of beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts. During the week these were delivered to Prospect House for the families cared for by Action for Children (previously known as the National Children's Home).

A **Service of Light** continued the Advent preparations for Christmas, led by the Revd Rob Mellowship, with contributions from many of the congregation. The rest of the seasonal special occasions will be reported next time.

The **Epiphany** will be marked by a special Family Service at 11am on 4th January, and our final **Carol Service** at 6.30pm on 11th. Do come along and join in singing more of the wonderful music for this time of year.

As always, we say a sincere thank you to everyone who has helped decorate the church so beautifully for Christmas. All the efforts are much appreciated. A Happy New Year to ALL!

**Help please:** We would be very grateful to anyone who would like to share in caring for the interior of our church, either by general sweeping & dusting, cleaning the brasses or arranging flowers. The more people who take a turn, the less onerous the jobs are. If you can help, please phone 01379 687679 to discuss the most convenient time. Thank You!

## St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

The "**Christmas**" **Coffee Morning** was very successful, with lots of visitors and a total of £256 raised for the church. The recent service for **Music, Praise and Worship**, for the young at heart, was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Thank you to everyone who has helped maintain St. Andrew's during the year, particularly those who arrange the flowers so beautifully, the team who clean, and those who cut the grass.

*A reminder for your diary;* Whilst Reverend Rob Mellowship is away on sabbatical, from New Year's Day to 31st March, Reverend Reg Dakin will be in charge. He can be contacted on 01379 641167.

We hope everyone has a peaceful Christmas with best wishes for the New Year.

## Services for January

| North Lopham        | South Lopham |
|---------------------|--------------|
| <b>4th January</b>  |              |
| 9.30am HC           | -            |
| 11am Epiph          | 11am HC      |
| <b>11th January</b> |              |
| 11am Fam S          | -            |
| Epiph Carols        | -            |
| <b>18th January</b> |              |
| 11am Fam S          | 9.30am HC    |
| <b>25th January</b> |              |
| 11am Fam HC         | -            |
| 6.30pm ES           | -            |

**CONTRIBUTIONS  
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE  
BY 18TH JANUARY  
PLEASE TO  
The Court, South Lopham  
or e-mail to  
[news@thelophamsnews.co.uk](mailto:news@thelophamsnews.co.uk)**