

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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Rural Projects Fund Grants Scheme

Grants of up to £1500 are available for small community projects in the area - Norfolk Rural Community Council has revised its Rural Projects Fund. Grants are now available for a maximum of £1500 to cover up to 75% of total project costs. Applications are welcome from community and voluntary groups whose projects benefit their local community. Groups need to demonstrate that local consultation has taken place and 25% Match Funding is required. For more information and an application form please contact Pauline High at Norfolk Rural Community Council on 01362 698216 or email Pauline@norfolkrc.org.uk

Types of projects that the fund has supported are:

- Play Areas and Play Equipment
- Village Notice Boards
- Creating and improving Wildlife Areas
- Information/Welcome packs for newcomers to the village
- Information Boards and Signs for Wildlife and Recreational Areas
- Leaflets to promote Local Walks
- Village Signs
- Bus Shelters
- Art Exhibitions and Family History Groups

Lophams' Ladies

Despite a bitterly cold snowy evening there was a very good attendance of members of Lophams' Ladies, and visitors, at the February meeting.

Dr Helen Smith spoke about Lopham Fen and the Little Ouse Headwaters Project. Her talk was accompanied by excellent slides and very much appreciated by everyone.

On Tuesday 6th March a talk about 'Dressed Dolls' will take place from 7.30pm at the Village Hall. The competition is a 'dressed wooden spoon'. Visitors are welcome. (Contact 01379 687337)

Lophams' Village Hall

Dance Classes continue each Sunday afternoon at the Hall and are suitable for beginners or experienced dancers. For further information please contact 01379 687679.

Spring Garden Fair - Book now if you would like a stall at the Garden Fair on Saturday 21st April, from 11am - 3pm. All commercial, private and charity stalls with any link to Gardens & Gardening will be welcome. For more details and a booking form please contact Eileen Jacob on 01379 687515.

New Classes in Prospect - EXTEND provides recreational movement to music for the Over 60s, and for the less able of any age. Polly, a qualified instructor, would like

to hear from anyone interested in coming to sessions at the hall on Wednesdays, between 9.30am and 11am. To find out more, please contact her on 01379 643 212.

Art Classes with a trained tutor are also possible. Occasional day-workshops can be tailored to suit the needs of the pupils. You choose the medium; beginners and improvers are equally welcome. If you are interested and want to know more, please telephone Rosemary Humphries on 01502 575 602 to discuss.

St. Andrew's School

A goodly contingent from St. Andrew's School joined pupils from across the diocese for the Education Sunday service in Norwich Cathedral on 4th February, and received high praise for their original, musical presentation of the story of Zaccheus. The theme of the service was the "Ultimate Makeover" - the change in Zaccheus being in stark contrast to the makeovers seen on television or in fairy tales. Our children also joined in the choral and orchestral items which featured in the service.

Music is very high profile in the rest of the term. On 8th March, the junior musicians will entertain the local Over Sixties Group, then on 23rd the second Partnership Concert featuring all the musicians from our school and Bressingham will take place in Diss High School hall - sure to be a smash hit event. Friends from the villages will be very welcome. Tickets can be obtained from the

school office (call 01379 687253).

The school building has been a hive of activity throughout the half term break, as work was completed in Class 1 to improve the children's access to the Outdoor Area, which is also to be developed. In addition, two of the classrooms, the library and the library corridor have all been painted. Grateful thanks to the volunteers who have worked alongside staff and pupils to move all the furniture & equipment back and forth, before and after the decorating. We are very lucky to have such a supportive community!

The children have enjoyed organising extra fund raising efforts recently. They held a 'red' day just before Valentine's Day, and look forward to Red Nose Day in March. As ever, many thanks to all those who save tokens and vouchers for us - new supermarket schemes are just beginning.....! And we would be very grateful for the covers of the old Yellow Pages or Phone books if you have yet to recycle your copies.

Parish Council Elections (REMINDER)

As stated in The Lophams' News last month, elections for both North and South Lopham Parish Councils will be held in May. Each of our Parish Councils has 7 members: on Thursday 3rd May there will



be a poll if more than 7 nominations are received. This could be your chance to get involved in your community! Official notices will be displayed in the Parish Council Notice Boards, but note that completed candidate nomination forms (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 and follow the menus to council > elections > elections diary.

North Lopham Parish Council

Great News! Our application for a grant from 'Awards For All' (a National Lottery Awarding Body) has been successful. We were awarded the full amount for which we applied (£2280). When added to the Parish Council funds already allocated this will enable us to buy fencing, seats, litter bin, notice board and a life belt.

Two working parties in January completed the task of spreading and levelling the soil, ready for seeding in the near future. If all goes well, we should have everything installed ready for an 'official opening' event in the early summer. Watch this space!

The Parish Council meeting on March 14th will make the final decision on exactly what will be purchased and where the items will be placed. Come along and see what is being planned!

A letter from Anglian Water has confirmed that the mains sewerage scheme is in the schedules for completion by November 2009, with 'detailed survey work' commencing in the next month or two. We have been informed by NCC Highways that the completion of the section of the footpath opposite the Church has been delayed by legal procedures necessary to secure the slight widening of the road, but we have been assured that the finance is still in place and the work will be done as soon as the formalities are completed.

The Parish Council is in regular contact with NCC Highways department to report problems with potholes, blocked drains etc. At this time of year the salt, frost and seemingly continuous rain causes particular damage to the road surfaces, so their workload is very heavy and not everything is done immediately. If you see a problem please report it to our Clerk (Mike Cox) or Vice-Chair (Jan Tate) and they will be able to pass on a message or update you on the situation. If there is a real emergency (fallen tree, severe flooding etc) contact Norfolk Highways direct on 0844 800 8009.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Preachers for March at 10.45am.

- 4th March,
Rev Edna Bugey of Diss.
- 18th March,
Rev Ian Griffiths of Harleston.

The Sing-a-Long raised £100, with a donation to Rev Young for Water Aid.

On 21st March a video of the Lophams' VE Celebrations 1995 will be shown at the Methodist Schoolroom, 7pm for 7.30pm, with raffle and refreshments. All proceeds for Chapel maintenance.

Lent Lunches

Lunches continue throughout March, on Tuesdays between 12 and 2pm, in homes in the village. 27th Feb - Cambria Cottage; 6th March - Brecklands; for venues thereafter please look at local posters or phone 01379 687679. Phone also if transport is needed and we will see that you get to each venue safely. All funds raised will go to the diocesan education project for Papua New Guinea, which has many links with Norfolk.

Buggy Club

"The Buggy Club" - for parents and children under three - continues to flourish, on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 10.30am in St. Nicholas' Church. During the sessions there is time for coffee and chat, music, and a simple story with linked picture. All parents in the local villages with tiny children are warmly invited to come and join in on 13th and 27th March.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, will be reported next time.

The Women's World Day of Prayer - to which men and young people are all welcome - is on Friday 2nd March. There will be a service in St. Nicholas' Church at 2.30pm with refreshments afterwards. Do come and share in the worship, devised by the women of Paraguay to include facets of their own distinctive culture and music.

Mothering Sunday is on 18th March. People of all ages are invited to join us at 11am to celebrate family life and the Special

contribution made by our own mothers, plus the importance of Mother Church for the Christian family.

Give God the Glory returns to North Lopham on 25th, at 4pm, with time for musicians to rehearse from 3pm. The lively songs and music are planned with the young in heart of every age in mind. It would be great to see YOU there!

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

If you would like to be more involved with church matters, please contact Monica Reeder on 01379 687273 by the beginning of April, to have your name added to the Electoral Roll for St. Andrew's. The Parochial Church Council is appointed from the electoral roll.

A coach trip is being organised to Lincoln on Saturday 5th May departing from Bressingham at 8am and returning by 6.30pm. Please contact Reverend Philip on 01379 642180 by 14th March if you would like to go. The price for the outing will be £14 per head which will include a conducted tour of the Cathedral.

Services for March

North Lopham South Lopham

4th March

9.30am HC	-
11am Fam Serv	11am MS

11th March

11am Fam Serv	11am HC
6.30pm ES	-

18th March

11am Mothers' Fam Serv	9.30am HC
	-

25th March

8.30am HC	-
11am Fam Serv	-
4pm G.G. the G.	6.30pm ES

**CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
BY 18TH MARCH
PLEASE TO
THE COURT
SOUTH LOPHAM**