

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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May 2007

Lophams' Village Hall

EXTEND (recreational movement to music for Over 60s, and less able young people). Polly's classes have started, on Wednesdays at 9.30am, with a good number attending. There could be a few more people so if you are interested please phone 01379 643212 for details. **Tea Dances** on Sundays from 2.30 to 4.30pm continue on the first Sunday each month. The next is on 6th May. New members of the group are always welcome. **Farmers' Markets** are on the fourth Saturday of the month starting at 9am. The next two meetings are 28th April and 26th May. All details from 01379 687235.

St. Andrew's School

The second Partnership Concert, presented at Diss High School by all the musicians of Bressingham and St. Andrew's schools, was another great success story. The individual instrumental groups showed their developing talents and the joint Choir and Orchestra items displayed a wonderful 'togetherness', even though they had only met once for a practice together. The capacity crowd applauded enthusiastically throughout, and enjoyed the audience participation. All proceeds from the raffle and refreshments will be ploughed back into the arts provision in the two schools. The last week of term was designated Arts Week. In addition to shared activities at the two schools everyone enjoyed close encounters with small 'wild' animals as they learned about their particular habitats and lives. The Infants were able to find out about some exotic fruits on their supermarket shopping trip, then afterwards in the classroom. The Juniors spent a day at Origins in the Forum at Norwich, and also produced a "Play in a Day" on an environmental theme. Parents benefit from the Partnership too! There have been joint workshops on using computers to help with literacy, and others focusing on reading and writing.

May brings the annual round of tests for most year groups, but the children are all encouraged to take them in their stride. The annual residential trip to North Norfolk is an exciting prospect for the oldest pupils later in the term, as is a whole school day at the Cathedral. This year's School Sunday service will be at Blo' Norton Church. We hope lots of parents will come along to support the children on 13th May at 11am.

Lophams' Ladies

The AGM was held at the April meeting. Mrs Sarah Frizzel, Chairman, spoke of the successful year and thanked everyone for their support. Committee members were re-elected en-bloc to serve for a further year. The speaker for the evening was Mrs Ann Topham, who gave an interesting talk about the British Red Cross. On Tuesday 1st May, Mrs Jane Woolman will speak about The Quakers at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. New members are very welcome. Contact 01379 687337.

Lophams' Playgroup

A big thank you to all who helped with our Easter fundraising event with over £300 raised. A special thank you to Sarah and Owen at the King's Head pub, who helped to sell tickets for our Easter Bunny Cake (brilliantly made by Jim Metcalf). "Guess the Name of the Easter Rabbit" winners were Harry Cox and Steve Cubley. A great day was had by all. Thanks for your support.

Playgroup opens every weekday morning from 9 - 11.30am (£5 per session), with Lunch Club 11.30am - 1pm (an extra £3.50). We have spaces for September. Come along and join us and have lots of fun. We are Ofsted inspected, a safe, friendly environment. For more information contact Cherilyn on 01379 688116 or Julie on 01379 687769.

Lophams' Baby/Toddler Group

We meet every Thursday (during term time) in The Mess (building in front of the school) from 2 - 3.20pm. Everybody welcome. We are a small, friendly group, with lots of toys and structured play from birth to 4½ years. Come along for a coffee and a chat. For more information please contact Cherilyn on 01379 688116.

Lophams' Happy Circle

It was a lovely day for our last meeting. We had a Bring & Buy which did a brisk trade and we also had a game of Bingo. We chose where we would go for the outings, with the first to Bay Tree Nurseries on 10th May. If anybody would like to join us on this outing, or would like to know anything about the Club, please ring Daphne on 01379 687453.

Redgrave and Lopham Fen (All enquiries & Bookings - 01379 688333)

Dawn Chorus: Saturday 5th May, 4 - 6.30am. See and hear the birds at their very best if you can get up! With Stephen Dean. Please wear stout footwear & waterproofs. Meet in car park. Booking essential. Adults £3, children £1, breakfast £3. **Enjoying Spring Flowers: Thursday 10th May, 1.30**

- **4.30pm.** A short talk followed by a gentle walk to discover spring flowers, with Stella Taylor, member of the Wild Flower Society and BSBI. **£5. An Introduction to Summer Birds: Thursday 17th May, 10am - 4pm.** Discover the wealth of summer visitors on the fen. With bird expert Paul Holness. Early booking advised. Adults £12. **The Natural World in Art: Saturday 26th - Monday 28th May, Saturday 2nd June and Sunday 3rd June. 10am - 5pm.** Show and sale of original art work by local artists. Entrance by donation.

North Lopham Parish Council

Six nominations for seats on the Parish Council had been received. This means that there is one seat to be filled to make up the total of seven. If you are interested in filling that vacancy please contact our Clerk, Mike Cox, on 01379 688355, as soon as possible.

The Annual Open Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 9th at 7.30pm in the Methodist Schoolroom. All residents are very welcome. This year, in addition to the usual report on the activities of the Parish Council, there will be reports from other groups in the village and, of course, the opportunity for YOU to raise whatever issue you wish to start a discussion or bring it to the attention of the Council. The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 16th May (again at 7.30pm in the Methodist Schoolroom). This will be the first meeting of the new Council and the AGM, at which Councillors will make their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and the Officers will be elected.

Work at 'Letchmere' is now well under way. The fencing has been erected, a very smart 'debris catcher' has been installed at the water outlet (thanks to David and Karen Simonds), planting is being carried out and, despite the unusually dry spell in late March and April the grass is beginning to appear. In mid-May there will be work to put down the base for the additional seat and the notice board. Hopefully all will be complete by the end of May. Thanks to all who have put up



with the inconvenience of the works and none-too-pretty sights over the last year. We hope you will agree that the final outcome will be worth it. We have appealed in the past for moderation in feeding the ducks. It is natural that children will want to feed small amounts of bread to the ducks at the pond, but there is all the difference in the world between feeding a few pieces which are eaten immediately and leaving huge quantities on the pond-side or in the water causing pollution or encouraging vermin. Please be considerate - all of our hard work trying to make this area of the village more pleasant will be undone if we continue to attract huge numbers of ducks. It is well documented that too many ducks stop plant and other wildlife in the pond and the nutrients left in the water from uneaten food and the duck excrement pollute the water and encourage the unsightly green appearance so often present in the summer months.

A notice has been put at the Kings Head Lane entrance to 'Back Lane', which runs along the rear of houses on the west side of The Street, asking residents not to dump garden waste and other rubbish there. As has been publicised recently, Breckland Council is taking a tough line on 'fly-tippers' - we would not wish to see any of our residents being prosecuted, so please take heed of the warning. Compost your green waste, use the 'Brown Bin' scheme or take it to the site at Snetterton!

South Lopham Parish Council

The resignation of Alan Howard from the Parish Council marks the end of an era. Alan has served the council for forty five years and has brought a wealth of experience to council meetings. His unrivalled local knowledge has been invaluable, particularly in planning issues in which he took a particular interest. Councillors will miss his calm and courteous presence at the meetings and wish him the very best for the future, which may well include the occasional phone call asking for help in unravelling a Lopham enigma!

Stop Press - The May Parish Council AGM and Village Meeting will now be held on **Thursday 17th May** at Memories at 7.30pm and not as previously advertised.

North Lopham Lent Lunches

Grateful thanks to all those who supported the bread & cheese lunches this year, enabling us to send a cheque for £288 to the Diocesan project to help the church in Papua New Guinea.

Benefice News

On February 1st 2007, the parishes of

Bressingham, Fersfield, North Lopham, Roydon and South Lopham were united into a new benefice - the Upper Waveney Benefice. The Revd Rob Mellowship was named as first Rector. He was formally instituted as Rector by the Bishop of Thetford and installed by the Archdeacon of Norfolk, at a service in St. Nicholas' Church. The local bell ringing team rang the eight bells, and the Choir, with members from each of the churches, led the music and sang a special anthem.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Services for May at 10.45am.

- 13th May, Preacher Mrs Rosemary Adams from Harleston.
- 27th May, Fellowship.

Everyone welcome.

Forthcoming Event - On 12th June there will be a Bun & Basket afternoon at 2.30pm.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

There were two services to celebrate **Palm Sunday**. The congregation assembled outside for the Holy Communion Service led by the Revd Philip Young, then progressed into the building carrying palm crosses which Rev Philip had blessed. **The Family Worship** service later in the morning was led by members of the Home Team and included a procession round the inside of the church, with everyone waving their palm crosses aloft as they sang "We have a king who rides a donkey". A special **Stations of the Cross** service outside on Good Friday morning was followed by an afternoon meditation at the foot of a fourteen foot cross mounted in the chancel.

Easter - The Church was transformed to its beautiful best for Easter Sunday. As darkness fell on Holy Saturday, a bonfire was lit behind the building, a sign of the return of the light of Jesus. The paschal candle was lit from this fire, for the first service of Easter. On **Easter Day** good congregations came to both services. The children shared in the morning Communion then had an Easter egg hunt round the building as refreshments were prepared. Evening Praise was a mix of well loved seasonal hymns and readings.

Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church, is on 27th May. Everyone is invited to the Party and Service at 11am, with cake, candles, balloons and some surprises. SEE YOU?? Please note the next **Give God the Glory** is at North Lopham at 4pm on 29th April - for the young in heart of ALL ages.

GOODBYE - We send best wishes to the Revd Philip and Anna as they leave us for a new challenge at St. Thomas' Heigham, in Norwich, with special thanks to Philip for all his enthusiasm and work among young people.

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

Revd Rob Mellowship is the first Rector of the new Upper Waveney Benefice, which comprises the five parishes of Bressingham, Fersfield, North Lopham, Roydon and South Lopham. The Annual meeting for the four parish United Benefice will be held in St. Andrew's School at 7pm on Thursday 26th April.

At the recent vestry meeting, Peter Reeder agreed to continue as Churchwarden for a further year, with help from Archie Wright. The PCC is very grateful to Archie for his extra assistance. Please note that the posts of Treasurer and Secretary are still to be filled.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the flowers over the Easter period and to Cynthia Huggins for the bacon rolls served for breakfast after the Dawn Chorus service at Redgrave and South Lopham Fen.

The next Coffee Morning will be at church on 2nd May at 10.30am.

Services for May

North Lopham	South Lopham
6th May	
9.30am HC	-
11am Fam Serv	11am HC
13th May	
6.30pm Evensong	11am MS
20th May	
11am Fam Serv	9.30am HC
-	4pm Conf.
27th May	
11am Pentecost	6.30pm ES
Birthday Fam Serv	

**CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
BY 18TH MAY
PLEASE TO
The Court, South Lopham
or e-mail to
news@thelophamsnews.co.uk**