

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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May 2008

Voluntary Norfolk

Voluntary Norfolk is delighted to announce that it has four new rural development workers who will be working with voluntary and community groups. Jo Maddocks and Vicky Potter will be operating in South Norfolk and are available to offer support, guidance and information on a wide range of subjects, such as funding for your group, project planning and running your committee. If you would like Jo or Vicky to visit your group please contact them on 01603 883844.

Lophams' Ladies

The April meeting was well attended, with the AGM taking place. This was followed by a demonstration by Mrs J Vere of a Polyphon, which played wonderful music on discs. Mr Edge will attend the May meeting to demonstrate and speak about his sausage machine. Visitors are very welcome. Contact 01379 687337.

Lophams' Ramblers

Several new members have joined our group and we continue to meet on the first Friday of the month. The programme is displayed at the bus shelter notice board or you can call Jackie Brown on 01379 687260 for further information. On Sunday 20th April a few of us walked Primrose Lane and raised £115 for Macmillan Cancer Support in Norfolk. Thank you to everyone who sponsored us.

Lophams' Village Hall

Spring Garden and Craft Fair - Following the popularity of last years Fair another has been arranged for Sunday 4th May at the Hall from 11am onwards. Music will be provided by the South Norfolk Youth Symphonic Band, and refreshments will be served. To book a stall, or for further information, please contact 01379 687515.

This year's **Annual General Meeting** will be on Friday 16th May at 7.30pm. All Lophams' residents are welcome to come and hear a summary of the activities of the last twelve months, and the plans for the future. There will be opportunities to ask questions and put forward ideas. It's everybody's Hall - so please do come along.

St. Andrew's School

May is the month in which all the national tests for primary children are carried out, so everyone is working especially hard now to be confident of doing the best they can All the other school activities continue alongside, of course - sport and athletics coaching, instrumental lessons and Rock

and Roll sessions, plus all the lunchtime clubs, so every moment is well filled!

There was a wonderful response to a letter to parents from the Eco team, asking for help with tidying the school grounds generally, and clearing the shrubbery between the playing field and staff room so that the ground could be prepared for a vegetable garden. Parents, grandparents and children working happily together for a whole Saturday afternoon made an amazing difference to the whole site. We look forward to the arrival of the necessary equipment for establishing the veggie patch in the near future, followed by the excitement of sowing seeds and watching things grow. Many thanks to FOSTA members and all those who helped on the day.

The Eco team was set up after the school accepted Revd Rob's challenge to take up a new, big venture, for 2008 and decided to become an Eco school. To succeed, we all need to be able to show that we are committed to caring for the environment - reducing, re-using and re-cycling materials where possible, using less carbon fuel and energy, not wasting water, using healthy foods with little packaging, walking where possible etc. And we are doing all this because we care for the planet, and want to sustain it.

Class 3 members hosted the second Community Lunch in April very professionally, and enjoyed meeting and talking to older local residents as they helped to serve their meals. The May lunch will be on 15th, the Thursday after the Church assembly. It would really help the catering team at the High School if we could let them have the number of lunches needed by the start of that week, so do please contact Jennie on 01379 687 679 by Friday 9th if you wish to come along. People from both Lophams' and Blo' Norton are welcome, but it is "first come, first booked", as numbers are limited.

There are collection tubs for all the current vouchers and tokens in the school entrance lobby - to help with "purchasing" books (Box Tops), Sports gear (EDP newspaper), PE and IT goodies (Supermarkets), so we

would be grateful for any vouchers/tokens that find their way to your purse or pocket - but please do not change your normal shopping habits; the school doesn't promote any one 'brand'!

Lopham Yard Sales

FOSTA, in association with the 'Yardbirds', welcomes you to Lophams' households Yard Sales on Sunday 18th May from 9.30am onwards. Let us know if you would like to join in. We will put up signs at each end of the villages nearer the date, all you have to do is sell. The Mess at the school will be serving teas and coffees, and there will be space available in the school playground for anyone not on the main street through the villages. Again we would ask for donations of 10% of your proceeds to be shared between Fosta's appeal for Playground Equipment for St. Andrew's School, and The Big C cancer centre, in honour of Sharon Teteris, one of the original 'Yardbirds' who died last September. Please contact Gillian Rednall on 01379 687225 or Tracey Umfreville on 01379 687516 to let them know if you would like to take part.

North Lopham Parish Council

The Annual Parish Open Meeting will be on 14th May starting at 7 pm (note the early time!) in the Methodist Schoolroom. All residents are very welcome. This is your meeting. Hear reports from various village organisations, have the opportunity to comment on what has (or hasn't!) happened, and make suggestions for the year ahead.

We were very relieved to hear that our Post Office was not on the list of closures announced in March. We will never know whether the evidence we gathered from the survey last November actually made any difference, but we would certainly have been very regretful if we had done nothing and we had been on the list! Thanks to all who completed the survey and told us how



much they valued the service. The battle may have been won, but the war is not over! In years to come there will almost certainly be other rounds of closures. To protect our service against future threats, USE IT ... OR LOSE IT!

The news of 'The Kings Head' is not so good. For some reason the pub was withdrawn from the auction on March 19th and, despite many efforts to make contact with the owners (Admiral Taverns) since then, we have not heard anything from them. At the time of submitting this item for publication the pub remains closed, but we have learned that it is for sale (as a pub) with a local agent and there is a 'For Sale' sign in the window. We hope for good news in the not-too-distant future.

Redgrave & Lopham Fen (for bookings phone 01473 892430)

Enjoying Spring Flowers: Thursday 8th May, 1.30-4pm. Stella Taylor will give a short talk, followed by a gentle walk around the fen, to identify the many varieties of spring flowers in this interesting habitat. £7.50. Concessions £6. Booking essential. **Introduction to Water Voles:** Thursday 15th May, 9.30am-12.30pm. Come along and learn about their ecology. £7.50. Concessions £6. Booking essential. **An Introduction to Summer Birds:** Wednesday 21st May, 10am-4pm. Led by Paul Holness, and aimed at beginners and the less experienced to help identify birds by song and sight.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Services for May;

- 4th May at 10.45am, Preacher Rev Colin Telfer of Diss.
- 18th May - Chapel Anniversary. 10.45am, Preacher Mr Roy Sayer of Diss. 6.30pm, Evening Service, Circuit Rally.

A warm welcome to all. On 27th May there will be a Bun & Basket afternoon at 2.30pm. Money raised will be used to help keep the Chapel open.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

On **Good Friday** the morning service considered the worldwide purpose of the Passion, and then the final hour from 2 to 3pm at the foot of a fourteen foot cross. A bonfire outside, in a swirling blizzard, provided the first light of Easter on Saturday evening; the Paschal candle was lit from the

flames and carried into the newly decorated church, to light all the church candles for the rest of the service. A well attended Family Easter Communion Service on Easter Sunday was led by the Rector, The Revd Rob Mellowship, after which the children enjoyed an Easter egg hunt round the building.

This year we enjoyed a beautiful Easter Garden made by the children of Class 1 at St. Andrew's School. Now that it has been returned, the Remembrance butterflies are mounted over a small 'traditional' scene. We now look forward to our Celebration of All that is England on St. George's Day on 23rd.

The Christian church celebrates its birthday at Pentecost on 11th May. At 11am there will be a Party Service for all ages with cake and balloons to celebrate. At 6.30pm the Party continues with a Music, Praise and Worship Service. Why not make a day of it and come twice??!!

The fund raising season is now gearing up:-
Starters and Sweets Evening: Friday 9th May in Lophams' Village Hall from 7.30pm. We hope to see many people from the villages and beyond to sample some delicious first courses and puddings prepared by our local team. There will be items for vegetarians, some for those watching their waistlines, and some suitable for those who must avoid sugar or gluten - truly something for everyone so we hope YOU will come along with your friends! White wine and soft drinks will be provided, plus coffee or tea. Anyone wishing for something more exotic is asked to bring their own. Tickets at £5 are available from church members, or by contacting 01379 687 679.

Friday Night is SNYSB Night returns to St. Nicholas' Church on May 23rd. The youngsters from the South Norfolk Symphonic Band return to North Lopham for one of the most fun-filled and exuberant evenings of the year, with a mix of tunes from films and London shows, plus music composed especially for wind bands. Do book the date and get your tickets in good time and be sure of a great evening out.

Advance notice: The Coffee Morning at Josie Gilbert's is on 4th June.

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

At the recent vestry meeting Peter Reeder and David Huggins were elected as Churchwardens. The PCC now has faculty agreement to carry out the initial exploration and our architect, David Lemon is currently arranging for contractors to start this work.

'**Holy Bingo**' welcomed new friends, including some younger people who were on school holiday. With the first strip at £1, thereafter at 50p, plus prizes and light refreshments, the afternoon was very enjoyable. The next session will be at the Village Hall from 2-4pm on 5th May and everyone is welcome.

The joint benefice AGM will be held at Bressingham School on 24th April, starting at 7.30pm.

Acknowledgment - The family of the late David Worby would like to thank everyone who so kindly sent cards, letters, messages of sympathy and donations for Botesdale Health Centre in memory of David. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

Friends of South Lopham Church

By now every house in South Lopham will have received a tube of Smarties and The Friends of South Lopham Church hope you enjoyed them. The whole exercise is to help raise money for the church and we would very much appreciate it if you could help by returning them full of 20p pieces as suggested. There is no time limit on this so it doesn't matter how long it takes you to pop the odd 20p into the tube, we just really hope you can find your way to doing so. Thank you in anticipation.

Services for May

North Lopham	South Lopham
4th May	
9.30am HC 11am Fam S	11am HC -
11th May	
11am & 6.30pm Pentecost	- -
18th May	
11am Fam S	9.30am HC
25th May	
11am Fam Com	6.30pm ES

**CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
BY 18TH MAY
PLEASE TO
The Court, South Lopham
or e-mail to
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