

# THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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November 2006

## The Lophams' News

From now on Mr Steve Milbourne, who has printed each issue since 1994, will become the Editor of The Lophams' News. Captain Mansbridge feels it about time to hand over to younger blood, having been responsible for the News each month since 1982. He is extremely pleased that Steve volunteered, having spent most of his life in North Lopham, and now in East Harling, even despite his heavy work load from being self-employed for the last 16 years. Leslie Mansbridge cannot thank enough those who deliver The Lophams' News, some from the start. Without their willing help it could not be the success that it is. And of course, to the contributors who have delivered their news by the 18th of every month, and he hopes will continue to do so, to The Court until further notice. Thanks are also due to our Parish Councils who, on your behalf, have contributed towards the cost of printing The Lophams' News, unchanged since 1994, which is more than can be said of the Council Tax!!

### North Lopham Trustees

Each year the Trustees award financial help to young people who have lived in the Parish for more than a year and are genuinely having difficulties with the cost of books, materials, or travel, for a course of study. If you have begun, or are soon to begin, a course and would like to be considered for financial help please write giving details to; The Chairman, Mr W Vernon, 43 The Street, North Lopham.

### Lophams' Ladies

We held an open meeting in October for the viewing of the film "Just Down the Lane Old Chap" and were delighted with the full house attendance. The excellent production is a great credit to Lopham and Kenninghall British Legion members. On Tuesday 7th November, Mrs Stella Taylor will speak about plants & flowers at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome. Contact: Sarah Frizzell on 01379 687337.

### Village Hall

#### Bonfire & Firework Evening Saturday 4th November

A Grand Firework display is planned, with the bonfire being on course for being the largest ever, commencing at 7pm. Hot food is available and the children's competition will be a picture of bonfire evening. There are two classes - 6 years and under, 7 years and over. Entries to the Hall by 7pm please.

### North Lopham Playgroup

The children have been learning "all about me" and have made life size pictures of themselves. They have also made a life size scarecrow picture by drawing around Sue, our play leader! We have been fundraising again by doing a sponsored walk and a Halloween disco. The money raised will buy some new books and a mobile bookcase, which the children can access at each session. We really appreciate families supporting us in our fundraising efforts and are always open to new ideas. At our AGM there were

some changes to our committee. Natalie Spurdens stood down as chair after a maximum of three years. Cheryl Wright has kindly stepped forward to take on the role and we wish her the best in the challenges ahead. Teresa Levingbird has taken on the role of Secretary as our previous Secretary, Donna Woodrow, has now been employed to work at the Playgroup. The group continues to thrive and on some days has a waiting list. If you would like to know more about the Playgroup, and/or our lunch club, contact Cheryl Wright on 01379 688116 or pop into The Mess, Monday to Friday, 9-11.30am, and speak to Sue, Tracey or Donna.

### Royal British Legion Kenninghall, Lophams & District Branch

The branch AGM will be held at the Red Lion, Kenninghall, on 20th November at 7.30pm. Will members please try to make a special effort this year to attend as two or more committee members will be standing down this year, including our chairman John Goddard, who for many years has been an outstanding and dedicated chairman. Without members participation the branch may close! Poppy collectors are required in South Lopham. If you have some spare time please help us with this worthy cause. Contact 01953 887533. Last year we collected £1655.58p - an excellent collection. Thank you all. On Friday 10th November a service of remembrance will be held at North Lopham war memorial. The branch standard will be joined by children from St. Andrew's school and a colour party from the American air base at Mildenhall. (*WJolly - Hon Secretary*)

### Redgrave & Lopham Fen (All Enquiries & Bookings - 01379 688333)

**Lunchtime Lecture - Captains Wood: Wednesday 15th November, 11am - 1pm.** Steve Aylward describes the importance of this reserve for wildlife and how the Suffolk Wildlife Trust plans to manage it. £4. Booking essential. **Volunteer Workshop: Saturday 25th November, 10am - 12 noon.** Do you like being outdoors? Are you

interested in wildlife? Do you enjoy working with people? No experience necessary. Phone Cathy Smith on 01379 688333. Come along and meet existing volunteers. Discover how we use the Fen for teaching activities. See behind the scenes of the visitor centre. Find out how volunteers are an integral part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust. **Lunchtime Lecture - Willow Growing and Basketry: Wednesday 6th December, 11am - 1pm.** Paul and Jen Read describe the many varieties of willow, their propagation and uses in basket making. £4. Booking essential.

### North Lopham Parish Council

**The Pond (Letchmere)** - The banks continue to dry out well, but there are still some very soft areas, so the netting and warning signs remain in place. Over the winter we will try to level the ground and add a layer of topsoil so that it can be seeded in early spring. An application for an 'Awards For All' grant is being prepared. If successful, this will provide barrier fencing for the edge of the pond, a seat, notice board, litter bin etc.

**Burial Ground Grass Cutting** - After about 2 years of good service keeping the Burial Ground tidy, Richard Vere has said that he wishes to stand down at the end of this season. If you might be interested in taking over the job of mowing the grass and occasional strimming around the gravestones, or if you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact the Clerk, Mike Cox, 01379 688355 for details of what is required. The Parish Council is able to pay a reasonable fee for the service!

**Hedges** - Just one more reminder to householders to ensure that overhanging hedges, brambles etc are cut well back from the footways before the really dark days of winter are finally upon us.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday November 8th at 7.30pm in the Methodist Schoolroom. All welcome!



