

THE LOPHAMS' NEWS

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October 2008

Lophams' Village Hall

Lophams' Quiz Night - A grand Quiz Night is planned for 11th October at 7.30pm. We hope for lots of teams from the villages (and beyond). Represent your organisation or just make up a group of four and come along. Admission £5 each, by ticket if possible (to help with catering, as supper is included), or on the door. There will be a licensed bar. Contact Jennie on 687679. **Lophams' Bonfire and Firework** evening is planned for **Saturday 1st November**. The bonfire must meet Health & Safety requirements - so only burnable garden waste is allowed. It can be brought to the field at weekends throughout October (anyone seen 'fly-tipping' will be prosecuted and Environmental Health inspectors can ban the bonfire if they find unsuitable materials at the site). **Ballroom Dancing** sessions continue at the Hall on the third Thursday of the month, from 7 to 9pm, at just £4. Contact Eileen on 01379 687515. **Farmers' Markets** are held on the fourth Saturday each month - from 9am to 12.30pm. New producers of local produce are always welcome - just call Mike on 01379 687235 for details. **Dog Training** is available once again, in small classes, on Tuesdays, initially from 6 to 7pm. Full details from Elaine Brown (trained Instructor) on 07845 776110. **To book the Hall for private functions please phone 01379 687679.**

South Lopham Village Society

A strong view was taken at the village meeting on 25th April that there ought to be more social activities in the community. As a result, this Society was established and a committee formed. It has been decided to hold the first function on Saturday 18th October in the Village Hall from 7.30-10.30pm. The occasion will consist of an evening of **Traditional Jazz** with "**The Waveney Dixieland Quartet**". The ticket price of £7.50 includes a Hog Roast or Vegetarian option. There will also be a fully licensed bar. We hope this event will be well supported as this promises to be a fun evening. Entry by ticket only, available from committee members on 01379 687593, 687490 or 687776.

Breckland District Council Outreach

The BDC Advice Team mobile office will visit the Village Hall car park for the last time this year on Wednesday 15th October, 10am until noon. The Team are very keen to meet people to discuss anything to do with housing, and would welcome YOU, so please don't be shy in coming. If transport is difficult contact 01379 687679 to arrange a lift.

Lophams' Happy Circle

The members had a lovely time on their last outing of the year, first to Bay Tree Nurseries, then to Springfields. The next meeting will be our Birthday Party at the Village Hall on 9th October, 5 for 5.30pm. If anyone would like to know anything about the Club please ring Avis on 01953 681789 or Daphne on 01379 687453.

Lophams' Ladies

Members and visitors recently enjoyed an interesting talk by Mr Quinten Spratt about **Peacocks**. Excellent slides accompanied

his talk, about both his own and other peafowl, and their origins. Our **Jumble and Car Boot Sale** was held on a fine afternoon with an excellent attendance. We would like to thank everyone who gave jumble, and those who supported the event. On Tuesday 7th October at 7.30pm, Mrs Mary Baxter will speak about **Archives in Rickinghall and District**. Visitors are very welcome. Contact Mrs Frizzell on 01379 687337.

Lophams' Ramblers

A slight change of plan as the walks for the next 2 months will be swapped, meaning the next one on October 3rd will be around the Lophams, starting from the bus shelter at 9.30am. If you would like to join us for the first time just turn up, or ring Jackie Brown on 01379 687260 for further information.

St. Andrew's School

It was a thrill to return to school and find completely new surfaces for the playground and car-parking areas, but disappointing that the work had been done too late in the holiday for the new play equipment and fencing to be installed. All those who worked so hard on fundraising over many months now wait eagerly for "their" items to appear, so that the children can access the outdoor curriculum and enjoy exciting activities at break times. As ever, the inside of the school provided a gleaming welcome to everyone. Thank you to Mrs Baker for all her hard work!

It was good to welcome Mr Simon East as headteacher, and we all hope that he will be very happy in our Partnership with Bressingham Primary. Two other familiar faces have joined us. Mrs Squirrel and Mrs Fortescue are well known to the children in Class 3, for which they are now sharing responsibility. We were pleased to welcome new pupils to all three classes and hope that Faith, Alfie, Archie, Charly, Joshua, Christina, Amber and Jade, plus Reception children

Louise, Jacob, Evie, Erin and Tommy will all soon feel at home in St. Andrew's and enjoy their time in our happy school. **Rock & Roll** has started again on Mondays, plus the various clubs and after school activities. The children look forward to welcoming friends from the villages to their **Harvest Festival Service**, in St. Nicholas' Church on Friday 3rd October, soon after 9am.

Community Lunches started again in style this term, with some new faces. The next is on Tuesday 21st October. Friends from any of our villages - North/South Lopham and Blo' Norton - are welcome to join the children at 12 noon, for a hot dinner with dessert and orange juice, all for £3.50. As places are limited it is 'first come, first served'. Please contact Jennie Vere (01379 687679) if you would like to come. Note: you can come more than once ... it shows you enjoyed the first time! Transport can be arranged, if required.

Redgrave & Lopham Fen (for bookings phone 01473 892430)

Owl Night - Fri 17th Oct, 6-8pm. Children £3, Adults £1.50. Booking essential. **Apple Day** - Sun 19th Oct, 10am-4pm. Bring an apple, pear, plum, quince or nut for identification. Apple bobbing, fruit tree sale etc. Adults £2, Children £1. **Find out about Volunteering** - Wed 22nd Oct, 2-4pm. No experience necessary. **Beasts of the Night** - Fri 31st Oct, 6-8pm. Halloween inspired activities. Children £3, Adults £1.50. Booking essential.

North Lopham Parish Council

At the Parish Council Meeting in September, the issue of speeding vehicles travelling through the village was raised. Our MP's campaign to get a 20mph limit around all schools has not yet produced a change,



but the Parish Council is to ask for SAM (Norfolk Police 'Speed Awareness Message') to visit the village to collect some data on traffic speeds. There were complaints (yet again!) about borders, hedges and overhanging trees obstructing the footpaths through the village. Please check that these are well trimmed to allow the full width of the path to be used - with plenty of headroom. In a recent incident a member of the public received a nasty cut very near to his eye from a trailing blackberry runner. Please do your best to ensure that similar accidents do not happen again by trimming your own hedges and, if necessary, reporting a problem to the Council, who will approach the householder to pass on the concerns of residents.

Interest continues in the provision of 'affordable housing'. We hope that representatives of Breckland Council and the housing providers will be able to attend our next meeting, on November 12th. Details in the next News.

Work on the sewerage system is now well underway. The depot on Meadow Farm will cause some disruption for the next few months, but we have received an assurance from Breckland that a condition of its use is that the land must be returned to agricultural status at the end of the contract period (March 2009).

South Lopham Parish Council

The council's views on the LDF Sites Specific document have been submitted; councillors felt it was wise to keep opportunities for development in the village open by asking for the Church Road site to be included within the village settlement boundary, but there are no other changes. The council also asked that any future development within Breckland be on 'brownfield' sites and not 'greenfield'. Views both for and against the suggested Church Road footpath and A1066 crossing have been received. These will be of course be taken into consideration as the possibility of both are explored further. The viability of moving the 30mph limit at the Diss end of the village is also being investigated and the views of those in favour of the limit also being extended further along the B1113 were noted. Contractors will again be asked to remove their signs from our verges and the poor state of recently resurfaced roads will be reported to Breckland.

The council is aware that the Village Hall Committee is looking for volunteers to help in checking all rubbish delivered to the field for the bonfire - helpers should contact their secretary on 687515. The council would like to thank volunteers from North Lopham for opening up a large part of Primrose Lane, thus improving accessibility for all.

Councillors were saddened to hear of the death of the Lord of the Manor. It is understood that the title now passes to her nephew.

North Lopham Methodist Chapel

Harvest Festival Services held last month resulted in £286 for Chapel Funds. Services for October at 10.45am; (*everyone welcome*)

- 5th October, Preacher Mr Aspinall of Stanton.
- 19th October, Rev Colin Telfer of Diss.

St. Nicholas' Church (North Lopham)

Ryan Lewis in Concert, with Anastasia Tchernikova was a fantastic occasion - delightful piano music, beautifully played, and with an appreciative audience. Even the weather was kind! Although all the music was classical, there were familiar tunes from their use in films or television series. There was time to chat during the supper break and some lovely raffle prizes to win just afterwards, and finally the news that there could be a seasonal concert in December! The £508 raised was shared - half to our soloists, half to the church. Thank you all.

The **25th Anniversary Sponsored Bike Ride** brought some lovely visitors to the church, plus a large team of bell ringers from Herfordshire, who all enjoyed their visit.

Songs of Praise on Sunday 12th October at 6.30pm - Everyone from the village and beyond is warmly invited to choose a favourite hymn, then come along and sing it with us in the usual Evensong slot. Tell one of the regulars what you would like, or pop into church and sign the list there, so that we can be sure to have the right words and music ready. As always, there will be coffee afterwards and time to chat with each other.

North Lopham's **Pet Service** has been postponed to 19th October at 11am. All pets, especially rabbits & chickens from next door, or new kittens and their owners, are warmly invited to a short informal service (but Rob isn't very keen on tarantulas!).

St. Andrew's Church (South Lopham)

Both **Harvest Services** were well attended and St Andrew's had been decorated for the Festival. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the church look so lovely. Come along, with your teddy bear, to St. Andrew's on the afternoon of **Sunday October 12th**

for the annual **Teddy Bear's Picnic**. The afternoon starts at 2pm and as the tower will be open, you will have the opportunity for some wonderful views. Please make a note in your diary for a **Coffee Morning**, with a taste of Christmas, on Wednesday 26th November, 10am to noon. Light refreshments and mince pies will be served and, as always, there will be plenty of home-made produce for sale. Do come and bring your friends, or make new ones.

It is unlikely now that work on the roof will start before April next year. There is no further news on the renovation project, as the PCC are awaiting tenders and a date for the supply of tiles.

Friends of South Lopham Church - At the recent AGM of the 'Friends' it was agreed it would be nice to announce the following:- The Friends of South Lopham Church are in a position to guarantee £35,000 towards the Restoration Fund. There has been a lot of hard work by a lot of people over the years to raise this sum and 'The Friends' would like to thank all those involved. This couldn't have been achieved without all your support at the various events over the years; we would like to say a big thank you. We will continue to help raise money, as such a beautiful church as ours takes a lot of looking after and will continue to, even after the restoration. For a time, whilst the restoration works goes on, we won't be in a position to use the church, but hopefully we will see you again at the occasional fundraising event wherever it may be held. Thank you once again.

Services for October

North Lopham South Lopham

5th October

9.30am HC 11am HC
11am Fam S -

12th October

11am Fam S -
6.30pm S of Praise -

19th October

11am Fam Pet S 9.30am HC

26th October

11am Fam H Com 6.30pm ES

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