



**SAINSBURY  
CENTRE**  
for Visual Arts

**Little Ouse Headwaters Project in partnership with the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **The LOHP Creative Group Exhibition 2013**

**Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 October**

11am - 4pm

at Lophams' Village Hall

**Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 October**

11am - 4pm

at Thelnetham Village Hall and Blo' Norton Village Hall



*Hinderclay Fen*, Rosemary Humphries



*Chaffinch Nest*, Sheila Tilmouth

**The Little Ouse Headwaters Project and the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts are pleased to present the results of an 18 month-long creative project, which celebrates the landscapes and wildlife of the upper valley of the Little Ouse river, at the borders of Norfolk and Suffolk.**

Three exhibitions are being held over the weekends of 19 and 26 October featuring painting, sculpture, textiles, photography, illustration, and writing inspired by the valley, the source of the river and the tiny details that make it a unique place.

Dedicated to the restoration, conservation and promotion of enjoyment of the wildlife and landscape of the Little Ouse valley on the Norfolk / Suffolk borders, the LOHP is focused around the headwaters of the River Ouse, in the villages of Blo' Norton, Garboldisham, Hinderclay, North & South Lopham, Redgrave, and Thelnetham.

In partnership with the Education & Research Department at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, the LOHP formed a creative group with the aim to celebrate the Little Ouse valley through art, writing and performance. Members of the group have been creating works inspired by the fascinating and unusual landscape and nationally rare species of the area.

On Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 October at Lophams' village hall, the exhibition will present work in

watercolour, oil, textile, ceramic, wood, and printed text, which celebrates the subtlety of this quiet landscape, its soft colours, and the beauty and range of the local species.

A highlight of the exhibition will be a mixed-media collective artwork, the *Little Ouse Species Wall*, depicting the rich and diverse flora and fauna in the area, including the marsh fragrant orchid, meadow buttercup, water mint, adder and barn owl.

At Thelnetham Village Hall, (Sat 26 & Sun 27 Oct), the exhibition will focus on textiles, nettles and new enterprise, drawing on the linen industry that was produced in Lopham for several centuries. Loans from local collections relating to the industry and texts on Lopham Linen will be on display, as well as research and explorations by the group with materials found locally to make paper, thread and dyes.

The exhibition at Blo' Norton Village Hall (Sat 26 & Sun 27 Oct), will feature photography and writing produced in response to the local landscape drawing on folklore, geology and heritage as well as highlighting the tiny details of the fens.

The exhibitions will all feature contemporary artworks for sale as well as historical artefacts relating to the creative work the group have been doing. There will also be an exciting programme of readings, live music and performances presented on both weekends, including a special verbatim theatre piece by Diss High School students inspired by the LOHP Oral History collection. Please see [www.lohp.org.uk](http://www.lohp.org.uk) for further information.

**For further information and images, please contact:**

**Liz Ballard, Project Coordinator**

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Website: [www.lohp.org.uk](http://www.lohp.org.uk) / [www.scva.ac.uk](http://www.scva.ac.uk)

Funded by:



**Fact Sheet**

The LOHP Creative Group Exhibitions

Opening times: 11am – 4pm.

Admission: Free

**Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 October  
at Lophams' Village Hall**

Lophams' Village Hall  
Church Road (between North Lopham and South Lopham)  
Norfolk IP22 2PL

**Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 October  
at both Thelnetham Village Hall and Blo Norton Village Hall**

Thelnetham Village Hall,  
School Lane (just off Hopton Road)  
Thelnetham  
Suffolk IP22 1LD

Blo' Norton Village Hall  
Middle Road (near Thelnetham Road)  
Blo Norton  
Norfolk IP22 2JA

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Press Contacts

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Little Ouse Headwaters Project

The project is a registered charity, established in 2002 by local residents keen to take practical action to help protect and restore threatened aspects of the local landscape and its wildlife. It is located on the Norfolk/Suffolk border at the headwaters of the Little Ouse River (which forms the county border).

The LOHP is a community-based, volunteer run project – it is managed by a Board of Trustees drawn from the local area. We currently manage 65 hectares of land adjacent to the river. Our overall aim is to encourage the creation of a continuous corridor of land along the headwaters of the river that is managed in a way that benefits wildlife and people, and helps to preserve the character of the local landscape.

The upper Little Ouse valley contains sites of local, national and international importance for wildlife, most notably the small remaining fragments of valley fen. Some of the sites we manage are protected by conservation designations (national – Site of Special Scientific Interest, or European – Special Area of Conservation)

We are committed to increasing public access and enjoyment of the project area by creating new footpaths, providing guided walks, and encouraging people to become involved in the project as volunteers.

Since 2002 we have raised over £1m to support land acquisition, habitat restoration and management, and public access improvements and interpretation on our sites. We have been funded by a very wide range of charitable trusts and received major grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the EU, Natural England, Biffaward, the Tubney Charitable Trust and Plantlife, as well as funding from Defra's Environmental Stewardship schemes.

In 2010 we were awarded a £370,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant for a 3 year project "Conservation and Learning in the Upper Little Ouse Valley". This has enabled us to undertake a range of activities in addition to wildlife conservation, including education work with a local school, heritage walks, newsletters, photography, volunteer training, and a significant collaboration with the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts to establish a Creative Group, drawing artistic inspiration from the valley.

The LOHP has won a number of national and regional awards for its work. Further information about the project can be found on our web site: [www.lohp.org.uk](http://www.lohp.org.uk)

Email: [enquiries@lohp.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lohp.org.uk)

Chair: Jo-Anne Pitt Tel. 01379 898684 or 07919576513

Hon. Secretary: Pete Fox Tel. 07500044587

Registered office: Waveney Cottage, Redgrave Road, South Lopham, Diss, Norfolk. IP22 2JN

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In the area

The Little Ouse Headwaters area has many attractions. There are fascinating and unusual landscapes, geological features and wildlife, as well as many historic buildings. To fully appreciate the area you can download walking and cycling maps from the website, [www.lohp.org.uk](http://www.lohp.org.uk). If you plan to stay for longer there is plenty of high quality accommodation and a good choice of places to eat in the area.

#### **Local pubs**

The White Horse, Thelnetham. Tel: 01379 898298

The Cross Keys, Redgrave. Tel: 01379 898510)

The White Horse, South Lopham. Tel: 01379 687252

The Kings Head, North Lopham. Tel: 01379 688007

The Red Lion, Kenninghall - also offers accommodation. Tel: 01953 887849

The White Horse, Kenninghall - also offers accommodation. Tel: 01953 888857

#### **Local Farmers Market**

A Local Farmers Market supplying locally grown and organic food, will be held at Lophams' Village Hall on Saturday 26 October, 9am - 12am.