

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
JULY
2014



Summer in Lopen



Mute Swans are rearing three cygnets on a Lopen pond. Pictured is the cob with the three young swans. His mate is nearby.

Teddy Bears' Picnic
Saturday 19th July
12.30 - 2.30pm
close to the Schoolroom



An opportunity for you and your Teddy or other favourite toy to meet, play and eat with others - please bring a picnic. There will be a Treasure Hunt. Parents and grandparents welcome. More information from Felicity (Erica & Laurence's Mum) on 249 231 or from Angela on 240 921.

Children's Art Summer Workshops



Workshops for children of any age will be held in the Schoolroom over the summer. The first will be from 2.30 - 4.30pm on Saturday 2nd August. There will be no charge. Further information from Angela on 240 921.

SEE SOMERSET ART WEEKS
on page 3
to see where the Children's
work will be displayed.



The Parish Council reports back...

Lengthsman Scheme (*Nicola Norman writes:*)

The six parishes forming the South Petherton Lengthsman Scheme met on the 2nd June to discuss the way forward following the resignation of David Ogilvie, the scheme's lengthsman. Unfortunately, the scheme will not continue after 1st August 2014 and each member Parish will have to make alternative arrangements. For Lopen, it may prove difficult to find a contractor with the training (for Highways etc.) and equipment on the basis of 2.5 hours work per week. We are looking at various options which include entering into a contract with the District Council-run Parish Ranger scheme and teaming up with adjacent smaller villages to form a larger, more commercially attractive contract. It may be that we will face a period without any contractor in place with some obvious consequences. Please be patient, we will resume normal service as soon as possible. Finally, I am sure we would all agree, David has done a great job in keeping our village in good shape over the years, often going above and beyond to deliver work that went largely unseen. David will surely be missed, and we wish him good luck and every success in his new job.

First Aid Sessions (*Barry Davolls writes:*)

Last month I stated that Lopen PC was to fund some form of basic first aid/life saving session with details to follow. As luck would have it, the Just Women group had already been making enquiries along the same lines thus presenting a perfect opportunity for both parties to work together in this respect. Subject to formal agreement on both sides, it is proposed that the Just Women group take the lead role with the Parish Council providing funds and any other support that may be required. Separate sessions specifically relating to the use of the defibrillator will be delivered by the Parish Council. All dates and times (yet to be agreed) will be published in due course.

Traffic Calming (*Barry Davolls writes:*)

Our gentle reminder last month for opinions and ideas relating to traffic calming through the village produced a few more responses. I will collate the various comments and ideas over the next few weeks and publish them on the Lopen Website. In short, the majority of responses favour a reduction in the speed limit to 20 MPH along with some road markings, rumble strips and better signage. The next step is to relay the detail gathered to our County Councillor with a view to meeting with the Highways team to consider workable solutions for further consideration by all concerned.

Traffic (*Teresa Sienkiewicz writes:*)

The Parish Council has received a number of complaints and indeed, members have themselves identified very large lorries using Holloway. A formal complaint has been made to one company whose enormous truck came down the hill and reversed into Frog Street, causing traffic chaos, before going back up the hill. We pointed out that there is only a short stretch of pavement and some of the houses have front doors opening on to the road, so large vehicles pose a serious threat to pedestrians and residents. I have been in contact with the Community Support Officer with a view to finding out the extent of the problem in other villages and what is being done to deter HGV drivers abusing weight limits. We have also drafted a model letter which you can download from the Lopen PC page of the village website (<http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk/>) to report sightings of vehicles which you think are using Holloway in defiance of the 7.5 ton limit. The other problem we have is excessive speed. A number of us have experienced being overtaken whilst travelling at a steady 30mph or have noted vehicles tearing through. Please submit your complaints to Ceara, our community support officer, whose e-mail is ceara.sturt@avonandsomerset.police.uk. Alternatively you can call Barry, Stephen or Teresa. Your reports will help build a case for something to be done to try to resolve these issues before we have a serious accident.

The Local Plan (*Teresa Sienkiewicz writes:*)

The planning inspector held further hearings on the South Somerset local plan 10th-13th June 2014. We had already sent in comments and took the opportunity to make oral representations to the inspector about the complete absence of justification for SSDC's proposed allocation of employment land to the various settlements, and that in fact there is already a huge excess of employment land in the district.

As you will see from the above, Lopen Parish Councillors will now share this page of reporting back which hitherto has been the sole responsibility of Parish Chairman Barry Davolls.

Do visit our superb village website for full information about matters affecting our small community. (Ed.)

www.lopen.btck.co.uk

Sept 20th - Oct 5th



Artists' Studios Open to Visitors in Church Street, Lopen -

Photography & Jewellery
at Lopen Farm House

Printmaking & Paintings
at Denman Cottage

*and in the Schoolroom there will be the artwork
made by children at the Summer Workshops
advertised on the front page and at home.*

**Refreshments will be available in
the Schoolroom at weekends.**

Please collect a leaflet from the church porch
for further details.



Lopen Churchyard

ROUTINE CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

A small team of volunteers maintain the churchyard and one or two more helpers are needed. Offers of help now and again, please, to Mike Constable 240 912 or Angela 240 921.

WORKING PARTY SATURDAY 9th AUGUST

One of the social highlights of summer in Lopen is the Church, Churchyard and Schoolroom working party and the Ploughperson's Lunch that follows. There is a wedding on August 23rd and we need to have everything ready.

Should you be able to join us on the 9th, or perhaps able to do something before then, a list of jobs to be tackled will be on the notice board in the church porch. Further information from either Mike or Angela at the numbers shown above.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

THE POLICE ADVISE...

"NEVER give anyone calling details of your bank card or divulge your pin number."

"If you are unsure of anyone asking you for details, we would advise you to be overly cautious. There are some simple but effective measures people can take to minimise the risk of becoming a victim of scams that can cost you dearly."

If a caller asks for card details, or your pin number, contact either your bank or the police, but don't use the telephone number given to you by the caller to check their credentials. Either use numbers given on a reputable website or in the yellow pages. Before you make the call, either use a different telephone or wait for a dialling tone to ensure the bogus callers are not still on the line.

If you have any information about any financial scams or suspected crimes, or you wish to report that you have become the victim of a financial crime, you can contact Action Fraud. They provide a central point of contact for information about fraud and financially motivated internet crime. If you've been scammed, ripped off or conned, there is something you can do about it. Call them on 0300 123 2040 or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk If you have information about any crime, phone the police on 101 or you can call anonymously to the independent charity CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111. For general information about Neighbourhood Watch nationally see the website www.ourwatch.org.uk." *from Martin Howells*

We are sending out an early reminder concerning "SHOE BOX" collection. As you may or may not know, we ask you to fill a 'shoe box' with Christmas goodies for children less fortunate than ours. Anyone interested please contact Sally-Ann on 241765 or Liz Hider on 240088.



Guests are
always welcome.
Further information from
Andrew Kearney
240 287

TUESDAY 17th JULY
Meet at 2.00pm
at Chard Museum

A visit to
CHARD MUSEUM
with an introduction by a
Museum Guardian.



Lopen JUST WOMEN

For further information
please call
Margaret Linton
Tele 241 162

TUESDAY 8th JULY
Meet 3.15pm

at the
WILLOW & WETLANDS CENTRE,
STOKE St. GREGORY
for a tour starting at 3.30pm

Coates English Willow
growing willow since 1819



CONTACTS Village website <http://lopen.btck.co.uk>

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Barry Davolls	242 297	b.davolls.lopenpc@btinternet.com
Vice Chairman	Nicola Norman	240 458	n.norman.lopenpc@btinternet.com
	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
	Teresa Sienkiewicz	241 363	tslopenpc1@btinternet.com

Parish Clerk	Kim McDonald	242 297	mcdonald.lopenpc@btinternet.com
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DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Barry Walker	242 894	barry.walker@southsomerset.gov.uk
Cllr Paul Thompson	240 510	paul.thompson@southsomerset.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Christopher Le Hardy	01935 850 212	clehardy@somerset.gov.uk
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MEMBER of PARLIAMENT

The Rt Hon David Laws	01935 423 284	david.laws.mp@parliament.uk
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ALL SAINTS CHURCH Benefice Office 73226 Issy Welsh
Rectors Rev. Julia Hicks, Rev. Bob Hicks 76406
Churchwarden Angela Naunton Davies 240 921

Services are listed on the Church noticeboard

LOPEN HISTORY GROUP

Chairman	Joan Farris	242 254	joanfarrisuk@googlemail.com
Archivist	Nigel Potts	240 369	nigelpotts@talktalk.net

JUST WOMEN

Chairman	Lynn Benfield	929 205	lynn.ian@virgin.net
Treasurer	Zena Morgan	77259	zenam1@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary	Margaret Linton	241 162	margaretlinton79@yahoo.com

POLICE CSO

Ceara Sturt	101 and ask for PCSO 8340 ceara.sturt@avonandsomerset.police.uk
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Martin Howell	241 765	samhowell2@talktalk.net
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LOPEN EYE

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COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM

**PARENTS WITH YOUNG
CHILDREN WELCOME**



in July

Wednesdays **9th & 23rd**
10.30 until 12.00 midday.
Only £1 for a hot drink
(and refill) plus a slice
of home-made cake.

*The views expressed in Lopen Eye
are not necessarily those held by
Lopen Parish Council and its
members*