

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
DECEMBER
2013



Lopen Parish Council and
the Lopen Eye team
wish all villagers a
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

MISTLETOE FAYRE A HUGE SUCCESS - RECORD SUM RAISED

The Fayre held on 16th November raised a new record total of **£1,889** and, accordingly, Help for Heroes and the Philippines Disaster Appeal have each received a little over £944. The Church, which normally receives half, donated its share to help the people of that devastated part of the world.

Said delighted PCC Treasurer Mike Constable...

"A special thank-you to Fayre Organiser Ian Benfield and his team, not forgetting Santa Claus, who ran the stalls, sold the raffle tickets, baked the cakes and collected, sorted and priced all the goodies. The result was a highly successful morning which will help many people. Many thanks also to all who came and supported the Fayre by buying goods and raffle tickets."



Erica and Laurence Goldsmith with Dad Ben of Cross Tree End meet Santa Claus aka Steve Crane at the Mistletoe Fayre.



Visitors from Gloucestershire Elvira and Marcus

ALL SAINTS CHURCH at CHRISTMAS



8th DECEMBER 3pm

Children's Christmas Workshop, an afternoon of fun preparing for Christmas with tea.

19th DECEMBER 7pm

Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

25th DECEMBER 10.30am

Christmas Communion

29th DECEMBER 10am.

Benefice Communion

Lopen Eye is sponsored by Chris Pitcher, who can provide all your gardening and home decorating needs, call 01460 240 506 or 07714 631 007. Also Autohouse Cars. If the car you want is not in stock, I will be able to find it through my used car locator service.

Parish Chairman Barry Davolls reports back...

Local Gritting



With winter fast approaching, it has been confirmed that for Lopen, the only roads on the highways winter maintenance salting network are Harp Road and Holloway from Lopenhead roundabout through to Merriott. As in previous years, Lopen PC have been allocated 10 bags of road salt to make available for public use as required within the village. Once collected, we will distribute bags around the village and publish locations on the Lopen website and notice board. If you have any specific requests for road salt, please let me know.

Highways

Following a sustained period of pressure from both the Parish Council and local residents, and with the assistance of our County Councillor Christopher Le Hardy, Highways have finally agreed to carry out surface repair works to the Snapant S-Bend and just beyond, into the village. Contractors have been instructed to carry out the work to be completed at any time over the next 3 months. It is encouraging to note that orange road markings have been used to identify the areas to be repaired, but we do not yet have a start date. Several other local Highways matters remain ongoing without any agreed action. We will keep the pressure up, and keep you informed.

Parish Council Vacancy

Apart from one expression of interest that we intend to pursue, we have no actual applications to consider for the vacant position of Parish Councillor. If you wish to find out more or apply, please contact me as soon as possible. Details of the duties involved are published on the website.

Local Plan

South Somerset District Council has just announced the next stage for its recently stalled Local Development Plan. Main modifications to the plan have been agreed by full Council and these will be the subject of a further public consultation starting 28th November 2013 and ending on the 10th January 2014. The main modifications relate to the Gypsy and Traveller provision, the Yeovil Sustainable Urban Extension – reduction in size, inclusion of a second Sustainable Urban Extension site to the North East (Primrose Lane / Mudford), direction of growth at Ilminster – change from South East of town (Shudrick Valley) to South West (Canal Way), and amendments to the additional employment land provision required for Wincanton, the local market towns, rural centres and rural settlements.

Seasons Greetings!

The Councillors of Lopen Parish Council thank you for your support over the last year and wish you all, your families and friends a happy, safe and secure Christmas and New Year.

In the event of emergencies over Christmas period please refer to the website page at www.lopen.btck.co.uk/ Lopen Parish Council / In Case of Emergencies, which carries emergency contact names and numbers.



.and looking forward to next spring and summer

The Longstock Park Water Garden
“the finest water garden in the world”



We have the opportunity to make a private tour of Longstock Park Water Garden in Hampshire (just north of Stockbridge) next year. Longstock is considered by the International Water Lily Society to be the finest water garden in the World. In May it features azaleas and rhododendrons, June/July primulas and astilbes, July/August water lilies and September its autumn colours. Although the gardens are open to the public one Sunday a month in aid of charity, I could organise a private tour at a cost of £8 per person, minimum 8 people, if enough people are interested. Apart from the Water Garden, the Plant Nursery and Farm Shop with catering facilities are very nearby and fuller information is available on www.longstockpark.co.uk. If you are interested in visiting, please contact me on 01460 249 549. *Thank you, Mary Chapman*



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Seasonal Warnings

1. When out shopping put any purchases in the car boot out of sight of prying eyes. Make sure your car is locked.



2. Recently we have had reports of theft from premises when the door has not been locked. At night do a check and make sure all doors and sheds are locked and secure.

Remember criminals can only succeed when you make mistakes. Be clever and spoil their Christmas. *Martin Howell*

Christmas
“shoe-box”
Appeal



A heart-felt thank-you to those who responded to the appeal - enabling Lopen to contribute boxes to the consignment being shipped from Merriott.

Sally-Ann



FAIRTRADE goods will be on sale at the **COFFEE MORNING** in the Schoolroom on **WEDNESDAY 11th DECEMBER.**

RAINFALL REPORT by *Jeremy Rook*



I recorded 159 mm in October, more than twice the Long Term Average, and the wettest October since 2002 for me. The Environment Agency's figures are similar although averaged over the whole of the South West it was the wettest October since the year 2000.

Rainfall for the 10 months of this year to date at 607mm is only 23mm short of the LTA for the 10 months - so the dry Summer is fast receding in the rear view mirror

Please Note:
The next Lopen Eye will be the February edition.



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

TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER
at 7.30 in the Schoolroom

Pauline Rook to speak on
*The Interesting Life of a
Somerset Rural Photographer*

Members, guests and visitors are all most welcome. Admission £3 members, guests £3.50, to include a mince pie, a glass of mulled wine and a raffle ticket.



Lopen JUST WOMEN

For further information
please call
Margaret Linton
Tele 241 162

TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER
at 7.30 in the Schoolroom

Elvie Leam
leads a hands-on workshop
*Making a
Christmas Table Arrangement*



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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Martin Howell	241 765	samhowell2@talktalk.net
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LOPEN EYE

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COFFEE MORNING at the SCHOOLROOM



in **DECEMBER**

Wednesday **11th**

10.30 until 12.00 midday.

Only £1 for a hot drink
(and refill) plus a slice of
home-made cake.

There will be a **FAIRTRADE**
stall in the Schoolroom
on this day.

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