

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
DECEMBER
2012



THE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL



**Lopen sent off 24 shoe boxes
plus a bag of toys.**

*"This is a fantastic effort. Thank you all very much."
Sally-Ann*



Christmas Services at All Saints, Lopen

Sunday 9th December at 11am
Family Communion with Nativity and Christingle

Thursday 20th December at 7pm
CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT

Sunday 23rd December at 8.30am
Holy Communion

Tuesday 25th December at 10.30am
Family Holy Communion



The Lopen Christmas Card

A new environmentally-friendly way of sending greetings to friends in the village.

The Easy Christmas Card will be in the Schoolroom from December 1st.

The idea is to write a greeting to friends in the village and to make a small donation in the pyramid box for St. Margaret's Hospice.

The Schoolroom will be open during Church services, Coffee Mornings and Club Meetings.

Any queries to Sally-Ann 241 765

Lopen Eye is sponsored by Chris Pitcher of County Car Company Tel 01935 412 828. Over 40 cars in stock. www.countycarcompany.co.uk. ***If we haven't got the car you want in stock we will be able to source one via our Used Car Locator service.***

REPORT BACK from PARISH CHAIRMAN BARRY DAVOLLS

Persons or property at risk

The recent floods have caused inconvenience to us all. For some, the consequences have been much worse. I am aware of several local cases where property has been damaged although, thankfully, unlike other areas, I am not aware of any resulting personal injury. Naturally the Parish Council extends their sympathy to anyone who has been affected.

Following a discussion with Avon and Somerset Police during the most serious downpour, it became apparent it would be helpful if Lopen PC compiled a register of persons or property at risk. That is, any person or persons who may be considered vulnerable during significantly disruptive events and/or any property that is regarded as being at risk (flooding or other).

With a register in place, if we were unfortunate enough to suffer any major adverse conditions, the PC, emergency services and the Primary Authorities would be able to use the register to prioritise their resources accordingly (Avon and Somerset Police would use our details and co-ordinate with other services as required). Given the forecast of a severe winter coupled with the already saturated ground, the sooner we can get this information together the better. To register, simply contact myself, the Councillors or the Clerk (details on back page) to receive a form to complete that will collect specific details as to why, and under what circumstances, you and/or your property may be considered vulnerable together with your contact details and any other relevant information (other occupants, disabilities, vital medication needs, pets etc). If you are registering for someone else, please ensure you have his or her permission. The form will also be available to download from the website.

All details supplied will remain confidential save for relaying any relevant detail to the authorities in circumstances where there is cause for concern for the safety of specific persons and/or property.

Road salt

Our annual supply (ten bags) of road salt has been collected and is stored in Broomhill Lane. As soon as the big freeze starts, we will distribute bags around the village as usual and, hopefully, provide the means to keep our side roads usable (the main road will continue to be gritted by the County Council). Usual locations are in the Churchyard, near Church Street/Holloway junction, Frog Street and next to the footpath gate at Water Street/Water Lane junction. If any other location is deemed necessary, please let me know.

Dog fouling (again)

Disappointingly, and despite our previous pleas to offenders, dog fouling continues to be a problem in some areas of the village. The areas most affected appear to be those most secluded. There are a host of new measures and initiatives to catch those who fail to clear up after their pets and these are proving to be very successful in catching offenders - who are then faced with a significant fine. It would be disappointing to have to resort to employing covert measures to catch those responsible but, given that it is likely some local livestock has already been lost through disease spread by dogs in their excrement, the pressure on the PC to eliminate this issue is growing. Please make sure you clean up after your pets and avoid forcing the PC into taking more drastic action.

The Next Meeting (2013-14 Precept)

The next scheduled meeting of Lopen Parish Council will be on the 21st January, in the Sunday School room at 7PM. This meeting will include agreeing the precept for next year.

And finally...Lopen Parish Council wishes everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year!



MISTLETOE FAYRE - A GREAT SUCCESS!

The Mistletoe Fayre held on November 17th was a runaway success with record numbers of visitors helping to raise a record total of **£1,733.50**. Help for Heroes and All Saints Church & Schoolroom will each receive a cheque for half that amount. ie **£866.75**. Congratulations are due to the organizers, Jackey and Nick George.

PCC Treasurer Mike Constable added....

"A special thank you to those who ran the stalls, baked the cakes and collected, sorted and priced all the goodies and to Father Christmas and his little helper. It all made the most successful morning to date. Many thanks to all who came to support the Fayre."

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IN LOPEN



Mr Ben Norton lays the village wreath on the memorial in the churchyard. Ben and Ruby's son Sgt. George Norton was badly injured a year ago in Afghanistan whilst on active service with 5 Rifles and is making a slow but steady recovery.

A large congregation attended this year's Service of Remembrance and the collection raised £201 - which has since been sent to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Fund.

Introducing PCSO CEARA STURT



Ceara is the area's new PCSO and says that she will carry out a mobile patrol of Lopen as often as she can. Ceara also undertakes to attend Parish Council meetings whenever her shift patterns allow.

Contact details as follows:

telephone 101; email

ceara.sturt@avonandsomerset.police.uk

(Incidentally, Ceara is pronounced Keira.)

A SEASONAL WARNING

from Martin Howell of Neighbourhood Watch.

Do not tempt thieves by leaving Christmas shopping on view in an unattended car. Lock it in the boot.



2012's RECORD RAINFALL

November ended a dismal autumn with a deluge. Local recorder Jeremy Rook reports that 143mm (5.6") of rain fell in the seven days ending 26th November - **almost twice the average for the entire month**. Tuesday 20th saw the greatest soaking with getting on for 2" followed by Saturday 24th with only a fraction less.

The picture, taken on Monday 26th November, shows the road closed at Snapant following bank collapses and mud slides at the bends.

A sign of the times



Our church has decided to join other churches in the area in providing emergency food for families who have fallen on hard times due to redundancy, loss of benefits, a marriage breakup or sheer bad luck. The idea, called Lord's Larder, is simply to place a box in the Church and Schoolroom where one can drop off a tin, jar or packet of food to be taken regularly to the scheme's base in Chard. This is an ongoing venture for the foreseeable future.

For more information, please contact Sally-Ann 241765.



**TUESDAY 18th DECEMBER at 7.30pm
in the Schoolroom**

AGM plus Christmas Quiz

The AGM will be followed by the quiz
accompanied by
mulled wine and mince pies.

All Welcome!

To include refreshments (and a raffle)
for which a donation is suggested.



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

Lopen JUST WOMEN

**TUESDAY 11th DECEMBER
7.30pm at the Schoolroom**

Enquiries to Helen on 240287

Christmas Crafts & Celebration!



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	tsloopenpc1@btinternet.com
	Peggie Finlayson	240 059	finpix1@btinternet.com
Parish Clerk	Kim McDonald	242 297	mcdonald.lopenpc@btinternet.com

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 Paul Maxwell	271 155	pmmaxwell@somerset.gov.uk
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MEMBER of PARLIAMENT

The Rt Hon David Laws	01935 423 284	david.laws@yeovil-libdems.org.uk
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ALL SAINTS CHURCH Benefice Office

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
Events Secretary	Andrew Kearney	240 287	andrewfkearney@aol.com

JUST WOMEN

Chairman	Carole Mansfield	01935 824 595	carolegrace@tiscali.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Lynn Benfield	929 205	lynn.ian@virgin.net
Treasurer	Zena Morgan	77259	zenam1@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary	Helen Kearney	240 287	hfk949@gmail.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 MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM



in DECEMBER

Wednesday 12th

only this month

10.30 until 12.00 midday.

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

There will be no Lopen Eye
in January.

**The January Coffee
Mornings will be held
on the 9th and 23rd.**