

# LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish  
Newsletter  
MAY  
2012



## SILVER JUBILEE 1977



photo. supplied by Angela Naunton Davies

Do you recognise  
anyone from  
35 years ago?

## DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012

**SUNDAY 3rd JUNE 11.30 - 2.00pm in Church  
Street. Lopen's Diamond Jubilee BIG LUNCH!**

Children's Fancy Dress Competition - (A) 5 years & under and  
(B) over 5 years. To be judged at 12 noon.

Adults' competition 'Hats of the Commonwealth'.

To be judged by the children. Plus street games for all.

*Please bring your own picnics and drinks plus chairs, cutlery, etc.*

Lopen Eye is sponsored by Chris Pitcher of County Car Company Tel 01935 412 828.  
Over 40 cars in stock. [www.countycarcompany.co.uk](http://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 from Parish Council Chairman Barry Davolls**



## **Annual Parish Meeting**

Lopen is to hold its annual Parish Meeting at 6pm on 14th May, in the schoolroom. This is an informal meeting to provide an opportunity for anyone from the village to come along with their suggestions for the village, or to raise any issue they care to. There is no set agenda and it will be chaired by myself with Carole Mansfield as clerk. Other local parishes use this annual meeting to showcase and celebrate local activities, groups and clubs, as well as inviting speakers from the local authorities and the services. This is something we might aim for in future years, but for this year, we would welcome anyone who wants to contribute to the meeting, in whatever form that may take, as individuals or groups. If you wish to showcase a group or club, please could you let Carole know as soon as you can. In the meantime, we look forward to meeting with you, and hearing your views. The annual Parish Meeting, will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7pm on 14th May.

## **Lengthsman Funding**

Historically, the village Lengthsman was partly funded by the County Council and the District Council with the balance taken from the Lopen precept. Due to cutbacks the future funding of the scheme can no longer be supported in the long term. However, I am pleased to report that a one off transitional payment has been granted by SSDC's Area North Committee, thanks in part to the efforts of our District and County Councillors. This grant will not cover the whole shortfall but it will at least take the pressure off for now.

## **Core Strategy**

South Somerset District Council's Core Strategy (the local development framework) has now received full Council backing. As far as our immediate area is concerned, there are no changes to the increases previously described. The next stage is a further round of public consultation followed by independent plan inspection and public examination. The core strategy has now been re-named as the Local Plan.

## **Churchyard Grass Cutting**

One of the group of volunteers who routinely cut grass in the Churchyard is currently unable to do so. If anyone is willing to take over this important maintenance for the foreseeable future, (I understand this amounts to around an hour each cutting session), please contact me directly.

## **Bus In Doubt**

Having recently reported that the local number 91 bus service had narrowly avoided being cut, I am disappointed to note that, contrary to previous reports, the number 91 service remains in some doubt. At the time of writing, I have been unable to confirm the actual position with any certainty, but I am aware that cutting this service is once again, on the agenda.



*Do have a look at Lopen's own excellent website -*

**[www.lopen.btck.co.uk](http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk),**

*where you will find a wealth of up-to-date information about our village.*

**PLEASE NOTE - Monday MAY 14th at 6pm in the Schoolroom.**

**An opportunity to raise matters of concern or to put forward suggestions for Lopen.**

**All villagers are invited to attend.**



## Saturday 5th May in the Schoolroom

10.30am until 12 midday

Sally-Ann writes...

*"Come to the Plant Sale and Coffee Morning and buy some new season's plants and catch up with your friends over a cup of coffee and a piece of home-made cake. What could be nicer?"*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ALERT

This is a general warning message regarding Bogus Callers/Rogue Traders. There has been an increase in some areas of Rogue Traders who call door to door trying to obtain work. This can range from cutting hedges/trees through to replacing roof tiles. Some of these callers are charging exorbitant amounts of money for minor work to be done and can also use 'hard sell' tactics at times. Likewise this time of the year often sees an increase in bogus callers trying to gain access to properties in order to commit crime (such as stealing items). Genuine callers will carry identification and will be happy for it to be checked or for you to arrange a formal appointment for them to attend the property at a later time.

If you have information about any crime, phone the police on 101.

**MAKE SURE YOUR HOME IS SECURE WHILE YOU ARE AT THE JUBILEE LUNCH!**

## A TRANSFORMATION AT LOPEN HEAD



Thanks to the efforts of many individuals, the one-time eyesore of the Lopen Head approach to the village has been transformed. (And haven't the daffodils been lovely along the verges of the main road.)

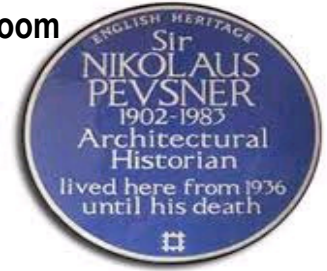
If you have any ideas for improvements to the village, new hedges, trees, bulbs, pavements for example, please contact any of the Lopen Parish councillors shown on the back page.

### DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Lopen Parish Council or its members.



**TUESDAY 15th MAY at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom**  
**"Pevsner Revisited"**



Visitors are most welcome at all meetings and entry is £2.50 for members and £3.00 for visitors to include coffee and cake afterwards. **Andrew Kearney 240 287**

**A Talk by Julian Orbach on Architecture.**

*Julian will be talking about architecture found in Somerset, particularly South Somerset, and the experience of looking at everything that is in Pevsner afresh and then deciding what new things to add. He will be revisiting some well-known examples and telling us about new discoveries.*

**Lopen JUST WOMEN**

**TUESDAY 8th MAY at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom**



**TRADITIONAL NARROWBOAT ART**  
**A talk by Clem Pryor**



Further information from Carole (01935 824 595) or Helen (240 287)

**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
	Peggie Finlayson	240 059	finpix1@btinternet.com
Parish Clerk	Carole Mansfield	01935 824 595	cgmansfieldpc@talktalk.net

**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	pmaxwell@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** 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
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	hfkearney@hotmail.com
<b>POLICE CSO</b>	Kym Rudge	<b>dial 101 and ask for PCSO 9275</b>	
		kym.rudge@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 MAY**

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

**An apology.**

In the last issue of Lopen Eye, Sally-Ann's name was inadvertently linked to someone called Malcolm under the item on Playing Bridge in Lopen.

Sally-Ann's partner is, of course, Martin.

*Ed.*