

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
OCTOBER
2013



SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER at All Saints, Lopen

6.00pm Harvest Festival Service
7.00pm Harvest Supper -
please call Angela (240 921)
to see if any places remain available.
There is no charge but donations of
tinned food and similar would be
appreciated for the Lord's Larder.



EARLY DIARY NOTICE
LOPEN'S MISTLETOE FAYRE
will be held this year on
Saturday 19th November
from 10am until 1pm
Lopen Church & Schoolroom

**Proceeds to be shared 50/50 between
Help for Heroes and the Church**

MISTLETOE FAYRE

**Items for sale needed urgently by the following people -
please ring on these numbers to arrange collection or delivery**



BRIC a BRAC
Natasha T. 242 551
Judith T. 242 567



GIFT ITEMS
Margaret T. 241 162
Lynn T. 929 205



PLANTS
Joan T. 242 254
Helen T. 240 287



CAKES & PRESERVES
Sally-Ann T. 241 765



BOTTLES
Paul T. 241 162
Steve T. 249 549



BOOKS
Martin T. 241 765

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 writes....

Goodbye Peggie

Peggie was one of the first villagers I met on my arrival in Lopen in 2007 which coincided with the run up to the local Council elections to be held in May. A knock on the door (the loudest to this day!) and I was face to face with a Councillor-in-waiting insisting I give her my vote. To this day I chuckle over our first meeting which I imagine was similar to being tango'd. From that point on and even before working with her as a fellow Councillor, the tone was set. Any issue of local concern or where assistance was required, I would be brow beaten into action. This is what you got with Peggie, full-on commitment whether you liked it or not! I grew to like being tango'd whether it was over Council business or the regular cups of coffee we shared at her house and I know I am going to miss it. It's an indisputable fact that Peggie, whether through the Council, or as an individual, was instrumental in bringing about tangible benefits for us all. Thank you Peggie and enjoy your new home!

Councillor Vacancy

Peggie's departure leaves a Parish Councillor vacancy to fill. We have to follow a statutory procedure to see if ten or more local residents wish the vacancy be filled by holding an election rather than co-option. This notice has already been posted on the notice board and the call for election expires the 8th October. Only then (assuming there is no call for election) can we start to consider co-option. Our target is to co-opt at our scheduled meeting in November and we will formally advertise the vacancy with a clear cut-off date yet to be established. If you wish to know exactly what is involved in being a Councillor (which in our case is not particularly arduous) or any other aspect of the Council, please do not hesitate to contact me. As an overview, the Council formally meets around eight times a year including extraordinary meetings, with the duration of meetings spanning thirty minutes to two and a half hours. There is low level activity and correspondence between meetings, generally via email and phone. Councillors are each given a special role on which to lead and the new Councillor role will be discussed and agreed with the individual appointed. Training is available. We welcome approaches from anyone in the village to join us.

Health and Wellbeing Grant?

Cllr. Le Hardy (our County Councillor) has announced a £5,000 grant fund has been allocated to each County Councillor to help develop local activities that promote health and wellbeing in their area. Grants can be awarded from £250 upwards to local community groups and organisations, for example parish councils and voluntary groups. The idea of the fund is to encourage people, families and communities to take more responsibility for their own health and wellbeing, and to support projects that improve people's health in a variety of ways.

If you have any suggestions for Lopen, please make contact with me. Lopen was successful in bidding from last year's fund to obtain money towards a defibrillator for the Village and this project is ongoing.

Flood Mitigation Fund - update

Somerset County Council has just announced a fund that aims to provide grants for flood alleviation schemes across Somerset. The fund pot is £200,000 and is aimed at Town/Parish Councils, landowners and residents in Somerset who are invited to apply for works that will help reduce the risk of flooding. They are looking for schemes that can help a community increase its resilience against flooding such as creating flood defence banks, clearing roadside ditches or increasing the size of piped access crossings on a watercourse. Whilst anyone can apply, priority will be given to schemes put forward by Town and Parish Councils. Any scheme proposed **must** be supported by, in our case, Lopen Parish Council. If you require any further detail on this or wish to discuss a scheme, please contact me directly



And on a lighter note...

A limerick competition was held at the September meeting of Lopen's Just Women group. The winning entry was -

**There was a young lady of Lopen
whose windows were always left open,
until one fateful night
she got a big fright
when a bat left a sizeable token.**



The winning author has requested that her name be withheld. One or two husbands came up with versions that are predictably too vulgar to publish.

WELCOME TO LOPEN!



Christianne and Rob Long have moved from Haslemere in Surrey to The Old Bailiff's Cottage in Church Street.

The 2013 LOPEN PICNIC

September's LOPEN EYE carried a note of thanks from Carolyn White, the Picnic's organiser, to those who helped set up and run what was, by general agreement, a very successful and enjoyable day.

Now it's Carolyn's turn.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU, CAROLYN!

WARNINGS FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



At around lunchtime on 12th September not far from here, a concerned neighbour called the police as the occupant of a nearby house was engaged in a heated argument with a group of men about gardening work. The neighbour took details of their vehicle registration and ensured that police had those details as well. We can never tell where such persons will strike next, so please do not have any dealings with callers at the door. If they are selling goods or services and appear to be suspicious, and especially if they ask to enter the property for any reason, call the police without delay by dialling 101. Never let them enter your home.

As nights draw in, remember when walking on a road in poor visibility to wear clothing with reflective/fluorescent materials. Where there is no pavement, walk on the right hand side of the road to face oncoming traffic.

Martin Howell

TV STARS of the 1970s visit LOPEN for the QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE in 1977

by Nigel Potts

There cannot be more than half a dozen current Lopen residents, and by now probably fewer than that, who attended the very successful street party celebrating our Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. The whole thing was enhanced by the presence of two teenaged stars who were currently appearing on television and who talked to the assembled company afterwards about how they got into the business.

This came about because Peter Jackson, the editor of *TV Times*, was living in the village at the time and for some years persuaded nationally-recognised stars of the moment to give Lopen's gatherings a touch of glamour. Our special guests at the Jubilee street party were Bonnie Langford and Adrian Dannatt who were appearing in London Weekend Television's serialisation of Richmal Crompton's *Just William*.



Bonnie Langford, who played Violet Elizabeth Bott, meeting village children



General view of the party in Church Street



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

TUESDAY 15th OCTOBER
at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom

Dr Sarah Villiers will present an illustrated talk about Somerset schools - which might bring back memories for some of us.



Lopen JUST WOMEN

Enquiries to
Margaret Linton
Tele 241 162

TUESDAY 8th OCTOBER

at 7.30pm in the
Schoolroom
Carol Talbot will be talking to us about the History of Beads.



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

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

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 MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM



in **OCTOBER**

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