LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter
NOVEMBER 2012

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

at Lopen Church on 11th November

The annual Act and Service of Remembrance will start promptly at 10.50am.

All are welcome, churchgoers or not, to remember those who have given their lives or their well-being for our country and remembering also their families, friends and comrades.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Sally-Ann writes...

This year on Armistice Day we will be laying a wreath and observing two minutes silence at the war memorial as part of our Service of Remembrance. (We will not be celebrating Holy Communion at this service.) All are welcome and coffee will be served afterwards in the Schoolroom. The collection will go to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

HELP for HEROES
Support For Our Wounded

Help for Heroes will receive half the proceeds of the Mistletoe Fayre.

ITEMS NEEDED URGENTLY for the MISTLETOE FAYRE -

- see page 3 for details

*Father Christmas will be in his grotto at **11am** with presents for all the children.*

LOPEN'S MISTLETOE FAYRE

Saturday 17th November
10.00am until 12.30pm
in the Church
and the Schoolroom

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

Eggwood Hill
Somerset County Council has now made contact with the three Parishes of Lopen, Hinton St. George and Merriott with a view to commencing the sale and transfer of the site as previously agreed. It is unclear at this stage just how long the sale process will take but at least the matter is now progressing. A local Scout group has made contact with each Parish requesting the use of part of the site which, once the sale is completed, will be considered further.

Local Choice Events
Somerset County Council are once again holding a local choice event on the 29th November aimed at devolving some County services to local communities. This event will chiefly deal with aspects surrounding Libraries, Youth Services Provision and a proposed Community Warden Scheme. For Lopen, the main interest will be regarding the Community Warden Scheme which, appears at first glance, to be a replacement for the current Lengthsman scheme. It is proposed that the new scheme will be rolled out over the whole County rather than as the current arrangement, which serves relatively few local communities including ours.

Lopen Crime Figures
The official reported crime figures for Lopen during the month of September, whilst still very low, are somewhat higher than normal. Two burglaries and one criminal damage to buildings (not dwellings) plus one theft, combine to create one of the worst months for some time. Let's hope this is a one off! According to the district wide figures, burglary (both dwelling and non-dwelling) is on the increase and so, with the approach of the darker evenings, we encourage everyone to secure their property as unsecured doors and windows are still the largest cause of break ins.

***(A point reinforced below by Martin Howell of Neighbourhood Watch.** Ed)*

Lopen Precept
The Parish Council normally meets during December to agree the precept for the following year. Due to delayed decisions from outside funding sources (Lengthsman scheme), and the possible impact on the value of our Precept from the Local Government Finance Settlement, which follows the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, it will not be possible to consider next year's precept until early in the New Year. The deadline for submitting the precept has, thankfully, been extended to the end of January.

Neighbourhood Planning
The District Council recently held the first of their workshops covering the topic of neighbourhood planning. Adopting a neighbourhood plan, is the only guarantee for any community to have some control over development in their area. Developing and adopting a plan is a long and expensive proposition. The final stage includes independent inspection of the plan to ensure it complies with both the District Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The District Council explained that for most Parishes, neighbourhood planning would not be appropriate because policies within the emerging South Somerset Local Plan (SSLP), offer significant protection for rural settlements such as ours (albeit these policies are yet to be inspected and agreed by the Planning Inspector) and, that in 95% of cases, the District Council supports the Parish Council view on planning matters already. If local experience is anything to go by, the remaining 5% is the very reason why we should consider adopting a plan as the bigger and more controversial applications fall into this category.

Now that the clocks have changed, and it is darker much earlier, please make sure that outbuildings are properly secured and no tools etc. left outside. They will soon go and cost a lot of money to replace. When out and about at night, make sure you have a torch and use it. You might be able to see but it helps if you can be seen. A good torch can save lives. Please take care.

FOOTNOTE The Top Hat Cafe, open during Arts Weeks, sent off £186.75 to each of the charities ,The Smile Train and Shelter Box . Thanks for your support! *Sally-Ann*

MISTLETOE FAYRE

Items for sale needed urgently by the following people -

BRIC a BRAC
Carolyn (T. 240 717)
Liz (T. 240 912)
Jackey (T. 241 518)

PLANTS
Joan (T. 242 254)
Margaret
(T. 241 162)

BOTTLES
Peter (T. 242 474)
Brian (T. 249 149)

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS
Ian and Lynn (T. 929 205)

CAKES & PRESERVES
Sally-Ann (T.241 765)
Rosemary (T. 240 850)

WOODWORK & BOOKS
Martin (T.241 765)

The following notice was suggested by Cllr Peggy Finlayson.

Warm Front Insulation Grants - <u>every</u> home can currently receive 100% free insulation

Insulation grants are available to every home in Britain to help you create a more energy-efficient home. Currently, home owners and tenants can have loft insulation and cavity wall insulation installed absolutely free, with no money to pay whatsoever.

SUMMARY:

***Insulation grants are funded byUK energy companies**
***Every home can claim one**
***Grants are currently available for 100% free insulation**
***Grants do not need to be paid back**
***Grants cover cavity wall and loft insulation**

BUT...Free insulation grants are running out.

Free insulation is due to end in December and demand is currently very high. To ensure your application is processed in time, please apply online at www.insulationgrants.info/contact

or call 0845 528 1023 as soon as possible.

LAST CALL for the SHOEBOX APPEAL

Please deliver filled boxes, or suitable small gifts for children to help fill a box, to Sally-Ann Howell, Crown Cottage in Church Street or call 241 765 by

NOVEMBER 4th.

Last Year Lopen managed to send 25 shoeboxes for children afflicted by poverty or strife to open at Christmas.

OPEN HISTORY GROUP

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

TUESDAY 20th NOVEMBER at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom

"Childhood Reflections of a Farmer Raised on the Somerset Levels"

A humorous insight into his life and times in rural Somerset by local raconteur Robert Tinney.

Members £2.50, Guests £3 to include refreshments and a raffle

Lopen *JUST WOMEN*

THURSDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2.00pm at the Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton

(No meeting on the 13th November)

A matinee performance of a play based on Mansfield Park by Jane Austen

Please contact Helen on 240 287 ASAP for travel arrangements and further information

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	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	pmaxwell@somerset.gov.uk

MEMBER of PARLIAMENT

The Rt Hon David Laws	01935 423 284	david.laws@yeovil-libdems.org.uk

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	hfk949@gmail.com

POLICE CSO Kym Rudge **101 and ask for PCSO 9275** kym.rudge@avonandsomerset.police.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Martin Howell	241 765	samhowell2@talktalk.net

LOPEN EYE

Editor	Les Farris	242 254	lesliefarris23@aol.com
	Michael Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
	Peter Little	242 474	peteralittle6@aol.com
Distribution	Andrew Kearney	240 287	andrewfkearney@aol.com

COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM

in NOVEMBER

Wednesday 14th and Wednesday 28th

10.30 until 12.00 midday.

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

DISCLAIMER

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