

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
DECEMBER
2011



MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a very
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
*from your Parish Council
and the Lopen Eye team*

MISTLETOE FAYRE RAISES £1,366 - A NEW RECORD

The Mistletoe Fayre held in All Saints Church on November 19th resulted in a record sum to be divided between Help for Heroes and the fund for the upkeep of the Church and Schoolroom.

Congratulations to the organisers and thanks, of course, to all those who helped out, donated items, served on stalls and contributed financially to this success.



CHRISTMAS at ALL SAINTS

Sunday 11th December at 11am
FAMILY SERVICE
with Nativity Tableau and Christingle

Thursday 22nd December at 7pm
CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT
followed by Mincepies
and Mulled Wine

Sunday 25th December at 10.30am
FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION



Santa Claus, aided by his faithful helper, had many small visitors to his Grotto in the vestry

Presentation to Help for Heroes

A cheque for £683 will be presented to Richard Lupton, Somerset organiser for Help for Heroes, at the Schoolroom at 6pm on Monday 5th December.

All welcome!



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.***

Parish Council Chairman Barry Davolls writes....

Precept

Our next Council meeting (12th December) will include discussing and provisionally setting the precept (local council tax) for next year. Existing commitments will be reviewed to ensure best value and may be varied to reflect any revised local priorities. How should the local taxes be spent? Be sure to make your views known by contacting your Councillors and/or attending the public meeting.

Speeding

There are two local initiatives employed in an attempt to reduce speeding through our village. The first, SID (speed indicator device) is an unmanned speed indicator regularly deployed and has proven to reduce speeding when present. The second, Speedwatch, is a manned, portable, speed indicator device that results in Police contact with any offenders recorded. A well run Speedwatch scheme, regularly deployed, can result in additional support from traffic Police who will attend and prosecute offenders directly.

The Lopen Speedwatch scheme has failed to attract sufficient committed volunteers over recent years to provide a credible deterrent and thus gain the support of traffic Police. Unless we can recruit new volunteers, the Council, at its next meeting on the 12th December, is likely to conclude the scheme should be formally abandoned.

Please consider volunteering and committing a few hours a month to this worthwhile cause.

Public Consultations

There are a number of public consultations under way that have a varying degree of local relevance. These include the draft *Parliamentary Boundary Changes Consultation* which as proposed, moves Lopen from Yeovil into a new constituency called Glastonbury and Wincanton. The draft *Local Government Electoral Boundary (County Council) Proposal* which seek to increase the size of the division including Lopen. The *Blue Badge Consultation* that proposes to increase the cost (up to five fold) for Blue Badge holders and, finally, the *Somerset Waste Core Strategy Consultation* that covers the County Council's waste planning up to 2028. Amongst these proposals are the identification of new sites across Somerset to handle all aspects of waste including the potential for energy from waste plants. Four strategic zones have been identified for such sites (Yeovil and Taunton are the two closest) with the option of two further zones to be considered.

Further details of all these consultations are available on the Lopen Village website or, if you prefer, you can contact me directly.

BONFIRE NUISANCE



Should you be unable, or unwilling, to dispose of your garden or other rubbish by more appropriate means, that is, weekly kerbside recycling, taking to the Crewkerne tip, composting or shredding, **please wait until the material is dry and will burn quickly before setting fire to it.** Unlike the person shown (not from Lopen!) - whose heap will smoulder for days.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Lopen Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 12th December in the Schoolroom.

SHOEBOX APPEAL UPDATE



Sally-Ann reports that 24 Shoeboxes have been despatched from Lopen and thanks all those who contributed.

(Not bad for a small village! Perhaps we could make it 30 Shoeboxes next year. Ed.)



This message is sent as a general warning to all Neighbourhood Watch schemes across Somerset. It relates to an increase in bogus callers - mostly in the Bristol/Bath/Weston area.

The problem has not yet been reported in our own part of the county. However it is thought that these are criminals who move through different areas and could come this far south.

A number of offences have taken place recently targeting the elderly. **In general the offenders claim to be from the Water Board.** They keep the victim busy whilst another offender enters and takes items such as cash and jewellery. **Other offences have occurred where the offenders purported to be from the Gas Board or Transco.**

Please ensure that you take all the usual precautions.

IF IN DOUBT - KEEP THEM OUT.

If you think a caller is suspicious, then call the police immediately using either the 101 or emergency 999 numbers.

Neighbourhood Watch information relayed by Rod Page and Martin Howell

Information wanted

David Ford, who sent these photos. to Michael Canton, is keen to know the family name of his mother Florence Dorothy Edmonds' grandmother, pictured below. When Annie Edmonds died at a young age in 1923, the grandmother brought up Florence Dorothy and her older sister Hilda. The two girls moved to Weymouth when they were old enough and both married naval men stationed at the Portland Naval Base.

If you can help please call Michael Canton on 242 751.

David Ford has a small anecdote from his days in Lopen. "I think it was at the bakers where on the outside wall there was a Wrigley's chewing gum dispenser. This particular day it went wrong and dispensed free packets of gum to those lucky enough to be there; I can't recall having any so it may have been older children and I missed out."

Annie's mother
(family name?)



Annie Edmonds,
who died in 1923 when
Florence Dorothy was
only 13

Florence Dorothy Ford,
nee Edmonds,
born Lopen
September 1911

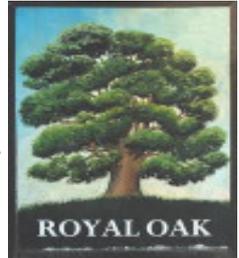


DISCLAIMER

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



WEDNESDAY 14th DECEMBER at 1pm
MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH
 at the Royal Oak, Over Stratton.
 To reserve your place with Joan -
 call 242 254 or email joanfarrisuk@googlemail.com.
 The lunch menu is £8 for two courses.



TUESDAY 17th JANUARY at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom.

'NEW YEAR'S EVE CUSTOMS & CELEBRATIONS'

An evening to share our experiences of how New Year is celebrated, now and in the past, in countries around the world. Please bring a dish of food to share.

Lopen JUST WOMEN TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom.

Bookings and further details from Helen 240 287 or Carole 01935 824 595



Festive craftwork with Pauline Ball and her fabulous, Fabergé-style decorated eggs. Seasonal refreshments.

TUESDAY 10th JANUARY at 7.30pm
MEMBERS' CELEBRATION SUPPER at the Royal Oak, Over Stratton.



CONTACTS

Village website <http://lopen.btck.co.uk>
note new address

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	
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

Rector Rev. Julia Hicks, Rev. Bob Hicks	73226	
Churchwardens	Angela Naunton Davies 240 921 & Liz Constable 240 912	

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	Belinda Bezance	240 973	belinda.bezance@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Zena Morgan	77259	zenam1@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary	Helen Kearney	240 287	hfkearney@hotmail.com

POLICE CSO

Kym Rudge	dial 101 and ask for PCSO 9275 kym.rudge@avonandsomerset.police.uk
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Martin Howell	241 765	samhowell2@talktalk.net
Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk

LOPEN EYE

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COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM



in DECEMBER
 Wednesday 14th only
 and
in JANUARY
 Wednesday 11th & 25th
10.30 until 12.00 midday

PLEASE NOTE

It is suggested that you keep this copy of LOPEN EYE for the January dates as the next edition will not be out until February.