

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
JULY/AUGUST
2012



ADVANCE NOTICE

LOPEN FLOWER FESTIVAL



Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th September
at All Saints' Church, Lopen
10am to 5.30pm on both days

Theme - "Musical Memories"

*Please call Rosemary on 240 850
if you would like to contribute cut flowers,
an arrangement, or to assist in any way.*

Peggie Finlayson (Bric a Brac Stall), Valerie Canton (Cake Stall) and Steve Crane (Raffle), would be very pleased indeed to receive donations and contributions.
See back page for contact details.

SAW
somer
art works

15th - 30th SEPTEMBER 2012
OPEN STUDIOS IN LOPEN



Pauline Rook,
Photographer
Angela Naunton Davies,
Etchings, Drawings &
Paintings



About Somerset Art Weeks

Somerset Art Weeks is a countywide celebration of the variety and quality of contemporary visual art that can be found in Somerset. Since its inception in 1994, Art Weeks has become an important event in Somerset's calendar delighting art lovers from near and far.

Due to increasing popularity and growth the decision was made in 2007 to turn the festival into an annual two week event with an alternating focus of **Open Studios** ([2008](#), [2010](#), [2012](#)) and **Exhibitions & Events** ([2009](#), [2011](#)).

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....

Localism begins to impact

Perhaps it is unfair to judge the current position based on the introduction of Localism alone as, without doubt, the many local authority cut-backs bear heavily on the current state of affairs. What is clear, is that Parish Councils are facing significant challenges in adjusting not only to the raft of regulatory changes but also in their desperate attempts to keep their communities functioning and maintained. For Lopen, given our size, you would be forgiven for thinking this is relatively undemanding, but consider that for next year we already know we will lose around 10% of our total funds resulting from the withdrawal of local authority grants. Add to this the potential double whammy of a reduction in the value of the current precept triggered by changes in the way some local benefits are paid, together with any lost revenue recovery restricted by precept capping, and you begin to get the picture.

Councillors' Code of Conduct

Regulatory changes are coming thick and fast and will require a total re-think on all of the current Council procedures. Arguably, the most significant changes are to the code of conduct which, as of July this year, moves to a locally defined code for County, District, Town and Parish Councils. At a recent briefing, it was explained that each Council can establish its own code but there are no mandatory provisions in the legislation to investigate or determine any breaches. Elements of the new code come under criminal law (pecuniary interests) but the general opinion is that these too are unlikely to be enforced. Around sixty or so Parish representatives attended the briefing, all of whom appeared aghast at what seems to be an 'anything goes' approach. In short, most of what we do, how we do it, how we fund it and how we account for it is being reviewed. Whether small communities such as ours can remain independent and provide an acceptable level of service remains to be seen.

The future of public transport

At the recent South Somerset Together meeting a debate was held on the challenges of providing local public and community transport. The panel included key personnel from both the County and District Councils as well as representatives from the voluntary and housing sectors. Much anger and concern was voiced regarding the cut backs of bus services in rural areas, especially in view of predicted housing growth and considering that many areas have been left without any service whatsoever.

The panel appeared to be in agreement that the future public transport provision for our region is likely to be limited to the major routes only with Parish Councils and/or community groups providing the link from their local communities to the public network.

Parish Council vacancy

Sadly, Carole Mansfield the Parish Council Clerk has resigned and is leaving the post at the end of September this year. Anyone who is interested in applying for this position, and requires further information, should make contact with Carole or myself no later than 12 noon on Friday 13th July.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, LOPEN seeks volunteers



Sally-Ann writes....

“Welcome all newcomers to the village. We need new blood to keep our beautiful church looking loved and cared for. This is not an arduous task and anyone interested in joining the team should ring Rosemary on 240 850. Please give this invitation your consideration. Thank you.”

PS Mike Constable (240 912) would also like to hear from anyone willing to help occasionally in cutting the grass in the churchyard. Lawn mower provided.

sponsored by
Isle Valley Vets
Hinton St. George

St. George's Pre-school
**FUN DOG SHOW
&
SUMMER FETE**

Saturday 8th July 11am - 1.30pm
St George's Hall & Playing Fields
Hinton St. George



Fun Dog Show
11am - 12 midday
Entrance Fee: £1 per dog,
per class
(payable on the day)

Classes

1. Scruffiest Dog
 2. Cutest Puppy (under 1 year)
 3. Best Likeness to Owner
 4. Best Rescue Dog
 5. Best Party Trick
 6. Best OAP (over 8 years)
 7. Catch the Treat
 8. Most Appealing Eyes
 9. Waggiest Tail
 10. Doggy Dash
- & Best Overall Champion**

**The SUMMER FETE continues through to
early afternoon with home-made
refreshments and light lunches available,
craft stalls and many other attractions.**

Tractors a Hit at Frogmary Open Day



Following a beautiful day for our first Open Farm Sunday recently, with over 900 visitors to the farm, we would like to extend our thanks to the Lopen ladies who helped with the cream teas and to all the visitors who helped make the day such a success. We're already planning next year's Open Farm Sunday event which is on 9th June 2013!

Nick & Claire Bragg,
Frogmary Green Farm

LEARN TO PLAY BRIDGE



**Beginners Bridge classes start in
September with an EBU qualified
teacher.**

**Call Michael Canton on 242 751
for details or visit**
www.normandybridgeclub.co.uk

WELCOME!

Steve and Mary Chapman,
who have moved to Lopen from
Sonning in Berkshire. They are
enjoying the challenge of restoring
their Grade 2-listed Ballarat
Farmhouse in Frog Street.





TUESDAY 17th JULY
A Visit to the Newly-Restored
POULETT CHAPEL in St George's Church,
Hinton St George.



Guests are welcome.
 Further details from
Andrew Kearney
 240 287.

Guide - Charles Bird

Meet at 7.00pm outside the church.

Lopen JUST WOMEN

TUESDAY 10th JULY
at 6.30pm

Picnic Plus on Ham Hill.

A wet weather plan is in place but please check
 arrangements beforehand with either
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	cgmansfieldlpc@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

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
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LOPEN EYE

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COFFEE MORNINGS
at the SCHOOLROOM



in JULY

Wednesday **11th** and
 Wednesday **25th**
 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.