

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
FEBRUARY
2013



LOPEN'S MARY BACK IN TEAM GB'S YACHTING SQUAD



writes Pauline Rook...

The boats for the 2016 Olympics in Rio have changed and so the sailors have had to learn new skills and earn their places in the team. We are delighted to say that Mary has loved sailing the new skiff, a 49XX, and has earned herself a place in the 8 women squad.

It is a very hard, fast and unstable boat to sail with both crew members out on trapezes rocketing along. They sailed from Portland up until Xmas but are now based on and off in Murcia, Spain where things are a little warmer. The competition season starts in Palma at the end of March and she will be sailing off Portland in June at our own World Class Regatta.

FREE STATIONERY, ETC. FROM COUNTY HALL!

A number of teams at County Hall have recently been working to reduce the amount of paper they store in preparation for office moves. This has created a large number of surplus ring binders, files and trays which are now available to be reused. *The Council's Green Office Charter states that we should re-use and recycle materials wherever possible. Could you make use of any of the following?*

RING BINDERS, 2 ring and 4 ring,
approx. 10 in each box

LEVER ARCH FILES
11 boxes of 24 files; 8 boxes of 15 files

STACKING TRAYS
6 boxes of 25 trays

OFFICE FURNITURE will be available soon;
DESKS, various sizes

METAL CABINETS, 2 & 4 drawer

CUPBOARDS, various

Collection can be arranged at a later date from County Hall in Taunton. If you would like any of these items, or require further information, please contact either of the following people:

Joanne Salter at County Hall 01823 357 699
email JSalter2@somerset.gov.uk

June Berry at the Chard office 01460 239 751
email JXBerry@somerset.gov.uk

Please email your interest in this furniture to
JSalter2@Somerset.gov.uk

Collection to be arranged from either County Hall or Hestercombe House

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

Budget and Precept 2013-14

On the 21st January, Lopen Parish Council met and agreed the 2013-14 budget and provisionally set the Precept. For the second year running, and to comply with deadlines imposed, the Parish Council has been forced to agree a budget without any certainty regarding the continuation of external grants. In addition to this, there have been significant changes in local taxes to adjust for changes in the way local Council Tax benefits are funded.

Council Tax Benefits Changes

Whilst we were able to agree a budget for next year, we cannot yet be totally clear on the resulting impact to the local taxpayer. An element of the Parish Precept will, in future, meet some of the cost of Council Tax benefits (CTB) allowed for Lopen residents and their properties.

The new local CTB scheme is administered and run by South Somerset District Council and, whilst we have been given indicative figures, they have yet to be confirmed. As it stands, without any increase in the budget for next year, there would be an increase of around 1.7% to each property. This increase relates only to the relatively small Precept element and not the whole Council Tax amount.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to maintain the same budget as last year. This is partly due to uncertainties relating to the external funding of the Lengthsman Scheme, but also recognising that we are likely to face further annual increases in CTB related costs. If as expected, Precept capping is introduced next year, without providing additional reserves to cater for these aspects, we could be left unable to meet potential increased costs in the future and suffer a resulting real terms cut in our Council's budget. On this basis, the budget has been increased from the current £4,882 to £5,220 which represents an increase of 6.9%. Add to this

the yet to be confirmed increase resulting from the CTB costs in relation to the new budget, and the total increase is likely to be around 9.3%.

Whilst the percentage increases are quite high, the actual increase relating to a Band D property Precept element in Lopen will be in the region of £4 per annum.

Internal Auditor

Ian Benfield has kindly offered to take over from Nick George as the Parish Council's internal auditor. Many thanks to Nick for undertaking last year's trouble free audit and, thank you Ian for taking on this important role.

Monitoring Holloway

Somerset County Councillor Paul Maxwell confirmed at Lopen PC's meeting on the 21st January, that data from the SID (speed indicator device) installations in Lopen will be used to establish if there is any justification for traffic calming measures to be installed on Holloway. This is a first step toward acting on growing local concerns relating to the safety of Holloway in respect of vehicles and pedestrians alike.

PARISH COUNCILLOR HONOURED



Lopen Parish Councillor Teresa Sienkiewicz of Broomhill Lane was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours for services to the accountancy and pensions professions. Teresa is a Director of Pensions Audit at KPMG, one of the largest professional services companies in the world.

ROY REGINALD PIPPIN
1930 - 2012 (December 31st)



Born in Lopen and attending Lopen School, Roy spent much of his life living where Water Street and Frog Street join. From the age of 14 he worked at Lopen Head Nursery; his love of carnations and his ability to grow good vegetables came out of this work. Roy will be remembered for his love of horses and horse racing, his kindness and for never being seen without a cap on his head.

Angela Naunton Davies

LOPEN'S MISTLETOE FAYRE
RAISES A RECORD SUM



At the presentation ceremony in December, Richard Lupton, regional representative of Help for Heroes and the Rev. Julia Hicks, on behalf of Lopen Church and Schoolroom, each received cheques for £866.50. The total of £1733 raised by the two and a half hour event sets a new record.

The photo shows Nick George (who with Jackey George, 2nd left, were the leading organizers) presenting the cheque to Richard Lupton. Next is Rev. Julia Hicks receiving a cheque from Mike Constable, PCC Treasurer.

An Exhibition by
Lopen Photographer Pauline Rook

SECRET DEALERS

Secret Dealers is back for a new series on ITV1 and we are looking for people in your area to take part.

You could have some of your possessions expertly valued with the opportunity of selling them commission-free to one of our dealers.

Apply now and tell us about your treasured possessions and the things that you'd like to find out more about or wave goodbye to.

It's easy to apply...

Call 0117 970 7674

Or email secretdealers@rdftlevision.com

Standard network charges apply from a BT landline. Calls from mobiles will be considerably more.

Toil & Soil
Somerset people in the landscape



A photographic retrospective by Pauline Rook

12 January - 25 May 2013

Free Entry

Somerset Rural Life Museum
Abbey Farm, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8DB

01458 831197 www.somerset.gov.uk/museums
Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00 am - 5.00 pm





There will be no meeting of Lopen History Group In February - the next meeting will be on **Tuesday 19th March.**

Did you know that we have 8 National Trust properties within ten miles or so: one of the highest densities in the country?

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

There was, however, a record turnout for the Annual General Meeting on December 18th when Pauline Rook was welcomed on to the Committee.

Each year they attract over a quarter of a million visitors between them to south Somerset.

Lopen **JUST WOMEN**

TUESDAY 12th FEBRUARY
7.30pm at the Schoolroom

Enquiries to Helen on 240287

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
for the election of officers and financial report.

To be followed by a talk by **Pauline Rook** about her work as a professional photographer.



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	pmmaxwell@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

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

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 **FEBRUARY**

Wednesday **13th & 27th**

10.30 until 12.00 midday.

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

The next Parish Council Meeting will be at 7.00pm in the Schoolroom on Monday 18th March.

The views expressed in Lopen Eye are not necessarily those held by Lopen Parish Council and its members