

OPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
DECEMBER
2014



Lopen's Mistletoe Fayre

Another resounding success with a record sum of £2,240 raised after expenses - to be shared equally between All Saints' Church and South Petherton Scout Group.

Congratulations to Fayre organiser Ian Benfield and his team of helpers and warm thanks to those who donated items and to all who came and parted with some money. A great village event of which a small village like Lopen can be justifiably proud.



All the fun of the Fayre!

Left - Olivia Godfrey visits Santa Claus in his grotto;
Above - Erica Goldsmith after having her face decorated by Zena Morgan;
Right - the Rev. Julia also submits sportingly to Zena's artistry.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH at CHRISTMAS



13th DECEMBER 2-4pm
Children's Christmas Workshop, an afternoon of fun preparing for Christmas with tea. Contact Victoria (240077) or Angela (240921) before the 13th.

18th DECEMBER 6pm
Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

25th DECEMBER 10.30am
Christmas Communion

Parish Council Reports Back

Defibrillator (*Barry Davolls writes*)



I am delighted to report that a publicly accessible defibrillator (AED) has now been installed in the porch of All Saints' Church, Church Street, Lopen. If a cardiac arrest is suspected, as with any other medical emergency, always call 999 as a first priority. The AED can be accessed 24/7 simply by opening the door of the wall mounted cabinet located behind the opened porch outer door.

Opening the AED cabinet will immediately trigger the alarm system that protects the unit from unwanted attention. **In the case of emergency, any user should ignore the alarm and continue to remove the AED as planned.**

Once turned on, the unit is designed to guide any user - trained or untrained - through all the steps required using diagrammatic and audio prompting messages. (AED-related training sessions are planned to take place in the New Year, the details of which will follow in due course). If the unit is removed, it is vital that the Parish Council is informed as soon as possible following any emergency, not only so we may recover and check the equipment and put it back into use, but also because it may hold important usage data that may be of some assistance to the emergency services.

Our thanks to the partners who helped us to finance and install the AED: the British Heart Foundation, Somerset County Council and Lopen Parochial Church Council, and to Les Farris for coming up with the idea in the first place.

Council Size Consultation (*Barry Davolls writes*)

Following our request to increase the size of Lopen Parish Council from 5 to 7 members, the results of South Somerset District Council's recent local governance review have now been made available. The responses received represent 33% of the local electorate with 57 in favour and 9 opposing the increase. A further consultation is under way (see noticeboard or website) to invite comments on whether or not to accept a majority vote to allow the increase to proceed. This consultation period closes on the 5th December 2014. Our thanks to all those that took the time to respond.

Parish Bulb Planting Scheme

(*Kim McDonald, Parish Clerk, writes*)

I can now confirm that our free bulbs have been received and have been distributed to those who have offered to help plant around the village. We have noted where the bulbs should not be planted for various reasons. Just as a reminder the bulbs are not Daffodils, but a mix of Grape Hyacinth, Loddon Lily, Snowdrops, Snakes Head Fritillary, English Bluebells and Star of Bethlehem, so should look very pretty come Spring.

Winter Roads: Gritting and Salt

(*Kim McDonald, Parish Clerk, writes*)

The Lopen website gives details of the Highways winter gritting programme for the surrounding area. With the exception of Holloway and the old A303, there will be no Highways treatment of Lopen roads. As in previous years we have been provided with 20 bags of grit/salt for the PC to distribute as needed around the village upon request. If your road/path needs attention, please contact Barry Davolls using the details on the back page of EYE, who will provide the salt subject to availability.

And finally...



The Councillors of Lopen Parish Council thank you for your support over the last year and wish you all, your families and friends, a happy, safe and secure Christmas and New Year.

In the event of emergencies over the Christmas period please refer to the village website page at [www.lopen.btck.co.uk/Lopen Parish Council/](http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk/Lopen%20Parish%20Council/) In Case of Emergencies, which carries emergency contact names and numbers.

GEORGE LAYS THE WREATH

George Norton of Frog Street, who left The Rifles after being seriously wounded during service in Afghanistan, lays the village wreath at Lopen's war memorial in the churchyard on Remembrance Sunday.



WELCOME TO LOOPEN!



The Jones family, Nick, Kate and sons Steven & Chris, who moved recently from Bower Hinton to Colinton House at the far end of Church Street.

LOOPEN HISTORY GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 16th December
7.30 at the Schoolroom

The meeting is open to everyone.

The village should be aware that the three office holders of the Lopen History Group will be standing down at the AGM after several years in post. Should you wish to consider joining the committee, please give Joan Farris a ring on 242 254 for details of what is involved.



CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL
With the help of South Petherton Scouts, 30 Shoeboxes were dispatched from Lopen. A new record. *Thank you for your support.*

Sally-Ann

HARRY'S POT SALE RAISES OVER £1,000!



Late November's sale in the Schoolroom of fine pottery made by the late Harry Horlock Stringer raised a magnificent sum - all of which is to be donated to the Stroke Association in accordance with the wishes of his family.

LOOPEN'S TELEPHONE KIOSK TO GO?

BT wishes to remove this kiosk due to underuse now that many people have mobile 'phones and is currently 'consulting'.



Although the traditional red kiosks seem to fit into the rural scene, some consider that BT's attempt at a contemporary kiosk has always looked somewhat out of place in the countryside.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING - LOCK YOUR CARS! Remember when you go shopping in the next 6 weeks and you leave your vehicle, **MAKE SURE IT IS LOCKED**. We buy these nice goodies, put them on the back seat and go off again. Put all your purchases in the boot where they cannot be seen by anyone and they are secure. More thefts from cars take place near Christmas than probably the rest of the year. Lock it up and be Happy!

Martin



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

TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER
7.30pm in the Schoolroom
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
postponed from November
followed at 8pm by
Don & Heather Morecombe
explaining how they set up a history
time-line exhibition for
Hinton St. George



Lopen JUST WOMEN

For further information
please call
Margaret Linton
Tele 241 162

TUESDAY 9th DECEMBER 2.30 -5.00pm
in the Schoolroom

*enjoy modelling Christmas decorations
in oven-baked clay - followed
by mulled wine & mince pies*



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
	Sarah Mason	249 219	sarahmason6@yahoo.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 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

Rectors Rev. Julia Hicks, Rev. Bob Hicks	73226	Issy Welsh
Churchwarden Angela Naunton Davies	76406	

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	samhowell@sky.com
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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	afk947@gmail.com

COFFEE MORNING at the SCHOOLROOM

**PARENTS WITH YOUNG
CHILDREN WELCOME**



in DECEMBER
Wednesday 10th ONLY

10.30 until 12.00 midday.

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

**THE NEXT LOPEN EYE
WILL BE THE
FEBRUARY EDITION**

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