

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
APRIL
2013



WELCOME TO LOPEN

Three of the village's homes have recently seen new occupants.
We hope they will be very happy in our small but friendly community.



Marian O'Brien and Seamus Quinn, who lived previously in London and Dorset, are the new owners of The Old Bakehouse on the main road in the centre of the village

Ben and Alison Holley with 2 year-old daughter Grace have moved from Yeovil to Hinton Cottage at the junction of the main road with the lane to Hinton St. George



Lorraine and Mike Connon moved from St. Anne's in Lancashire to Beauregard on the Fosse Way at Snapant.

*(yes, that **is** how Lorraine spells her name)*

Lopen Eye is sponsored by Chris Pitcher, who can provide all your gardening and home decorating needs, call 01460 240 506 or 07714 631 007. Also Autohouse Cars. If the car you want is not in stock, I will be able to find it through my used car locator service.

REPORT BACK from PARISH CHAIRMAN BARRY DAVOLLS

County Wide Flood Review

Somerset local authorities (including all five districts and the County Council) are currently reviewing how the various agencies performed during the recent widespread flooding across the County to learn lessons, hopefully, from both the positive and negative aspects of mitigation, prevention and response to the many flood issues that occurred as well as those that were prevented. The objective of this review is to achieve the best use of limited resources for all the agencies involved and provide the community with a single point of contact. By joining together, Somerset aims to speak cohesively and convincingly at a national level and input more effectively into any subsequent national reviews which may occur in the aftermath of the recent floods. The review includes all the key players including the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board, Water Boards, Emergency Services, Agricultural Bodies, Business Community, Highways Agency, Community and Parish Council representatives, National Government, Insurance Companies, Local MPs etc. and as such, will provide a comprehensive review covering all the bases.

The Review is ongoing at this stage although it is disappointing to note the number of long-term water main leaks that continue to compound problems locally (perhaps they have not yet reviewed this aspect). That said, it is encouraging that flood prevention is clearly high on the agenda across Somerset as a whole and I do not doubt some good will come from this.

Access to Services and Transport

South Somerset Together are holding an assembly during April to comprehensively discuss access to services and local transport and to consider the most promising potential district wide solutions. This is particularly relevant at this time given the prospect of further cuts in public transport locally (which may include the bus service to South Petherton Hospital!). It is not yet clear whether or not I shall be attending this event (as numbers are limited) but, either way, I shall report back with further details in due course.

Next meeting

Lopen Parish Council's next meeting (the Annual Council Meeting) is provisionally set for 7.00pm in the Schoolroom on Monday 20th May.

EDITOR'S RANT *a personal view*

What on Earth goes through the minds of those who throw their empty sandwich wrappers, coffee containers, coke cans, cigarette packs and so on from the windows of their vehicles?

Aside from having the sensitivity of a house brick towards the environment in general, they are clearly blind to the beauty of this part of the country. The roadside litter accumulates before the tourist season gets under way and is most apparent in the springtime. So it must be local people fouling their own locality.

Perhaps they think it will just go away - but it won't, of course. The council will get around to clearing litter eventually, if pushed. After all, we keep hearing about the millions that tourism brings to this part of the country. But at a time when budgets are under extreme pressure there must be more pressing demands on council taxpayers' money.

**Our Green and Pleasant Land.
The main road verge through
Lopen, March 2013**



**Thank you to Chris Pitcher
(see the bottom of page one)
who has kindly agreed to sponsor
LOPEN EYE
for the fourth consecutive year.**

Goldfinches.

**Spotted in Frog Street, Lopen
by Nigel Potts.**



Please email the Editor, lesliefarris23@aol.com, should you spot any unusual birds, animals, reptiles or insects in the village or surrounding countryside.

Footpath to Lopen Head

John Milner reports that the final length of the footpath from Broomhill Lane to Lopen Head is now easier to negotiate due to the new track opened from the main road adjacent to the Trading Post.



It is suggested with respect, however, that this is not the best path to walk dogs along because it passes **very** close to livestock pens containing geese, chickens and ducks.

Notes from Sally-Ann

All Saints Church, Lopen

The Annual Parochial Church Council meeting is being held on the 22nd April at 7.30pm in the Sunday Schoolroom. Everyone is welcome to hear the Annual reports of the Church and Sunday Schoolroom, followed by Wine & Cheese.

The **St Margaret's Hospice Christmas Card** in the Schoolroom raised £25.55. Thank you everyone who used it.

Lent Lunch

A BIG thank you to every one who came to the lunch, a very happy time was had by all and we raised £246 for The Lords Larder in Chard .

Angela Naunton Davies is looking for **animal-shaped pastry cutters** with which to make biscuits for the Pet Service in July. Tel. 240 921



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Police would like to warn you that this is often the time of year when we see an increase in vehicle crime. Many such crimes are preventable and most occur when items are left on display in vehicles. Anything can be a temptation to those with criminal intent - for instance, personal belongings, removable stereo equipment, satellite navigation equipment, small change used for car parks, shopping. Remove temptation and you dramatically reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime and all the inconvenience that comes with it (replacement windows/locks etc).

Cards are available which state that no items are left on display in vehicles - these have a dual role of reminding vehicle users not to leave anything on display and to warn others that care has been taken to remove items.

Keys to vehicles should be kept secure when not in use - please do not leave them close to exterior windows or doors in case this tempts someone to break into the house to obtain the keys. Please note that there have been some instances of fuel being siphoned from vehicles, often from commercial ones, and police also advise owners of such vehicles review their security.

Martin Howell



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



Next Meeting **Tuesday 16th April at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom**

THE QUAKERS

A talk by **Dr. Mick Atkinson of Hinton.**

Members new and old are most welcome with any guests they may wish to bring.

Entry: members £3.00, guests £3.50 to include a raffle and refreshments.

Annual subscriptions, at £3 are now due.

Lopen JUST WOMEN

TUESDAY 9th APRIL
7.30pm at the Schoolroom

Enquiries to **Lyn Benfield**
on 929 205

Funerals Through The Ages



Tracey Warren will be giving an informative and light-hearted talk on changes over the years in the final rite of passage.

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	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	
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM



in **APRIL**

Wednesdays **10th & 24th**
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 on Monday 20th May in the Schoolroom.

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