

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2017



WORK AT HOLLOWAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS...



...AND THE OUTCOME:
A NEW BOX, *it is promised*,
FOR CONNECTING LOPEN TO
FAST BROADBAND



For a Lopen Broadband Update...
visit www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk
and input your postcode to find information
relevant to your address.

A message on the site for TA13 5JR reads...

'We're connecting power to the new fibre cabinet and joining the new fibre lines to the existing copper network. You can't order a fibre service today but typically it'll be available to your premises within the next four months.'

LOPEN HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Congratulations to the Parish Council, the village SLOW campaign and everyone who made their views known on SCC's plans for improvements designed to slow traffic through Lopen.

County Cllr Le Hardy reported at the January PC meeting that the Highways Dept. were mightily impressed by the quality and sheer number of responses from such a small village.



A revised highways improvement plan is awaited taking into consideration our representations.

(By the way, watching the traffic flow with the temporary traffic lights in place at different times over three days, I would say that there was a distinct improvement in the flow through Holloway to the north of the village and a definite slowing of vehicles as they approached the village centre from the south. Les Farris - acting editor)

NEW SPEEDWATCH INITIATIVE

Volunteers needed -
training and equipment provided
If you would like to help monitor speeding vehicles through Lopen or to lend support to the SLOW campaign,
please contact
Ben Goldsmith 01460 249 231 or
Roger Gurner 07831 597 611

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Nick Jones reports...

Your village needs you more than ever!

Once again we have to report the resignation of another Councillor with Teresa Sienkiewicz announcing her resignation just a few days ago. After more than 6 years on the Council, including one as Chair, thanks are due to Teresa for the enormous amount of work she has put in. Her expertise in planning and financial matters will be particularly missed.

As we have yet to have anyone come forward following the previous resignations, we now have three vacancies. This is beginning to become a problem as the council needs a minimum of three councillors present at a meeting in order to legally conduct business and we now have only a very slim margin.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Saturday 11th March

As I said in December's issue, I am struck by the apparent paradox that although we have high levels of interest in the actions of the council at this time, no one seems to want to get directly involved. I'm also concerned that there also seems a sense that the parish council is remote from the village and it's wishes. With this in mind, and in a departure from what has happened in previous years, we have decided to hold the statutory annual village meeting entirely separately from any Parish Council meeting. This will take place on Saturday 11th March in the Sunday School Room between 2.30 and 4.30 pm. It is an opportunity to come along and talk to the councillors on a completely informal basis. Find out who we are, what we do, tell us what your local concerns are, tell us what you think we should be doing.

In the meantime, if you've lived in the village for a year or more, have a few hours a month to spare and would like to do something for the community, please give some serious thought to joining the Parish Council. An interest in local affairs, desire to help, practical common sense and a sense of humour are the most important qualifications, though a bit of local knowledge is definitely an advantage.

ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

As many of you will already know, the beginning of December saw the release of the long awaited Small Improvement Scheme consultation document by the County Highways design team. This was extensively discussed at our December meeting, having already been discussed at an emergency meeting of SLOW the day before.

I think it is fair to say that it surpassed the fears of even the most pessimistic of us and County Councillor LeHardy was put under considerable pressure to explain the reasoning behind it. In particular, the proposal to increase the speed limit at either end of the village to 40mph, when both the villagers and Parish Council have been consistently asking for a reduction in the speed limit, was very badly received. On a more positive note, nobody, least of all Councillor LeHardy, was left in any doubt that the village residents, SLOW and the Parish Council are completely united in opposition to the scheme as proposed.

Robust responses have been sent by the Parish Council and SLOW. There have also been a large number of excellent individual responses from residents with some very good points raised. Having spoken to the Highways representative I can tell you that they consider the strength and quality of response to be "unprecedented", given the small size of Lopen, and thanked us all for taking the time to give them such carefully considered responses. I'm told they will be making extensive changes to the scheme and it will come back to the Parish Council for consideration and comment when ready.

No timescale has been given so far.

SPEED WATCH

I'm pleased to report that the Speed Watch initiative by SLOW is moving on apace. Eight volunteers have already been trained and the first roadside session took place last Wednesday. However, if you'd like to be involved, more volunteers are still needed and more training sessions are coming up, so please contact Ben Goldsmith (01460 249 231) or Roger Gurner (07831 597 611) for more information.

DOG POO BIN

At our December meeting Councillor Adam Dance confirmed that he had been able to secure funding for a single bin. Of the three locations suggested to the District Council they have chosen the one on the corner of Kitchens Lane and Water Street next to the footpath gateway.

FORTHCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday March 13th

Monday 15th May

7.00pm in the School Room.

Please contact a councillor or the Parish Clerk at least 1 week before if there is a matter you would like to be put on the agenda.

ANDREW KEARNEY

1947 - 2016

Andrew, who died just before Christmas, was born in Connecticut, USA but lived for by far the greater part of his life in the UK.

By profession a teacher, upon his retirement Andrew and his wife Helen moved to Church Street, Lopen in January 2007. Here he became closely involved with the local history group.

Helen and family thank everyone who offered their condolences.



The SPRING CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP
Saturday 25th March 2-4pm

We are putting together some ideas for the children to make for Mothering Sunday. There will be more information in the March LINK but watch this space in the next LOPEN EYE for more details.

We hope the workshop will be as busy and entertaining as the last one.

THANK YOU!

Ian & Lynn Benfield

who have moved from Water Street in Lopen to Haselbury Plucknett.

In the comparatively brief time they have lived here both have played important roles in village life. Lynn as chair of Just Women and Ian as organiser of the last three highly successful Mistletoe Fayres. Thank you for all you have done and we wish you every happiness in your new home.

Sally-Ann Howell

who has stepped down from organising the flower and cleaning rota at the church for some years. Sally-Ann has been very effective at recruiting volunteers and producing the rota to cover each year.

New volunteers are urgently needed!

LOST & FOUND PROPERTY

Umbrellas, gloves and hats. To claim any item, call at Coffee Stop or contact Angela 240 921 or Carolyn 240 717 to arrange collection from the church.

DIARY DATES

Saturday 18th FEBRUARY

7.00pm in the School Room for the
VILLAGE SUPPER

There is only room for 40 places so please book early with Carolyn on 240 717. Tickets are just £5 - bring your own drink.

**EARLY NOTICE of the
LOPEN VILLAGE PICNIC**

Held every other year, the date for this year is **Sunday 27th August**. Further details to follow but please make a note of the date now. This is a village event not to be missed.

THE SCHOOL ROOM



To hire the School Room by the Church, or for loan of equipment, please contact either Liz Constable (240 912) or Angela (240 921).

The churchyard burial mounds

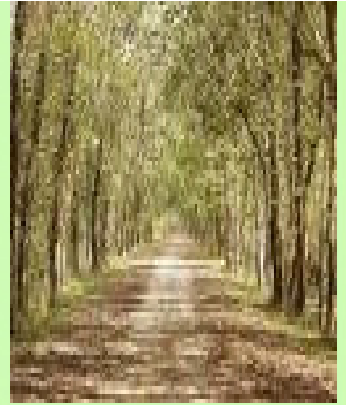


We need to level areas of the churchyard early this year including those graves covered with a mound of earth. Before the work begins, please contact me if you are a relative of a person whose grave is likely to be affected. Thank you. Churchwarden
Angela Naunton Davies 01460 240 921



**Tuesday 14th February
7.30pm in the Schoolroom**

**Our Annual General Meeting
followed by
A Walk Down Memory Lane
to celebrate
Lopen Just Women's 20th Anniversary**



There is a Defibrillator in the porch of All Saint's Church, Church Street.
If you are interested in being trained to use the equipment please contact Sarah Mason on 249 219 or sarahmason6@yahoo.com

**Have you liked the Lopen Events Facebook page?
www.facebook.com/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/**

CONTACTS

Village Website www.lopen.btck.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Nick Jones	211 643	nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com
Vice Chairman	Stephen Crane	242 412	crane1@hotmail.co.uk
	Ed Moore	394 583	ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com
	Mark	242 889	mblopenpc@gmail.com
Parish Clerk	Lisa Wilson	07857 211 150	lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Clr Adam Dance	07767 224 213	adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk
Clr Crispin Raikes	07968 291 588	crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCIL

Clr Christopher Le Hardy	01935 850 212	clehardy@somerset.gov.uk
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MEMBER of PARLIAMENT

Marcus Fysh	marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk
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ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Benefice Office	Issy Welsh	73226
Rectors Rev. Julia Hicks, Rev. Bob Hicks	76406	juliahicks1@gmail.com
	76406	bobhicks66@gmail.com
Churchwarden	Angela Naunton Davies	240 921
		nauntondavies@btinternet.com

JUST WOMEN

Chairwoman	Lynn Benfield	
Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766
Secretary	Margaret Linton	241 162
		margaretlinton79@yahoo.com
POLICE CSO	Ceara Sturt	101 and ask for PCSO 8340
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH		ceara.sturt@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
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ARCHIVE & HISTORICAL

GROUP	Nigel Potts	240 369	nigelpotts@talktalk.net
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LOPEN EYE TEAM

Editor	Les Morton	391 574	lesmorton26@gmail.com
	Michael Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
Proof-reading	Peter Little	242 474	peteralittle6@aol.com
Distribution	Les Farris	242 254	leslifarris23@aol.com

**COFFEE MORNINGS
at the SCHOOL ROOM**



FEBRUARY DATES

**Wednesdays
the 8th & 22nd
10.30am
- 12.00 midday**

**Only £1 for a
hot drink & refill
and a slice of
homemade cake**

*Everyone welcome -
including parents with young children.*

**THE NEXT CHARITY TO BE
SUPPORTED IS**



**See their invaluable work
at ukinfo@skytrain.org**

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