

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
MAY
2013



LOPEN PLANT SALE

This Saturday

11th MAY 10.30 - 12 noon

Coffee and other refreshments, raffle and, of course, a great variety of locally-grown plants for sale.

ITEMS FOR STALLS MOST WELCOME!

Cakes to Carolyn 240 717

Raffle prizes to Penny & Peter 242 474

Plants - vegetable, herbs, flowers - to Helen 240 287

Now is the perfect time to restock your garden or to try out some new plants: all at modest prices.

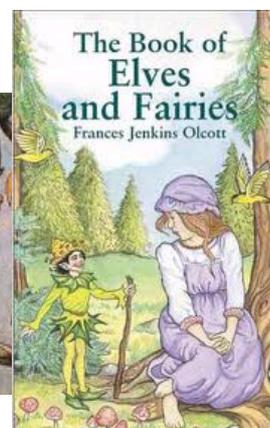
The Plant Sale and the Flower Festival will both be held in the Church and Schoolroom

LOPEN FLOWER FESTIVAL JUNE 15th & 16th

This year's theme for the Flower Festival is *Children's Fantasies* - from nursery rhymes, books, films, etc. which will be interpreted by Lopen's flower artists. **Would you like to try your hand? Tuition provided.**

There will be the customary range of attractions: coffee, strawberry and cream teas, cake stall, raffle, bric a brac. **Donations for the stalls are most welcome!**

More details in the June LOPEN EYE. Meanwhile, please get in touch with **Angela Naunton Davies** T. 240 921.



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

LOPENHEAD EXPANSION GETS THE GO-AHEAD

SSDC's Area North Committee recently approved Probiotic's application to erect a new detached building at Lopenhead to the north east corner of the old nursery site. The go ahead has been given for a two storey building approximately 2 metres taller than existing buildings with a working floor area approximately 37% greater than the Tesco Ilminster store.

The building will include offices, manufacturing, storage and distribution (B1,B2 and B8) and is intended to provide the capacity for Probiotic's expansion plans over the next decade. The building is to be mitigated by the introduction of random coloured panels to visually break up the solid mass with existing conifers removed and replaced by a landscaping scheme similar to that already approved on the existing site. Despite objections from Lopen and South Petherton Parish Councils along with numerous individuals, SSDC officers and the Area North committee concluded that the recently introduced National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) supports the expansion of existing rural businesses even though the relevant local plan may not. In my view, this could be viewed as a landmark decision of national importance. If it is correct that the NPPF unconditionally supports the expansion of existing rural businesses, when you consider it also supports new rural business provision as well as rural diversification where underused agricultural buildings can be converted to office and industrial use, this effectively results in a policy that would allow any scale of industrial development at any location, irrespective of infrastructure and/or local need, and circumvents any protection against inappropriate development in the open countryside. Add to this the proposed implementation of permitted development rights that would allow the conversion of offices and light industrial units to housing, and the NPPF's claimed protection for the open countryside would simply not exist. If this interpretation of the NPPF is correct, it would actually be easier to develop in the open countryside than in many urban areas especially when you consider that highways and public transport considerations are, under the NPPF, much more relaxed in rural areas.

It is worth noting that since 2006, Lopen alone has the potential to deliver 320 industrial (B Class) jobs and that this represents 44% of all jobs to be delivered in all rural settlements across the whole of South Somerset in SSDC's emerging local plan to 2028. In fact, this is already greater than that scheduled to be delivered in most of the larger rural centres.*

Even before the jobs gained from this latest approval are taken into account, Lopen and the surrounding area (including South Petherton) were recognised by SSDC's own independent employment review as having NO need for employment gain before 2028. Including jobs outside of the B classes, I estimate that Lopen now has the capacity to deliver at least 4 jobs for every economically active resident. The inevitable consequence is that employees are commuting from all over Somerset (by car because we have no public transport) including from areas that have a high employment need and vacant industrial land on their own doorstep. *Sustainable development? I think not.*

ACCESS TO SERVICES AND TRANSPORT

Last month I reported that South Somerset Together were holding an assembly during April for a comprehensive discussion about access to services and local transport and to consider the most promising potential district wide solutions. I did manage to attend this workshop and, whilst this is an ongoing debate, most of those attending seemed to agree that a single County wide information service covering all aspects of transport (public and private/community) and services provision was important and that volunteer groups will have to plug the inevitable and growing gaps in the provision for rural areas with, perhaps, some funding via development contributions (CIL and/or section 106 monies). There appeared to be a reluctant acceptance that public transport would, in future, most likely be limited to the main routes between the various market towns with increased frequency covering more hours and weekend/bank holiday cover included. It would then be for community-based schemes or other providers to connect local residents to the public transport routes. That said, there may be a compromise in that once or twice a week only, small buses could provide off-route links to the regular services. I will report further on this as matters develop.

* "LOPEN - the INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND of SOUTH SOMERSET" *Editor's comment*



A few words about the village's history group which meets on the evening of the third Tuesday of each month at the Schoolroom next to the Church.

(Please see the back page for details of the forthcoming May meeting.) Topics discussed vary widely from Lopen memories to glimpses of life in earlier times from further afield. The meetings attract interested individuals from Lopen and the surrounding area and are usually well-attended. These are informal events with refreshments, a raffle and a chance for a chat afterwards.

Writes Valerie Canton... "This year we have been lucky enough to have two excellent talks so far. One, from Richard an Auctioneer who showed us pictures of kings and queens from the Tudors to the present day, was absolutely fascinating. The collection included many paintings that are not generally seen plus snippets of information that one didn't know about their characters.

More recently, Dr. Atkinson spoke about the influence of Quakers on the industrial life of our country. There are several well-known companies with a long history existing today which were formed by Quakers. A fact of which we were totally unaware."

Annual subs. are just £3 and you would be most welcome at our next meeting.

BENEFICE AUCTION RAISES RECORD SUM



The auction held at Hinton St. George on Wednesday 24th April raised the magnificent sum of **£3,220** to be shared between the churches of Lopen, Dinnington, Hinton St. George and Merriott. The organizers wish to thank all who donated the wide range of quality items and, of course, those who bid for the lots.

BRUCE BEZANCE 1950 - 2013
Bruce, a prominent and much-loved member of our Lopen community, died on April 30th after a long illness.

NEW BUS TIMETABLE NOW IN OPERATION

Mondays to Fridays (except Public Holidays)

Donyatt, George Inn	....	0945	1145	1300	1500
Ilminster Square	....	0955	1155	1310	1510
Ilminster Medical Centre	....	0958	1158	1313	1513
Seavington St. Mary	....	1007	....	1322	1522
Lopen	....	1012	....	1327	1527
Hinton St. George	....	1022	....	1337	1537
Merriott, Church	0829	1029	....	1344	1544
Crewkerne Ashlands Road	0839	1039	....	1354	1554
Crewkerne, George Hotel	0843	1043	....	1358	1558
Crewkerne, Kings Arms	0845	1045	....	1400	1600
Crewkerne, Ashlands Road	0849	1049	....	1404	1604
Merriott, Church	0901	1101	....	1416	1616
Hinton St. George	0909	1109	....	1424	1624
Lopen	0919	1119	....	1434	1634
Seavington St. Mary	0924	1124	....	1439	1639
Ilminster Square	0931	1131	1245	1446	1646
Ilminster Medical Centre	0934	1134	1248	1449	....
....Donyatt, George Inn	0942	1142	1256	1457	....

English National Concessionary Travel Scheme bus passes are valid for all journeys on this timetable.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Over the last couple of weeks there have been a few incidents around South Petherton where someone has been taking either milk from people's doorsteps after it have been delivered or the money which has been left out for the milk. If you or anyone in your area has their milk delivered and pay by leaving money out then we are suggesting that you arrange another method of payment.

If you have any information regarding any of the incidents this can be reported on the 101 num

Martin Howell



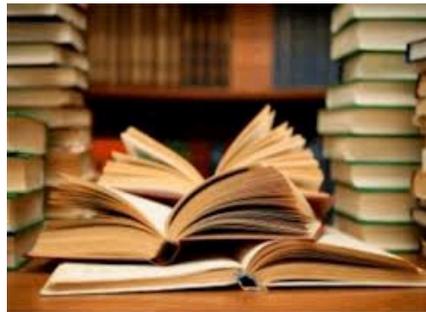
Next Meeting Tuesday 21st May at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom

LITERARY SOMERSET

A talk by James Crowden

Exploring the literary highways and byways of Somerset, including the cities of Bath and Bristol and the county's, sometimes surprising, links with Wordsworth, Coleridge, Thomas Hardy, Virginia Woolf, John Steinbeck, Tolkien and others.

£3 Members, Visitors £3.50 - to include refreshments and a raffle.



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

Lopen JUST WOMEN

The BLUEBELL WALK at Coney's Castle, West Dorset

TUESDAY 14th MAY

Enquiries to **Margaret Linton**
T. 241 162

A visit to the famous bluebell woods at this beauty spot not too far from Crewkerne.
2.30pm Meet at the Coney's Castle car park.
4.00pm Tea in Seavington at the Village Shop.



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 Christopher Le Hardy Contact info. tba

MEMBER of PARLIAMENT

The Rt Hon David Laws 01935 423 284 david.laws@yeovil-libdems.org.uk

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

ceara.sturt@avonandsomerset.police.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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LOPEN EYE

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COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM



in MAY

Wednesdays **8th & 22nd**
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