

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
OCTOBER
2013



LOPEN'S MISTLETOE FAYRE
will be held this year on
Saturday
16th November
from 10am until 1pm
Lopen Church & Schoolroom

**ITEMS FOR SALE
needed urgently
by the following people:**

Cakes & Preserves Sally-Ann 241 765
Gift Items Margaret 241 162, Lynn 929 205
Books Martin 241 765
Bottles Paul 241 162, Steve 249 549
Plants Joan 242 254, Helen 240 287
Bric a Brac Natasha 242 551, Judith 242 567

**Please get in touch to
arrange delivery or collection**

**Proceeds to be shared 50/50 between Help
for Heroes and the Church**



Note for our younger readers -
*Santa will arrive at the Mistletoe
Fayre at 11 o'clock!*



Bring a smile to the face of a needy child at
Christmas by filling a shoebox with what-
ever you think a small person would like.

For further information please call
Sally-Ann on 242 765
(Crown Cottage, Church Street)



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.

Parish Chairman Barry Davolls reports back...

Budget 2014-15

We are starting to put together the Parish Council budget for the coming year to assist in setting the Precept accordingly. As ever, there are some unknowns. At the time of writing, the situation regarding any continued Lengthsman funding is unclear as are any possible implications from changes to the local Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme. I am aware the costs associated with the Lengthsman duties have increased recently and the early indicators are that the CTB scheme will remain as last year. We are aiming to provisionally agree the budget during our scheduled November meeting which, as last year, will have to be subject to adjustment reflecting the outcome of these two unknowns. If anyone is aware of any potential cost we should be including, or has a suggestion of any new proposal to consider, please make contact with me no later than 11th November.

Unstoppable Expansion?

The effects of the District Council's lack of a five year deliverable housing supply are gathering pace. In the immediate local context, both South Petherton and Martock now have planning permissions in excess of the evidence-based housing need to 2028. This despite the fact the new local plan has yet to be adopted. Even the most hardened planning committee members who in theory take the decisions, and are, in my view, normally over enthusiastic in their 'anything goes' approach to planning, are baulking at the size, style and lack of any supporting infrastructure for many of the applications being approved. At the October Area North meeting, the majority of the members appeared to want to refuse several large (in the local context) housing applications, but were persuaded by SSDC's officers and legal team they actually had no grounds for refusal.

(And the point of electing SSDC councillors to represent local views is? Ed.)

Yet More Development at South Petherton?

I understand that there are more developers with imminent and even bigger housing applications planned for South Petherton before the door of opportunity closes and that these follow the current trend of green field first expansion.

Eggwood Hill

A draft 999 year lease has been received from the County Council and the three parishes of Lopen, Merriott and Hinton St George are in the process of instructing solicitors to act on their behalf. At this stage at least, we cannot foresee any significant difficulties with the lease and it is hoped the matter will be concluded during early 2014 subject to the Parish Councils agreeing final details.

Defibrillator

Following the most welcome receipt of a grant from Somerset County Council toward the cost of providing a village based defibrillator, a top-up grant application was submitted to the British Heart Foundation on the 3rd of October, the outcome of which should be known around Christmas time. Assuming we are successful in securing the additional funds required, we would hope to have a unit available during the first quarter of 2014.

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

I have now received the figures for the September and October Lopen SID installations, which do not report anything particularly unusual. I have also reviewed as much historical data as I have available to spot any trends. Basically, since 2010, not much has changed. **Around 85% of all movements through the village are at a speed of around 39mph and in terms of numbers, these have been fairly constant at around 2600 movements per day (1300 in each direction).**

Mrs LILY MORGAN

Mrs Morgan, mother of Cynthia Dadzitis and Barry and Clive Morgan, died on October 15th.

A villager remembers....

"Lopen has never been the same since Lily Morgan retired some years ago after running the village shop and post office in School Lane for many years with her family providing support when it was needed.

To give just a couple of examples of the service Lily provided:

If she came across a special offer at her wholesaler she would buy it knowing that someone would appreciate it. A power failure and Mrs Morgan would be open early for candles. The shop would open at 6am, so early workmen could call to collect lunches and lorry drivers would often park at the bottom of School Lane to call in for a ham roll - with three slices of ham something of a loss leader but the profit was in the extras they bought.

Mrs Morgan loved her fellow humans and they loved her. She will not be forgotten."



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Crime is local so please be security conscious

- During the early morning of 16 October a person drove a vehicle onto a garage forecourt near **Lopen** and filled with fuel, then left without payment.
- Between 11-16 October a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle parked in **Mill Lane, Lopen**.
- Between 2-16 October a property at **Lopen Head** was broken into and items stolen including a television/DVD recorder, DVDs and alcohol.

Martin Howell

HELP A YOUNG PERSON & REDUCE HOMELESSNESS

Can you offer a room for the night to a young person, aged 16-24 years old ?
With breakfast and use of washing facilities?

If you can, we will pay you £15 per night.

Become a Host and Help Reduce Homelessness.

To find out more about
Emergency Host Family Accommodation
Alison Cox 07921387082
Alison.cox@knightstone.co.uk

ALL SAINTS' SERVICE & CELEBRATION

6pm Sunday 3rd November

There are few people in Lopen who do not support All Saint's in some way. The Church and the Sunday School room provide the only meeting places in our village, whether for Coffee Stops, History and Just Women groups, parochial or parish councils or fund raising and worship; and can be a good place for children's or private parties.

Lawn mowers, working party people, church cleaners and flower arrangers and lots more, all make it possible.

This service will be followed by a little 'bubbly' celebration to thank so many for their generosity in supporting our village, our Sunday School meeting place and the life and worship of our Church.

Angela Naunton Davies

RAINFALL IN LOPEN

Jeremy Rook writes...

"I recorded 43 mm in September against the long-term average (LTA) of 65 mm. Taking the last 6 months (April to September) we have had 225 mm against the LTA of 341 (approx 66%); a dry summer."





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

TUESDAY 19th NOVEMBER
at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
followed by Show & Tell

Please bring something from
other times that will be of
interest to others.

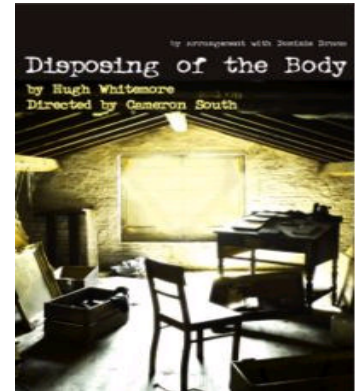


Lopen JUST WOMEN

Tickets from
Margaret Linton
Tele 241 162

TUESDAY 12th NOVEMBER
7.45pm

at the Swan Theatre in Yeovil
to see "Disposing of the Body"
by Hugh Whitmore.
Tickets £9 or £8 for seniors



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

Parish Clerk	Kim McDonald	242 297	mcdonald.lopenpc@btinternet.com
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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 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

	Martin Howell	241 765	samhowell2@talktalk.net
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LOPEN EYE

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COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM



in **NOVEMBER**

Wednesdays **13th & 27th**
10.30 until 12.00 midday.
Only £1 for a hot drink
(and refill) plus a slice of
home-made cake.

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