

# LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish  
Newsletter  
OCTOBER  
2012



## MISTLETOE FAYRE

Saturday 17th November  
10.00am until 12.30pm  
in the Church  
and Schoolroom

### All the Fun of the Fayre!

Stalls include  
Cakes & Preserves, Jewellery  
Christmas Gifts, Plants  
Bric a Brac, Bottles  
Knits & Handicrafts  
Woodwork, Books.

In addition, there will be  
Refreshments, a Raffle and  
a Competition.

Father Christmas and his Helper  
will be dropping by to chat to  
children in his Grotto.

Proceeds will be divided equally between Help for Heroes and the Church and Schoolroom



Lopen Eye is sponsored by Chris Pitcher of County Car Company Tel 01935 412 828.  
Over 40 cars in stock. [www.countycarcompany.co.uk](http://www.countycarcompany.co.uk). ***If we haven't got the car you want  
in stock we will be able to source one via our Used Car Locator service.***

## REPORT BACK from PARISH CHAIRMAN BARRY DAVOLLS

### Eggwood Hill

The unauthorised occupants at Eggwood Hill have now left the site and I believe they have moved onto their own land at Haselbury Plucknett. This land was the subject of a recent planning application for a change of use and the provision of two permanent travellers' pitches which, although refused, is currently being appealed.

Somerset County Council are now back in possession of the Eggwood site which has been cleaned and is currently being made secure. I do not think it will be long before the three Parishes of Lopen, Hinton St. George and Merriot will be invited by the County Council to commence the process of purchasing the site. It has taken **four years** of legal wrangling and a good deal of money for Somerset County Council to regain possession of the site. I feel sure the whole of Lopen would, like me, wish to thank all those involved in this process and in particular, the County Council legal team, County Councillor Paul Maxwell and our local MP David Laws. Finally, a special thanks to Lopen's own Peter Little who, both in and out of office, has driven (and continues to drive) the process of purchasing the site on behalf of the three Parishes.

**Thank you all.**



**The new barrier barring vehicular access to the Eggwood site. To mark the millennium, this was designated an amenity for local villagers to enjoy.**

### Developers Charter?

A recent planning appeal decision concluded that South Somerset District Council does not currently have a 5 year deliverable housing supply. This is significant in so far as the recently introduced National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) regards any policy for the supply of housing as out of date if a local authority fails to demonstrate that it has a five year supply of deliverable housing. The consequence of an out of date housing policy (Local Plan) is that strategic control is compromised with, instead, planning applications being decided simply on a presumption in favour of sustainable development rather than in alignment with any established local policy. This could result in applications being made on a scale and at locations not previously identified by policy. This might include sites outside existing development boundaries and on green fields.

SSDC does not accept the planning inspector's findings and are currently looking into making a legal challenge. Meanwhile, a number of developers appear to have pounced on this opportunity and are, I am told, fast tracking planning applications to take maximum advantage. Not yet a feeding frenzy but it is early days!

My logic tells me that Lopen would not represent a sustainable development location and, as such, we should not be directly affected. That said, we currently have B Class employment land that, according to SSDC's Employment Land Review, is greater than the existing supply for Somerton, Bruton, Ilchester, Langport and Huish Episcopi, Martock, Milborne Port, South Petherton, and Stoke-Sub-Hamdon. (In fact, the village of Lopen has existing employment land commitments that equal 48% of all the above areas added together) and so, if the past is anything to go by, sustainability might be widely interpreted.

**Kim McDonald**  
Lopen's New Parish Clerk



In her professional life Kim, who lives in Broomhill Lane, works with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage inward investment to Somerset. Kim also manages the Lopen village website <http://lopen.btck.co.uk> (which is well worth a look. Ed).

## LOPEN FLOWER FESTIVAL

in September was a great success with a record **£1,446** raised towards the cost of rethatching the Schoolroom roof. *see below*



*A big bouquet to the organisers, flower arrangers and helpers.*

The Schoolroom with its beautifully thatched new roof. All credit to Messrs. Dunbar & Bunce of Martock who carried out the work.



*Sally-Ann writes...*

"A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped and supported the Top Hat Cafe during Arts Fortnight. We not only raised £472.20 for the Sunday School roof but sent off monies to the Smile Train appeal and Shelter Box (total not known as still in progress when this went to print ).

**Everyone is welcome to join us at the Family Harvest Service on Sunday 14th October at 11am followed by Harvest Lunch in the Sunday School Room."**



## LOPEN MAN SURVIVES WILDERNESS ORDEAL

Guy Anderson of Knapp Cottage in Church Street had an amazing escape in August after his paraglider was hit by a huge gust of wind and he crashed into the side of a mountain.



Guy was competing in the Paragliding World Cup in Sun Valley, Idaho in the USA. In his fall he broke his pelvis, seven ribs and badly dislocated a shoulder. Guy found himself without food, water or a working phone alone in a desert mountain range. Furthermore, this remote area is home to mountain lions, bears and wolves. Guy passed the first night in great pain but the next day, after leaving his craft spread out for the spotter plane to find, he managed to hobble down the side of the mountain. Guy spent his second night in the open enduring pouring rain without waterproof clothing. He was found by a rescue helicopter after being missing for two days and nights.



Guy's wife Louise wishes to say "thank you" for the concern and kindness shown by villagers following Guy's accident. Guy is now recuperating well at home.



"It's that time to start thinking about our shoebox collection for children not so fortunate as ours at Christmas time. For newcomers to the village, the idea is to fill a shoebox with small gifts for children and they are sent off to various countries. If you are interested, please ask for more information from Liz Hider T. 240 088 or myself, Sally-Ann T. 241 765."



## TUESDAY 16th OCTOBER

a visit to the Museum of Somerset,  
meeting in the Museum Foyer  
at 2.20pm for 2.30 guided tour  
for Lopen History Group.

£3 for members, who should advise Andrew  
as soon as possible if they wish to visit  
this superb new museum.

The Museum of Somerset is in Taunton Castle in the  
centre of Taunton. Public car parks are a short walk away.



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

## Lopen JUST WOMEN

TUESDAY 9th OCTOBER  
7.30pm  
at the Schoolroom

Further information from Carole (01935 824 595) or Helen (240 287)

The DANCING ENGLISH  
a talk by Anne Hinchcliffe  
about 400 years of dance -  
with music and  
demonstration



## 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	tsloopenpc1@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	pmaxwell@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
Events Secretary	Andrew Kearney	240 287	andrewfkearney@aol.com

### JUST WOMEN

Chairman	Carole Mansfield	01935 824 595	carolegrace@tiscali.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Lynn Benfield	929 205	lynn.ian@virgin.net
Treasurer	Zena Morgan	77259	zenam1@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary	Helen Kearney	240 287	hfkearney@hotmail.com

### POLICE CSO

Kym Rudge	<b>dial 101 and ask for PCSO 9275</b> kym.rudge@avonandsomerset.police.uk
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### 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 OCTOBER

Wednesday 10th and  
Wednesday 24th  
10.30 until 12.00 midday.  
Only £1 for a hot drink  
(and refill) plus a slice of  
home-made cake.

## DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions  
expressed in this newsletter  
are not necessarily those of  
Lopen Parish Council or its  
members.