

# LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish  
Newsletter  
SEPTEMBER  
2014



**WELCOME to LOPEN  
Mark and Kim**



Kim from Stoke sub Hamdon and Mark from Surrey, but originally from Yeovil, moved in August to Paddock House in Water Street

## HARRY HORLOCK STRINGER

A display featuring the work and times of nationally renowned potter, tutor and Lopen resident Harry Horlock Stringer who died earlier this year can be seen at the workshop of Angela Naunton Davies - Denman Cottage in Church Street - during Somerset Art Weeks.

Later in the year, details to be announced, there will be a sale at bargain prices (from £1) of a wide range of Harry's pots with proceeds to the Stroke Association.



The 2014 Somerset Art Weeks will run from Saturday 20 September until Sunday 5 October when artists' studios and workshops across Somerset will be open to visitors.

Here in Lopen photographer Pauline Rook and printmaker Angela Naunton Davies of Church Street will welcome visitors. Please check opening hours beforehand with Pauline on 240644 and Angela on 240921.

### REFRESHMENTS IN THE SCHOOLROOM

On the Saturdays and Sundays of Arts Weeks teas and light refreshments will be available from 11am until 5pm.

All proceeds to *Horseshoes & Handprints*, a charity providing support for both adults and children with special emotional needs or suffering from emotional trauma.

### Children's Art in Arts Weeks

Work produced by children over the summer will be displayed in the Schoolroom during Somerset Art Weeks.

Do come and see what Lopen young artists have achieved.



# Parish Chairman Barry Davolls Reports Back

## Lengthsman

Our lengthsman, David Ogilvie, has now served his notice and has moved on to pastures new. A final thankyou to David for all his hard work over many years helping to keep our village in good shape. The South Petherton-based lengthsman scheme has now ceased to exist with the six parish members (including Lopen) making their own arrangements going forward. Lopen has yet to officially engage a replacement for David but has provisionally agreed to contract the District Council run Parish Ranger scheme in due course. An early September meeting and tour of the village has been arranged with a view to agreeing the scope of the work required and finalising the terms of the contract.

A repayment of surplus funds left in the South Petherton scheme has now been agreed and Lopen's share will be paid out during September. As it stands, there has been no village maintenance since August 1st and this will remain the case until the end of September. If any critical or urgent matter arises it will be dealt with either by a one off contract and/or volunteer help as required. Please bear with us during this changeover period during which a normal service cannot be maintained.

## Lopen's Lorry Weight Limit



I have now obtained a copy of the weight restriction order relating to Lopen which covers Holloway for its entire length from the Lopen Head roundabout and extends to 150 metres south of Mill Lane on the Merriott road. The restriction applies to any vehicle in excess of 7.5 tonnes maximum gross weight except for deliveries and collections on or adjacent to the restricted road, or where a location is only from the restricted road.

In brief, the weight restriction applies to all vehicles except for buses, emergency vehicles, those relating to the provision and maintenance of the utility services and for construction and highway maintenance.

A recent local planning application identified Holloway as the main route for delivery to the site. The proposal would have led to increased movements through the heart of our village of large vehicles well in excess of the 7.5 tonne limit. To our surprise and disappointment the County Council Highways team did not object to the planning application and the Parish Council had to intervene to encourage an alternative route to preserve the hard fought for weight restriction in Lopen. As it stands, the developer has now re-routed accordingly but we will keep a close eye on matters as they progress.

## Dog Fouling (*again*)

I am sorry to say that the Parish Council is receiving an increasing number of complaints regarding fouling of roads, fields and footpaths across the village. This is not an isolated issue for Lopen but one that many councils are facing. Some local authorities are going to extraordinary lengths to catch offenders in an attempt to stamp out this unhealthy and antisocial behaviour.

I doubt if 'poo boxes', which at one point were freely available but which are now very expensive, would solve the problem as the vast majority of fouling is left 'at point of lay'. There have been some instances where the 'poo' has been bagged (good) but then left hanging on a fence or hedge (not good). Previous requests for a change of habit appear to have proven fruitless. Without wishing to use a sledge hammer to crack a nut, your suggestions as to how the Parish Council can go about solving this problem would be welcome. For example, some councils have used cameras and other technology to catch offenders. Should we consider going down this route?



## AN EXTRA TWO PARISH COUNCILLORS?

It is important that SSDC knows your views on the number of parish councillors. Have you returned the South Somerset District Council questionnaire posted to every address in Lopen in recent weeks?

## CHILDREN'S ART CLASSES in LOPEN

This photo was taken at a session in the Schoolroom earlier in the summer.

**A further session is being planned for Saturday 6th September.** All village children invited. Further information from Angela on 240921.



## HEATING OIL - AN OFFER



Somerset Community Oil Scheme, organized by a long established and well respected charity, offers significant savings on heating oil for an annual subscription of £20. July price per litre 49.80p against an average commercial price of 54.20p per litre. Call Jason Tinley on 01823 331222 or email him at [oil@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:oil@somersetccc.org.uk).

Some of the impressive total of 23 villagers who turned out to help in the recent cleaning and tidying of the Church, Churchyard and Schoolroom on August 9th sitting down to a well deserved lunch.

## END OF AN ERA AT CROSS TREE HOUSE, LOPEN



After 26 years running Cross Tree House as a self catering accommodation business, owners John and Lyn Milner have taken a decision to close next year because it has become increasingly difficult to moderate guests' behaviour. They wish to thank everyone in Lopen for their tolerance and goodwill. Cross Tree House will be placed on the market in the spring with existing bookings until the end of August being honoured. Depending on the level of interest shown in the property, John and Lyn might continue to take bookings on a rolling basis.

**Footnote: To date, Cross Tree House has catered for over 100,000 guest/nights.**



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Recently there was an attempt to break into a garden shed in Lopen. Fortunately the shed contained nothing of real value.

*Martin Howell writes...*

**Sheds should be secured with a hasp and a good padlock - using round headed bolts on the outside that cannot be loosened with a spanner.**



# Lifeboats

Thank you to all who contributed to the recent collection for Lifeboats which raised £87.

Sally-Ann



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

**TUESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER**  
**Meet 7.30pm**  
**at the Schoolroom**

for a talk  
*Images of Domestic Gardens*  
by Richard Kay of Lawrence's



## Lopen JUST WOMEN

For further information  
please call  
**Margaret Linton**  
Tele 241 162

**TUESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER**  
**Meet 7.30pm**  
at the  
**SCHOOLROOM**  
for a light-hearted  
**GARDEN QUIZ and**  
**AUTUMN BUFFET**



## 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
	Sarah Mason	249 219	sarahmason6@yahoo.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	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

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

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	<b>101 and ask for PCSO 8340</b>
	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

**PARENTS WITH YOUNG  
CHILDREN WELCOME**



in September

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