

# LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish  
Newsletter  
SEPTEMBER  
2012



## LOPEN FLOWER FESTIVAL



**Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th September**  
All Saints' Church, Lopen  
10am to 5.30pm on both days

*theme*

### **“Musical Memories”**

Refreshments available include -  
coffee, cream teas, ploughmans

**Please call Rosemary on 240 850**

**if you would like to contribute cut flowers, or to assist in any way....**

and the following would be very pleased indeed to receive donations and contributions -  
Peggie Finlayson T. 240 059 (White Elephant Stall), Valerie Canton T. 242 751 (Cake Stall)  
and Steve Crane T. 241 412 (Raffle).

**SCW**  
somer  
set  
art works

**15th - 30th SEPTEMBER 2012**  
**OPEN STUDIOS IN LOPEN**



**Pauline Rook,**  
Photographer T. 240 644  
**Angela Naunton Davies,**  
Etchings, Drawings &  
Paintings T. 240 921

### HEDGEHOG REVIVAL?



It's good to see hedgehogs (or signs of them) back in Frog Street. We could all do with some help in reducing the slug and snail population after this dreadful, wet summer. Hedgehogs are getting scarce so please treat them with consideration should you be fortunate to have them visit your garden.

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

## Farewell to Carole

Carole Mansfield, our Parish Council Clerk who took over from Enid King last October, is to leave us at the end of September. Carole has been a real asset to the Parish Council over the last year and we will surely miss her. I feel sure everyone who knows Carole would join me in wishing her all the best for the future. **Kim McDonald** has been appointed to take over from Carole from the 1<sup>st</sup> October this year.

## Eggwood Hill

Recent developments suggest that the unauthorised occupants at Eggwood Hill will be vacating the site in the near future. This will allow the site to be secured and the long awaited transfer of ownership to the three parishes of Lopen, Merriot and Hinton St. George to take place. Once this has happened, the three parishes will have an opportunity to enhance this area to provide a welcome and useful amenity for local residents. I suspect a call for volunteers will be made not only to carry out much of the initial work required but also to assist with the inevitable ongoing future maintenance. I have no doubt that Lopen residents will, as usual, willingly commit to this wonderful opportunity.

## Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The speed indicator device was installed on Holloway in Lopen during August and the figures recorded indicate that those driving within the 30 mph limit remains stubbornly low. 81% of all movements recorded were in excess of the speed limit with 12% at 40mph and above. The total number of vehicle movements (assuming equal flows in both directions) is in the region of 2500 per day.

## Ragwort - Pretty but Poisonous



You may have seen reports in the local news that outbreaks of the poisonous weed Ragwort is, despite being controlled by the Weeds Act, on the increase throughout the country. Lopen, thanks to the ongoing efforts of the many responsible local land owners, has been relatively clear of this weed until now. Even before Ragwort made the news headlines, Lopen (and other local parishes) were receiving reports that significant outbreaks were taking hold in local areas without any obvious attempts being made to control its spread. Ragwort can be a killer. It is common knowledge that horses are particularly susceptible to the effects of Ragwort but it should be noted that almost all grazing animals can be damaged by repeated ingestion. If you have Ragwort on your land which is in the vicinity (up to 100mtrs) of any grazing animals or land used for feed/forage, please take action to safely remove it. (*Defra guidelines available on the Village website/Parish Council page.*)

## Minor Planning Applications

The number of planning applications received for the Lopen area over the last year has been exceptionally high. As a result, and given the absence of any other method of handling these applications, Lopen Parish Council has held a number of extraordinary meetings to meet the deadlines imposed by the Planning Authority for comments. As many of the applications made were for minor works only and, in virtually all cases, there were no concerns raised, at its last meeting Lopen Parish Council adopted a Scheme of Delegation to facilitate the response to some future applications without the need to hold a public meeting. *The details of this scheme are posted under the Parish Council section on the village website and the scheme is effective immediately.*

## Thank You from Clive and Ann

*“Would you be so kind to put a little note in the next Lopen Eye to thank all those who came from Lopen to our Filmshow in Yeovil on Thursday 23 August. There was a great turnout and £250 was raised from the evening and divided between Somerset Sight and the Yeovil Day Centre.”*

Locals Clive and Ann return now and again from their great adventure driving a converted ex-German army truck across many countries to the Far East. They give talks about their vivid and varied experiences to raise funds for charity.

## Re-thatching of the Schoolroom Gets Underway



The work, expected to take about five weeks, is being undertaken by Dunbar & Bunce from Martock who are using their own home-grown wheat straw. Mike Constable, church treasurer, is to be congratulated on raising the money, including a Lottery grant of almost £5,667, to pay for the work to Lopen's only meeting room.

A warm welcome to newcomers to the village Annie & Roger Gurner, who have moved to Church Street from a village near Newmarket in Cambridgeshire,



and also to **Sarah Mason and her children Sebastian and Cameron** who have moved to No.2 Cross Tree.

### **SOMERSET ARTS WEEKS - REFRESHMENTS AT THE SCHOOLROOM Sept. 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th**

from 11am until 6pm.

Do pop in for Morning Coffee, a Ploughmans Lunch or a Cream Tea during The Somerset Arts Weeks. We are raising money for Shelter Box and The Smile Train.

*Rosemary, Liz H and Sally-Ann*



Sally-Ann would like to thank those who gave in the house-to-house collection earlier in the year. The sum raised in Lopen was £106.75.

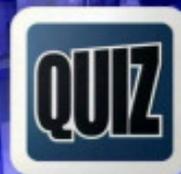
### **Keep an eye on your berries!**



Martin Howell, of Neighbourhood Watch, reports that there have been some instances of thefts of soft fruit from local gardens, even stripping some bushes bare. Please call Martin, T. 241 765, if you come across suspicious offers of gooseberries, blackcurrants and similar.



*also from Sally-Ann*  
"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."



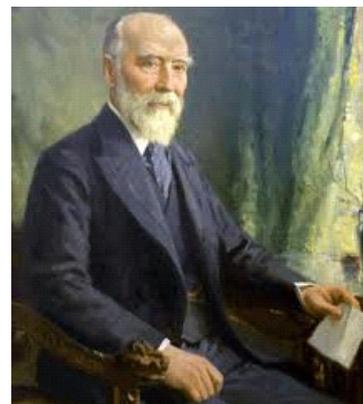
**JUBILEE QUIZ**  
The winner of the Quiz, expertly devised by Rod Page, was Martin Howell of Church Street.



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

**TUESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER**  
at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom  
*A Talk by Dr. Mary Tiffen*

**“Sir Richard Hart, Inspector-General of the Chinese Imperial Customs 1863-1908, and his friendship with three generations of Carrall women.”**  
Members £2.50, guests & visitors £3 - to include refreshments and a raffle.



## Lopen JUST WOMEN

a SILENT AUCTION for CHARITY

**TUESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER**  
7.30pm  
at the Schoolroom

and a talk by a representative of Help for Heroes

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



## 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	Carole Mansfield	01935 824 595	cgmansfieldlpc@talktalk.net

### 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
-------------------	---------	--------------------------

### 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
76406	Rectors Rev. Julia Hicks, Rev. Bob Hicks
240 921	Churchwarden Angela Naunton Davies

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

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Martin Howell	241 765	samhowell2@talktalk.net
---------------	---------	-------------------------

### LOPEN EYE

Editor	Les Farris	242 254	leslifarris23@aol.com
	Michael Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
	Peter Little	242 474	peteralittle6@aol.com
Distribution	Andrew Kearney	240 287	andrewfkearney@aol.com

## COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM



in SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 12th and  
Wednesday 26th  
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.