

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
JUNE
2013



LOPEN FLOWER FESTIVAL



in Lopen Church
**JUNE 15th (Saturday)
& 16th (Sunday)**
10.30am - 5.30pm
Coke for all!

This year's theme is *Children's Fantasies* - taken from nursery rhymes, books, TV and films and interpreted by the village's flower arrangers. All the customary attractions - strawberry & cream teas, raffle, bric a brac stall, cake stall and coffee. Donations and offers of help, please, to Angela T. 240 921.



RARE BIRDS SEEN IN LOPEN



A pair of white-headed long-tailed tits of the northern variety were observed by Harry Horlock-Stringer in his garden during April's long spell of cold weather..

Please report any other unusual sightings of wildlife to the Editor (see back page).

This striking bird, *Aegithalos caudatus caudatus*, is a rare visitor to England, especially this far south. Its journey from its native Scandinavia and northern Europe was undoubtedly made necessary by the prolonged winter recently endured in Europe.

MAY'S PLANT SALE

Thank you to all who supported in various ways The Plant Sale on May 11th. A happy and successful morning was had by all and £528.83 raised for our church and Sunday School Room.
All Saints PCC



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

New County Councillor

Christopher Le Hardy, our local Conservative candidate, narrowly won the recent County Council elections beating the incumbent Liberal Democrat candidate Paul Maxwell by 54 votes. We congratulate Christopher on his election and look forward to working with him throughout the years to come. Naturally, we have already passed on our list of outstanding matters which, in the main, relate to traffic calming, pedestrian safety and the road surface along Holloway as well as blocked drains along Kitchens Lane. Irrespective of any political view, most that came into contact with Paul Maxwell recognised the considerable effort he put in to represent the various local Parishes at County level along with his regular success in bringing about tangible beneficial changes. Lopen Parish Council is most grateful to Paul for all his work on our behalf which, amongst the long list, more recently includes his help in securing the Eggwood Hill site and progressing its sale to the three parishes of Lopen, Merriott and Hinton St. George, as well as securing a grant of £1,200 towards the Lopen Defibrillator - further news about this to follow.



Local author, poet and historian James Crowther was the speaker at the May meeting of Lopen History Group, the subject of his fascinating talk being 'Literary Somerset'. The audience was surprised and impressed to learn how many famous figures in literature had lived, worked or travelled in Somerset: from Roman times through the Anglo Saxon Chronicles to notable Victorian people of letters and those of our present time.

An excellent programme of speakers has been booked for the coming year and new members will be most welcome - at just £3 annual subscription. Just come along to one of our meetings.

Potential Councillor Vacancy

It is anticipated that a Lopen PC Councillor vacancy will exist towards the end of this summer. This is an early call for anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor to make contact for a chat and register your interest. A more formal process will follow if, as expected, the vacancy arises.

Flood Mitigation Fund

Somerset County Council has just announced a fund that aims to provide grants for flood alleviation schemes across Somerset. The fund pot is £200,000 and is aimed at Town/Parish Councils, landowners and residents in Somerset who are invited to apply for works that will help reduce the risk of flooding. They are looking for schemes that can help a community increase its resilience against flooding such as creating flood defence banks, clearing roadside ditches or increasing the size of piped access crossings on a watercourse. Whilst anyone can apply, priority will be given to schemes put forward by Town and Parish Councils. Any scheme proposed **must** be supported by, in our case, Lopen Parish Council. If you require any further details on this or wish to discuss a scheme, please contact me directly. (See back page.)

REPORTING DEAD ANIMALS BY THE ROADSIDE



There is a simple procedure for ensuring the swift removal of dead badgers and foxes from the road or verge. Call the district council on

01935 462 462

and they will send out a van to collect the unfortunate animal.

HONOUR FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

Teresa Sienkiewicz, with her son Alexander and daughter Lt.Cdr. Maryla Ingham, at Windsor Castle recently after receiving the OBE for services to the accountancy and pensions professions.



Bruce Bezance



Bruce presiding over the barbecue at the Village Picnic in 2010.

Bruce Bezance – A Tribute

Bruce died at home on 30th April 2013 at the early age of 63, after a fight of nearly three years against lung cancer. In so many respects the manner in which he endured and fought this terrible disease reflected the way in which he lived his life generally. His determination not to turn in on himself or show in public any self-pity was inspirational. Until only a short time before his death, his much greater interest in other people's lives, especially those of his family of whom he was so proud, and what was happening across the country was undiminished. As was his commitment to helping in a wide range of village activities. Against the advice of so many people, he continued close to the end to redecorate his house, climb ladders and mow the grass in the graveyard. The phrase "he leaves a big gap in the lives of his family and many friends" is over-used, but it applies to Bruce. The image of him carving the hog roast at our village picnics, in his silly hat, exchanging a word with everyone who passed in front of him, will remain with many of us. It is to be hoped that he may have found somewhere else to carve a roast hog and mow a lawn.

Peter Little

APRIL SHOWERS?



April's rainfall total was a mere 26 mm - compared with 153 mm last April. In fact, this April was the driest month since March 2012. The long term average rainfall for April in Lopen is 47 mm but back in April 2011 we had only 8 mm.

Jeremy Rook



Thank-you to all who supported the local Christian Aid Week Appeal.

Over £1,300 was raised in the Benefice.

Belinda, Bruce's widow and their children Ben and Jess, would like to thank all who helped prepare and serve refreshments following the church service on May 16th and the ladies who decorated the church with flowers so beautifully. Also a huge 'thank you' to everyone who sent cards, flowers (and soup!) during what has been a very sad time.

Belinda added...

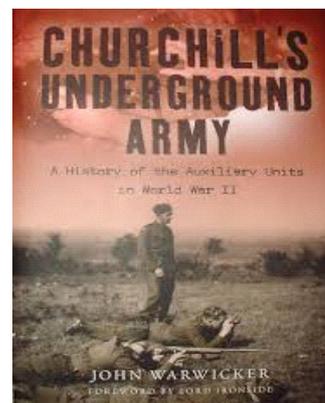
"We are truly blessed to live in such a wonderful village with such special people."

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

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



Next Meeting
Tuesday 18th June at 7.30pm
in the Schoolroom
'BILLY DOWN'S
WARTIME SECRET'
A Talk by Hugh May
about the curious
discovery on Beulah
Hill near Chard.

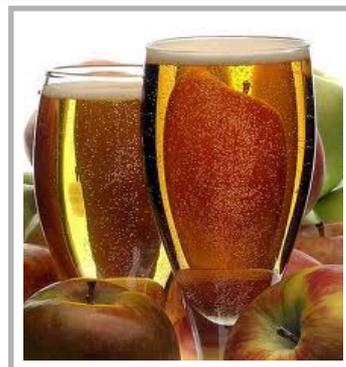


Lopen JUST WOMEN

TUESDAY 11th JUNE

Enquiries to Margaret Linton
T. 241 162

A tour of BURROW HILL
CIDER starting at
4.00pm followed by a
picnic in the orchard;
if wet, under cover.



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	01935 850 212	clehardy@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

Rectors Rev. Julia Hicks, Rev. Bob Hicks	73226 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
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Martin Howell	241 765	samhowell2@talktalk.net
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COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM



in JUNE

Wednesdays 12th & 26th
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*