

# LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

MARCH 2017



## Kingfisher Falconry at Lopen Church Tuesday 14th March



Just Women would like to welcome you to our March event, a talk by Dr Karen Stead-Dexter of Kingfisher Falconry, Axminster. The hour-long talk will be on The History of Falconry and the Modern Day Falconer. Karen will be bringing along several of her birds, giving us a chance to see these wonderful creatures up close.

*See the back page for further information*

**EVERYONE  
WELCOME**

### SUPER FAST BROADBAND - LATEST

There have been three separate sessions of roadworks during late January and February, all on behalf of BT/Openreach. It seems that they are attempting to provide a clear route to draw cables through eventually, but are carrying out the work a section at a time.

Update from 'the man down the hole in the road' (on February 20th) - he has stated (with complete confidence) that the fibre connection to the new

cabinet will be completed TODAY and that, subject to routine testing and final enabling at the exchange, he believes that the system will be live in about a week (February 27th?). That means fibre to the new cabinet and then the existing copper service throughout the village. His unofficial view is that, once enabled, anyone within 200 metres of the cabinet is likely to get speeds of up to 15mbs, with the usual degrading as the distance increases! Watch this space for more updates!

### The next Childrens Spring Workshop

is to be held on

**Saturday 25th March**

from 2.00 to 4.00pm

in The Sunday School Room, Lopen

We are busy sourcing materials and testing ideas to create a fun range of Mothering Sunday/ Easter art activities. We hope that many of you will be able to come and please feel free to bring along a friend and a grown up too.

If you are able, please let us know you are coming, so we can be sure to have enough for everyone.

For more information please contact Christianne Long on 249 766, or email [christiannelong@btinternet.com](mailto:christiannelong@btinternet.com)

### LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This is an informal public meeting, entirely separate from any Parish Council meeting. It will take place on Saturday 11th March in the Sunday School Room, between 2.30 and 4.30 pm.



#### YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

If you've ever considered joining the Parish Council then this is also an excellent opportunity to come and talk about it.

*See page 2 for more information.*

## **LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

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It is an opportunity to come along and talk to the councillors on a completely informal basis:

- Find out who we are and what we do
- Tell us what your local concerns are
- Tell us what you think we should be doing

To help us properly represent the village, it's vital for us to know how you feel about matters such as:

- Community support
- Planning and development within the village and the surrounding area
- Footpaths and their maintenance
- Traffic
- Road safety developments
- Road maintenance
- Litter

*Tea and cake will be provided!*

If you've ever considered joining the Parish Council, then this is also an excellent opportunity to come and talk about it. Your village needs you!

If you've lived in the village for a year or more, have a few hours a month to spare and would like to do something for the community, please give it some serious thought. An interest in local affairs, desire to help, practical common sense and a sense of humour are the most important qualifications.

### **ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

I had hoped to be able to report real progress on the controversial Small Improvements Scheme. However, at the time of writing there is little new to report. Apparently the level of response from the village has led to a complete "back to the drawing board" approach which is being overseen at the highest level. I am assured that there will be real news very soon.

### **SPEED WATCH**

I'm pleased to report that the Speed Watch initiative by SLOW continues to go well. If you'd like to be involved, more volunteers are still needed and more training sessions are coming up, so please contact Ben Goldsmith or Roger Gurner for more information.

### **FOOTPATHS**

Our footpaths are technically the responsibility of the County Council and their footpaths team has worked hard recently to deal with damaged or missing path furniture. In particular, there have recently been major safety improvements made to the footpath between Kitchens Lane and Holloway where it meets Holloway. However, when it comes to keeping the paths clear of plant growth, County simply does not have the

resources, so it's something that will have to be tackled at a local level.

With this in mind, there is an initiative led by Councillor Ed Moore to hold a "footpaths action day" in late May or early June. There is still some discussion about what form this might take, but suggestions include:

- Groups of people with strong footwear trampling the undergrowth down, perhaps encouraged out by a treasure hunt, routes featuring points of natural or historical interest, or even the promise of a barbecue afterwards.
- Suitably armed working parties to tackle particularly bad areas.

Additional ideas and volunteers are welcome!

### **FROGMARY GREEN FARM DIGESTER**

The Frogmary Green Farm Anaerobic Digester was granted planning permission at the Area North Committee meeting on Wednesday 22nd February. Concerns remain that the conditions imposed will not be sufficient to control traffic levels to and from the site despite the best efforts of the Parish Council.

### **BROADBAND**

As most will be aware (especially the long suffering residents of upper Holloway), BT contractors have been busy installing cable ducts and fibre optic cables to connect the new broadband cabinet. There is still no official information on when service will improve, but information gathered from various unofficial sources suggest it should be sooner rather than later.

### **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Parish Council meetings will take place at the Sunday School Room at 7.00pm on the following dates:

- Monday March 13th
- Monday May 15th

Please contact a councillor or the Parish Clerk at least one week before, if there is a matter you would like added to the agenda.

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Please note that Parish Council minutes, audited accounts and other statutory information, which must be made available to the public, are available on the village website -

[www.lopen.btck.co.uk/LopenParishCouncil](http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk/LopenParishCouncil)

### **DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FORTHCOMING LPC MEETINGS?**

Forthcoming LPC meetings (listed above) are posted on the village notice board, which is located at the junction of Holloway (the main road) and Church Street and on the village page of the website. However, if you would like to receive email notifications, please contact Lisa Wilson, Parish Clerk, at [lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com) or telephone 07587 211150 and add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.

## SEASONAL CRIME REDUCTION



Many householders are now starting to think about spring cleaning. In addition to cleaning, painting and decorating, have a look at your home security. Is that door lock a bit worn? Where are the keys to that window lock? Fit that new hasp and padlock to the shed you have been meaning to

do. Have a look at your boundaries' fencing and hedges. Repair and secure fencing damaged by the winter weather. Did your hedges get a bit overgrown last year, reducing surveillance around your property? Well now is the time to prune them back – before the wild birds start building their nests. As part of your spring clean, have the house alarm checked and serviced.

**CYBER CRIME** is something that is of concern to many. In general terms, advice includes ensuring that your computer has a firewall and encrypted server, passwords are never written down, only purchase items from reputable sites, don't respond to emails from people you don't know and never send personal information, including bank details. Remember if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is

### **NEED TO CONTACT THE POLICE – USE EITHER:**

- 101** To report incidents that require non-urgent police attention including reporting of crime, suspicious activity, intelligence.
- 999** Including emergencies which are life-threatening, in fear of safety, crime in progress, bogus callers.

## IAN & LYNN BENFIELD

Further to last months thank you message to Ian & Lynn Benfield, it should be noted that they were presented with some garden tokens by the village in grateful thanks and recognition of all the hard work they have done for our community.

## DIARY DATES

### **Monday 3rd April - The Annual Church Meeting**

At 7.30pm - this is your opportunity to hear what has been happening over the past year and to understand how these things have been achieved. It will be followed by wine and cheese! If you are on the Electoral Roll for this church, you will be able to vote; if you are not but would like to be, please contact Sally Ann Howell 241 765.

### **Saturday 6th May - Village Plant Fair**

Donations of plants are most welcome for this annual fundraising event. So, if you are out in your garden preparing for the year ahead and wondering what to do with that offcut or those extra seedlings, please remember us. Plants gratefully received at The Old Bakery, Holloway and Bailiffs Cottage, Church Street.



Update regarding SLOW and the Speed Watch Teams. In the first instance, it's fair to say that neither we nor the Parish Council have been able to get a straight forward answer from Highways,

despite repeated and regular prompts from both Nick Jones and ourselves. The situation seems to be that a review and changes are being considered against the original scheme, but no one is prepared to say what and when we might know. The only thing certain, at least we hope that is the case, is that a second proposal will be made to the village at some stage, but our concern now is whether the funding will still be in place. Regarding the **Speed Watch** campaign - we have had a good response from those members who have received training, but the weather and the road works have served us really badly in that we have only been able to stage 5 out of the 12 sessions planned.

With the result that the statistics are not yet really truly representative of the normal traffic flow.

Nevertheless, we have been able to report about a dozen speeders, including one school bus at **38 MPH!**, but the very presence of people in Hi Vis jackets is enough to visibly slow the traffic down.



## VILLAGE SUPPER

A splendid evening was enjoyed by a full house - shepherds pie and desserts were followed by a quiz and beetle drive. Many thanks to all those who prepared the room, wrote the quiz, supplied the food and cleared up afterwards!

## BOTTLE TOPS

As you know, Martin & Sally-Ann collect milk bottle tops for the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance - these are added to a wider collection in the area. A recent 'weigh-in' was conducted and a total of 686 kilos was recorded (around 440,000 tops) which achieved a sum of £82.32 for the Air Ambulance (£30 more than last year). A big thank you to Lopen residents who have donated the tops!

## LENT LUNCH

Wednesday 29th March

12 to 2pm

in

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLROOM

In aid of the local charity:

THE MONDAY MEMORY GROUP

(for people with dementia and memory loss)

For more information contact

Sally-Ann at Crown Cottage or telephone 241 765.





**EVERYONE WELCOME**

Our next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday 14th March**  
**Kingfisher Falconry**  
 at  
**Lopen Church**  
**6.45pm for a 7.00pm start**



Just Women would like to welcome you to our March event, a talk by Dr Karen Stead-Dexter of Kingfisher Falconry, Axminster. The hour-long talk will be on The History of Falconry and the Modern Day Falconer and Karen will be bringing along several of her birds, giving us a chance to see these wonderful creatures up close. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the School Room and is included in the entry price.

**Pay on the night: JW members and children £2, all others £3**

*Any profit from the evening will be split between Just Women and the Lopen Church Fund. For further information please telephone Margaret Linton : 241 162.*




Milk bottle tops are still being collected, and when sold, the money goes to 'The Air Ambulance'.  
 Lopen collection point is 2 Church Street (Crown Cottage).

### THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM




To hire the Sunday School Room, by the Church, or for loan of equipment, please contact  
 Liz Constable (240 912) or Angela (240 921).



**There is a Defibrillator in the porch of All Saint's Church, Church Street.**  
 If you are interested in being trained to use the equipment, please contact Sarah Mason on 249 219 or sarahmason6@yahoo.com

Have you liked the Lopen Events Facebook page? Have a look - [www.facebook.com/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/](http://www.facebook.com/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/)

<b>CONTACTS</b>		Village website - <a href="http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk">www.lopen.btck.co.uk</a>	
Chairman	Nick Jones	241 643	<a href="mailto:nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com">nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com</a>
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	Ed Moore	394 583	<a href="mailto:ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com">ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com</a>
	Mark	242 889	<a href="mailto:mblopenpc@gmail.com">mblopenpc@gmail.com</a>
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	Cllr Crispin Raikes	07968 291 588	<a href="mailto:crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk">crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk</a>
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Rector	Rev. Julia Hicks	76406	<a href="mailto:juliahicks1@gmail.com">juliahicks1@gmail.com</a>
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		ask for PCSO 8340	
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## COFFEE STOP

at the  
**Sunday School Room**

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Only £1 for a hot drink  
 (including refill) and a slice  
 of homemade cake.

### MARCH DATES

Wednesday  
 8th & 22nd  
 10.30am to 12.00 midday




Everyone welcome -  
 including parents with young children.

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All proceeds to  **SmileTrain**  
 Changing the World One Smile at a Time