

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

MARCH 2018



Our Local Library Under Threat



Somerset County Council has embarked on a consultation exercise in regard to the Library Service. **Our local library at South Petherton is earmarked for closure.**

“In summary, under the proposals, 15 of Somerset’s 34 libraries would be seeking community involvement to remain open.”

Full details are at

[www.somerset.gov.uk/
librariesconsultation](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/librariesconsultation)

For any questions about the proposals, please email librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk



Peter Little CBE 1943 - 2018



Peter, who lived in Frog Street, died suddenly at the end of January from complications following a medical procedure. Peter played an active role in village life since moving here with Penny in 2005, including as chairman of Lopen Parish Council 2007 - 2011 when he fought valiantly for Lopen’s interests. Peter enjoyed a distinguished and varied career in public service both in the UK and overseas.

NEWS from SLOW *The shocking reality of speeding through our village*

Over six days at the end of January this year 8,239 vehicles passed through Lopen of which some 4 out of 10 were driven at or below the 30mph speed limit. That leaves the remaining 6 out of 10 being driven illegally at speeds in excess of the speed limit. Over half of these were recorded at speeds between 40-50mph. **No fewer than 53 drivers were logged at over 60mph and three individuals, believe it or not, at more than 70mph.** This detail was recorded on a Speed Indicator Device (SID) which, on temporary loan, was positioned on the grass verge on the Holloway - Merriott Road by a member of Lopen’s SLoW campaign. SLoW’s aim, with Lopen Parish Council, is to purchase SIDs, hopefully one for either end of the village, possibly sharing the cost with Merriott PC. ***It is anticipated that the police will follow up speeding drivers from information captured on the SIDs.***

SLOW is the village campaign to stop speeding through Lopen



LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Nick Jones writes...

Peter Little

As most will already know, Peter Little sadly and unexpectedly passed away at the end of January. Peter was a former councillor and chairman of the Parish Council and contributed many hours of his time to village matters. He continued to take a keen interest after leaving the Council and I used to welcome his occasional emails offering support, background information and insightful observations. I shall miss these very much and I shall also miss our occasional meetings around the village too.

New Councillors

The Council still has one position vacant so there is the opportunity to join if you wish to put yourself forward.

Road Safety Improvements

Many of you will have noticed the 'demonstration' speed indicator device (SID) loaned to the village by Traffic Technology for a week. With its larger, brighter display it certainly seemed to be having the desired effect on passing traffic though the speed statistics (displayed on the village noticeboard) make alarming reading. We hope to have a second week sometime soon. Thanks are due to Roger Gurner for organising the trial and doing the hard work! Meanwhile, we have been negotiating with Somerset County Council over the training required for anyone working with a SID. The official requirements are quite onerous and seemed to present a significant obstacle. However, there do now seem to be possibilities of a couple of ways around this, though discussion continues.

Annual Parish Meeting

The statutory annual village meeting will be held entirely separately from any Parish Council meeting - as it was last year. The current plan is to have a PC presence at the Plant Fair on Saturday 12th May, possibly followed by a short meeting in the evening. It is an opportunity to come along and talk to your councillors on a completely informal basis. Find out who we are, what we do, tell us what your local concerns are and what you think we should be doing.

COULD YOU DESIGN AND LAY OUT LOPEN EYE?

If so, please contact the Editor Les Morton lesmorton26@gmail.com as a deputy is needed for the one or two occasions annually when Les is away. Tuition is available. *Don't all rush.*

This year, more than ever, we would really like to see you as we shall be updating the Village Plan and need your input.

Library Consultation

Once again our local libraries are under threat as Somerset County Council look for ways to save money. With SCC funding from central government being cut from £90 million in 2013/14, to just £26 million for 2017/18 and falling to zero by 2020/21, it is not surprising there is a shortage of money! The future looks bleak for South Petherton which will be reduced to a mobile service only. Unless, that is, premises can be found or funded 'locally' - that is by the parish council. More details and the opportunity to have your say can be found in the libraries themselves or online at www.somerset.gov.uk/librariesconsultation.

Police & Communities Together (PACT) Meeting

We recently had the honour of an invitation to the first PACT meeting - held at the Edgar Hall in Somerton. This was quite interesting, though perhaps not for the right reasons. The first point of note was to find out just how thin the blue line of community policing has become. A staff of just 8 covers 53 towns and villages, 31 parishes, 48 pubs and 7 community speed watch areas. The warranted officers among them are also expected to attend emergency calls and this causes many pre-arranged meetings to be missed. The second point of note was how prevalent traffic issues have become across this area with nearly everyone wanting to talk about speeding, HGV traffic, parking problems and driving standards. The police were quick to point out that they simply do not have the resources to deal with all these issues on their own. They observed that many could be alleviated by changing road lay-outs, which falls under the remit of County Highways, and will attempt to get a representative to attend the next meeting!

Next Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 22nd March Annual Parish Meeting - Saturday 12th May

Please contact a councillor or the parish clerk at least one week in advance if there is a matter you would like to be put on the agenda.

a gentle reminder



PHEW!

It is illegal to burn on a bonfire anything containing plastic, rubber, or other man-made material.



PLEASE NOTE

FLOWER FESTIVAL MEETING

at 5.00pm on Thursday 15th March in the Sunday School Room
Calling all flower arrangers, and those who would like to help with flowers, refreshments, stalls, stewarding, etc.

We are hoping to organise another Flower Festival in the Church on the weekend of August 18th/19th.

If you are prepared to help in any way, please come to the meeting or 'phone Liz Constable for further details on 240 912.



WELCOME TO LOPEN

The Mitchell family from Merriott
- Laura, Andy and George,
now at The Brambles, Water Street



and...
Jan Petitjean from
New Mexico, USA,
now at The Old Chapel

***We hope that you will all
be very happy here!***

NEW FEES FOR THE SCHOOL ROOM



Please note the correct fee for full day use is £37.50. It was incorrectly stated as £25 in the last EYE.

To make a booking, or for loan of equipment, please contact either
Liz Constable (240 912) or Angela (240 921)

Milk bottle tops (all colours) & biscuit packet wrappers



Thank you to all who drop these off at 2 Church Street. Both are used for fundraising instead of going to landfill. Charities benefitting are the local MS group and the National Trust.

Sally-Ann

**The SPRING CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP
Saturday 10th March 2-4pm
in the School Room**



We are putting together some ideas of gifts for village children to make for

MOTHERING SUNDAY.

MATERIALS - It would be helpful to know if you are planning to bring, or to accompany, your child or children so that we can ensure we have sufficient craft materials for all.

**Please contact either
Christianne (01460) 249 766 or
Angela (01460) 240 921**

Play clothes would be best!



**Tuesday 13th March
7.30pm in the School Room -
new members welcome!**

KATE LYNCH artist, Mummer and larger than life Somerset character, will relate stories of the Somerset people behind her latest book 'Farm'.



St. Margaret's
HOSPICE CARE

St. Margaret's Hospice Care Support Groups Yeovil and Taunton: open to anyone affected by a life-limiting illness - patients, their families and friends.

Yeovil Support Group meets on a Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm

Taunton Support Group meets on a Thursday 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Further information from Lesley Burgess 0845 070 8910

**Have you liked the Lopen Events Facebook page?
www.facebook.com/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/**

CONTACTS

Village Website www.lopen.btck.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Nick Jones	241 643	nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com
Vice Chairman	Stephen Crane	241 412	crane1@hotmail.co.uk
	Ed Moore	394 583	ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com
	Mark	242 889	mblopenpc@gmail.com
	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
	Simon Frackiewicz	394 975	simon@toadhall.email
Parish Clerk	Lisa Wilson	07857 211 150	lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Adam Dance	07767 224 213	adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk
Cllr Crispin Raikes	07968 291 588	crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Adam Dance	07767 224 213	adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk
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MEMBER of PARLIAMENT

Marcus Fysh	marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk
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ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Benefice Office	Issy Welsh	73226
Rectors Rev. Julia Hicks, Rev. Bob Hicks		76406
	juliahicks1@gmail.com	
	bobhicks66@gmail.com	

JUST WOMEN

Chairwoman	Pauline Rook	240 644	prook12@gmail.com
Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	christianne@lopen.me.uk
Secretary	Margaret Linton	241 162	margaretlinton79@yahoo.com

POLICE CSO

Amy Douch	Dial 101 and ask PCSO 8186
	amydouch@avonandsomerset.police.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
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LOPEN EYE TEAM

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**WEDNESDAY
COFFEE MORNING
at the SCHOOL ROOM**



MARCH

14th

10.30am - 12 midday

Fairtrade Stall

**£1 only for a hot drink, refill
and a piece of cake.**

**Everyone welcome including
accompanied young children.**

**THE CHARITY TO BE
SUPPORTED IS**

AKAMBA AID

**sight-saving eye clinics in Kenya
www.akambaaidfund.org**

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