

# LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

APRIL 2017



## FOOTPATHS PROJECT

Please join us for the

**1st FOOTPATHS MAINTENANCE PARTY**  
on  
**Sunday May 21st**  
at 3pm

We will be spending a couple of hours walking the footpaths and undertaking minor clearance, cutting back and tidying to ensure the local paths are in good order for all to enjoy.

There will be a treasure/scavenger hunt for the youngsters with prizes on offer.

We will be starting at 3pm at Holloway Cottage and conclude with a well-earned home-grown pork and apple sauce roll and hotdogs.

***It would be great to see you!***

*Please let us know if you can help by emailing or phoning Ed Moore:*

*ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com or 394583*

## FALCONRY DISPLAY

The display on March 14th was attended by 50 people, including three children. Just Women would like to thank all those who attended and made this a successful evening, with a small profit that allowed a donation of £16 to the Church.



In the past two months we have organised 12 road side sessions monitoring 3348 vehicles passing through the village. Of these, 115 drivers were exceeding the current

30mph speed limit and will receive advisory letters from Avon and Somerset Police. The actual figures break down as follows:

Speed	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
Number	15	24	25	11	10	7	8	4

Speed	44	45	47	48	49	51	Total
Number	2	4	2	1	1	1	115

This has been achieved with a small group of 10 volunteers. It is our ambition to run at least two sessions a week throughout the spring and summer months and further volunteers could only help to achieve this. Anyone interested should contact either Ben Goldsmith (249 231) or Roger Gurner (249 243) for further details.



## YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!



We remain short of councillors, with three vacancies. This is a concern! We are at the point where the council cannot function properly if one councillor cannot attend a meeting and another has to declare an interest.

If you've ever considered joining the Parish Council then we need you now!

Please contact Nick Jones:

241 643 or email [nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com](mailto:nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com)

Reminder for all residents to make sure their recycling boxes are packed properly when left out for the refuse collection. There have been some instances of cardboard and paper being blown out of the boxes and littering the roads/streets/verges of the village.

Thank you to all residents who have planted daffodils along the main road, and particularly the planter boxes. It makes the village look so wonderful in Spring.

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

This took place on Saturday 11th and was a very civilised affair. Those who came along were able to sample some excellent cake and talk about local concerns. It was however, a little disappointing not to see more new faces, as most who came along already have some sort of contact with the council. More input from a wider cross-section of the village would have been welcome.

### **ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

We still await real progress on the controversial Small Improvements Scheme. Apparently the County Highways design team are still working on it. I am assured that there will be real news very soon.

### **SPEED WATCH**

The Speed Watch initiative by SLOW continues to go well. There have now been twelve sessions, mostly at the southern end of the village due to roadworks, and at the last count something like 115 warning letters have been sent to speeding drivers. 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**

As spring gathers pace the weeds are already pushing through, with the nettles and goose-grass seeming particularly keen this year. To try and keep the paths open for all, there is a Parish Council initiative led by Councillor Ed Moore to hold a "Footpaths Maintenance Party" on Sunday 21st May. See the advertisement on the front cover for more information.

### **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**

Although we now have a new, fibre connected cabinet installed in the village, it remains remarkably difficult to discover who is going to benefit from it and how soon. Lopen is currently fed by two cabinets. One is already fibre enabled, but located in South Petherton and thus too far away to give decent speeds and the original one in the village is not fibre enabled. It is hoped that eventually the whole village will be connected to the new one and benefit from much higher connection speeds. However, connecting the existing local copper network to the cabinet is a fairly big job and no timescales have been given. To further confuse matters, Gigaclear, who have been awarded the phase 2 contract for connecting Devon and Somerset, also appear to be expecting to do some work in the village, although they are not saying when either!

## **PLANNING MATTERS**

We have seen a flurry of planning applications recently which make it necessary to call an additional Parish Council meeting in April. If you want to find out about planning applications in the area, the SSDC website is really useful for viewing both the plans and the comments. It also allows you to sign up to a weekly email listing new applications in your chosen area. You can also comment directly on line if you wish.

## **SHORTAGE OF COUNCILLORS**

We remain short of councillors, with three vacancies. This is a concern. We are at the point where the council cannot function properly if one councillor cannot attend a meeting and another has to declare an interest. We've now been advertising vacancies for 6 months without interest and I'm beginning to wonder not only whether Lopen is large enough to support a council of seven members, but even if we should consider looking at forming an alliance with one of our neighbouring parishes. This would very much be a last resort as I believe Lopen should remain independent, so I hope someone will come forward and remove it from my thoughts!

## **DOG BIN**

The new dog poo bin has now been installed at the corner of Water Street and Kitchens Lane and is being used. Thanks are due to Councillor Adam Dance and Olivia Busby of SSDC for finding the funding and getting it installed promptly.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Parish Council meetings will take place at the Sunday School Room at 7.00pm on the following dates: - April additional TBA  
- 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 [loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com) or telephone 07587 211150 and add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.

## NOTTINGHAM KNOCKERS



Some parts of the force area have seen an increase in door to door callers, often trying to sell cleaning and kitchen equipment. We are taking this opportunity to remind you all that you should not have dealings with callers at the door. Likewise don't respond

to letters or emails from unknown sources or have dealings with cold callers on the phone. If you are looking for someone to provide goods or services, then please make local enquiries with companies that you know and trust. Your local Trading Standards Office can often help with details of reputable tradesmen. Please remember it's your door step, it's your decision. All suspicious callers should be reported to the police using either the 101 or 999 numbers.

### OBITUARIES:



It is with great sadness that we record the death of Mrs Elizabeth Fenwick-Moore of Church Street. She retired to Lopen with her husband, John, over 30 years ago and lived bravely alone for many

years after his death.

She served as our Church Warden for many years and played a very active role in village life. She was an extraordinary person of great intelligence, charm, humour and kindness. Her steely determination to remain in her own home despite a rising tide of infirmities and the sad death of her dearly loved twin sons, could only be admired. She will be remembered with great affection.



Another of the village 'elders' - Nigel Potts - sadly passed away in March. Having been a resident of the village for about 50 years, Nigel served on the Parish Council and was latterly involved with the

Lopen Historical Group and was custodian of the village archives.

## A WARM WELCOME!

We have had a number of new residents in the village over the last few months, so we would like to welcome

- Del & Carolyn from Crewkerne at Midstars, Kitchens Lane; Simon & Ross from Yeovil at Trevarne, Water Street; Karl & Sara from Taunton at The Old Chapel, Main



*Del & Carolyn*



*Rachel & Steve*

Road; Mel & Grace from Somerton at 1 Broomhill Cottage; Ash & Yasmin from Ilchester at 2 Broomhill Cottage; and Steve & Rachel from Portsmouth at Rogaels, Water Street.

## COUNTRYSIDE CODE FOR THE PUBLIC

Spring is a lovely time of year when we 'break out' from the winter and enjoy the countryside - daffodils, lambs, and the lovely fresh air. So, just a reminder to think of the farmers too when out walking, remember:

- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths.
- A farmer will normally close gates to keep farm animals in, but may sometimes leave them open so the animals can reach food and water.
- Leave gates as you find them or follow instructions on signs. When in a group, make sure the last person knows how to leave the gates.
- Follow paths unless wider access is available, such as on open country or registered common land (known as 'Open Access' land).

## DIARY DATES

**Thursday 13th April** - 7pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion.

**Saturday 15th April** - 10am Making an Easter Garden in the church and then an Easter egg hunt for young children.

**Sunday 16th April** - 10:30am Easter service with Holy Communion.

**Thursday May 18th** - 10:30am Refugee Support Group Coffee Morning at Lopen Sunday School Room.

## Lopen Plant Fair

In aid of the Sunday School Room and Church Fund

**Saturday 6th May**

**10.30am - 12noon**

For a wonderful selection of locally sourced flower and vegetable plants at special prices for your garden, vegetable plot, tub and basket. Delicious cakes for sale and refreshments to be enjoyed.

Donations of plants are most welcome for this fund raising event and will be gratefully received at The Old Bakehouse, Holloway and Bailiffs Cottage, Church Street, on the Friday afternoon or before the event on the Saturday.





Our next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday 11th April**  
**An Auctioneer's Story**  
 at  
**The Sunday School Room**  
**at 7.30pm**



A talk by Mr Richard Kay, Auctioneer, from Lawrence's in Crewkerne.  
 The subject of the talk will be "An Auctioneer's Story".  
 Mr Kay is a talented and entertaining speaker who knows his subject well,  
 so this should prove to be a very pleasant and informative evening indeed.

*Non-members are always welcome - anyone wishing to join is more than welcome, membership is £3 for the year and £2 for each meeting thereafter (if held in The School Room).*

For further information please telephone Margaret Linton : 241 162 or email [margaretlinton79@yahoo.com](mailto:margaretlinton79@yahoo.com)

**EASTER WEEK IN LOPEN.**

For flower arrangers yellow and white flowers are traditionally used for decorating the church on Easter Saturday, after 3pm, ready for Easter Day.  
 If you would like to help please contact:  
 Liz on 240912 or Angela on 240921.

**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](mailto: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/)

**CONTACTS**

Village website - [www.lopen.btck.co.uk](http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk)

**PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman	Nick Jones	241 643	<a href="mailto:nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com">nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com</a>
Vice Chairman	Stephen Crane	241 412	<a href="mailto:scrane1@hotmail.co.uk">scrane1@hotmail.co.uk</a>
	Ed Moore	394 583	<a href="mailto:ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com">ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com</a>
	Mark	242 889	<a href="mailto:mbloopenpc@gmail.com">mbloopenpc@gmail.com</a>

Parish Clerk	Lisa Wilson	07587 211150	<a href="mailto:loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com">loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com</a>
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<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	Cllr Adam Dance	07767 224 213	<a href="mailto:adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk">adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk</a>
	Cllr Crispin Raikes	07968 291 588	<a href="mailto:crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk">crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk</a>

<b>COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	Cllr Christopher Le Hardy	01935 850 212	<a href="mailto:clehardy@somerset.gov.uk">clehardy@somerset.gov.uk</a>
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<b>MEMBER of PARLIAMENT</b>	Marcus Fysh		<a href="mailto:marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk">marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk</a>
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**ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

Benefice Office	Issy Welsh	73226	
Rector	Rev. Julia Hicks	76406	<a href="mailto:juliahicks1@gmail.com">juliahicks1@gmail.com</a>
Rector	Rev. Bob Hicks	76406	<a href="mailto:bobhicks66@gmail.com">bobhicks66@gmail.com</a>
Churchwarden	Angela Naunton Davies	240 921	<a href="mailto:nauntondavies@btinternet.com">nauntondavies@btinternet.com</a>

**JUST WOMEN**

Chairwoman	Pauline Rook	240 644	<a href="mailto:prook12@gmail.com">prook12@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	<a href="mailto:christianne@lopen.me.uk">christianne@lopen.me.uk</a>
Secretary	Margaret Linton	241 162	<a href="mailto:margaretlinton79@yahoo.com">margaretlinton79@yahoo.com</a>
<b>POLICE CSO</b>	Ceara Sturt	Dial 101	<a href="mailto:ceara.sturt@avonandsomerset.police.uk">ceara.sturt@avonandsomerset.police.uk</a>

ask for PCSO 8340

<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH</b>	Valerie Canton	242 751	<a href="mailto:mvcanton@talktalk.net">mvcanton@talktalk.net</a>
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**LOPEN EYE TEAM**

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**COFFEE STOP**  
 at the  
**Sunday School Room**

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

**APRIL DATES**

Wednesday  
 12th & 26th

10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome - including parents with young children.

