

OPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

OCTOBER 2017



LOPEN MISTLETOE FAYRE

will be held this year on
Saturday December 2nd

The next meeting will be at 4.30pm on Tuesday October 17th at Old School House, School Lane, Lopen. Anyone interested taking part/helping please contact Victoria Bennett on 240 077.



In view of the Parish Council considering accepting the proposed 'safety improvements' to the village traffic issues, these are most recent results from the SID installation.

August 2107 - near Church Street junction, south bound:

Date	<30mph	<40mph	<50mph	>50mph
22	282	687	66	6
23	371	972	85	4
24	381	934	95	10
25	343	984	101	8
26	288	816	88	10
27	223	747	90	11
28	220	687	103	9
29	326	992	87	9
30	384	908	88	3
31	396	923	75	5
Total	3214	8650	878	75

A total of 12,817 vehicles travelled through the village, from the Lopen Head direction, and only 3,214 were recorded as moving at 30mph or less! The significant figure for the 85% Percentile of 37mph is itself sufficient to indicate to Highways a traffic situation requiring their attention. Speedwatch also continues to show significant numbers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit through the village. Of 9,992 recorded so far, 641 were travelling at more than 36mph, of which 273 were over 40mph. And two have been 'clocked' at more than 60mph.

All Saints' Church, Lopen

Harvest Festival

Sunday 1st October

6pm

Lopen Church

This years produce will be going to Pilsdon

They need tinned and packaged foods. They also need basics like shower gel, shampoo and loo rolls.

The money collection at the service this year will go to "Hurricane Irma Relief Fund"

The Service will be followed by an informal supper

A decorative graphic featuring a central image of golden wheat stalks swaying in the wind against a blue sky. The graphic is framed by a border of red autumn leaves.

PARISH CLERK VACANCY

With Lisa having tendered her resignation we have an urgent need for a replacement Parish Clerk. This is a vital role, providing administrative support to the council and needing approximately 4 hours a week. There is a modest salary available and training will be given. If you are interested, please contact Nick or Lisa for details.



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

OPEN PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH CLERK

We are still looking for a Parish Clerk. Lisa has agreed to stay on until we find a replacement and we have one expression of interest so far, but nothing definite. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please see the advert on the front page giving more details.

NEW COUNCILLORS

The Council has one further vacancy, so there is still the opportunity to join if you wish to put yourself forward.

ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

We have now received the revised draft proposal from the County Highways SIS team. If you would like to see the plans, please contact Lisa or Nick. The plans include changes to width restrictions on approach roads to South Petherton as before.

The 30mph speed limit areas remain as they currently are with the previously proposed 40mph zones having been dropped. New village "gateway" features incorporating signage and road markings are to be added on Holloway just north of the Laurels and just north of the Mill Lane junction to highlight the entries to the centre of the village. New 30mph repeater signs will be added including roundels painted on the road just north of School Lane and just south of Church Street. The existing gateway feature at the southern entry to the village will be refurbished.

The central part of the village will get white lines at the road edges to make the road appear narrower and move traffic away from houses and driveways. There are some changes to signage in the approaches to the Snapant bends and road markings will be refreshed. There is also some adjustment to speed signage on Kitchens Lane and Church Street, though the purpose of this is unclear.

While a clear improvement on the original proposal, this still falls short of what we had been aiming for and the flat refusal to consider a 20mph speed limit is a particular disappointment. However, they've also made it clear that there is little scope for further negotiation and we need to respond quickly if the project is to go ahead at all.

On a more positive note we have been told that parishes are now being encouraged to purchase their own electronic SID (possibly in co-operation with neighbouring villages), which is something that has been blocked in the past. This gives us some scope to do something for ourselves and we'll be looking into it as a matter of priority.

DEFIBRILLATOR

The village defibrillator, located in the church porch, is now accredited with the South West Ambulance

Trust. This means that it will now appear on their database, so anyone dialling 999 from nearby will be advised of its presence. They also have a structured checking regime that provides an incentive for us to check it regularly.

We have previously run short training courses on its use and general first-aid/CPR and would like to do so again. If you would like to come to such a course, please contact us to register your interest.

ELECTORAL REVIEW

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is carrying out an electoral review of South Somerset District Council. The aim of it is to re-balance the number of electors per councillor and this raises the prospect of the boundaries of wards and parishes being shifted to move a population centre from one to another. Parish Councils and parishioners alike are being invited to comment on this process as part of a consultation which closes on 30th October. More information can be found here:

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/10065>

This gives you the opportunity to provide feedback directly and even suggest boundary changes via interactive map.

As you know, Lopen Parish is currently in the South Petherton Ward and we have two district councillors, Adam Dance and Crispin Raikes.

I have heard a rumour (and I stress that it is only rumour) that there has been the suggestion of moving Lopen Parish from South Petherton Ward to the Eggwood Ward, which currently includes Merriott, Hinton St George and Dinnington.

This was discussed at our September meeting and the feeling then was very much that we would prefer to stay with South Petherton. We will be discussing our final response to the consultation at our October meeting, so if you have any strong views on the subject please let us know.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- Wednesday October 18th.
- Wednesday December 6th.

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

Do you have any news, or a story, that would interest our readers?

Items can be sent in for consideration no later than the 23rd of the month preceding cover date.



SUPER FAST BROADBAND IN LOPEN

Despite all the good news and anticipation, it is fair to say that, although a

number of residents are now enjoying much improved broadband speeds, thanks to the arrival of the Big Green cabinet in Holloway, there are also several people who have experienced very real difficulties in updating their service.

Principally, this appears to be the result of a complete lack of co-operation between the main contractors BT Openreach and CDS (Connecting Devon and Somerset) who have almost stopped speaking to each other, with the result that it is proving impossible to get a comprehensive answer to the question of who can or cannot look forward to the use of the new speeds.

In order to try one more time to achieve a definitive picture of the service availability throughout the village, I would like to construct a true record of exactly who has been able to connect to SFB and, much more importantly, anyone who is or has been experiencing difficulties of any form. This information would naturally remain confidential, but would allow me to have a sensible conversation with both parties and at the same time correct their records for future reference.

If you are prepared to help, could you please let me have, by email preferably, details of your address and post code, the ISP involved (service provider such as BT, Talk Talk, Plus Net, etc), the speed of service obtained or, if your are experiencing difficulties, all the above plus brief details of your current situation and any offered solution or otherwise.

Many thanks - Roger Gurner: itcs@btconnect.com

BOTTLE TOPS & BISCUIT WRAPPERS

Milk bottle tops are still being collected - at present the fundraising through recycling is going to the Yeovil, Sherborne and District MS Society.

We have now added plastic film biscuit wrappers, any brand, so come on biscuit connoisseurs justify yourselves by saving those wrappers!

*Lopen collection point is
2 Church Street (Crown Cottage).*

ANY TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS?

I'm thinking of starting a Table Tennis club in the Sunday School Room. It's still at the thinking stage, but perhaps 3-5pm on alternate Sundays? All ages welcome - and we could have tea! Perhaps children could also play at other times

- wet days in the holidays, etc. If it's of interest to you please contact Carolyn on 240 717 or email carorooney@talktalk.net



I would like to reiterate the thanks to all the people mentioned in last months Lopen Eye (the editor got in before me!) who made the Village Picnic such a success. It was very much a team effort.

I would also like to mention the fact that on the Thursday before the event we were informed that our previous insurers were no longer in a position to cover us. We were most grateful therefore that the church's insurers were able to come to our rescue - without them we would have had to cancel the picnic. As a thank you we have donated £20 to the church funds.

Finally, Liz and I have decided that this will be our last Village Picnic. It's time to hand over to some younger people and I very much hope that in two years' time others will step forward to organise a function that will get the village together, possibly a completely different format? Who knows.

Good luck to whoever it is - Carolyn

Hinton St George First School & Pre-School

Open Morning

For prospective new parents & pupils

Tuesday October 10th
9.30am - 11.30am

Places available starting September 2017

Please call us on 01460 72653
West Street, Hinton St George, TA17 8SA

SHOE BOX APPEAL 2017



We are fast approaching Shoe-Box time again and we would be delighted if you could help once more with our 2017 Appeal. We are so grateful for your generosity every year and we know that many desperately poor and marginalised people in

Eastern Europe will be deeply touched as they receive their shoe-boxes this Christmas .

Boxes can be sent to every age-range, from babies to the elderly, so the choice is yours! Leaflets giving more details are available from mid September in the Church and the Broadway Garage, Merriott.

Completed boxes as well as 'fillers' can be dropped off at the address below. We would also be grateful for any extra empty shoe-boxes. Thank you so much .

Sally-Ann Howell Crown Cottage ,Church Street. Tel 241765
All boxes to be ready for collection by November 4th.



Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday 3rd October
at 7.30pm in the Sunday School Room
Charity Evening and Travel Talk

This is our charity evening, and is going to be a talk and slide show by Ian Williamson, about his travel experiences in places such as Vietnam, Nepal, Tasmania, Czech Republic and Hadrian's Wall.

We plan to have a produce stall too, so please contribute any produce, preserves, etc., you may have available.

All funds will go to St. Margaret's Hospice.

Non-members welcome.

For further information please telephone Margaret Linton : 241 162 or email margaretlinton79@yahoo.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

Refugee Support Group, South Somerset, thanks those who have donated clean, washable clothing and bedding, including sleeping bags, and suitable footwear, and asks that you please continue to do so, Winter clothing being necessary from October. Our thanks, also, to those who have supported fundraising activities. Money raised helps to buy medication, toiletries and new underwear to send to the camps in countries without resources to meet these needs. It also allows charities on the ground in Europe to solve emergencies immediately, eg food, tents, sleeping bags, clothing for isolated children. Our next fundraising event will be **a concert at South Petherton Methodist Church on November 26th at 7pm**. We hope you are able to support us in one or both of these ways, or perhaps join our group. We continue to receive donations for Raft (refugeeaidfromtaunton.org.uk). Geraldine Downey, 3 Gough Close, Merriott, 01460 271358

Have you liked the Lopen Events Facebook page? Have a look -
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
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Vice Chairman	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
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	Ed Moore	394 583	ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com
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	Mark	242 889	mblopenpc@gmail.com
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	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
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	Simon Frackiewicz	394 975	simon@toadhall.email
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Parish Clerk	Lisa Wilson	07587 211150	lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com
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DISTRICT COUNCIL	Cllr Adam Dance	07767 224 213	adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk
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	Cllr Crispin Raikes	07968 291 588	crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk
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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	
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Rector	Rev. Julia Hicks	76406	juliahicks1@gmail.com
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Rector	Rev. Bob Hicks	76406	bobhicks66@gmail.com
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JUST WOMEN

Chairwoman	Pauline Rook	240 644	prook12@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	christianne@lopen.me.uk
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Secretary	Margaret Linton	241 162	margaretlinton79@yahoo.com
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POLICE CSO	Amy Douch	Dial 101	amy.douch@avonandsomerset.police.uk
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ask for PCSO 8186

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
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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.

OCTOBER DATES

Wednesday
11th & 25th

10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome -
including parents with young children.

All proceeds to
Somerset Prostate Support Association