

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

JULY 2016



BBC VISIT LOPEN!

BBC Bristol & Somerset Radio broadcast a show on Sunday mornings called 'Clueless', hosted by Richard Lewis. Helping two teams crack puzzles, as they travel across the West. Two radio cars are guided by the audience, who decipher clues, which guide the cars to different locations throughout our region. On Sunday June 19th, Lopen was featured as one of the destinations! The first clue being 'South Somerset village available for business, as a Frenchman would say'. The second clue was 'track down an ancient type of jigsaw in the grounds of a church, for the likes of Andrew, David, Patrick and George'. The first answer was Lopen, and the second was



the Roman mosaic in our All Saints Church. The radio car was met by Angela Naunton-Davies who gave a short talk, live on air, about the discovery of the mosaic some 15 years ago.

A reconstruction of the mosaic can be found in the floor of the north aisle of the church.



AND IT RAINED.....

With an eye on the weather forecast, the bunting, tables and chairs were laid out along Church Street for the street party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. The straw bales and the skittles were in place, and as everyone arrived with their wide selection of food & drink, the atmosphere built. Unfortunately the rain came and went - the brollies went up and down. The gazebos came out and Christianne and the children managed to complete their treasure hunts. A toast to the Queen was proposed and we all sang the National Anthem - but in the end the weather beat us - by about 2pm the heavens opened and it poured! Cue for most people to scuttle off back home. A real shame, but we did try! Many thanks to Carolyn and the helpers in Church Street who made the event happen.



LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

Lopen Parish Council now has a full complement of 7 councillors. As the first layer of local democracy, representing the parish of Lopen, the council should not and cannot operate in a vacuum. We need your input. If you think something needs action, have an opinion on a planning matter that you want taken into consideration or have a concern about something going on in the village, then please contact one of the councillors. Our contact details are in the Eye!

BROADBAND

Progress has been made on the Lopen broadband question. Some local detective work and a visit by a pair of BT rural broadband experts has revealed why the authorities think Lopen is superfast fibre enabled, and also why we haven't noticed. It turns out that Lopen households and businesses are connected to the South Petherton exchange via one of two cabinets. The majority of residential properties, those north of and including Frog Street, are connected via cabinet 4. Cabinet 4 was superfast enabled last July, which explains why Lopen is officially "enabled". However, it is actually located in South Petherton, just a few metres from the exchange, and is consequently too far away to give connection speeds much above 3 - 4 Mbs in Lopen. Little different from before.

Cabinet 11 is located in Lopen and serves properties south of Frog Street and businesses on the Mill Lane industrial estate. This is not superfast fibre enabled. It now seems to be accepted by the County Council and BT that our broadband provision is not all it should be. This is a step forward. The next step is to try and get them to do something about it in a reasonable time frame. Thanks are due to Roger Gurner and Rob Long for kicking the whole process off and also to our County Councillor, Christopher Le Hardy, who has got the County Council and BT to engage with us. Christopher is now in the process of setting up a meeting where we can establish what can be done to help and what the timescales are.

FOOTPATHS

It's that time of year when warmer weather and more than ample rain are causing rampant growth of nettles and other weeds, choking our footpaths. While some paths close in to the village are cut by the rangers, most are not. The best way to keep them open is to use them regularly and trample the weeds under your boots. A stout stick or even a pair of secateurs for troublesome bramble can also be very useful!

The truly impassable, broken stiles, stuck gates and

missing signs can be reported to our footpaths officer Ed Moore or directly to the SCC interactive map at <http://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map#>

PLANNING MATTERS

At the June meeting we considered an application for a new classroom building at Frogmary Green Farm. There was lively debate with the representative from the planning consultancy getting a grilling. In the end it was decided to support the application with comments relating to road safety.

Applications for a barn conversion and new barn in Broomhill Lane were also supported with comments after some debate.

ROADS

At our June meeting, County Councillor Christopher Le Hardy reported that road improvement funding he applied for some time ago has finally been allocated. A sum of £ 25,000 is now available to be used to improve safety on the main road through the village. It is now for the village to decide how this can be most usefully spent and suggestions are welcome. There have been previous surveys made on this subject dating back to when the application for funds was first made and we will also be revisiting the results of these.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

August 16th

October 18th

December tbc - Budget

January 2017 tbc - Precept

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 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 Kim McDonald, Parish Clerk, at mcdonald.lopenpc@btinternet.com or telephone 241 643 and add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.



FAREWELL TO BARRY & KIM

Barry Davolls, ex PC Chairman, and Kim McDonald, ex PC Clerk, are moving to Devon with their livestock. Both have been dedicated, conscientious and hard-working on behalf of the people of Lopen and will be greatly missed. We wish them much happiness in their new home.

MISTLETOE FAYRE - A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

We would like to invite you to an open meeting to discuss the organisation and content of this years' Mistletoe Fayre. Do come along with any ideas /suggestions and offers of help you may have to ensure the continued success of our Fayre. Initial decisions need to be made regarding the format for this year including which charity to support and the running of the raffle.

The meeting will take place in the **Sunday School Room on Thursday July 21st at 7:30 pm.** All welcome.

SUMMER CONCERT

'Hi-Lo-a-Merri-Din'

Performed by the new Choir of Dinington, Lopen, Hinton St George and Merriot Churches

Saturday 23rd July at 4pm
at

Merriot Church

Followed by refreshments.

Admission FREE

(with retiring collection towards choir music funds)

Come and join the



Call to all enthusiastic singers - everyone welcome!

An exciting opportunity to join this great new choir for our village churches. The choir is open to both children (8+) and adults, with the aim of enjoying singing together at occasional special services in our four beautiful churches.

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings in term time.

No auditions, just a lot of enthusiasm required!

UPCOMING WEDNESDAY REHEARSALS:
13th & 20th July at 7pm. at Merriot church.

For more details contact Bob or Julia Hicks on 01460 76406 or simply come along to the Merriot church for the next rehearsal.

A WARM WELCOME!



Ghiselle & Gerald Hale, and their dog Scragwag, have moved to Sunnyside Farm, Broomhill Lane. Scragwag, a Jack Russell, has a tendency to wander, so if you see him out and about on his own please let Ghiselle or Gerald know - 249 510.

They have recently moved from the Blackdown Hills, south west of Ilminster.

The next Childrens Workshops

are to be held on

Saturday 20th August

Saturday 3rd September

from 2.00 to 4.00pm in The Sunday School Room

The aim this year is to get as many of the village children and any young summer visitors involved in creating a large scale art work for display during Somerset Arts Week. The plan is to create a long meadow scene, up to 5 metres long, using pens, paint and paper, to hang along one wall of the School Room. At the request of Bob and Julia Hicks, this will stay in place until after Harvest Festival, so there will be plenty of opportunities to view the work.

It is open to all ages and we have set two dates to allow as many children to participate. Due to the complex nature of the piece, parental support would be very much appreciated.

For more information please contact Christianne Long on 249 766, or email christianne@lopen.me.uk

OPEN DAY AT THE ALLOTMENTS

There will be an Open Day for all budding gardeners on
Sunday 17th July from 2pm to 5pm

Do go along and pay them a visit - they would love to meet you! Take a stroll around the allotment plots and see the wildflower areas and new bug hotel. Refreshments will be available with delicious cakes.

This year there will also be a plant and produce stall. SOUTH PETHERTON ALLOTMENTS, WHITFIELD LANE TA13 5DF. Please park in the village and walk up if possible. For more information please contact Marion Parr on 01460 241960

HARVEST FESTIVAL AND OPEN CHURCH WEEKEND 1st & 2nd October

Flower (and produce) arrangers wanted - please put your name and preferred day and time (e.g morning, afternoon, evening, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) on the list in the church entrance porch, or contact Sally-Ann on 241 765 - no later than SEPTEMBER 1st.

Decorating the church as a group works well as flowers and views can be shared - and it's social!

The children will be making a frieze on the Sunday School Room walls, ready for both weeks

**THERE WILL BE NO LOPEN EYE
IN AUGUST**

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.



Our next meeting will be at
2.30pm on Tuesday 12th July
An afternoon visit to Rugg Farm,
Limington near Yeovil.



A 2 acre garden created since 2007 around former farmhouse and farm buildings. Diverse areas of interest. Ornamental, kitchen and cottage gardens, lawn and borders, courtyard container planting, orchard, wildlife meadows and pond, developing shrubberies, woodland plantings and walk. The visit will include tea and cakes. Rugg Farm is part of the National Gardens Scheme. Further information can be found if you access the NGS web site.

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.

OPEN MEETING EXPLORES WAYS FORWARD

There was a very encouraging turnout for the 'Open Meeting' held in the Sunday School Room on Monday 9th May. After a delicious supper, we split into groups to consider a number of questions concerning the current and future life of the church. What follows is a very short resumé of some of the main themes. There was good agreement on many reasons why Lopen Church and the Sunday School Room are valued by the community; the beautiful buildings, the sense of community spirit, peace and accessibility. People enjoy the worship and also the shared events and activities; especially the biweekly Coffee Stop. People generally felt that there were few or no barriers to people coming to the church. However, those present were all either regular church attenders or know the church well. It would be valuable to hear the perceptions of people

who are much less connected to the church. Some felt that the space available is a bit limited, and this led to a discussion about whether it might be possible to remove the pews in the North Aisle to create an additional flexible-use area. Not surprisingly, opinion was divided on this matter! It was widely felt that the Sunday School Room could be more fully used for regular and one-off events, and it should be better promoted. The PCC would like to see this as well, and more diverse use of the church itself. There were lots of other great ideas and contributions. We have produced a more detailed summary of the meeting, with some actions and 'possibilities'. If you would like a copy, please get in touch on 01460 76406 or bobhicks66@gmail.com

Rev Bob Hicks

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
Vice Chairman	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
	Sarah Mason	249 219	sarahmason6@yahoo.com
	Teresa Sienkiewicz	241 363	tsloopenpc1@btinternet.com
	Jenny Feeney	419 569	jfeeneyloopenpc@gmail.com
	Ed Moore	394 583	ed.moore.loopenpc@gmail.com
	Mark	242 889	mbloopenpc@gmail.com
Parish Clerk	Kim McDonald	241 643	mcdonald.loopenpc@btinternet.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 Christopher Le Hardy	01935 850 212	clehardy@somerset.gov.uk
MEMBER of PARLIAMENT	Marcus Fysh		marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Benefice Office	Issy Welsh	73226	
Rector	Rev. Julia Hicks	76406	juliahicks1@gmail.com
Rector	Rev. Bob Hicks	76406	bobhicks66@gmail.com
Churchwarden	Angela Naunton Davies	240 921	nauntondavies@btinternet.com

JUST WOMEN

Chairwoman	Lynn Benfield	929 205	lynn.ian@virgin.net
Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	christianne@loopen.me.uk
Secretary	Margaret Linton	241 162	margaretlinton79@yahoo.com

POLICE CSO	Ceara Sturt	Dial 101	ceara.sturt@avonandsomerset.police.uk
		ask for PCSO 8340	

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

JULY DATES
Wednesday
13th & 27th

10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome -
including parents with young children.

All proceeds to
Médécins Sans Frontières.

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