

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter **DECEMBER 2017**



Lopen Parish Council
and the team at
Lopen Eye would like to
wish everyone in Lopen
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!



CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 2nd December - *Mistletoe Fayre*

Saturday 9th December - *Children's Workshop*

Wednesday 13th December from 10.30am - *Coffee Stop - the last for 2017!*

Sunday 10th December at 11 am - *All Age Communion*

Thursday 21st December at 6.00pm - *Carols by Candlelight*

Monday 25th December at 10.30am - *Christmas Morning Service*



LOPEN 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 below.

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 been in touch with a number of manufacturers of SIDs devices and have a selection of quotes already, with a few more to come, hopefully. No notable bargains spotted so far. We are also contacting neighbouring parishes to see if they are interested in a SID-share as SSC deployment rules mean that a minimum of four locations are needed to make full use of the device.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM

As the only public meeting space in Lopen, the Sunday School Room is a vital village asset and the only place within the parish that the council can meet. As many will know, the internal chimney, which is a later addition to the building, is cracking, subsiding and in urgent need of attention. A planning application has been put in by the PCC for its removal, which will have a minimal effect on the appearance of the building, but make it safe for the lowest cost as well as freeing up the end wall. The Parish Council is happy to support this. As the recent Village Supper event showed, though small, the room is large enough for lively and enjoyable gatherings and could be used more than it is at present. I know there are thoughts within the council to make more use of it for village social events, but it can be available to anyone with a good idea.

LEAVES AND DRAINS

Once again, it's that time of year when drains are clogged with fallen leaves. If you're out and about in your wellies, and able to scrape the leaves off the drain grids in passing, you may be able to prevent a minor flood. For more serious blockages please contact a councillor or County Highways direct at:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/report-a-blocked-drain-on-the-road/>

AND FINALLY

With Christmas just around the corner and 2017

drawing to a close, I find myself wondering where it went and what has been achieved. The dominant issue for the council has certainly been the road safety improvement scheme and the furore caused by the unexpectedly daft initial proposals from County Highways. While the journey has been somewhat painful (and is not over yet), the outcome is now much more positive. Also, the strength of feeling unleashed along the way has been harnessed in a very positive way by SLOW with the re-establishment of the Lopen Speed Watch Scheme.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- Thursday December 7th.

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 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 or telephone 07587 211150 and add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.



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.

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.



The Carols by Candlelight in Lopen Church will be at
6pm on Thursday 21st December.
 There will be a glass of warm festive cheer
 after the service.
 Little shepherds and angels are welcome.

Childrens' Christmas Workshop



is to be held on
Saturday 9th December
 from 2.00 to 4.00pm



in
 The Sunday School Room, Lopen

Come and make a hanging Christmas decoration complete
 with ornaments, glitter and a special Lopen candle box.
 All welcome.

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

LOPEN MISTLETOE FAYRE

At the time of writing, the Mistletoe Fayre had not yet
 taken place (so no pictures). No doubt it was a great
 success, so I feel it right to offer a big thanks to all
 those volunteers who gave their time and effort to
 ensure the event happened - especially Victoria, who
 took responsibility to head up the event, and to her
 husband Colin, who spent many hours making our
 lovely new promotional Christmas trees (after they
 were stolen last year!) - which you have probably seen
 on the roadside at either end of the village.



**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

A WARM WELCOME!



Marc and Gilly have moved
 into Brooklyn in The Holloway
 on the south side of the village.
 Previously living in Merriott they
 have spent the last 18 months or
 so modernising the house. Gilly
 is a Sports Masseuse and runs
 her therapy business from here -
 07768 229902.

VILLAGE SUPPER

The Village Supper, held on November 17th, was a
 great success. An evening of lovely home cooked
 food and a couple of games was enjoyed by about
 35 people. We made enough profit to cover all
 expenses and were able to donate £45 to Simon
 Frackiewicz' charity. Many thanks again to all the
 'chefs'.

Carolyn

VEHICLE INCIDENT

Karl & Sara, who recently moved out of The Old
 Chapel, were unfortunate on the early morning of
 November 1st. Sara's car was hit by a passing
 vehicle some time between 6:45 and 7:30am, and the
 offender drove off! Sara's car, an orange Mini, was
 parked next to the house on Holloway Road. The car
 has been scratched down the side, the back of the
 door mirror knocked off (it was folded in) and the front
 wheel and wheel arch damaged. If anyone witnessed
 the incident, or may have information about the
 offending vehicle, could you please contact the editor.

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).

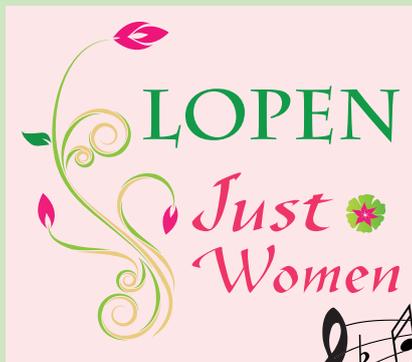
*A huge thank you to everyone who so generously
 contributed to the Shoe-Box appeal. We've been
 able to send off 143 beautiful boxes, over the whole
 age-range. This will make such a difference to the
 lives of desperately needy people in Romania.*

*We were overwhelmed and touched by your love
 and imagination - and indeed by the skill of many
 who have spent many hours making beautiful gifts.*

Wishing you a very happy Christmas.

The Shoe-Box team

There will be no Lopen Eye in January



Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday 12th December
 at 7.30pm in the
Sunday School Room
Christmas Evening



The last Just Women meeting of 2017 - please come and enjoy an evening of Christmas musical entertainment, including a light-hearted musical quiz. Festive refreshments will be served.



Non-members welcome.



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

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).

SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM - HIRE CHARGES

As the new £1 coins did not fit the electricity coin box, the PCC decided to have the box removed. This makes it much easier for users, but means the cost of the electricity is now borne by the PCC. To recoup some of this additional cost, it is necessary to increase hire charges from 1st January. Charges will be as follows:

- Evening - £12.50 (was £10)
- Half Day - £25.00 (was £20)
- Full Day £37.50 (was £30)

Please use the heaters as economically as possible and remember to switch off after use.



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
	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	07587 211150	lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com
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DISTRICT COUNCIL	Clr Adam Dance	07767 224 213	adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk
	Clr Crispin Raikes	07968 291 588	crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCIL	Clr 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	
Rector	Rev. Julia Hicks	76406	juliahicks1@gmail.com
Rector	Rev. Bob Hicks	76406	bobhicks66@gmail.com

JUST WOMEN

Chairwoman	Pauline Rook	240 644	pook12@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	amy.douch@avonandsomerset.police.uk
		ask for PCSO 8186	

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

Editor	Les Morton	391 574	lesmorton26@gmail.com
	Les Farris	242 254	leslifarris23@aol.com
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Proof-reading	Peter Little	242 474	peteralittle6@aol.com

COFFEE STOP at the Sunday School Room

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

DECEMBER & JANUARY DATES

wednesday
13th December

10th & 24th January
10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome - including parents with young children.

All proceeds to Somerset Prostate Support Association