

# LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

JUNE 2017



## LOPEN PLANT FAIR EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS!

A brilliant result was achieved again on Saturday May 6th by all involved in the running of the annual Plant Fair. Thanks to the tremendous support by those in the village, and beyond, a total of £1,280.92 was raised from the plants, teas and raffle; up over 25% from last year. This is quite an



achievement for a small village like ours. So, a very big thank you to the team and to all those who supported the event. As always, all profits from this event go towards the upkeep of the our church and Sunday School Room.

## CAR CRASH AT LOPEN HEAD

On Tuesday May 2nd, at about 8.00am, two vehicles were involved in an accident at the Lopenhead roundabout, opposite the Lopen Raj restaurant.

A Vauxhall Astra had damage to the front end, whilst a Land Rover Discovery was on it's roof. An ambulance was called and attended to two people who sustained minor injuries. Somerset Highways cleared oil & other fluids and debris from the collision. The scene was cleared by 11am and traffic was flowing freely again.



We have now carried out 23 sessions within the 30mph zone. Of the 5,400 vehicles observed to date 257 have been reported, and of those, 105 (or almost 41%) have been travelling at 40 MPH or faster, including one at 62mph!

Reports back from CSW Central Records are now beginning to include our own reports, and the most recent indicate that two of those observed in Lopen during March have now been interviewed by police for having been reported more than three times across

the area.

We have had two new helpers trained this month, but more are always welcome. Anyone interested should contact either Ben Goldsmith (249 231) or Roger Gurner (249 253) for further details.

# LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

## **ANNUAL MEETING & NEW COUNCILLOR**

The recent annual meeting saw Nick Jones returned to the Chairmanship with Stephen Crane remaining as Vice Chairman.



We were also fortunate enough to be able to co-opt Valerie Canton as a new councillor. A village resident for 17 years, with previous experience of committees and event organisation, we believe she is a valuable addition and warmly welcome her to the Council.

Council duties were allocated as follows

Footpaths - Ed Moore

Highways and Ranger Liaison - Stephen Crane

Planning Matters - Nick Jones

Social, Health & Wellbeing - Valerie Canton

## **NEW COUNCILLORS**

As well as the co-option of a new councillor we have also had one further firm expression of interest, which will hopefully result in another co-option at the next meeting. This would bring us to 6 councillors, which is a very much better position. This would leave one further vacancy, so there is still the opportunity to join if you wish.

## **ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

There have been no further developments on this to report in spite of some prompting. It is likely that the recent change of County Councillor has caused a pause. However, we were assured at our previous meeting that a change of Councillor would not stop the project and new Councillor Adam Dance is determined that it will continue, so we expect to have news soon.

## **SPEED WATCH**

Following up on the matter of the speeding school buses, we have now received responses from two of the three bus companies we wrote to and continue to chase the third. We also have had a reply from Somerset County Council who tell us that they have also written to the companies concerned. It will be interesting to see whether all this has any effect on their behaviour on the roads!

## **FOOTPATHS**

Sunday 21st of May saw the first footpath clearance event with 12 volunteers working to clear some of the

more overgrown footpaths around the village. There was also a children's treasure hunt and organisers Ed & Jo Moore provided a very fine barbecue afterwards with very locally grown pork and sausages. It was a useful and very pleasant afternoon, which we hope to repeat a little later in the year to tackle any further growth.

Staying with footpaths, the SCC footpaths team deserve an honourable mention. This year, as well as providing steps and guard rails on the footpath that climbs the bank out of Holloway, they have also recently



provided a smart new wooden bridge over Lopen Brook near Manor Farm where the old concrete one was falling into the stream.

The new wooden bridge was provided within two weeks of

being reported via their website, which is an impressive performance I think and proves that the system works.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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

- Tuesday June 13th.

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 [lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com) or telephone 07587 211150 and add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.





The Police Rural Crime team are busy again. Last summer saw a spike in livestock theft and the team are working hard to prevent this happening again this year. Keep your eyes and ears open. If you see livestock being moved and you think

it is a strange time of day or night, please call us. Legitimate farmers do not mind being stopped by us and this may prevent or detect crime.

Now that we are entering the summer/holiday season, it is especially important not to become complacent about security. It is the period in which the opportunist criminals take advantage and:

- Enter open front or rear doors whilst residents are in the garden.
- Enter doors or windows that have been left open or insecure at night whilst residents are asleep.
- Reach through insecure windows to steal property.

When you go on holiday:

- Take steps to make your house look occupied.
- Ask a trusted neighbour to open and close your curtains for you.
- Put a timer on some of your lights – do not leave a landing light on.
- Cancel your milk and paper deliveries.
- Ask a neighbour or friend to park their vehicle on your drive.
- Cut your lawns and hedges and make sure the hedge to the front of your property is cut to below three feet to aid surveillance.
- Do not advertise that you are going away on social media.

## NO CHURCHWARDEN FOR LOPEN

We were very pleased to have such a good attendance at our 2nd Vestry meeting on 9th May. However, we were unable to appoint a Churchwarden. This does leave us without an important leader and representative for the church and village community. However, it does not mean that Lopen church is at risk of closure.

At the meeting we successfully shared out some of the many tasks which come under a Churchwarden's responsibilities. We are very grateful to those of you who have stepped up to take on new roles. This is encouraging for all of us who care about Lopen church and its place in our community. A list of these tasks and roles will be in church shortly, and there is room for more volunteers!

It is not a perfect solution. There is no longer a key person (or persons) for the Rectors, fellow Churchwardens, Archdeacon and Bishops to confide in and liaise with. Bob and Julia will do their best to ensure that Lopen is as well represented as possible on all occasions, but we very much hope that we can appoint new Churchwardens in 2018.

## DIARY DATE - VILLAGE PICNIC

**Sunday August 27th - 3.30pm.** The biennial Lopen Village Picnic - with cream teas, childrens games, hog roast supper and dancing with live music. Get the date in your diary now - more information next month!

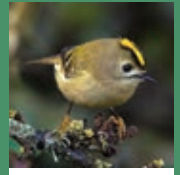
Tickets will be available from Jean Morton - 391 574.

## NATURE NOTES

Observations around the village this month:

*From Steve Chapman in Frog Street* - the swallows have returned! This morning we witnessed swallows flying in and out of our open barn at Ballarat; this will be the third year they have nested here. Previously jackdaws nested in the crevices under the roof but when the roof was renovated, the jackdaws were thwarted and the swallows took up residence. It is a wonderful sight seeing them flying over the fields feeding and then swooping over the garden wall into the barn - they usually stay until September.

Rare Goldcrests have also been spotted in the garden.



Goldcrest

*From Les Farris in Frog Street* - we have our lovely

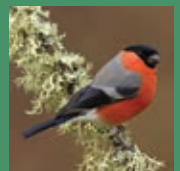


House Martins

house martins back with nests under the eaves at both back and front of the house. These migrants are now increasingly scarce, I regret to say, and I think we are now the only house in Lopen to host them.

*From Les Morton in Church Street* - we have seen three Roe deer in the field (looks like a juvenile male with two females), along with a fox and various rabbits.

The woodpeckers are around along with Goldfinches, Greenfinches, Bullfinches and a lone Yellowhammer.



Bullfinch

There have been signs of Badgers digging in some gardens - so beware!

Let the editor know if you have seen anything unusual in your garden or whilst out walking.

## FIBRE BROADBAND

Yes! The fibre is available in Lopen, and quite a few residents have already connected and are enjoying great speeds. Depending on the service that has been upgraded to, average fibre speeds seem to be around the 35-40mbs whilst a couple of residents have opted for the faster service and are getting about 75mbs!

A strange anomaly of the installation of the new fibre service is that some houses in Frog Street are also enjoying faster standard broadband speeds - an increase from around 2-3mbs to about 10-12mbs.



Our next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday 20th June**  
 an afternoon visit to  
**Cothelstone Manor**



We hope this will be a memorable day out as it is also to celebrate the 20th year of Just Women. The visit will include a talk by Mr Nigel Muers-Raby about the history of the house (which dates back to 1066), followed by a visit to the Church and then tea and sandwiches in the house.

We have a 29 seater coach, so places are limited to that number.

The cost per member is £14.50 including the coach.

For non-members the cost will be £19.50.

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

**BOTTLE TOPS!**

Milk bottle tops are still being collected, and, when sold, the money goes to 'The Air Ambulance'.  
 Lopen collection point is 2 Church Street (Crown Cottage).

**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)

**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).

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)

<b>PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
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:mblopenpc@gmail.com">mblopenpc@gmail.com</a>
	Valerie Canton	242 751	<a href="mailto:mvcanton@talktalk.net">mvcanton@talktalk.net</a>
Parish Clerk	Lisa Wilson	07587 211150	<a href="mailto:loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com">loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com</a>
<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 Adam Dance	07767 224 213	<a href="mailto:adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk">adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk</a>
<b>MEMBER of PARLIAMENT</b>			
	Marcus Fysh		<a href="mailto:marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk">marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk</a>
<b>ALL SAINTS CHURCH</b>			
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>
<b>JUST WOMEN</b>			
Chairwoman	Pauline Rook	240 644	<a href="mailto:prook12@gmail.com">prook12@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	<a href="mailto:christianne@loopen.me.uk">christianne@loopen.me.uk</a>
Secretary	Margaret Linton	241 162	<a href="mailto:margaretlinton79@yahoo.com">margaretlinton79@yahoo.com</a>
<b>POLICE CSO</b>			
	Amy Douch	Dial 101	<a href="mailto:amy.douch@avonandsomerset.police.uk">amy.douch@avonandsomerset.police.uk</a>
			ask for PCSO 8186
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH</b>			
	Valerie Canton	242 751	<a href="mailto:mvcanton@talktalk.net">mvcanton@talktalk.net</a>
<b>LOPEN EYE TEAM</b>			
Editor	Les Morton	391 574	<a href="mailto:lesmorton26@gmail.com">lesmorton26@gmail.com</a>
	Les Farris	242 254	<a href="mailto:leslifarris23@aol.com">leslifarris23@aol.com</a>
	Michael Canton	242 751	<a href="mailto:mvcanton@talktalk.net">mvcanton@talktalk.net</a>
Proof-reading	Peter Little	242 474	<a href="mailto:peteralittle6@aol.com">peteralittle6@aol.com</a>

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

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

**JUNE DATES**  
 Wednesday  
 14th & 28th  
 10.30am to 12.00 midday

Everyone welcome - including parents with young children.

All proceeds to **SmileTrain**  
 Changing the World One Smile at a Time