

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

MAY 2017



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.

WE ARE ON THE WINE MAP!

We have a vineyard in Lopen, and it has produced some lovely Rose wine. The vines, along Lopen Lane/Higgins Grave Lane, were originally planted in 2001 and were taken over by David & Sharon Pearce from Shepton Beauchamp in 2010.

They have chosen a topical local item for their logo - the cantharus from the Lopen mosaic, of which a reproduction is in the floor of All Saints Church.



The 2015 vintage is currently on sale at the Trading Post, with the 2016 vintage available in July. A wine tasting was held at the Trading Post in April, and another will be held on Saturday May 27th, between 11am and 2pm.

FIBRE BROADBAND

It seems as though the long awaited fast fibre broadband is now available in Lopen. We have heard that some residents have had their applications accepted with BT and TalkTalk. At the time of writing they were due to be connected around April 26th - we wait to see if it really happens. Have you been connected? Are you happy with the improvement? What speeds are you now getting? Please let the editor know.

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

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

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL 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, and 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!

ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

A few days ago the long-awaited meeting with Somerset County Highways, to discuss their revised design for the road safety scheme, finally took place. Representatives of LPC and SLOW met with Christopher LeHardy and four members of the County Council Highways team, two of them very senior. There is no doubt that they are taking the matter very seriously and are anxious to do the best they can for us within the bounds of the rules and available funding. Credit is due to Christopher for arranging this highly unusual meeting, which was intended as an informal "sanity check"; a welcome opportunity to make sure that the wishes of the village are now actually understood. I think it's fair to say that this is finally the case, though it doesn't necessarily mean we'll get everything we want.

In summary:

- Speed limit to remain at 30 mph from Lopen Head, right through the village.
- Minor signage changes at Snapant bends, repainting of white lines and addition of cats eye reflectors.
- Enhanced village gateway feature just north of The Laurels with improved signage and road markings.
- Existing village gateway feature at the southern end of the village to be refreshed and enhanced.
- Additional gateway feature with signage and road markings just north of the Mill Lane junction.
- Additional 30mph road marking feature just south of Church Street.
- White edge lines on both sides of Holloway from the village entrance in the north to just south of Frog Street. The exact positioning of these will ultimately depend on the carriageway width available.

We spent time discussing further measures for the south end of the village which, as we now know from Speedwatch, sees the highest speeds in the village. A couple of ideas were put forward, which they have promised to consider.

The thorny subject of a possible 20mph speed limit was

also discussed at length. Highways are opposed to this for a number of reasons and we've been promised a written statement of these reasons very shortly, which we will review and respond to.

The subject of electronic signs was also discussed at length. Highways are not intending to include any in this scheme due to evidence that permanent ones have only a temporary effect. However, more positively, temporary "SIDs" devices are considered effective and with their own scheme for these (which we are part of) heavily oversubscribed, they are looking at ways to get more out there. One method under serious consideration is to make the devices available to parishes, or groups of parishes, to manage for themselves. There would be some direct cost to the Parish for this, but if the figures mentioned are correct, this would be within reach. We expressed strong interest in this and will be following up on it.

Some minor changes to their designs will be made following our discussions and it will then be put forward to the safety audit team for assessment. Once this hurdle has been passed it will be formally released for consideration, with completion of works before the end of the financial year.

SPEEDWATCH

As discussed at our previous full meeting, letters have been sent to three school bus operators and copied to Somerset County Council, expressing our concerns about the number of buses coming through the village, and especially their speeds. So far we have had one response and will be following up with the others.

FOOTPATHS

Volunteers are needed for the Maintenance Day on May 21st. - see the front cover of this issue for more details.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- 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

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.

LAST OF THE MINIS

Some of you may know Guy Taylor and will have heard of, or seen, his collection of five early Mini cars. He has slowly been reducing the collection, and in April the last two were sold.

Guy is seen here with the 1968 Mini Cooper S 1275 - no doubt one of the stars of his collection.



SPARROWHAWK SIGHTING

Although we see plenty of bird life in Lopen the sighting of a Sparrowhawk making a kill is rare. Seamus and Marian O'Brien had that rare occurrence in their back garden on Holloway early in April. The hawk taking down a Crow.



TRACTOR RALLY PASSING THROUGH LOPEN

On Sunday April 9th there was a large procession of tractors passing through Lopen on their way to a rally at Stoke sub Hamdon. Quite a sight with both vintage and modern tractors.



We have now carried out 19 sessions with the following results - of the 4,571 vehicles observed to date 198 have been reported and of those 74 (or almost 38%) have been

travelling at 40 MPH or faster including 1 at 59 and 1 at 62mph within the 30mph speed limits. More helpers are always welcome and we are pleased to have 2 more volunteers attending the initial training course this month. Anyone interested should contact either Ben Goldsmith (249 231) or Roger Gurner (249 253) for further details.

DIARY DATE - VILLAGE PARTY

Sunday August 27th - 3.00pm. The biennial Lopen Village Party - with cream teas, childrens games, hog roast and dancing with live music. Get the date in your diary now - more information soon!

LENT LUNCH

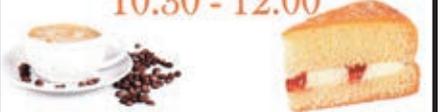
A BIG THANK YOU to all who supported and provided for this event; we had a very happy 2 hours and raised £400.50 for the Monday Memory Group held in Henhayes Centre Crewkerne for people suffering from dementia and memory loss, providing a safe haven where families can leave their loved ones safely in a happy environment.

Refugee Support Group (RSG), South Somerset, continues to collect and transport needed items to RAFT (refugeeaidfromtaunton.org.uk) - we need clean and washed clothing, bedding & sleeping bags and shoes. Food, toiletries and off-the-shelf medicines are also desperately needed and, if not donated, financial aid allows RAFT to purchase them. RSG has organised a Coffee Morning in Lopen on May 18th - we very much need your support. Financial aid also gives charities on the ground flexibility to buy much needed items immediately.

Geraldine Downey - 01460 271358 Merriott
Amanda Khan-Davis - 01460 72553 Hinton St George



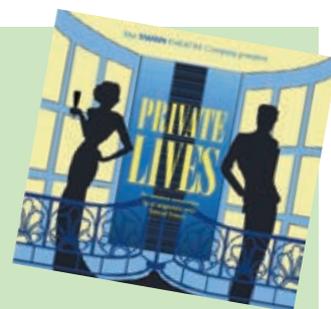
Coffee Morning
Lopen
(Sunday School Room)
Everyone Welcome
Thursday 18th May
10.30 - 12.00



RSG South Somerset supporting
RAFT
Care4Calais
And other charities supporting refugees



Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday 16th May
Private Lives
 by Noel Coward
 at
The Swan Theatre, Yeovil



Please note that this event replaces the usual second Tuesday of the month meeting/event.

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

CHURCH WARDEN APPOINTMENT
Lopen Parishioners' (Vestry) Meeting
7.30pm Tuesday 9th May
at The Sunday School Room, Lopen

Since no candidates were forthcoming for the role of Churchwarden at our Annual Meeting held on 3rd April, we are required to have another attempt at making an appointment. This second Parishioners' (Vestry) Meeting is open to all Lopen residents who are on the Civil Electoral Roll. Please come along and help All Saints in this important task. If we still cannot appoint at this meeting, we will have to work out ways of sharing out the responsibilities and tasks of the Churchwardens among church and community members.
 Revs Julia and 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
	Ed Moore	394 583	ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com
	Mark	242 889	mblopenpc@gmail.com

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
	Cllr Crispin Raikes	07968 291 588	crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCIL	Cllr Christopher Le Hardy	01935 850 212	clehardy@somerset.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
Churchwarden	Angela Naunton Davies	240 921	nauntondavies@btinternet.com

JUST WOMEN

Chairwoman	Pauline Rook	240 644	prook12@gmail.com
Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	christianne@lopen.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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LOPEN EYE TEAM

Editor	Les Morton	391 574	lesmorton26@gmail.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.

MAY DATES
 Wednesday
 10th & 24th

10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome -
 including parents with young children.



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