

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter **OCTOBER 2018**



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 21st October

ALL AGE SERVICE

at 10.30am

with the 16 Bells Choir - at the All Saints Church, Lopen

APPLE PRESSING/JUICING

at 11.30am

In the Churchyard - readying for the Simple Ploughman's Lunch that will be served in the Sunday School Room at lunchtime - no charge but....

...join the crush by bringing some washed apples, and/or store cupboard foods or other items for the Lords Larder and the Pilsdon Community. Donations for Water Aid also welcome.

If you still have garden flowers or produce to decorate the church we would welcome some if you are able to take them to the back of the church on Thursday 18th or 19th October.

Assistance in decorating/dressing the church is most welcome.

Information about the organisations involved are in the church porch.

For more information contact Angela 240 921.

GOING, GOING, GONE!

Those of you who have visited the Sunday School Room in the last couple of weeks will have noticed that the fireplace and chimney have disappeared! Colin Bennett has done an excellent job on the removal and Tom Dunbar the thatching. Colin reported that not only was the lintel sagging under the weight of the chimney but the fireplace foundations were suspect. The cost of the work has been fully funded by the Big Lottery Fund with a £500 provision for improvements to the kitchen/servery area.



Make a note in your diary now!

The

2018

MISTLETOE

FAYRE

will be held on

Saturday

December 1st.

Further information will be featured in the November Lopen Eye.



*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.*

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

Following our September Parish Council (PC) meeting on Tuesday 18th, I am pleased to be able to tell you that our Speed Indication Device (SID) has arrived – somewhat early and unannounced! It was decided that, in order to conform to Highways rules and to satisfy the insurance requirements, we would get the Ranger from Brympton to install the SID as he is the only person, in this locality, who is trained and certified to carry out this work. There now follows a hunt in the village and surrounding area to seek out anyone who is suitably trained and certified, and who would be prepared to move the SID as and when the PC requires. Failing that, the PC will be looking for anyone who would be willing to be trained to undertake this task as a nominal employee of Lopen Parish Council. Please get in touch with a member of the PC if this is 'up your street' – so to speak!! Also, Simon Frackiewicz has asked me to say that following the recent Village Survey, the PC has begun to look at ways to address some of the themes that were highlighted by the respondents. These include the lack of useful public transport links, in particular to hospital appointments, access to shops and getting a greater sense of 'togetherness' in the village. Some of these ideas will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

ADOPT A FOOTPATH

Many thanks to all those who helped with footpath maintenance on the recent 'Care For Your Village' day and again we would also like to extend our thanks to the many within the village who regularly work to maintain the footpaths in their own time. With this in mind we would like to develop an 'adopt a footpath' scheme within the Parish. If you have a

footpath near you and you feel you could spare some time to maintain this with some simple cutting and pruning please let me know. There is no obligation to commit on a regular basis (as we have the village ranger and we will continue to run footpath afternoons) but any help, however small will keep the village looking its best for everyone to enjoy. If you would be interested in putting your name down or would like further information please contact Ed Moore on ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com or 394 583.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- Monday October 29th.

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 loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com or telephone 07587 211150 and add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.

ANY TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS?

Following the kind donation of a table tennis table by John Milner, we thought we would start a table tennis 'Club'. So, on a Sunday afternoon, a couple of times a month in the Sunday School Room, we shall get the table out and see how it goes!

I thought perhaps from 3pm until 5pm starting on the **14th and 28th October**, open to all ages from little ones to elderly ones and I thought we might have the kettle on and have some cake, a sort of 'Tea Stop' as opposed to Coffee Stop.

We shall have to make a small charge to cover the cost of the hall and the electricity. I look forward to seeing you on the 14th October - Carolyn.



FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL PARENTS/ CARERS WITH A CHILD DUE TO START OR TRANSFER SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2019

If your child is due to start school for the first time (will be age 4 before 1st September 2019) or due to transfer to a junior, middle, secondary or upper school then it is very important you make a school place application on time.



Deadline for secondary admissions 31st October 2018

Deadline for primary admissions 15th January 2019

To download the primary or secondary booklet for parent's, to make an on-line application and for further information please visit our website: www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions.

Please phone 0300 123 2224 if you require a paper application form or further advice.



Please remember to ensure that your property is secure. Doors and windows should be kept closed and locked whenever possible - this is an important tool in helping to prevent 'walk-in' style burglaries and costs

nothing. The figures below relate to August for the South Petherton/The Hamdons beat area:

- 147 calls to the police from members of the public in the beat area
- 27 reports of crime, including:
 - 2 Assault
 - 0 dwelling burglary (+ 1 attempt)
 - 2 non dwelling burglary (+ 1 attempt)
 - 3 criminal damage - property
 - 1 theft from motor vehicles
 - 1 theft from shops
- Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) - 8 reports across the beat.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have launched a public consultation on the revised public policy guidance on **Crimes Against Older People**.

The policy guidance has been developed in partnership with two National Scrutiny Panels, which consist of members with experience and expertise from a community and academic perspective. In advance of its finalisation, we would welcome views on five specific questions regarding the policy guidance. Any other comments outside these questions are also welcome.

The consultation can be found on the CPS website at: <https://www.cps.gov.uk/consultation/public-consultation-crimes-against-older-people-policy-guidance> and will run until 28 October 2018. The final policy guidance will be published later in the year.

COULD YOU HELP RESTORE SOMERSET'S ICONIC FINGERPOSTS?

More volunteers and community groups are being urged to get involved with the project to restore historic signposts in Somerset. In response to stretched finances, the Somerset Fingerpost Restoration Project



was set up by Somerset County Council and the Southwest Heritage Trust in 2016 to help preserve and protect the signs. SCC and the SH Trust have produced a handbook that provides all the information required to

enable community groups to decide if they would like to take part in this valuable project. It also contains a fascinating potted history of fingerposts in Somerset. You can view the handbook at <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/schemes-and-initiatives/somerset-fingerpost-restoration-project/> Please contact your local parish council if you would like to get involved, or email fingerposts@somerset.gov.uk for further information.

Chocolate Tasting Event

Steve Chapman, a former Waitrose chocolate buyer, will take you on a journey through chocolate with tastings of lots of yummy samples.

Saturday 13 October

from 7pm to about 8.30pm

at

The Tithe Barn, Merriott

£10 per person, under 12s £5

Tickets in advance from either:

Issy Welsh, The Benefice Office, Church Street,

Merriott. Tel: 01460 73226 or

Steve Chapman, Ballarat House, Frog Street, Lopen.

Tel: 01460 249 549

Tickets numbers will be limited to 60 so book early!

Proceeds in support of the Benefice of Merriott, Hinton St George, Lopen and Dinnington.

SHOE BOX APPEAL 2018



Once again it's shoe box time! Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity each year, the boxes do make such a huge difference to needy children and adults. They are always received with gratitude and joy. Leaflets are available in

the Church and Crown Cottage, Church Street.

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 10th.

RAINFALL UPDATE

Jeremy Rook has kindly supplied the following data - I recorded 37mm of rain in August which is 57% of the Long Term Average (LTA).

I was surprised to receive the Environment Agency's August rainfall report showing that the rainfall for the Parrett catchment was 96% of the LTA and for the whole of the Wessex area was 103% - we must have missed out on a lot of showers. Our dry soil shows that my rainfall figures are not a mistake.

We have received 74mm of rain in the 3 months June, July and August which is low, but I see I recorded less in the same 3 months in 1995 (62mm) and only 61mm in the 3 months March to May 1990 (both these latter figures were recorded at Haselbury Plucknett not Lopen).

The Environment Agency report goes on to state:

Reservoir Storage

Reservoir stocks decreased across all of the main reservoirs in Wessex in August, though they remain significantly above the levels observed in the summers of 1976 and 1995. The month ended with 58% storage across Wessex Water reservoirs.



Our next event will be a visit on
Tuesday 9th October
at 7.30pm
in the Sunday School Room



Richard Kay - Auctioneer

A return visit from our favourite auctioneer for an evening of gentle quizzing, based around art and antiques. Mr Kay knows his subject well, so this should prove to be a fun and informative evening indeed.

For further information please contact Pauline Rook T: 240 644 E: prook12@gmail.com

BOTTLE TOPS & BISCUIT WRAPPERS

Milk bottle tops are still being collected - at present the fundraising through recycling is going to the Dorset Air Ambulance.

We have now added plastic film biscuit wrappers, any brand, so come on biscuit connoisseurs!

Fundraising with the wrappers is for the National Trust.

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



There is a Defibrillator in the porch of All Saint's Church, Church Street.

Sarah Lethbridge is the advisor for this and will be happy to run through the theory of it's use if required. Please contact her on 249 219 or sarahmason6@yahoo.com

Lopen Eye back copies are available on the Lopen web site as downloadable PDF files from this link:

<http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk/LopenEyeNewsletter>



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	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Simon Frackiewicz	394 975	simon@toadhall.email
	Nick Jones	241 643	nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com
	Ed Moore	394 583	ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com
	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
	Jenny Feeney	419 569	jfeeneyloopenpc@gmail.com

Parish Clerk	Lisa Wilson	07587 211150	loopenpc.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 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
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@loopen.me.uk

POLICE CSO	Joshua Weldon	Dial 101	joshua.weldon@avonandsomerset.police.uk
		ask for PCSO 6103	

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
 10th & 24th

10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome -
 including parents with young children.

All proceeds to the
 British Heart Foundation

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