

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

MAY 2016



LOPEN PLANT FAIR

In aid of the Sunday School Room and Church Fund

Saturday 7th 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 and cakes would be much appreciated to support this fund raising event and will be gratefully received at the School Room on the Friday afternoon or before the event on the Saturday.

QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

A Street Party will be held in Church Street on Sunday June 12th, starting about 12.30pm and going on to about 2.30pm.

Entry will be by means of a homemade crown or tiara!

There will be games and treasure hunt etc. for children. Tables will be provided - you will need to bring a plate of food to share, your own drink and a chair to sit on (chairs for the elderly will be provided).

We look forward to seeing you all.



HOLE IN THE ROAD - CHURCH STREET

Whilst South Western Power were replacing a wooden power supply pole in Church Street on April 7th, one of the workmen put his foot through the tarmac road surface. This was due to the sub-soil under the tarmac having been washed away leaving a chasm under the road. The road had to be temporarily closed for a few hours. They have since filled the hole and patched the surface but there is still an underlying problem as the road surface is still dipping. Apparently this has been repaired twice in the last 5 years,



so Somerset County Council must be aware that there is a problem.

SCC Highways Department have been notified of the issue - we await their response!

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

We continue to have to deal with planning issues, however there have been no changes to report over the past month, apart from an application being made to lift the s106 Order restricting development at the Mill Lane industrial site.

LICENCE APPLICATION

Following our report last month about the sale of Champagne at Lopen Head, Lift West have now applied for a licence at its premises. Comments are required by 6th May.

EGWOOD

After several years of continuing effort by our former chairmen, Peter Little and Barry Davolls, it has proved impossible to obtain a satisfactory undertaking or adequate insurance in relation to the Egwood site and its former use as a waste tip and all three parishes are now withdrawing from the proposal to take on the lease.

BROADBAND

Christopher Le Hardy our county councillor is investigating what is happening on Phase 2 of the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme and whether Lopen is included. We are hoping for an update very soon.

In view of the fact that it currently seems to be proving impossible to obtain faster broadband in the village by conventional means, despite the fact that everyone around us has it, perhaps we should adopt the approach of some other villages in Somerset and seek funding for satellite broadband. You can read more at the link below:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-36091725>

Please pass any observations or comments to any member of the parish council.

PARISH CLERK

Roger Gurner has resigned from the post of Parish Clerk. The position has been advertised by SSDC but we have as yet not had any applicants. If you are interested in this position, which is vital to the functioning of our Parish Council, please contact Teresa for details of what the work entails. There is a modest salary of between £1000 and £1100 per annum. Kim McDonald has kindly agreed to act as clerk pending the appointment of Roger's replacement.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting was scheduled for May 17th.

but will now take place on May 12th. Please note that Teresa is standing down as chairwoman at this meeting. Notwithstanding the public sector equality duty, it has proved impossible to ensure that there is a working loop at the meetings and training sessions she has been attending as your chairwoman and she has frequently been unable to hear the proceedings. In the circumstances she sees no alternative but to resign. She would like to thank her fellow members for their support during the past year.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

May 12th - AGM

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 -

<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 Kim McDonald, Parish Clerk, at mcdonald.lopenpc@btinternet.com or telephone 242 297 and add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.

MORE COUNCILLORS NEEDED

With the impending loss of one or possibly even two councillors, Barry Davolls and our Chairwoman Teresa Sienkiewicz, we need to recruit more volunteers to serve on the Lopen Parish Council. Parishioners are elected to serve on the council for four year periods. The new Chair Person is selected annually by the councillors from within the existing members.

This is a rewarding and sociable position that ensures we have a voice with the District and County Councils and helps to ensure we continue to have an enjoyable and functioning village to live in.

If you are interested please contact Teresa at tsloopenpc1@btinternet.com or telephone 241 363.

MP's SPRING TOUR

As part of his Spring Tour, Marcus Fysh visited Lopen Sunday School Room on Friday April 8th. A number of local residents visited to discuss local matters.

Pictured with Christopher Le Hardy and his assistant.



OPEN MEETING MONDAY 9TH MAY 7PM SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM

We want to hear your views and ideas about the place of the church in our community. We also want to discuss how to make best use of the church building and Sunday School Room in the future. So we are inviting all Lopen residents to an open meeting to share suggestions. The evening will begin with a fork supper. No need to book - just come along.

A NEW CHOIR

We are delighted to have found someone who can lead a new choir for our village churches. The initial idea is to meet fortnightly, to enjoy learning to sing together and to sing at occasional special services in our churches. This choir is open to everyone, whether or not you usually come to church, both children and adults. If you are at all interested, please contact Bob or Julia Hicks or come along to Merriott Church 7pm on Thursday 5th May.



IMPROVED HEARING LOOP

The microphone systems in the church and the hearing loop in the Sunday School Room have recently been upgraded. Loops really do make a huge difference to deaf people and these improvements should make hearing a lot better for parishioners.



Battle of Jutland Centenary Commemoration Service

*4pm Tuesday 31st May
at Lopen War Memorial*

This will be a short service to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Jutland which took place in the eastern North Sea on the 31st May 1916.

There were huge losses of ships and lives on both sides, but there is also a local dimension. Thanks to the recent research of Yeovil historian, Peter Forrester, a personal connection with Lopen has come to light. George Greenham was a 'Stoker First Class' aboard HMS Indefatigable which was sunk during the Battlecruiser action on that fateful afternoon. He and 1,013 other crewmen perished.

George and his brother William were both born in Church Street, Lopen; but the family moved to South Wales before the outbreak of war, and this is where they both enlisted. William died in northern France in October 1915.

We also know that these two brothers are not remembered on any parish war memorial. So, as you will have seen, Lopen PCC and Lopen Parish Council will soon be adding their names to the memorial in Lopen Churchyard.

We will come together to remember a son of Lopen and his part in a bloody sea battle.

Missing from Water Street Lopen since Sunday 17th April

White & ginger tortoiseshell short haired female cat

Microchipped - no collar.

Answers to the name of Lily. Very inquisitive cat who likes to explore garages, sheds & out buildings -

please can you check yours

Any information please contact Kim on 01460 249394 or 07817 403997.



Has anyone noticed the sign at the Lopen Raj?

It looked as though it was closing for good, but maybe not? It seems there is a new owner who is planning to open the refurbished restaurant c[, ætã•Ác@^Á^}áÁ[-Á Tæ~ÉÁÁCE]æ!^}c|^ÁácÁ , ä||Áà^Á contemporary Indian cuisine with a take away service too!



Lopen Paint

Did you know there is a range of paint colours named after our illustrious village? Whilst exploring paint for our house in Church Street we came across a range which included Lopen Sand, Lopen Follow, Lopen Taupe and Lopen Truffle.

How many other villages can claim to have a paint range named after them!



BOTTLE TOPS!

Milk bottle tops are still being collected, and when sold, the money goes to qV@^ÁCEÁÁCE { à ~|æ }&^?ÉÁÁ Lopen collection point is 2 Church Street (Crown Cottage).

