

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter **NOVEMBER 2015**



LOPEN MISTLETOE FAYRE

will be held this year on

Saturday 14th November

the fun starts at 10.00am

All Saints' Church, Lopen.

Do come along and enjoy searching for Christmas gifts, buying plants in readiness for an early Spring, attempting to win on the Bottle Stall, finding a book to read and maybe a bargain on the bric-a-brac stall and then after all that enjoying a cup of coffee or tea with a bite of something to eat.

There will be lots to do for the children and the main prize in the raffle is a beautiful hand crafted hen kindly donated by George Hider!

Plus there are lots of other lovely raffle prizes available, so do buy your tickets early!

ITEMS STILL NEEDED!

If you have any suitable items you would wish to donate for sale, please call these numbers to arrange collection or delivery.

GIFT ITEMS

Margaret 241 162
Lynn 929 205



HANDMADE ITEMS

Ian/Lyn 929 205



CAKES & PRESERVES

Valerie 242 751



BOTTLES

Peter 242 474
Les 242 254



BRIC A BRAC

Jackey 241 518



PLANTS

Joan 242 254



BOOKS

Martin 241 765



EDITORS COMMENT

I would welcome any ideas that readers have for editorial items they would like to see in the Lopen Eye - how about a gathering for the men of the village? The ladies have their Just Women group - would the men like to start something? Classic cars, just a beer at the pub, or any other ideas? Is there any musical talent in the village that would like to meet up? Is there a walking group in the village? Maybe a

monthly walk and lunch at a local pub? Please contact me (my details are on the back page) and I can float ideas through the Eye.

PICNIC PICTURES

Did you take any nice photos of the Lopen Picnic? Can you send them to me so we can make a nice A3 poster of the day for display in the School Room.

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

ANAEROBIC DIGESTER FROGMARY GREEN FARM

Planning - we submitted our response to SSDC and were then informed that the matter had been referred to the County Council for determination. Apparently they have now remitted it back to SSDC for a decision... In the meantime, it seems that construction is continuing notwithstanding the request of SSDC that Greener for Life should not build anything for which they did not have approval.

THE CHAPEL

The Parish Council voted against the retrospective planning application for a two-bedroomed dwelling. There was also concern that the application form referred to a flat/maisonette and D2 use which is for entertainment uses – dance hall, gym or bar for example and it was made clear that we thought this quite inappropriate! You can read our response on the SSDC planning website.

LOPENHEAD EXPANSION

The application for an enormous new building at Lopenhead, for which permission was quashed in 2012 only for SSDC to give permission again on different grounds, is the subject of a further judicial review which is due to be heard in the first week of November at the High Court in London.

TRAFFIC

Teresa is very pleased to report that she now has 3 offers of help to monitor traffic. We shall start off by checking lorries and large vehicles taking short cuts and if there is sufficient and consistent support, seek training and speed guns from the Police to deal with that problem as well. If you would like to join us, especially if you can spare a bit of time during the week when the lorry problem is at its worst, please contact Teresa. We appreciate that this is not an ideal time of year to start monitoring from the volunteer's point of view, but any offers would be most gratefully received.

PC MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted to announce that Jenny Feeney, who lives on Main Road, Lopen, has come forward and been co-opted on to the Parish Council. A profile will appear in the next issue of Lopen Eye but in the meantime, her details are listed along with those of the other members on the back page.

EGGWOOD COMMUNITY WOODLAND

Lopen PC agreed the wording of the indemnity for any contamination problems relating to the site's previous use as a waste tip at the meeting on 19th October and we are now just waiting for Merriott to approve it, in which case the parishes of Merriott, Hinton and Lopen will be parties to a 999-year lease. Arrangements are in hand to set up a management committee with representatives of the participating parishes and it has been suggested that once the legalities are completed, we hold a meeting to allow everyone in Lopen to have their say in how they think the site should be used and what amenities they would like to see, which will form the basis of a proposal to our partner parishes.

HARVEST FESTIVAL



Over the 2 days of the Harvest Festival £350 was raised for WaterAid - thank you to everyone who came and supported us.

The winners for the two competitions were:

- **Lucy Frackiewicz** for the peanut bird feeder who guessed 655, this was the closest to the actual of 646 peanuts.
- **Kate Jones** for the cake who guessed 2lbs 8ozs, this was the closest to the actual weight of 2lbs 9 1/8 oz.

These competitions raised £9.40 for WaterAid.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX - FINAL APPEAL

Just a reminder that we will be collecting children's Shoe Boxes again this Christmas.



The boxes will be sent on 7th November from 2 Church Street. However if you feel you cannot fill a box, any small children's items can be donated to help fill boxes at the depot in Merriott.

For any further information please contact Sally-Ann at Crown Cottage in Church Street or call 241 765.

HISTORY OF LOPEN PARISH

Our resident writer and archivist, Nigel Potts, is compiling a History of the Lopen Parish and would welcome any information that would assist him - historical information, stories and anecdotes, pictures, printed information etc. Please contact him on 240 369, or email him at nigelpotts@talktalk.net

A WARM WELCOME!

To Phil and Susan Champion from Chard who have bought The Birches (formerly Luanshay) in Water Street.

They have quite a job on their hands to renovate the property but hope to be moving in ASAP. Hopefully I will have a picture of them for next months Eye.

We've also heard that the Chapel is being sold to be used as a let property - more news when we have it.

FOLLOW UP TO THE CLOTHING APPEAL EARLIER THIS SUMMER.

Carole Mansfield was going to Europe on holiday and she asked us if we would make an appeal for clothing to be taken to Calais. This is her report:

Thanks to the generosity of the people of Lopen we set off with a full campervan! We trundled off to Canterbury, where we met up with my sister, who had been in touch with the only English speaker (Pasqual) at a warehouse in Calais. Due to lack of storage on the French side we were asked to bring urgently required items such as tents, bedding, waterproof coats and trainers, and leave some of the other clothes for a future trip.

It is hard to explain how it was at the warehouse, Pasquale was drained and tired. There was the constant need for translating, lifting and directing. The priorities changed from hour to hour. There is desperate need for more warehouses to store and distribute from, and more coordinated help, but the Mayor is curiously dis-engaged, and nothing has been made available. All the right words are spoken in public but nothing comes forth. (The up-coming elections are making him jumpy!) While we were there, a vicar from Basildon and some English volunteers were called away to the camp for an interview with the BBC. The only transport van had just broken down and volunteers were using their own cars to ferry items (and the vicar) out to the camp. Apparently it is well out of town and was once a refuse dump, hastily cleared. Huge ramparts were scraped up to surround the camp so that it cannot be seen from the road. Although we offered to transport things, there was a reluctance to involve us in going to the camp itself. I think there are a great many issues under the surface that we know nothing about.

As a thank you and appreciation of his hard work, my sister baked a cake for Pasqual. He was very touched, his eyes filled with tears but he couldn't speak. He just stood alone on the steps, thin and exhausted, clutching his cake!

We intend to call in on our way back, and if we can help, stay a week there, it all depends on the changing situation.

As we travelled on to Ypres, there were little groups of migrants walking along carrying sleeping bags and not much else. The service held at the Menin gate was particularly meaningful for us that evening, and as the last post sounded for the soldiers who never saw home again, we could only hope that it can be a different story for these migrants looking for a new home.

Carole and Ray Mansfield



Our LPC councillor Sarah, and her partner Mark, had a new arrival on October 15th - a lovely little girl named Poppy Willow. She arrived at a healthy 7lb 5oz. Congratulations to you both.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Children's PreChristmas/ Advent workshop will be on **Saturday 5th December** from 2-4pm in the Sunday School Room.

This will be for Younger Children where they will be able to make things for the Festive Season. More details next month. For more information ring Angela 01460 240921

Carols by Candlelight in the church on **Wednesday 23rd December**.

BROADBAND SPEED

How is your broadband speed? It seems the speeds can vary throughout the village, so maybe we need action to improve it? Roger Gurner has offered to collect speed information from residents and put a case to BT in the hope of producing some more useful indication of when/if we might receive the Super Fast Broadband, which they and the County Council tell us is now available.

If you search Google for 'broadband speed check', there are a number of web sites that will check your speed. If you can then supply the speed and your broadband service provider to Roger, he will collate the information.

This is strictly a private survey and not issued by or sponsored by the Parish Council, although we hope that they might well be interested in the results.



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).



Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday November 10th
 at
The Sunday School Room
 A charity event to raise money
 for the South West Air Ambulance

A Silent Auction of Gifts and Promises

The evening begins at 7.30pm.

For further information please telephone Margaret Linton : 241 162.

LES FARRIS - OUTGOING EDITOR

As the new editor of the Lopen Eye I would like to offer a big thank you to Les Farris who, I understand, has been the editor of the Eye for the last six years. Having only recently moved into Lopen I have not had the pleasure of seeing the Eye over those six years; however I know many village residents have commented on what a great job Les has done. When anyone volunteers to take on a role within the community, it invariably goes unnoticed by the majority of the population, so thank you Les, for all the hard work and dedication during your tenure as Editor. Les Morton

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Somerset County Council is appealing for more volunteer drivers to help provide a vital lifeline for vulnerable adults and children. A dedicated army of nearly 200 fantastic drivers across the county currently act as volunteers, but the ageing population in Somerset means demand for transport is growing and more volunteers are needed. Drivers must be over 18, have use of their own 4 door vehicle, and hold a full UK driving licence with no more than six points. Mileage expenses will be reimbursed at up to 50p per mile. To find out more about volunteer driving, please contact Somerset You Can Do by phoning **01278 664180** or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/volunteering.

NEW SCC NUMBER



Somerset County Council has a new single phone number for all enquiries - **0300 123 2224**. This replaces all previous numbers and has been introduced to make it easier and cheaper for people to get in touch with them.

CONTACTS

Village website - www.lopen.btck.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairwoman	Teresa Sienkiewicz	241 363	tsloopenpc1@btinternet.com
Vice Chairman	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
	Sarah Mason	249 219	sarahmason6@yahoo.com
	Nick Jones	241 643	nick.jones.loopenpc@outlook.com
	Barry Davolls	242 297	b.davolls.loopenpc@btinternet.com
	Jenny Feeney	419 569	jfeeneyloopenpc@gmail.com
Parish Clerk	Roger Gurner	249 253	clerktolopenpc@freeolamail.com

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

Chairman	Lynn Benfield	929 205	lynn.ian@virgin.net
Treasurer	Zena Morgan	77259	zenam1@hotmail.co.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
	Les Farris	242 254	leslifarris23@aol.com
	Michael Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
Proof-reading	Peter Little	242 474	peteralittle6@aol.com

COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM



All proceeds to charities including Macmillan Nurses, The Stroke Association, Bliss, Somerset Air Ambulance and The Alzheimer's Society.

NOVEMBER DATES

Wednesdays 11th & 25th
 10.30am to 12.00 midday

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

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.