

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter **OCTOBER 2016**



HARVEST & FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND

1st & 2nd OCTOBER

at

All Saints, Lopen

The Church will be open from 9am until 5pm on both days, with refreshments, raffle tickets and home-grown and locally-prepared produce on sale.

The Harvest Festival Service will start at 6pm on Sunday followed by the Harvest Supper in The Sunday School Room.

Donations of store cupboard food to take to Pilsdon Manor or money for the United Society would be welcome.

The Flower Festival in the Church will feature the arrangements made by the many volunteers of Lopen.

LOPEN MISTLETOE FAYRE

will be held this year on

Saturday 19th 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 - all in aid of St Margaret's Hospice.

There will be activities for the children to enjoy and the raffle will again have a beautiful hand crafted sculpture kindly donated by George Hider!

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

If you have any suitable items you would wish to donate for sale, please contact Ian Benfield on 01460 929205 to arrange collection or delivery.



LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL RESIGNATION

I have received a letter of resignation from Councillor Sarah Mason. She feels that the demands of her job and family prevent her from giving her PC role the attention it deserves and wishes to step down to give someone else the chance. We thank Sarah for her work for council.

This means that there is a vacancy for a councillor. If you would like to become a councillor, or just find out more about what being a councillor involves, please contact Nick Jones, Chairman.

ROADS

The latest news is that Highways are working on their proposal (see the last months Eye), which will be put before the Parish Council for review. We don't yet have a date for this, but it is expected to be in the autumn.

SALC AGM

Our Chairman and Parish Clerk attended the recent Annual General Meeting of the Somerset Association of Local Council. They were treated to an entertaining, if occasionally controversial, presentation by Mel Usher about Frome Town Council, which had some interesting ideas. There was also a presentation from the Somerset Waste Partnership, updating on developments on waste collection and recycling.

One other matter raised that could potentially affect everyone in the year to come is the "2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement: Technical Consultation Paper", published on 15 September 2016. All councils are affected. The proposals define principles for applying automatic referendums to the highest spending councils, but all councils should be concerned about the precedent this would set and about the specific question in the proposals about whether to extend referendums to all local councils. If this proceeds, it would be the first time a Government has interfered with the ability of local councils to determine for themselves what money should be raised for the local community. Even if the community has been fully consulted and wants an increase, the taxpayer would be forced to pay for the additional cost of an automatic referendum in order to be able to raise its own money for its own needs, based on a blanket threshold set centrally by Government. To be clear, at this point the thresholds set are far above anything that would directly affect Lopen, but the suggestion of applying it across the board in the future is there. Given that for small councils the referendum costs would far exceed the extra money raised, or possibly even the whole annual precept, one would hope that common sense might prevail. The Council will be responding, but anyone can take part in the survey and make their thoughts count.

The survey and link to the full consultation document can be found here

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/583WBQL>

SOMERSET WASTE PARTNERSHIP

From the 3rd October new rules will apply limiting the types of vehicles that can access Somerset recycling centres. Cars, closed 4 x 4s and campervans are not affected. Pickups, small vans up to 3.5 tons gross weight and trailers (single axle, under 3m bed length only) will require a permit, which is free and can be applied for online. Any vehicle over 3.5 tons gross weight is now banned, as are trailers with a bed length greater than 3m or with more than one axle. Trailers cannot be brought in if towed by vans or pickups. Full details can be found online at <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/2016/08/new-measures-cut-congestion-recycling-sites/>

DOG POO BINS

At the last PC meeting Councillor Adam Dance brought up the subject of a dog poo bin for Lopen. He suggested that he may be able to obtain one for us and that it would be emptied by SCC. This is another long-running and controversial subject in the village. The questions that arise are; whether Lopen really needs such a bin, remembering that the presence of the bin doesn't guarantee that any more poo will be picked up and, if so, where it might be best located. The location needs to be somewhere on regular dog-walking routes, by a road where it can be easily accessed for emptying and where there is space for it. For obvious reasons it's unlikely anyone is going to be very keen to have it outside their house. Thoughts on this subject are welcome.

GRANT THORNTON AUDIT COMPLETE

The PC accounts for 2015/16 have now been certified by Grant Thornton and a statement to this effect posted on the village website.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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 -

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.

CHILDRENS WORKSHOPS

A number of children from the village attended two Childrens' Workshops on Saturday 20th August and Saturday 3rd September. The aim was to produce a large scale art work for display during the Somerset Open Studios 2016 (17th September to 2nd October). The plan was to create a long meadow scene, up to 5 metres long, using pens, paint and paper, to hang along the wall in The Sunday School Room. The work has now been completed, and at the request of Bob & Julia Hicks, will stay in place until after the Harvest Festival.



To see the complete finished piece you'll have to get along to The Sunday School Room! There you can see all the hard work that has been put into this lovely piece of artwork by the children of our village.

SOMERSET OPEN STUDIOS 2016

Somerset Open Studios focuses on artists in their working environment: demonstrating how artists make their work, their inspiration and the creative process, and aiming to support artists who want to work professionally and are looking to promote their creative businesses.



Lopen featured five artists - Pauline Rook, Peter Thomas, Angela Naunton Davies, Kate Westwood and Marcus Jubb. They offered a wide range of artistic approaches ranging from photography to wood carving & turning, and a wide range of mixed media art works.



CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2016

Just a reminder that once again we will be collecting Shoe Boxes this Christmas. An explanation for new villagers who perhaps are not familiar with this charity - a shoe box, or box of similar size, is filled with small gifts for children such as toothbrushes/toothpaste, soap, hat/scarf/gloves, toiletries, stationery items, clothes, etc. The box should be wrapped. The charity collects the boxes and they are shipped to end up in the hands of an underprivileged person, child or adult, somewhere in the world. If you would care to help, please contact Sally-Ann at Crown Cottage in Church Street or call 241 765. All boxes to be ready for collection by November 1st.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED CHURCHYARD GRASS CUTTING

Five people keep the Churchyard grass cut for the Parish Council and the PCC, but we are two short! Steve Chapman, Nick Jones and Mike Constable need another two helpers please.

To find out more please contact:
Steve on 249 549 or Mike on 240 912.

An extra two pairs of hands would make it easier for everyone.



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).



Hinton St George First School & St George's Pre-School

Open Morning

For Prospective New Parents and Pupils
Wednesday 12th Oct
9.30am - 11.30am

Please call us on 01460 72653
West St, Hinton St George, TA17 8SA

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.



Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday 11th October
Garden Quiz Charity Event
 in
The Sunday School Room
at 7.30pm

It should be a fun evening with a variety of horticultural puzzles and some autumnal refreshments.

Contact Margaret on 241 162 or Lynn on 929 205 for further details..

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.

All Souls Service for the Bereaved

Sunday 6th November

4pm at Lopen Church

Please come along to remember

loved ones departed.

The Service will be followed by refreshments.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

At 10.50am on Sunday 13th November,
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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

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
	Teresa Sienkiewicz	241 363	tslopenpc1@btinternet.com
	Jenny Feeney	419 569	jfeeneyloopenpc@gmail.com
	Ed Moore	394 583	ed.moore.loopenpc@gmail.com
	Mark	242 889	mbloopenpc@gmail.com

Parish Clerk	Lisa Wilson	07587 211150	loopenpc.clerk@gmail.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
MEMBER of PARLIAMENT	Marcus Fysh		marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk

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	Lynn Benfield	929 205	lynn.ian@virgin.net
Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	christianne@loopen.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	mvccanton@talktalk.net
ARCHIVE & HISTORICAL GROUP	Nigel Potts	240 369	nigelpotts@talktalk.net

LOPEN EYE TEAM

Editor	Les Morton	391 574	lesmorton26@gmail.com
	Les Farris	242 254	leslifarris23@aol.com
	Michael Canton	242 751	mvccanton@talktalk.net
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.

OCTOBER DATES

Wednesday

12th & 26th

10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome -
 including parents with young children.

All proceeds to
 Children's Hospice South West