

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
MARCH
2014



FLOODING ON THE LEVELS - LOPEN LENDS A HAND



£600 was raised in a snap village fundraising effort to assist the families, farmers and businesses hit by the devastating floods across much of Somerset. Several village organizations contributed to the fund set up by Somerset Community Foundation. Should you wish to contribute to the Flood Relief Fund, the Lopen contact is Church Treasurer Mike Constable 01460 240 912.

In addition, Annie and Roger Gurner of Oswald's in Church Street have been making regular deliveries of much-needed fresh fruit and vegetables to people living in Muchelney and the surrounding area using the amphibious vehicles of the Fire Service. Should you wish to help with supplies of fresh produce, please call Annie and Roger beforehand on 01460 249 253 to ensure that it is still needed.

RAINFALL REPORT by Jeremy Rook



ALMOST TWO FEET OF RAIN IN JUST THREE MONTHS.

Jeremy writes... I have measured 141 mm in February up to the 15th which is more than twice the Long Term Average for the month. Add 186 mm in December since the 12th of that month, and 225 mm in January - it totals 552 mm, that is 22" in the 65 days - which is 70% of our average **ANNUAL** rainfall.

Felled by the gales, a magnificent lime tree in the garden of Court Farm. Another victim, amongst Lopen's small number of large trees, was a huge conifer at Lopen House, Church Street.



photo: Michael Canton

Lopen Eye is sponsored by Chris Pitcher, who can provide all your gardening and home decorating needs, call 01460 240 506 or 07714 631 007. Also Autohouse Cars. If the car you want is not in stock, I will be able to find it through my used car locator service.

Parish Chairman Barry Davolls reports back...

Parish Council Vacancy

I am pleased to report that the Parish Council received two formal applications for the Councillor vacancy by the 10th of February deadline imposed. Of course, as the PC has only one vacancy to fill, the members will be faced with making a difficult choice at the next public meeting.

Your views would be appreciated

Lopen Parish Council is currently constituted to have a maximum of five members (Councillors) with three required (the quorum) in attendance to lawfully hold a formal meeting. Looking back over the last seven years, the PC has maintained a full quota of members except for the current period triggered only by a Councillor moving house. Indeed, as applications to join the Council in 2007 were in excess of the five member maximum, a full local election was held. This, coupled with the over-subscription for the current vacancy, begs the question whether we should consider increasing the size of our Council. The National Association of Local Councils considers the minimum Council size should be set at seven irrespective of the local population size which confirms my view that we are running light. The main advantages of having a larger Council are fairly obvious in that a larger pool of decision takers should produce a more representative outcome. It is also likely that with more members, the possibility of any concentration of members from one section of the village will be diluted.

Finally, with advancing Localism, more responsibility will be passed to Parish Councils and many hands make light work. The only potential down side I can see is the reduced likelihood of any local election being called at the four yearly local elections. If there are seven (currently only five) or less applicants, no election is called. This could lead to the same few faces remaining in office uncontested. That said, if this is viewed as an unhealthy situation, you could stop it by signing up!

The PC would really appreciate any views you may have which will be used to steer whether or not we proceed to formally consider increasing the Council size.

If we do decide to proceed, the process is quite lengthy and involves a formal local electorate consultation period (at no cost to the PC) and, assuming the increase is allowed, is not likely to come in to force until the 2015 elections.

Have Your Say

Please see the back page for the contact details of our Parish Councillors so that you can let Lopen PC know your views.

Lengthsman Scheme

The lengthsman Scheme arrangements are currently under review and a meeting of the scheme members (six Parishes) during March will decide whether or not to continue with the scheme in its current form. Whatever the outcome of this meeting, there is no suggestion that Lopen will not benefit from the same or alternative service for the next year.



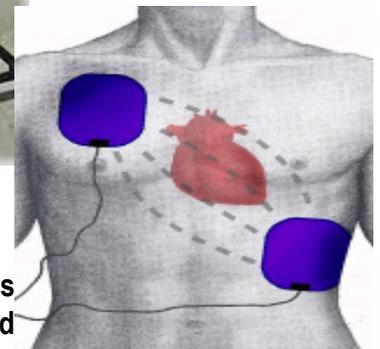
David Ogilvy, our present Lengthsman

Defibrillator

It has to be said that the provision of a village based defibrillator is taking far longer than we ever imagined it would. Having already secured some funds from the County Council, our October 2013 application for a top-up grant from the British Heart Foundation (BHF) has taken longer than forecast to process due to third party consultee delays. I am pleased to report that we have finally cleared this particular bottleneck and I am told we will get a final decision from the BHF in around six weeks from now.

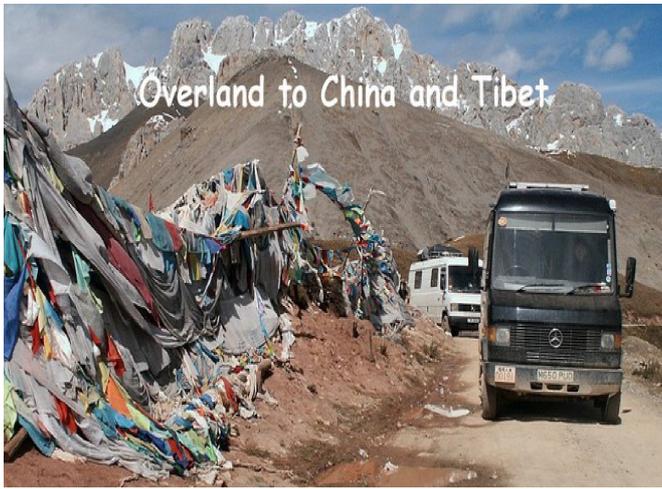


The equipment



Where the pads are applied

Defibrillation is a common treatment for life-threatening [cardiac dysrhythmias](#), [ventricular fibrillation](#) and pulseless [ventricular tachycardia](#). Defibrillation consists of delivering a therapeutic dose of electrical energy to the heart with a device called a defibrillator.



MONDAY 3rd MARCH
7.00pm for 7.30pm start
A TALK & SLIDESHOW
at All Saints Church, Lopen

**‘Driving to China and Back
 via Tibet in 2002’** by Clive & Ann Barker
“This was the first and perhaps most challenging of the many journeys we have since made”

Tickets £5 to include Oriental refreshments. Proceeds to the charity Water Aid.
 Buy in advance from Angela (240 921) or Ann (249 564) or on the door.

Peggie’s Tables for sale - proceeds to village funds



FOR SALE, with proceeds being split 50/50 between Lopen Village and All Saints Church at the request of Peggie Finlayson who moved from Lopen last September. Offers in excess of £30 for the two - or could split.
 Call Angela on 240 921.



The Art Deco semi circular table shown above has its original coloured glass top and quarter circle hinged drawers. Distressed condition. Height 72.5cm, width 60cm, depth 31cm.
 The larger of the two nest of tables - height 66cm, width 34cm, depth 30cm. Used condition

LOCK UP YOUR VALUABLES!

There’s a thief about.

Overnight of 4-5 February a break-in occurred at a property in Shepton Beauchamp when a garden shed was broken into. Nothing appears to be stolen but engine oil was poured over the victim’s lawn mower.

from Martin Howell



Between 3-5 February there was a break-in at a property in Silver Street, Shepton Beauchamp when a large container was forced open. A number of tools were stolen including chain saws, a hedge trimmer, a stone cutter and a leaf blower.



Guests are always welcome.
Further information from
Andrew Kearney
240 287

TUESDAY 18th MARCH
at 7.30 in the Schoolroom

A talk by David Gordon -
“My father’s recently-published memoirs of the First World War”



Lopen JUST WOMEN

For further information please call
Margaret Linton
Tele 241 162

TUESDAY 11th MARCH
at 7.30 in the Schoolroom

Waitrose Delicatessen
are giving a demonstration of Cheese & Wine



CONTACTS

Village website <http://lopen.btck.co.uk>

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Barry Davolls	242 297	b.davolls.lopenpc@btinternet.com
Vice Chairman	Nicola Norman	240 458	n.norman.lopenpc@btinternet.com
	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
	Teresa Sienkiewicz	241 363	tslopenpc1@btinternet.com

Parish Clerk	Kim McDonald	242 297	mcdonald.lopenpc@btinternet.com
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DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Barry Walker	242 894	barry.walker@southsomerset.gov.uk
Cllr Paul Thompson	240 510	paul.thompson@southsomerset.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Christopher Le Hardy	01935 850 212	clehardy@somerset.gov.uk
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MEMBER of PARLIAMENT

The Rt Hon David Laws	01935 423 284	david.laws.mp@parliament.uk
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ALL SAINTS CHURCH Benefice Office 73226 Issy Welsh

Rectors Rev. Julia Hicks, Rev. Bob Hicks 76406

Churchwarden Angela Naunton Davies 240 921

Services are listed on the Church noticeboard

LOPEN HISTORY GROUP

Chairman	Joan Farris	242 254	joanfarrisuk@googlemail.com
Archivist	Nigel Potts	240 369	nigelpotts@talktalk.net

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	101 and ask for PCSO 8340
	ceara.sturt@avonandsomerset.police.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Martin Howell	241 765	samhowell2@talktalk.net
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LOPEN EYE

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COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM



in March

Wednesdays 12th & 26th
10.30 until 12.00 midday.
Only £1 for a hot drink (and refill) plus a slice of home-made cake.

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