

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
MARCH
2013



A date for your diary.....

LOPEN VILLAGE PICNIC
will take place on
Sunday 25th August
August Bank Holiday



Every time it's held, most of the village turn out to enjoy this picnic with neighbours and friends.

All welcome,
so please make a note of the date.
Organiser Carolyn White will provide more information in future editions of Lopen Eye.

Yes, weather-wise it was indeed a miserable January

Lopen's resident meteorologist, Jeremy Rook, reports that the village had 128mm of precipitation (rain, snow and sleet) in the first month of the year. That is almost three times the total for January 2012.



Lopen Head Pub Becomes a Restaurant



The Poulett Arms PH at the Lopen Head roundabout, which closed last year, is to become a restaurant serving Indian and Thai food. At the time of going to press the name of the restaurant had still to be decided but the owners, who also own the Bengal Fusion restaurant in Crewkerne, hope to open before Easter.

The premises will consist of a licenced restaurant, a function room for weddings and other celebrations, and a counter for take-away food.

For further information, contact Mohammad on 07747 744 4905.



Lopen Coffee Mornings raise £150 for Forces charity SSAFA

Lopen resident Peter Little, Somerset chairman of SSAFA, said...

"I am extremely grateful to Joan, Penny and the rest of the weekly coffee morning team for donating a year's profits to SSAFA."

Lopen Eye is sponsored by Chris Pitcher of County Car Company Tel 01935 412 828. Over 40 cars in stock. www.countycarcompany.co.uk. **If we haven't got the car you want in stock we will be able to source one via our Used Car Locator service.**

REPORT BACK from PARISH CHAIRMAN BARRY DAVOLLS

Precept

Following my article in the February Eye edition, I can now confirm that the provisional figures previously stated have now been finalised without any changes. To re-cap, as a result of the increase to Lopen PC's budget together with the impact of the local council tax benefit scheme, the cost of a band D charge has increased by approximately £4 per annum in relation to the precept alone.

Defibrillator for Lopen

I am pleased to announce that Somerset County Council has issued to LPC a grant of £1200 towards the cost of a defibrillator for the village and the PC would like to express their thanks to Cllr. Paul Maxwell for securing this on our behalf. Les Farris has agreed to work with the PC on the project to get the unit up and running with trained responders from the village. It was Les' original idea and the PC would like to thank him for this and his future input. The Parish Council will also be applying for a top-up grant from the British Heart Foundation towards the costs of providing the equipment, training and running costs.

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The January report for the speed indicator device for traffic headed north delivered typical results, both in respect of numbers of vehicles passing through the village and the alarmingly high proportion that were speeding. Unfortunately, the southbound installation scheduled for the end of January was aborted due to difficulties resulting from the bad weather. Our next installation dates are during May for both north and southbound flows.

South Somerset Local Plan now submitted

The South Somerset Local Plan (SSLP) 2006-2028 (previously known as the core strategy) is now in the final stages of adoption having been submitted by the District Council to the Planning Inspector for public examination before, if all goes well, approval and adoption later this year.

Several last minute changes have been made to the proposed plan following the final public consultation held during the summer of last year.

There is a provision in the plan to allow rural settlements (such as Lopen) to grow where growth is both sustainable and has the backing of the local community.

For Lopen, as we are divorced from almost all key services, poor sustainability is likely to rule out any significant development within the village whether we want it or not. In theory at least, this includes both commercial and housing development.

South Petherton's allocation has been revised to provide a total of 229 houses over the plan period to 2028 which, allowing for existing completions and allocations, leaves around 78 houses yet to be permitted along with 2 hectares of commercial land.

Village Picnic

At our January meeting it was agreed that a village picnic will be held this year at some point over the August bank holiday weekend. The exact day, times and venue have yet to be finalised. Carolyn White has kindly agreed to Chair the picnic committee on which Peggie Finlayson will be representing the Parish Council. Further details to be announced.

REDPOLLS IN LOPEN



A pair of redpolls, not a common bird in these parts, seen recently on the birdtable of Pauline Rook in Church Street.

And this time last year in Frog Street, we were surprised, to see a cock and four hen Reed Buntings feeding on the ground beneath our bird feeders. Ed.



**Any other rare or uncommon visitors?
Please tell the Editor, contact details on back page.**

LOPEN TO RECEIVE ITS OWN LIFE-SAVING DEVICE

Funding for a portable defibrillator has been obtained by the Parish Council. This is the equipment seen in many medical programmes on the TV. It uses an electric shock to restart a heart in the event of a serious heart attack or to jolt it back into a regular rhythm should the rhythm become irregular. Prompt use of a defibrillator while waiting for an ambulance to arrive can save a life. It's as simple as that.



A big thank-you to Cllr. Paul Maxwell and Somerset County Council for providing £1,200 to purchase this equipment from the British Heart Foundation.

A team of volunteers from different areas of the village will be recruited and trained to use the equipment under expert guidance.

Further information to follow.



BUS ROUTE THROUGH LOPEN UNDER THREAT AGAIN - VOLUNTEER TRANSPORT SCHEMES COULD BE THE ANSWER

Parish Councillor Peggie Finlayson has offered to co-ordinate a volunteer transport scheme in Lopen for villagers lacking their own car.

Please call Peggie on 240 059 if either you need this service yourself or would be prepared to become a volunteer driver.



Alternatively, South Somerset Association for Voluntary and Community Action has an existing scheme, who say; *"This service is provided by volunteer drivers in their own vehicles. Therefore it is not suitable for wheelchair users. Our community cars scheme is available for local people who have difficulty using public transport or who have no access to public transport. The scheme operates similarly to a taxi service but you will be driven by one of our friendly volunteer drivers in their own cars. Whilst there is a minimal charge for using our service (to cover the mileage costs for our volunteers) it is considerably cheaper than local taxi services. Ideally you will book our service in advance by at least 48 hours to ensure we are able to match an available driver to your individual journey needs."* Call them on 01935 411 572 or email: transport@SSVCA.org.uk

(Thanks to Valerie Canton for alerting me to SSVCA. Ed.)

The Cheddar Pink Somerset's County Flower



Plantlife

Wild plant charity Plantlife www.plantlife.org.uk, are hoping to reach out to many wild plant enthusiasts and nature lovers by inviting them to become wild plant 'pioneers' and subscribe to a **FREE** quarterly e-learning bulletin to learn more about our native wild plants via the 'Wild About Plants' project website - www.wildaboutplants.org.uk.



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

Next Meeting Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom

A talk by Richard Kay of Lawrences Auctioneers on the subject of 'Images of Majesty' covering portraits of British monarchs from Henry VII to the present day.
Members new and old are most welcome with any guests they may wish to bring.
Members: entry £3 and Visitors £3.50.
Refreshments and Raffle included.



Lopen JUST WOMEN

TUESDAY 12th MARCH
7.30pm at the Schoolroom

Enquiries to Margaret on 241 162

Twelve Months of Colour in the Garden

A talk by Neil Lovesey of Picket Lane Nursery, South Perrott where a range of 1,500 hardy perennials and shrubs is propagated.



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
	Peggie Finlayson	240 059	finpix1@btinternet.com
Parish Clerk	Kim McDonald	242 297	mcdonald.lopenpc@btinternet.com

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 Paul Maxwell	271 155	pmmaxwell@somerset.gov.uk
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MEMBER of PARLIAMENT

The Rt Hon David Laws	01935 423 284	david.laws@yeovil-libdems.org.uk
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ALL SAINTS CHURCH Benefice Office

Rectors Rev. Julia Hicks, Rev. Bob Hicks	73226 76406	Issy Welsh
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

Editor	Les Farris	242 254	leslifarris23@aol.com
	Michael Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
	Peter Little	242 474	peteralittle6@aol.com
Distribution	Andrew Kearney	240 287	andrewfkearney@aol.com

COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM



in MARCH

Wednesdays 13th & 27th
10.30 until 12.00 midday.
Only £1 for a hot drink
(and refill) plus a slice of
home-made cake.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be at 7.00pm in the Schoolroom on Monday 18th March.

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