

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter

MAY
2015



LOPEN PLANT SALE in the SCHOOLROOM Saturday 9th May

10.30am -12 noon

Hundreds of locally-grown flower
and vegetable plants at bargain
prices. Plus refreshments
Not to be missed!

*“The best plant sale for miles around
for both variety and value.”*



Donations of plants for sale would be gratefully received at the Schoolroom on the Friday afternoon or between 9 and 10am on Saturday.



Sunday 30th August
Details to follow.

AND ANOTHER DATE FOR THE DIARY

LOPEN VILLAGE PICNIC

With something for all ages the picnic, held every other year, always attracts most of the people in Lopen. This year it will be held as usual on the Sunday of the Summer Bank Holiday weekend.

A wonderful opportunity to meet up with fellow villagers.

VOTING ON THURSDAY 7th MAY

As usual, Lopen votes at the
Schoolroom at the end of
Church Street.

You may cast your votes at any time
between 7am and 10pm.



LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

As the term for the current Council draws to a close, I thought I would look ahead to what I see as the main challenge for the Parish Council going forward. But before that, **it is a pleasure for me as current chairman to offer our thanks and best wishes on behalf of the current Council and past chairmen and members, to our outgoing vice-chair, Nicola Norman. Many of you will not be aware that Nic has served for 20 years on LPC!**

The Council has always encouraged new residents to join its ranks to bring new outlooks and skills (and on that point we still have two places to fill through co-option, so if you are interested please make contact), but it has been most important to anchor these within a longer term Lopen perspective – and it is this experience that Nic has been able to bring to the Council. As well her role as vice-chair, Nic has overseen footpaths, been a trusted contact for local feedback and managed the services of the village Lengthsman. The Lengthsman (now Ranger service) is where we commit the bulk of our budget and we know is highly prized by all villagers. Thank you Nic for your long and valued contribution! Nic is a great example of the volunteering spirit that small villages like Lopen rely on in order to be successful as communities – places where people want to settle and feel they belong. And it is the growing challenge of self-help that I want to turn to now.

The landscape of local government is rapidly changing. We have all heard about the benefits of localism (local people having more say about what happens where they live with more power and control devolved to local communities). In practice this means there is likely to be less funding for local services with an increasing requirement for local people to pick up the delivery of many services for themselves. So the challenge for Lopen in the future is how to get more people active on behalf of the village and how to become more integrated as a *whole* village.

I have lived in Lopen for only eight years and during that time I have witnessed a reducing small group of people getting involved in general village matters and those that do often represent only a small part of our village. Over this Council's term we have struggled to recruit volunteers to help with projects like a village speed watch scheme and to help to monitor and record overweight vehicles travelling through the village. Defibrillator and life support training has seen slow take up. At the same time we have seen other village groups facing similar issues over the lack of new volunteers to sustain their activities. **We need more people to actively take part in maintaining and improving our village for the benefit of all residents.**

Showing willing and doing what we can to help ourselves will often release additional support from local authorities and services like the Police, so it can have a multiplier effect.

Our village is cut in half by an increasingly busy road and lacks a centrally located community hub. This throws up particular challenges to overcome but this should not be a barrier for greater community integration, involvement and sense of belonging for all. Accepting there are some aspects of our village we may never be able to change, having your say is by far the most important first step. After all, how is the Parish Council to know what to focus on if villagers don't tell us? I fully recognise of course, there are people who work extremely hard for the village in various ways, and as residents we should thank them all but more of us need to do more, whether it is simply giving your opinion or, better still, getting involved.

Barry Davolls



Outgoing Parish Councillor Nicola Norman who has stepped down after serving for twenty years.

Please note:

The outcome of the Parish and District elections will be covered in the June edition of Lopen Eye.

Ed.

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

There will be no election for our Parish Council on May 7th because there are only five candidates declared for the seven vacancies.

The five villagers who will become parish councillors after the election are existing councillors Barry Davolls, Stephen Crane, Teresa Sienkiewicz and Sarah Mason plus new councillor Nick Jones.

It is possible that other villagers might apply to be co-opted to the council to make the numbers up to the full complement of seven. Meanwhile, the present councillors remain in post until after May 7th.

The next elections for Lopen Parish Council will be held in May 2019.

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL'S FREE TRAINING FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, CPR AND USE OF THE VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR

Training by a qualified instructor takes place in the Schoolroom and is open to all villagers. Sessions last a couple of hours.

To apply please contact the Parish Clerk - see back page for details.



South Somerset

Citizens Advice Bureau

has changed its enquiry line number to

03444 88 9623

Lines open 10am until 4pm

Monday to Friday



WANTED - A NEW EDITOR FOR LOPEN EYE

Les Farris is stepping down later this summer after producing more than 60 editions of the EYE over a six year period. He will remain on the editorial team and offer advice, as required to a successor.

If you can spare a few hours a month and are able to lay out this essential village means of communication, please get in touch with either Barry Davolls or Les (see back page for contact information).

TWO ALERTS THIS MONTH



1. Secure your shed

In April a shed was broken into in Lopen. People who have garden sheds away from their house, please make sure you have a good lock on a strong hasp and staple on your sheds. You have got to make it hard for someone to break in.

2. Secure your car

A warning from the police. We are now at the time of year when there are a lot of thefts from cars. Please keep valuables out of sight if left in your car: use the boot, not the back seat.

from Martin Howell

Somerset County Council

NEW telephone number for all enquiries

0300 123 2224



Lopen JUST WOMEN

TUESDAY 12th MAY
2.00pm



For further information
please call
Margaret Linton
Tele 241 162

**Meet at Frogmary Farm for a talk
by Claire Bragg
followed by a tour and tea.**



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
	Sarah Mason	249 219	sarahmason6@yahoo.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 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

Rectors Rev. Julia Hicks, Rev. Bob Hicks	73226 76406	Issy Welsh
Churchwarden Angela Naunton Davies	240 921	nauntondavies@btinternet.com

Services are listed on the Church noticeboard

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
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

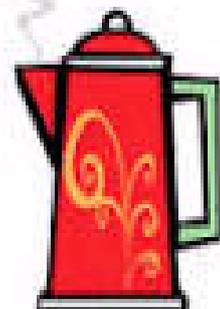
Martin Howell	241 765	samhowell3@sky.com
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LOPEN EYE

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	afk947@gmail.com

COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM

**ALL WELCOME -
INCLUDING PARENTS
WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**



in MAY

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

**THIS PAGE WILL BE UPDATED IN THE JUNE EDITION WITH THE CONTACT INFORMATION
FOR OUR NEWLY-ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**