

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
MAY
2014



Make a date...

SATURDAY 3rd MAY

at the SCHOOLROOM

10.30am - 12.00 midday

The Lopen
PLANT SALE



Lopen-grown plants for the vegetable garden, flower bed and shrub border.

All at modest prices.

Refreshments available.

THANK YOU, CHRIS PITCHER!

Chris has helped meet the printing costs of Lopen Eye by generous sponsorship over the past four years. Many thanks from Lopen Parish Council, the editorial team and the editor.

Children help make an Easter Garden on a window sill in Lopen Church before enjoying a traditional chocolate egg hunt in the churchyard



The House Martins returned to Lopen from South Africa on St. George's Day



Several pairs of these beautiful long-distance tourists arrived back at the house in Frog Street where they have constructed their mud nests under the eaves ever since it was built only 15 years ago. It is rather surprising that they haven't chosen instead to use any of the ancient stone farmhouses and barns in the street. They will be with us until late September or early October.

Parish Chairman Barry Davolls reports back...

Traffic Calming through the Village

The Parish Council is working closely with our County Councillor Christopher LeHardy with a view to securing a simple (only low cost proposals are likely to succeed) traffic calming scheme

Your views and ideas on this would not only be appreciated but are vital in providing evidence of local support and, as such, any suggestions or comment you may wish to make should be in writing to me by email or letter - contact details on the back page.

Options may range from a simple reduction in the speed limit to physical barriers to speeding. I have not yet received the latest Speed Indicator Device readings to be sure but, based on several comments I have received, both the number of vehicles passing through the village and those speeding are perceived to be on the increase.

Defibrillator Grant Approved

I am delighted to report that our defibrillator grant application to the British Heart Foundation was successful. This grant, together with a generous grant received last year from Somerset County Council, means not only can we purchase a unit but also we have the funds to cover ongoing maintenance as well as the option for additional accessories.

A unit is now on order and expected to arrive in the next few days. The exact location for mounting the unit has not yet been finalised other than to say it will be somewhere in the main hub of the village.

The Parish Lengthsman

I am pleased to report that the Lengthsman scheme (which at one point looked in doubt) is to continue for at least the next year.

The first set of accounts in many a year for the Lengthsman Scheme shows a healthy surplus and all the member Parishes are to have a payment holiday for at least part of this year. Whilst this is a useful boost to our Council's funds it may only be temporary. I suspect any savings made this year will be offset by significant increases in cost for the next year and on.

Year End

As the Parish Council enters its final year before new elections in 2015 we are, as usual, in the process of signing off the accounts for the last financial year.

The Parish Council continues with the objectives set by the previous council to steadily increase cash reserves and to accumulate reserve funds to cover future ongoing maintenance responsibilities, continuing and providing additional local services and facilities where possible as well as providing a cushion for the unexpected. Basically, we enter the new year in good financial shape.

Anyone wishing to view the accounts and supporting documents first-hand can do so during the statutory window during the latter part of May. Keep an eye on the notice board (and website) for full details which will be posted around the 2nd of May.

The next meeting is the Annual meeting of the Parish Council which is scheduled for the 12th May at the Schoolroom starting at 7pm.

This will be preceded by the the Annual Parish meeting (open forum) starting at 6.45pm.

HARRY HORLOCK STRINGER

1927 - 2014



Harry Horlock Stringer pictured as the worthy winner of the most appropriate hat competition at the Lopen village celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June 2012.

Harry, who died peacefully on March 3rd at his home, the former King William PH on the main road, was a well-loved member of the community in his adopted village of Lopen where he was fondly referred to as *Harry Potter*. Harry and his long-time close friend Sue Loudoun have been familiar faces at events in the village. Throughout the world of hand-made pottery, Harry was known and respected as a famous maker, teacher and innovator.

RAINFALL REPORT by Jeremy Rook

Jeremy writes... "I recorded 46 mm in March (Long-Term Average 63mm), the first under-average month since last November. There was a much-needed spell of no rain at all from the 4th to the 19th of the month. Since the start of the year we have had 480 mm - more than half our average annual total."

**Alzheimer's
Research UK**
Defeating Dementia

The LENT LUNCH held in the Schoolroom raised £205 for Alzheimer's Research

ON YOUR GUARD!

from Martin Howell

Phoney Meter Readers

A local resident reports..

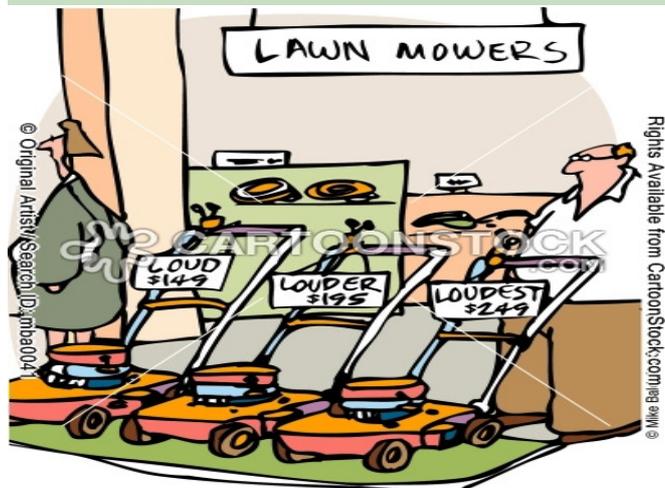
"Last week a chap from E-ON electricity came to read my meter, I let him in and he read the meter. Yesterday, however, a lady turned up to read the meter wearing a red E-ON t-shirt with logo and her I.D etc. and said there was no one in the area last week. The chap who came last week was not in uniform but had I.D. He was driving a BMW or Merc-type car and is not from the E-ON company. Please be aware."

(The Lopen Eye Editor adds...

Last month a cottage in Hinton St. George, at the property where we lived before moving to Lopen, was broken into in broad daylight in the absence of the occupiers. Valuables including a TV and jewellery were stolen.)



GRASS CUTTING- NEVER ON A SUNDAY?



Concern has been expressed by a long-term village resident about the sound of mowers and strimmers disturbing the peace on Sundays. A day in the week in spring and summertime when many wish to enjoy their gardens or open their windows wide.

Understanding that (a) the grass has to be kept in check and (b) fine, dry days don't often come when needed, it would be widely appreciated nevertheless if Sundays could be avoided for mowing whenever possible.

(In Germany it is illegal to use a lawnmower on a Sunday.)



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

TUESDAY 20th MAY
at 7.30 in the **Schoolroom**

Angela & Joan will conduct a
walk around Lopen
pointing out places of
historic interest and the
people connected with them
and some notable events.

**NEW LOPEN RESIDENTS
ESPECIALLY WELCOME!**



Lopen JUST WOMEN

For further information
please call
Margaret Linton
Tele 241 162

TUESDAY 13th MAY
Meet at 2.30pm
at **CREWKERNE MUSEUM**

Following a talk and wander
there will be tea and cakes
at £4 per head.



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

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 **May**

Wednesdays **14th & 28th**
10.30 until 12.00 midday.
Only £1 for a hot drink
(and refill) plus a slice
of home-made cake.

Please Note:

The Lopen Mosaic website has
been discontinued and the
information transferred to the
village website at
www.lopen.btck.co.uk.

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