

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
NOVEMBER
2014



Proceeds to be divided
50/50 between South Petherton
Scout Group and Lopen Church



Lopen's Mistletoe Fayre

Saturday 15th November
at the Church and Schoolroom
10am until 1pm

Featuring a fine range of stalls for
Bric a Brac, Plants, Cakes & Preserves,
Books, Christmas Presents and a superb
Bottle Stall with 50 bottles of wine, spirits
and champagne kindly donated by the family
of the late Harry Horlock Stringer.

The customary excellent range of
refreshments will also be available.

Children are warmly invited to join in
games and face-painting and to visit
Santa Claus in his Grotto.



Please contact Fayre Organiser Ian Benfield on 01460 929 205 should you wish to donate something for sale.

A GRAND SALE of HARRY'S POTS will take place at the SCHOOLROOM between 10.30am and 2.00pm on SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER

This will be a unique opportunity to purchase handmade stoneware pottery made by nationally-renowned master craftsman and tutor Harry Horlock Stringer who died earlier this year in Lopen after spending a happy retirement in the village. Each pot is a one-off (like Harry) and they will make very acceptable Christmas presents. We are instructed to sell at bargain prices starting at only **£1** so please come early to avoid disappointment. All proceeds to The Stroke Association.



Parish Council Report Back

Local road infrastructure (*Barry Davolls writes:*)

I attended a meeting headed by our County Councillor Christopher Le Hardy on the 24th October which was one of a series of meetings aimed at identifying local road issues with one eye on the possible alternatives and impacts of any A303 road improvements. These meetings were designed to engage with the various Parish Councils and the public of South Petherton and the immediate surrounding settlements (including Lopen).

To date, the main focus has been identifying specific issues within each separate community which is now being combined into one master plan for the whole area. For Lopen, the main focus is traffic calming measures through the village as well as speed and weight limit signage and enforcement. The latest meeting gave some consideration to the possible re-configuring of the Hayes End roundabout and in particular, should it be removed, the possible alternative approaches into South Petherton and the surrounding settlements. Five possible A303 junction points were discussed and these were in the areas of: Fouts Cross, West Street, South Street, Hayes End (as current) and the A356 junction with the A303. The aim is that Christopher will engage with the Highways Agency in an attempt to influence any A303 improvements to best suit our local needs.

Lopenhead (*Barry Davolls writes:*)

Earlier this year we reported that a proposed huge new commercial building to be sited on agricultural land adjacent to the existing industrial development at Lopenhead had been quashed by the High Court following a successful legal challenge by local resident Teresa Sienkiewicz.

During its Area North committee meeting of 22nd October, the District Council re-determined the application and, once again, resolved to approve. Mirroring the run up to the original decision, significant objections were presented to the District Council by the same previously successful legal team who, once again, argued that the approach taken and the recommendation to approve was flawed and not reasonable. Quite where this goes from here remains to be seen but it is possible that, once actually issued, the planning permission granted will be the subject of yet another lengthy and expensive legal challenge.

Parish Ranger (*Kim McDonald writes:*)

As previously reported, the replacement to the Lengthsman scheme which carries out important village maintenance is now in place. **Please report any matters you consider need attention to Councillor Nicola Norman (contact details on the back page).**

Parish Bulb Planting Scheme (*Kim McDonald writes*)



Our pack of bulbs for planting for 2015 will be a random mix of Grape Hyacinth, Loddon Lily, Snowdrops, Snakes Head Fritillary, English Bluebells and Star of Bethlehem. **Your ideas for where planting should happen (we've received a number for where they shouldn't!) would be most welcome. Last call, please let me know if you are able to volunteer for some planting.**

Grants still available to reduce risk of flooding (*Kim McDonald writes*)

Home owners and businesses in South Somerset directly affected by flooding last winter are being reminded they can still apply for a grant of up to £5,000 to help reduce the risk of flooding of their properties in the future.

The Government-funded Repair and Renew Grant scheme can provide grants for additional flood resilience or resistance measures for homes and businesses that have been hit by the floods, over and above repairs that would normally be covered by insurance. Affected residents need to apply to their local district council to bid for the grant. **If you are interested, please contact South Somerset District Council - Paul Rees on 01935 462507**

STOP PRESS

A relief deliver of the EYE is needed for the Church Street area (approx. 30 minutes a month) as Andrew Kearney will be away for some dates in 2015. Please contact Andrew for details on 240 287.

Thank you!



CAB moves to Petters House in Petters Way, Yeovil

Petters House in Yeovil offers a wide range of advice services and support to the residents of South Somerset.

Over 2,000 visitors each week are helped with issues such as Housing and Welfare benefits, together with general enquires relating to council services.



VOLUNTEER NEEDED

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A message from Martin Howell

“It is my intention to be leaving the Village in the not too distant future. We are looking for some person or persons to take over Neighbourhood Watch. Anyone interested please let me know on 241765.”

Peggie Finlayson donated this Art Deco table to raise money for village funds. Following a good clean and polish by Paul Belben* it fetched £40 at the “Remains to be Seen” shop in Ilminster run by Holly Phillips. The Parish Council and the Church each received £20.



* Paul of 3 Church Street, Lopen trades as “Knot Just Pine Furniture Restorations”.



Sunday 2nd November at 6pm

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LOPEN

PATRONAL FESTIVAL -

All villagers are invited to “SONGS OF PRAISE” and a get-together afterwards in the Schoolroom.

REFRESHMENTS CASH

Refreshments during Art Weeks in Lopen and at the recent Harvest Supper raised a total of £542 for the Horseshoes & Handprints charity.

Martin Howell



CHRISTMAS

SHOEBOX APPEAL

Please can all Shoe Boxes be handed in to Crown Cottage in Church Street by **6th NOVEMBER.**

Thank you for your support. Sally-Ann

LOPEN HISTORY GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER

As featured on the back page, LHG will host a talk by well-known Dorset author, poet and local historian **James Crowden** following a brief AGM. The meeting is open to everyone.

The village should be aware, however, that the three office holders of the Lopen History Group will be standing down at the AGM after several years in post.

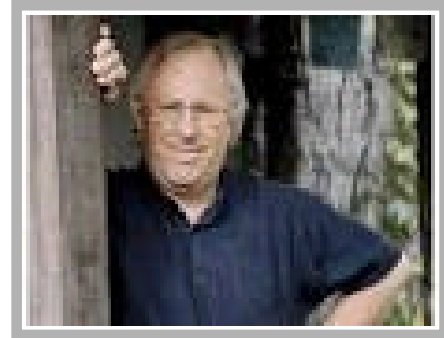
There is seemingly a reluctance on the part of the other members to take on the not very arduous task of managing this usually well-supported Lopen institution. This places the future of LHG in jeopardy. **Should you wish to consider joining the committee, please give Joan Farris a ring on 242 254 for details of what is involved.**



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

TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER
7.30pm in the Schoolroom

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
followed by a talk by
JAMES CROWDEN
Dorset author, poet, local
historian, noted authority on cider
and former Olympic rower



Lopen JUST WOMEN

For further information
please call
Margaret Linton
Tele 241 162

TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER
7.30pm in the Schoolroom

ANGELA LANGFORD
of Merriott will talk about her
recent experience as a finalist
on **BBC2's MasterChef**



MasterChef

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	Issy Welsh
Churchwarden Angela Naunton Davies	76406	
	240 921	nauntondavies@btinternet.com

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	samhowell@sky.com
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LOPEN EYE

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COFFEE MORNINGS
at the **SCHOOLROOM**

**PARENTS WITH YOUNG
CHILDREN WELCOME**



in **NOVEMBER**

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*