

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
OCTOBER
2011



CAROLE IS THE NEW PARISH CLERK



Carole Mansfield, who moved recently from Broomhill Lane to Stoke sub Hamdon, was appointed Parish Clerk at the September meeting of Lopen Parish Council.

Carole takes over on October 1st from Enid King who retires after 24 years as Parish Clerk. At the same meeting, longest-serving councillor Nicola Norman presented Enid with a handsome Dartington Crystal jug engraved to record her outstanding record of service. The role of Parish Clerk is a combination of secretarial work, administration and legal oversight for which training is provided. *Please see the back page for Carole's contact information.*

Keeping South Somerset Orchards Alive



This is a new project covering 28 parishes in South Somerset. A recent survey discovered that 61% of orchards in the county are in poor condition. The aim of this project is to reverse the decline in our traditional orchards.

The project will offer orchard owners advice and training in restoring, managing and planting orchards

For more information please contact:
Charlotte Thomas at FWAG on 01823 355427
or email cmthomas@somerset.gov.uk

THE SECOND BEST PLACE TO BRING UP A FAMILY IN THE WHOLE OF ENGLAND IS....



SOUTH PETHERTON!

A recent survey carried out by a children's savings provider *Family Investments*, using police figures, Land Registry information, Ofsted reports, ONS data etc, which sets out to identify the best places in the entire country to bring up families gives South Petherton as Number Two. Number one on the list is Winkleigh in Devon. (from Peter Little)

(Two or three years ago Montacute was named as the best place in the entire country for longevity. At both ends of the age spectrum, it seems, there are advantages to living in this pleasant corner of Somerset. Ed.)

Tip of the Month - Keeping Ginger

from Andrew Kearney



Fresh ginger can go mouldy after being used once even if kept in the fridge and usually ends up being thrown out. Try peeling the whole root, stick it in a plastic zip lock bag and then freeze it. Whenever you need some just grate as much as you'd like with a regular cheese grater and then stick the rest back in the freezer. You can then use it when required by a recipe or experiment with it yourself in different dishes. Ginger is regarded by the Chinese as having many health benefits - from lowering cholesterol to aiding digestion and alleviating motion sickness.

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.**

PARISH CHAIRMAN BARRY DAVOLLS

Our New Parish Clerk

Enid King, who has served as Parish Clerk for a staggering 24 years, was due to step down at the last elections in May. Enid kindly agreed to continue in the role pending the appointment of her successor. As reported on the front page, Carole Mansfield has now been appointed as Enid's replacement and will take up office on 1st October.

We thank Enid for her considerable efforts over the years and hope she enjoys the extra time now available to her.

Eggwood Hill

The Court of Appeal case scheduled for July seeking the removal of the illegal occupants of the site was deferred to encourage both parties to reach an agreement outside of Court proceedings. Discussions are taking place with a view to finding an alternative local solution.

Merriott, Hinton St. George and Lopen Parish Councils continue to be committed to taking over the site ownership from the County Council.

Lopen Mill

The landscaping arrangements for this site as stated in the section 106 agreement remain outstanding. SSDC has confirmed an agreement with the site owner has been reached to instigate a planting scheme (albeit revised) during this planting season.

Lopenhead Nursery Site

There has been a noticeable degradation of the nursery site adjacent to the part built industrial site. The dumping of rubble, laying of tarmac, parking of lorries and caravans etc. are all taking place without the relevant permissions. SSDC have approached the land owner to seek the removal of all such items and are seeking the roadside landscape planting for this and the industrial site to be put in place asap.

Watergore Speed Limit

Paul Maxwell, our Somerset County Councillor, has stated that the speed limit from the A303 through Watergore, on to the Lopenhead roundabout is to be reduced to 40mph at some point in the near future.

Dog Fouling

The actions of a few irresponsible dog owners continues to cause distress locally and should not be tolerated. We encourage reporting any offence to SSDC's Dog Warden as it is easier than ever to hold to account offending dog owners who can face fines of up to £1000. Generally, dog fouling rules relate to most public spaces, highways, bridleways, footpaths (including those across fields) and all adjacent verges. To the vast majority of dog owners who do clear up after their pets - thank you.

Remember, if you have any views, concerns or questions relating to the village, the contact details for the Lopen Parish Councillors can be found on the back page.

LOPEN WEBSITE CHANGES



Please note the following new address (and alter the address in your Favourites file) to <http://lopen.btck.co.uk>

The changes have been brought about by a need to simplify things and also to save money.

Michael Canton is joined by **Kim McDonald**, t. 242 297 e. k.r.mcdonald@btinternet.com, in managing the website.

OUR NEW HOSPITAL IS NOW RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

South Petherton Hospital is up and running, and is now recruiting volunteers, so if anyone is interested, and has a few spare moments, do contact Matron Heather Ancill at the Hospital on 01460 243 000 and visit their web site.

SP League of Friends Coffee Morning and Christmas Card Sale on SATURDAY 29th OCTOBER 10am-12noon in The Methodist Hall South Petherton.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 12th December in the Schoolroom.

DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Lopen Parish Council or its Members.

WILL LOPEN BE LEAVING THE YEovil CONSTITUENCY?

The Boundary Commission has been reviewing parliamentary constituency boundaries in an effort to give each one roughly the same number of voters.

As Yeovil constituency has one of the largest electorates, it is proposed that it loses some of its voters to a new constituency of Glastonbury & Wincanton. Ilminster, South Petherton and neighbouring small villages including Lopen have been earmarked to move to the new constituency in time for the next general election in 2015.

The plan is open to consultation for a few weeks but closes on 5th December 2011. The easiest way to lodge an objection is to go to the Boundary Commission's website at

<http://consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/>



(If you share my view that Lopen has nothing whatsoever in common with Wincanton, and not a lot with Glastonbury either, we had better let the Commission know our views. Ed.)

Tip of the Month No.2

Adding Addresses To Your Phone *from Andrew Kearney*

Did you ever write down an address just to forget the piece of paper at home, or get in the car and discover you can't read your own handwriting? If so, try using [Google Maps](#) to [send addresses](#) directly to your cell phone. *For example:*

Search Google Maps for [pizza](#)

Click on a result, then on "Send"

Click "Phone", supply your phone number, and hit Send.

Congratulations Dr. Henry Norton!



"Well done on your amazing PhD achievement - we are so proud of you. Lots of love from your wife Jen, Mum & Dad of Norton Lodge, Lopen and George, Deena & family."

LOPEN HAS A NEW POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER

Welcome to PCSO 9275

KYM RUDGE



Says Kym....

"I have been a PCSO for 2 years now, based in Yeovil and covering the town centre. Presently working out of Somerton Police Station, I am now covering South Petherton, Lopen, the Seavingtons and Shepton Beauchamp and look forward to the different challenges of a rural area. I am contactable via e mail (see back page) or by phoning the force number 101. I am a mother with children and I love my job and what I do."

SHOEBOX APPEAL 2011



Last year Lopen sent off 22 shoeboxes full of presents suitable for children of various ages. In early NOVEMBER Sally-Ann will be despatching the boxes for delivery overseas in time for Christmas. Please help us to send even more shoeboxes this year.

For further information, please call Sally-Ann on 241 765.



**TUESDAY 18th OCTOBER
7.30pm in the Schoolroom**

*A Talk by a representative of
Somerset's Heritage and
Libraries Service*

Somerset Women

**The historical role played by women over years
past in the rural and village life of Somerset**

Further details from ANDREW KEARNEY 240 287



Lopen JUST WOMEN

Tuesday 11th October at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom

**A Quiz Night with members of the Merriott Ladies Open
Group joining us.**

Further details from HELEN KEARNEY 240 287



CONTACTS **Village website** <http://lopen.btck.co.uk> *note new address*

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	Carole Mansfield	01935 824 595	carole.ray@tiscali.co.uk

DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Paul Maxwell	271 155	paul.maxwell740@btinternet.com
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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

Rector Rev. Julia Hicks, Rev. Bob Hicks 73226
Churchwardens Angela Naunton Davies 240 921 & Liz Constable 240 912
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
Events Secretary	Andrew Kearney	240 287	andrewfkearney@aol.com

JUST WOMEN

Chairman	Carole Mansfield	01935 824 595	carolegrace@tiscali.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Belinda Bezance	240 973	belinda.bezance@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Zena Morgan	77259	zenam1@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary	Helen Kearney	240 287	hfkearney@hotmail.com
POLICE CSO	Kym Rudge	dial 101 and ask for PCSO 9275	kym.rudge@avonandsomerset.police.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Martin Howell	241 765	samhowell2@talktalk.net
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SPEEDWATCH

Rod Page	242 393	pages.lopen@talktalk.net
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LOPEN EYE

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**COFFEE MORNINGS
at the SCHOOLROOM
in OCTOBER**

**Wednesday 12th & 26th
10.30 until 12.00 midday**

TAIL PIECE

*Thank you! to all our
responsible dog owners.
And a word of advice
for the others...*

