

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish
Newsletter
SEPTEMBER
2015



HARVEST & FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND 3rd & 4th OCTOBER at All Saints, Lopen.

The Church will be open 10.30am until 4.30pm on both days, with refreshments, raffle tickets and home-grown and locally-prepared produce on sale.

The Harvest Festival Service will start at 6pm on Sunday followed by Cheese & Wine - all proceeds to WaterAid.



The Flower Festival in the Church will feature the arrangements made under the tutelage of Angie Blackwell of Cottage Flowers of Ilminster. Please see Page 3 for details.



EARLY DIARY NOTICE LOPEN'S MISTLETOE FAYRE will be held this year on Saturday 14th November

from 10.00am until 12.30pm
at Lopen Church & Schoolroom.
Proceeds to be shared 50/50 between
SSAFA Somerset and the Church.



Suitable items for sale gratefully received.
Please call these numbers to arrange
collection or delivery.



BRIC a BRAC
Ian 929 205



GIFT ITEMS
Margaret 241 162
Lynn 929 205



PLANTS
Joan T. 242 254



CAKES & PRESERVES
Valerie 242 751



BOTTLES
Peter 242 474
Les 242 254



BOOKS
Martin 241 765

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

Your parish council needs you!

As you know, the size of the parish council was increased from 5 to 7 members, but we currently have a complement of 5. Sadly, **Barry Davolls**, until recently our chairman, and **Kim McDonald**, our clerk, are planning to move from Lopen and we urgently need people to come forward to join us. Please contact any of the councillors listed on the back page of the Eye, if you would like a chat about what is involved. We can only exist as a separate parish if we have enough people to act; so please give this serious consideration.

Council administration

We have now had our accounts audited and the External Auditor's report will be displayed on the village notice board. Everything has now been done to comply with the accounting rules. We thank Kim for keeping our finances and records in immaculate order, and **Ian Benfield**, for the work he has put in as our internal auditor. We shall be dealing with the review of our standing orders at the next PC meeting. Subject to agreeing the formalities, the parish clerk vacancy has been filled by **Roger Gurner**.

Planning

The anaerobic digester at Frogmary Green Farm

The application to vary the condition requiring the site to be returned to its original condition at the end of its useful life has been withdrawn. However, there remains the matter of the size of the plant which, as we pointed out to SSDC in our letters of June and July, is much larger than the agreed 1 Megawatt. We understand that a retrospective application to deal with this has been submitted. There has not been time yet to examine it properly, but as all the traffic serving this plant will be routed through Lopen Head, we shall be making our representations in due course.



Statement of community involvement

South Somerset District Council has just issued for public consultation a 'Statement of Community Involvement' which sets out how the Council plans to engage with and involve the community in plan-making and the preparation of policies, as well as helping to decide on planning applications'. Since SSDC's planners and the Area North Committee have a history of ignoring parish councils' and residents' submissions on planning applications, and their requests for enforcement, you may regard this as a cynical exercise. However, we do have the opportunity to develop a neighbourhood plan and your parish council will be exploring this.

Teresa Sienkiewicz



Footpaths

Nick Jones reports

While walking our footpaths in recent weeks, the main thing I've noticed is how overgrown they have become in the summer. While a few of the most-used footpaths are cleared twice a year by the District Council, the majority are not. The best thing we can do to keep them open is to use them regularly, and trample the weeds that would otherwise choke them. I find a stick is sometimes helpful to knock back the brambles and nettles.

Somerset County Council have started an "Adopt a footpath" initiative to encourage local people to keep the footpaths they use in good repair. They offer the loan of gloves and tools as well as insurance cover. Details can be found at

www.somerset.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allid=102911

To report problems with signs, stiles, gates, or just hopelessly overgrown paths, you can either report it direct at

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/> or contact me and I will report it.

FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP

Wednesday 30th September
10 - 12.30 at the Schoolroom.



Angie Blackwell from Cottage Flowers is coming to do the second demo and workshop as a preparation for decorating the church for the Harvest Festival. (Cost expected to be £5.) Please bring your own flowers, leaves and fruits etc. to arrange (and a bucket so they can be kept fresh whilst you work). You will be able to buy floristry sundries from Angie, and she is likely to bring some flowers. Please arrive by 9.45 so there should be time for coffee before the demo starts.

Names of people wanting to participate (or just to watch) by Monday 28th September, to Angela 01460 240921 or Penny 01460 242474.



The recent door to door collection for the RNLI raised £135.58. Thank you to all who contributed.
Sally-Ann.

From Parish Councillor Sarah Mason



I was wondering if you would mind adding to the next issue of the Eye, a polite reminder that having bonfires during the day is classed as antisocial behaviour according to the District Council. There have been numerous occasions over the past few months where smoke has been seeping over the hedgerow during the middle of the day. When the weather is fine and ideal for putting washing out or sitting out in the garden, it is both frustrating and unacceptable to have to move indoors or indeed take washing in due to the bonfire smoke!!

WELCOME TO LOPEN!



Les & Jean Morton from Chichester who have moved to Chandelle in Church Street.



Marcus Jubb, above, who recently moved from Stocklinch to No.1 Broomfield Lane, and a warm welcome also to Sarah Norman and Nigel Hooper - now at No.2 Broomfield Lane.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL



Just a reminder that once again we will be collecting Shoe Boxes this Christmas. An explanation for new villagers who perhaps are not familiar with this charity - a shoe box, or box of similar size, is filled with small gifts for children and wrapped. The charity collects the boxes and they are shipped to end up in the hands of underprivileged children somewhere in the world. If you would care to help, please contact Sally-Ann at Crown Cottage in Church Street or call 241765

Lopen JUST WOMEN

TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom

A talk and slideshow by local wildlife photographer
JOHN CRABB featuring birds
that we might see in our gardens.

For further information
please call
Margaret Linton
Tele 01460 241 162

Visit John Crabb's
website
www.johncrabb.co.uk
for more remarkable
photographs



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

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairwoman	Teresa Sienkiewicz	241 363	tslopenpc1@btinternet.com
Vice Chairman	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
	Sarah Mason	249 219	sarahmason6@yahoo.com
	Barry Davolls	242 297	b.davolls.lopenpc@btinternet.com
	Nick Jones	241 643	nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com
Parish Clerk	Kim McDonald	242 297	mcdonald.lopenpc@btinternet.com

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Adam Dance	07767 224 213	adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk
Cllr Crispin Raikes	07968 291 588	crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Christopher Le Hardy	01935 850 212	clehardy@somerset.gov.uk
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MEMBER of PARLIAMENT

The Hon Marcus Fysh	tel. TBA	marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk
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ALL SAINTS CHURCH Benefice Office 73226 Issy Welsh

Rectors Rev. Julia Hicks, Rev. Bob Hicks	76406	juliahicks1@gmail.com bobhicks66@gmail.com
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

Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
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LOPEN EYE TEAM

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COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOLROOM

All proceeds to charities including
Macmillan Nurses, the Stroke
Association, Bliss, Somerset Air
Ambulance and the Alzheimers Society.

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



Dates in SEPTEMBER

Wednesdays 9th & 23rd

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*

PLEASE DON'T FORGET...

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL URGENTLY NEEDS UP TO THREE MORE COUNCILLORS - SEE PAGE 2.