

# LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter **SEPTEMBER 2019**



## WE HAVE A NEW POSTBOX!



After much letter writing by Teresa Sienkiewicz we now have a new postbox! Since the old one in School Lane was damaged by a school bus earlier this year, we have been without.

Despite various people in the village contacting Royal Mail there seemed to be no progress, so Teresa wrote to the Chairman of Royal Mail but was fobbed off with excuses, included one that they were waiting for a new one to be made! She wrote to the Chairman on numerous occasions, most latterly telling him she was going to raise the issue with him personally at the Royal Mail AGM in Exeter! She attended, and did ask him, to which she was told it would be installed that very same day. On her return to Lopen she checked, and it was! Having waited seven months I think we all owe Teresa a big thank you for this final push with Royal Mail.

## SUNDAY WALKS WITH PUB LUNCH

Forthcoming Lopen walks

**20th October**

**Kings Head, Merriott**

**17th November**

**The Lord Poulett, Hinton St George**

**15th December**

**The Brewers Arms, South Petherton**

Please meet at the Sunday School Room at 11.00am promptly as all pub tables are booked for 12.30.

All walks are dog friendly.

*If you are interested in any of the walks please contact Belinda on 240 973 or email [belinda.bezance@gmail.com](mailto:belinda.bezance@gmail.com) at least one week prior so she has numbers for the pub booking.*

## GARDEN FIRES

There have reports of problematic garden bonfires on occasions this summer, with smoke and ash drifting into neighbours gardens.

Recently we had one report of what smelt like plastic burning. Burning plastic, or any man-made material, is a criminal offence because the compounds released are injurious to health.

With the autumn coming, and the need for bonfires to burn off your garden waste, could we remind readers to give due consideration to their neighbours and ensure the wind is in a direction that will not cause a nuisance - especially the danger of flying sparks where thatched properties are nearby!



## MISTLETOE FAYRE

A meeting is to be held on

**Tuesday 17th September  
at 5.30pm**

This is just a preliminary discussion (with a glass of something!). If you are able to be involved in this year's event on November 30th then do please come to the 'bright and light' **Sunday School Room** to agree an outline plan. Ideas for stalls always needed.

*Contact 240 921 if you have any queries.*

## PET SERVICE

**on Sunday 8th September at 4 pm**

Readings, Hymns and Tea and.....?

This can be a very entertaining and unusual occasional outside event (if wet, in Church and Sunday School Room). You will need to make sure that whatever pet you bring to show the rest of us it is kept safely under control or in the suitable crate or container. There will be water available for them and perhaps some suitable treats.



And of course tea, scones and things for their handlers!

# LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

## **NEW PARISH CLERK**

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Parish Clerk, Mrs Jane Collins.

Jane lives in Odcombe and brings local government and considerable management skills to the Council. Her cat-herding skills will certainly be tested! She takes over from Lisa at the beginning of September and her contact details appear on the back page of this issue. We would like to thank Lisa for her devotion and all her hard work over the last few years.

## **NEW COUNCILLOR**

We are also delighted to welcome Chris Marsh to the council. Chris moved to Sunnyside Farm a little over a year ago from the Yeovil area. This brings us to back up to 5 councillors, which is a much better position but still leaves two further vacancies, so there is still the opportunity to get involved if you wish.

## **HIGHWAYS SMALL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME**

Recent months has seen change of project personnel and an attempt by SCH to change the plan again to something closely resembling the plan that proved so unpopular in 2016. Having resisted this we are now feeling somewhat encouraged that the scheme will proceed as previously agreed almost two years ago and will be completed before the end of this financial year.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Sunday School Room at 7.30pm on:  
**- Monday September 30th.**

Please contact a councillor or the Parish Clerk at least one week before, if there is a matter you would like added to the agenda.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Please note that Parish Council minutes, audited accounts and other statutory information, which must be made available to the public, are available on the village website -

[www.lopen.btck.co.uk/](http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk/)

*LopenParishCouncil*

## **DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FUTURE LPC MEETINGS?**

Forthcoming LPC meetings are also posted on the village notice board, which is located at the end of Church Street, and on the village page of the website. If you would like to receive email notifications, please contact Jane Collins, Parish Clerk - see back page for contact details.

# OBITUARIES

## **Doug Guy Taylor**

**1924 - 2019**

Guy was born in Kingston on Thames in 1924. At the outbreak of war, too young to join up he joined the Air Raid Wardens as a spotter. He joined the RAF in December 1942, as an aircraftman, his eyesight barring him from any flying.

Upon demobilisation he joined the firm of G.H. Plummer a foundry and pattern making business in Surrey. If you remember the Triang ride-on tractor, the patterns for this were made at Plummers.

Guy Married Eileen in 1954. They retired to Lopen in the mid 1980's. Guy's hobbies, other than his garden, was an interest in cars in particular Mini Coopers. He owned many cars over the years including Alfa's, BMW's and a Jaguar SS100. He also owned about ten Mini's, latterly five Mini Cooper S's.

The village of Lopen offered Guy a comfortable



retirement and he and Eileen made good friends and became part of the Lopen community.

Eileen died in 2011. This was a huge loss to Guy. For the next 8 years he came to rely on the Lopen community which offered him great help and support. Guy passed away on the 8th of August in Beauchamp Country House Home.

## **Doug Marcham**

**25/6/25 - 12/08/19**



Doug and Angela moved to Holloway 25 years ago and soon became involved with village life joining the History group, etc. Soon after arriving, living on the main road Doug was very aware of the speed of the traffic and helped with the funding of the Speed

Watch and later donated to the Lopen Village Signs.

Villagers who have been here for a while will know he loved to party, especially on his 80th and 90th birthdays, when he climbed up on a garden table to make his birthday speech! We have lost a village character but have fond memories.

Our thoughts are with Angela and her family.

# LOPEN VILLAGE PICNIC

Despite falling on the same day as the British Grand Prix, the Wimbledon men's tennis final and the Cricket World Cup final (involving England), the Picnic was a great success. Although the event was brought forward to July the weather was kind to us. About 130 people enjoyed this village occasion - and it was good to see so many new Lopen residents too!

Special thanks to the organising committee, in particular Jean Morton, Kate Jones & Victoria Bennett. Plus of course the team of people that make it all happen, including Phil Bennett, who did the hog roast (which proved to be a great success) along with Patrick who carved the large amount of meat it provided. All the scone makers. The catering team - Jean, Kate, Victoria & Helen, Mike Armstrong for ticket sales, and the ladies of Lopen who prepared the super salads! Thanks once again to Ben & Felicity who organised a wide ranging selection of games for both children and adults.

Many thanks, of course, to Michael & Valerie Canton for the loan of their field and the Bennett family for use of their water & electricity.

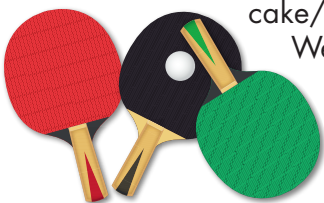
And a big thank you also to all those people who helped set up and dismantle the marquees.



## TABLE TENNIS DATES

Winter dates resume from September, commencing **September 15th**, from 3pm until 5pm. Thereafter 2nd and 4th Sunday's. Open to all ages from little ones to elderly ones. We have a kettle and some cake/biscuits for a 'Tea Stop'.

We shall have to make a charge of £1 to cover the cost of the hall and the electricity. I look forward to seeing you  
- Carolyn.



## REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

We would like to thank all those who donate clothing and footwear for men (small sizes really needed), women & children for refugees in camps in the Middle East and Europe. Soon winter items will be required including baby equipment such as buggies, carrycots, slings, etc. To anyone moving house, for example, we are grateful for bed linen and blankets, often hiding at the backs of airing cupboards. We received very welcome donations from the Milners at Cross Keys House recently. We thank you all.

Geraldine Downey RSG 271 358



Our next meeting will be on

**Tuesday 10th September**  
at 7.30pm

**Sunday School Room**

**A talk about the North Devon & Somerset Coastline**

A talk about the North Devon and Somerset coastline by driftwood artist Emma Duke.

For further information please contact Pauline Rook T: 240 644 E: prook12@gmail.com



### SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM - HIRE CHARGES

The Sunday School Room has now had the floor sanded and sealed, the kitchen upgraded and is fully decorated, making it a lovely light & airy place to hold functions.

Hire charges, include electricity, are:

Evening - £12.50

Half Day - £12.50

Full Day - £37.50

Please contact Angela on 240 921 to make a booking.

*Please use the heaters as economically as possible and remember to switch off after use.*

### SMALL JAM JARS NEEDED



Our church is making an appeal for small jam jars - typically the type Tartare Sauce or Horseradish would come in, and big enough to hold a tea light candle. These are to be used at events such as the 'Christmas by Candlelight' service in the church. If you have any could you please leave them in church or contact Angela on 240 921.

Have you 'liked' the Lopen Events Facebook page? Have a look - [www.facebook.com/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/](http://www.facebook.com/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/)

## CONTACTS

Village website - [www.lopen.btck.co.uk](http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk)

#### PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
	Nick Jones	241 643	nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com
	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
	Jenny Feeney	419 569	jfeeneyloopenpc@gmail.com
	Chris Marsh	07951 239110	chrismarshLPC@gmail.com

Parish Clerk	Jane Collins	07967 218478	loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com
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<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	Cllr Adam Dance	07767 224 213	adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk
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	Cllr Crispin Raikes	07968 291 588	crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk
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<b>COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	Cllr Adam Dance	07767 224 213	adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk
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<b>MEMBER of PARLIAMENT</b>	Marcus Fysh		marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk
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#### ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Benefice Office	Issy Welsh	73226	
Rector	Rev. Julia Hicks	76406	juliahicks1@gmail.com
Rector	Rev. Bob Hicks	76406	bobhicks66@gmail.com
Churchwarden	Angela Naunton Davies	240 921	nauntondavies@btinternet.com

#### JUST WOMEN

Chairwoman	Pauline Rook	240 644	prook12@gmail.com
Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	christianne@loopen.me.uk

<b>POLICE CSO</b>	Malissa Thompson	Dial 101 ask for PCSO 6827	malissa.thompson@avonandsomerset.police.uk
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<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH</b>	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
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#### LOPEN EYE TEAM

Editor	Les Morton	391 574	lesmorton26@gmail.com
	Les Farris	242 254	leslifarris23@aol.com
	Michael Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
Proof-reading	Penny Little	242 474	penelopejlittle@gmail.com

## COFFEE STOP at the Sunday School Room

Only **£1** for a hot drink (including refill) and a slice of homemade cake.

### SEPTEMBER DATES

Wednesday 11th & 25th  
10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome - including parents with young children.

All proceeds to  
The Epilepsy Society