

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter **FEBRUARY 2016**



TWO CLOSURES IN LOPEN



After over 6 years of trading, the Lopen Fruit & Vegetable Store has closed. Having been in the fruit & vegetable wholesale business for 53 years, John Osborne has decided to call it a day and retired on December 24th. John & Mary would like to thank everyone for their custom, and we in turn would like to wish them a long and happy retirement. They will be staying in the village, so will still be seen out and about.

The Indian restaurant at Lopenhead has been closed for some weeks now with a notice posted that it is closed for refurbishment. After a call to their sister restaurant in Crewkerne, it seems the Lopen Raj is closed for good. They didn't know if another business would be starting up - if we have any news it will be in 'The Eye'.



Children's Christmas Workshop
See inside for pictures

SMALL FIRE IN CHURCH STREET

There was a small chimney fire at Church Close at about 8.30pm on January 5th. The fire was dealt with immediately by the Fire Service who had to reverse their fire tender all the way up Church Street (in the dark!) - Liz & George said they were 'brilliant!'.

THE LOPEN SCONATHON

Following his accident at Beer Head in July, John Milner is running a fund raising event at Cross Tree House on Saturday 12th March. The idea is to bake and sell as many scones as possible within a 10 hour period. BV Dairy, Cherry Tree Preserves, Stoates Flour and Blackacre Farm are generously providing all the ingredients, so all proceeds will go



directly to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and the Devon Air Ambulance.

There will be music from "Bad Dog no Biscuit", Jonathan Weeks playing his collection of medieval instruments; staff from both Air Ambulances to tell you about their work; members of the Condors to get you started with hang gliding & paragliding and other entertainment. Full details to follow in the March edition. Follow developments in Facebook under "The Lopen Sconathon".

LANDSLIP IN HOLLOW LANE



On January 4th there was a small landslide on the steep bank on Hollow Lane heading north out of Lopen - no doubt due to the long and heavy rain spell! After having cones narrow the road for some days the slip has now been repaired.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED CHURCHYARD GRASS CUTTING

Four people keep the Churchyard grass cut for the Parish Council and the PCC, but we are one short! Steve Chapman, Ian Benfield, Nick Jones and Mike Constable need another helper please.

To find out more please contact:

Steve on 249 549 or Mike on 240 912.

A fifth pair of hands would make it easier for everyone.

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

FROGMARY GREEN FARM - The saga of how the application is handled for the anaerobic digester at Frogmary Green Farm continues. The planning application is now back with SSDC, having been referred to the County Council as some operations are regarded as a waste and recycling facility. We have been invited to comment again, but have had little relevant additional information further to our October submission which pointed out the lack of essential details, and we shall continue to raise concerns about the levels of traffic, the actual size of the plant and the discrepancies in the information provided.

LOPENHEAD - In the case of the judicial review for the new building at Lopenhead, the judge found yet again that SSDC had given planning permission unlawfully but this time declined to quash it. The way that the planning officer worded the permission means that the building can basically be used for any purpose – offices, industrial or storage – and by any company. This is despite the fact that Area North members stated that they would only give permission if it were tied to Probiotics, and the allocation of Lopenhead Nursery for employment use was on the basis that B8 (storage use) would not be permitted.

TRAFFIC AND ROADS

We continue to receive complaints about lorries and their drivers. Please send your photos and complaints to Stephen for reporting to Highways and the police. We have also been notified of potholes which you can report via the SCC Highways website.

OUR NEW COUNCILLOR - ED MOORE



We are delighted that Ed Moore is now a member of our Parish Council. Ed, his wife Jo and their children live in Holloway. You probably know them from the eggs & honey for sale sign that hangs outside their house!

EGWOOD

Barry continues to negotiate this on behalf of Lopen PC but the lease has yet to be signed as a result of some last minute complications.

HIGHWAYS

One of the issues that has come to light in recent weeks is the state of the drains in the village. There have been several reports of blocked drains leading to a build-up of surface water on the roads. While it is not as bad as it was 2 years ago, the lack of finance for routine highway maintenance and drain cleaning means that the situation will only get worse. So far the spread of surface water has not been coupled with freezing temperatures turning the roads into an ice rink. We would urge a little village self-help by ensuring that the gutters adjacent to your property are

kept clear of any leaves and debris that could wash down and block the drains. If you do see any drains blocked, please either let Stephen Crane know or ring the Council direct to report it; priority will be given to those incidents with more reports. 'Pester Power' works! The Council phone number is: 0300 1232224.

BUDGET FOR 2016/17

Following the receipt of the information about the precept, the parish council at its meeting on 12th January set its budget for 2016-2017. There will be a rise of 2.03%, a band D increase from £47.80 to £48.77. We have allowed for a small increase in the contingency fund (future proofing) and for other inflationary costs to maintain services.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FORTHCOMING MEETINGS?

Forthcoming LPC meetings (listed below) are posted on the village notice board, which is located at the junction of Holloway (the main road) and Church Street and on the village page of the website. However, if you would like to receive email notifications please contact Roger Gurner, Parish Clerk, at clerktolopenpc@freeolamail.com or telephone 249 253 and add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council meetings will take place at the School Room at 7.00pm on the following dates:

March 15th - End of Year

May 17th - AGM

August 16th

October 18th

December tbc - Budget

January 2017 tbc - Precept

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 -

<http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk/LopenParishCouncil>

MORE COUNCILLORS NEEDED

With the impending loss of one or possibly even two councillors, Barry Davolls and our Chairwoman Teresa Sienkiewicz, we need to recruit more volunteers to serve on the Lopen Parish Council. Parishioners are elected to serve on the council for four year periods. The new Chair person is selected annually by the councillors from within the existing members.

This is a rewarding and sociable position that ensures we have a voice with the District and County Councils and helps to ensure we continue to have an enjoyable and functioning village to live in. If you are interested please contact Teresa at tsloopenpc1@btinternet.com or telephone 241 363.

TRAFFIC THROUGH THE VILLAGE - HAVE YOUR SAY!



The speed and size of traffic passing through Lopen is an ever increasing problem for the village. Past schemes, such as changing the markings on the main road, have had no detectable impact. Speed bumps and chicanes have been dismissed because a) they would require street lighting, which most residents do not want, and b) we have been advised that they in fact substantially increase noise and pollution as vehicles, especially HGVs, slow down and then speed up. A community speedwatch team has come and gone - twice! The Police have limited enforcement resources, although a police radar trap was present in the village on January 25th. Should we seek a permanent radar controlled speed indicator? Should we seek a 20mph limit



through the centre of the village? Should we try and resurrect the community speedwatch team?

Your views are needed and we would like to hear from you - crane1@hotmail.co.uk

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

The annual Children's Christmas Workshop was held on Saturday December 5th at The Sunday School Room. There was an excellent attendance of children (and parents to assist). After the 'hands on' craft work of making hats, masks, snow globes, etc. there was a children's nativity performed in the church. All children took part in the play which also featured the Rev Bob Hicks as the grumpy innkeeper!



VILLAGE BROADBAND

Following a discussion of Roger Gurner's broadband survey at the last Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that the village would seek the support and assistance of Christopher Le Hardy at SCC in pursuing improvements in the local broadband with a view to achieving Fibre Optic cables at least to the cabinet on the corner of Frog Street.

The next Childrens Workshop

to be held on

Saturday March 5th.

from 2.00 to 4.00pm in The Sunday School Room

To make gifts for **Mothering Sunday.**

For more information please phone Angela on 240 921.



Our next meeting will be at
7.30pm on Tuesday 9th February
 at
The School Room



Lopen Just Women AGM. Clair Bragg, of Frogmary Green Farm, will also be giving us a talk and presentation about the Nuffield Scholarship which she undertook and which was related to the production of poultry and feeding the population of the world between now and 2050.

Anyone wishing to join is more than welcome - membership is £3 for the year and £2 for each meeting thereafter (if held in The School Room).

For further information please telephone Margaret Linton : 241 162.

MACMILLAN WELFARE BENEFIT ADVICE & GRANT SERVICE

This service is available to help cancer patients and their families obtain their full welfare benefit entitlements.

We see people at outreach, our premises, their home or hospice.

We can help take the worry out of the finances during these difficult times.

*You can contact us on **01935 847666**
- allow us to help you.*

LENT LUNCH - 17th FEBRUARY

12 to 2pm

in

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLROOM

Come and join us for soup and a ploughman's lunch in aid of the local charity:

YEOVIL STREET PASTORS

For more information contact Sally-Ann at Crown Cottage or telephone 241 765.

<http://streetpastors.org/locations/yeovil/>

WE NEED YOU ALL TO SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL VILLAGE LENT LUNCH!

CONTACTS

Village website - www.lopen.btck.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairwoman	Teresa Sienkiewicz	241 363	tsloopenpc1@btinternet.com
Vice Chairman	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
	Sarah Mason	249 219	sarahmason6@yahoo.com
	Nick Jones	241 643	nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com
	Barry Davolls	242 297	b.davolls.lopenpc@btinternet.com
	Jenny Feeney	419 569	jfeeneyloopenpc@gmail.com
	Ed Moore	394 583	ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com

Parish Clerk	Roger Gurner	249 253	clerktolopenpc@freeolamail.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
MEMBER of PARLIAMENT	Marcus Fysh		marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk

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	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	Dial 101	ceara.sturt@avonandsomerset.police.uk

ask for PCSO 8340

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
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ARCHIVE & HISTORICAL GROUP	Nigel Potts	240 369	nigelpotts@talktalk.net
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LOPEN EYE TEAM

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COFFEE MORNINGS at the SCHOOL ROOM

All proceeds to charities including Macmillan Nurses, The Stroke Association, Bliss, Somerset Air Ambulance and The Alzheimer's Society.

FEBRUARY DATES

**Wednesday
10th & 24th**
10.30am to 12.00 midday

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

Everyone welcome - including parents with young children.