

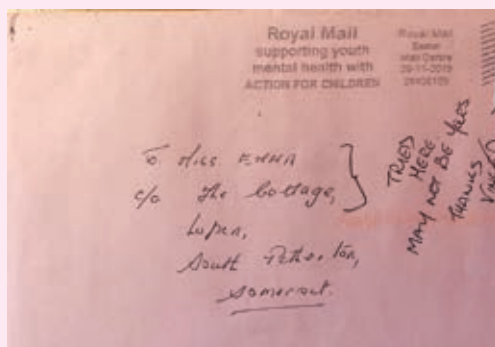
LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter **FEBRUARY 2020**



LOST XMAS CARD

A Christmas card has been received in Lopen, for a great-granddaughter, but nobody seems to know who it is for - can you help?



Please contact the editor - 391 574.

SUNDAY WALKS WITH PUB LUNCH

Forthcoming Lopen walks

Sunday 2nd February
Royal Oak, Over Stratton

Sunday 1st March
Brewers Arms, South Petherton
(Carvery - only dog friendly in the bar area)

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 the walk please contact Belinda on 240 973 or email belinda.bezance@gmail.com at least one week prior so she has numbers for the pub booking.

LENT LUNCH

Wednesday 25th March

12 to 2pm

in

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM

In aid of a local charity organisation helping refugees.

Sally-Ann at Crown Cottage or telephone 241 765.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Guy Anderson of Knapp Cottage, Church Street - our resident hang glider pilot has, along with Harry Bloxham set a new 'declared distance-to-goal' paragliding world record on a flight in north east Brazil on 27 October 2019 - 510 kilometres! Guy actually flew about 539 kilometres. What a brilliant achievement!



What a brilliant achievement!

Lopen Plant Fair

Plants Needed!

Our thoughts are now turning to this year's Plant Sale and top of our list for February are houseplants, tired, tatty or just unwanted. Marian would be very interested in them to divide, propagate or alas remove to the compost heap at the end of her garden.

Contact Marian at 240 179 or email marianobrien@me.com or leave at The Old Bakehouse.

Call to all, are you able to help on the day? The Spring Plant Fair has become a regular feature to many gardeners in the area and we now need a small army of helpers to ensure everyone has a good time.

No horticultural knowledge needed, just enthusiasm.

If you are interested contact - Christianne at 249 766 or email christiannelong@btinternet.com

For your diaries this year's event will be held on

Saturday 9th May (Bank Holiday weekend) - from 10.30am to 1pm



LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

As this is the first Lopen Eye of 2020 I should like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

The first Lopen Parish Council (LPC) meeting of this year was held on Monday 20th January. It was a relatively short meeting due to the General Election (as all District and County business was suspended) and of course the subsequent Christmas break, which meant that not much has been processed since the previous meeting. The main item was the setting of the Precept for the village. I am pleased to report that, as a result of extra reserves being identified in the accounts (such as VAT refunds and underspending on expected payments), the LPC felt that there is likely to be only minimal rise in Council Tax per property.

ROAD CLOSURE

We have also been notified that County Highways plan to close the road to Lopen Head roundabout down to 'The Laurels', including Snapant turnings, for initial evaluation and repairs/resurfacing. This closure will be from 4th February for 9 days excluding weekends. The closure times stated are from 7.30am to 5.30pm each day.

SAND & GRIT FOR FOOTPATHS

With the colder weather coming there may be times when the footpaths are icy and in need of salt/grit. There are bags of this strategically placed around Lopen for you to use - 2 bags each with Rod Page at Pound Cottage, Church Street, with Seamus & Marian at the Old Bakehouse, with Steve Chapman at Ballarat Farm in Frog Street and with Michael & Valerie Canton also in Frog Street. These are for use on the pavements only. There are bags outside the Church which are for emergency use only.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Sunday School Room at 7.00pm on:

- Monday 9th March

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/LopenParishCouncil

COUNCILLORS WANTED

With just five of a possible seven positions occupied, the Council currently has two vacancies and needs your help. If you are interested in village matters, have a little time spare and count common sense, patience and a sense of humour among your virtues, why not consider becoming a councillor? If you are interested, we'd very much like to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Clerk Jane Collins, or one of the councillors for more information.

HEALTH WALKS

South Somerset District Council is supporting 30 Health Walks in South Somerset which are set up to encourage people to take up walking and to support those who come to us following surgery or illness and/or otherwise may not want to walk alone.

Do you have a New Year's Resolution to get more active? Walking is a great way to get fit, explore what's on your doorstep and make new friends whilst enjoying the beautiful South Somerset countryside. Health Walks are led by trained Health Walk Leaders and are a great way of getting exercise and meeting people. From beginners to challenging walks there are walks suitable for everyone.

It's an underrated form of exercise but walking is ideal for people of all ages and fitness levels who want to be more active.

For more information: <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/media/2861/step-out-and-join-our-health-walks-181219.pdf>

THE OLD CHAPEL

Do you have any old pictures featuring the Old Chapel



on Holloway? If you do, Jonathan, who lives in the chapel, would love to hear from you - telephone: 01460 240025 or email: jonathandelbridge@gmail.com

VILLAGE FUND MONEY

Half of the proceeds of the Mistletoe Fayre, £1076.34, are being kept within the security of the PCC (Parochial Church Council) Treasurer's accounts. It will remain there until the arrangements are finalised for independent 'trustees' to receive it on behalf of the village and administer it for projects developed by, and for the benefit of the residents of Lopen. More information about the fund will appear in a future issue of the Lopen Eye.



Valerie Canton has passed over the responsibility for the Neighbourhood Watch in Lopen. Caroline McKendrick and Carron Richards have taken over - see the Contacts panel on the back

page for contact information.

Somerset Telephone Fraud

We are reminding people to be on their guard against telephone fraudsters following incidents in Somerset.

One person was scammed out of £5000 by the heartless fraudsters but someone thwarted the scammers by cutting the caller off. In the latest incident the scammers posed as officers from the Metropolitan Police, claiming that the victim's grandson had been arrested for using a cloned copy of their bank card, encouraging the victim to confirm their bank card details.

In another call they claimed that there was a major investigation into the victim's bank and local post office, involving counterfeit money. He was asked to support the investigation by withdrawing cash and checking the serial numbers of the notes. They claimed it was fake cash and said a courier would be sent to collect the counterfeit notes for forensic examination.

Neither the police nor the banks will ask you for banking details or PIN numbers on the phone. Similarly, they would never send a so-called 'courier' to collect bank cards or money. Our message is - don't discuss your finances with anyone who calls you out of the blue, even if they claim to be a police officer or a representative from a bank fraud department. Genuine callers will be happy for you to make an appointment to visit them at a bank branch or police station. People who receive a call on their landline and are asked to contact their local police station or bank to verify the caller's details really need to put the receiver down and not touch it for five minutes, just in case the fraudster has kept the line open. Ensure you have a dialling tone before re-using. Ideally use another phone such as a mobile or a neighbour's phone and use 101 to verify the call. If you believe you have been scammed by a telephone caller, please contact us (<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/south-petherton/>), quoting reference 5219299839.

RAINFALL UPDATE

Jeremy Rook has kindly supplied the following data: I have recorded a total of 156 mm in December (my highest fall in the month was 30.8 mm on the 18th). It was my 6th wettest December since I started recording in 1989. My annual total was 911 mm (116% of LTA), so a pretty average total for the year came from a dry-ish first 8 months followed by a wet 4 months.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR BOTTLE TOPS?

Sally-Ann in Church Street receives donations of old plastic bottle tops from milk bottles, from the people of Lopen. They have a monetary value which goes to charity. But have you ever wondered what eventually happens to those bottle top? Here's an



example Sally-Ann came across recently - the plant display tables at Greensleeves Nursery in Lower Odcombe are made from old bottle tops! The plastic plant benches were of their own design - they sourced the 'planks' from British Recycled Plastic (www.britishrecycledplastic.co.uk). Having done the design they were sent a parts list of the items

needed and they were shipped on a pallet and were bolted together on site. British Recycled Plastic, one of a number of similar companies, seem to specialise in selling the raw planks and posts but also make picnic tables etc.

CHURCH ORGAN OVERHAUL PROGRESS

There is a formal notice posted in the church porch and will be for 28 days until 17th February. It gives information about the impending overhaul of the pipe organ in the church, the first time in 60 years, and the final stage in seeking permission from the Diocesan Advisory Committee for it to be done. Recently the mice haven't helped it's condition either. We hope the work needing to be done will be completed within six weeks - in time for Easter.

RAFT (REFUGEE GROUP)

Leap Year Concert

Sixteen Bell choir and Bella Acapella
Saturday the 29th February at 7.30 pm

St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, South Petherton.
Tickets are £8 and children under 16 free.

The Merriott RAFT (Refugee Group) are very grateful for the support the surrounding villages have given, donating household goods and the knitted items, (hats and gloves) etc. The group not only support refugees but also people who have been made homeless locally. With this in mind they have arranged this concert.

TABLE TENNIS DATES

Remember the fortnightly table tennis 'Club' will be held on Sunday **February 9th & 23rd** from 3pm until 5pm. Open to all ages from little ones to elderly ones. We have a kettle and some cake/biscuits for a 'Tea Stop'.



Our next meeting is an outing and will be on

Tuesday 18th February

to see

The Mousetrap



We will be trying to guess the famous twist at the end of this long running Agatha Christie 'whodunnit' - being performed at the Octagon Theatre, Yeovil.

Our allocation of tickets is now fully taken.

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

CANDLEMAS SERVICE

9am Sunday 2nd February

followed by real **coffee & croissants** at about 9.30 am
All welcome!

This service celebrates the final end of the Christmas Season. Traditionally candles were and can still be carried to church in Lopen, to be blessed before being taken home to bring light during the year. This shorter early service of Holy Communion is without hymn singing.

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.

Have you 'liked' the Lopen Events Facebook page? Have a look - www.facebook.com/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/

CONTACTS

Village website - 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

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 Adam Dance	07767 224 213	adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk
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MEMBER of PARLIAMENT

	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

POLICE CSO

	Mike Bell	Dial 101 ask for PCSO 7954	mike.bell@avonandsomerset.police.uk
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

	Caroline McKendrick	359 201	carolinemckendrick@outlook.com
	Carron Richards	242 640	carronrichards@yahoo.co.uk

LOPEN EYE TEAM

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COFFEE STOP at the Sunday School Room

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

FEBRUARY DATES

Wednesday 12th & 26th

10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome - including parents with young children.

All proceeds to



An international children's charity with a sustainable approach to problems with cleft lip and palate.