

# LOPEN *Life*

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2023

Local  
Events &  
Diary

*Lopen  
History  
Casebook*  
Chapter 2

Adopt a  
footpath -  
rise to the  
challenge!

ISSUE 06



SUPERIOR OAK FOR  
DISTINCTIVE  
BUILDS



# Edit this...

**Hope you are enjoying the summer.**

This glorious mix of sun and rain makes everything grow like crazy, so you will see a special feature in this issue about taking pride in our village and its upkeep. Individuals do their bit which is great, but a consolidated approach may make it more fun and achieve more. Hope you can join in. We have a village Ranger for one day a month, and to make best use of his time, we are looking to concentrate his efforts on the main village areas and signage. So it is up to the rest of us to lend a hand when and where we can please, so we are looking for villagers to adopt a footpath or area they feel they can look after. We all appreciate that time is the most valuable commodity - to give time to contribute and take time to appreciate things. So any time people have to spare is a valuable asset in a small village like Lopen.

**Chapter 2** of the **Lopen History Casebook** moves on from the Romans and their building blocks and looks at the origins of the Lopen Fair. Our thanks to Joan Farris for this interesting piece and Jeremy Rook for the additional detail. We look forward to the next chapter.

Thank you to all those who have joined the **Village WhatsApp group** - going forward (as Lopen Life is bi-monthly), this method of communication will provide that last minute update or information facility that we need. So those that haven't joined, please do. **Send the Editor (email below) your mobile number and name, and we will add you to the Group.**

**Chris Marsh - Editor**

**Next issue deadline for diary dates, articles and stories is Sept.13th.**

**Contact Details:**

**Email:** [chrismarshlpc@gmail.com](mailto:chrismarshlpc@gmail.com)

 [/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/](https://www.facebook.com/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/)

**Visit our village website:** [www.lopenvillage.org](http://www.lopenvillage.org)



**PUBLICATION FOOTNOTE:**

- **COPY Deadline** – for articles and photographs – **4 weeks prior to next issue.**
- Adverts need to be submitted in PDF format – details on sizes and rates are available from the Editor
- All comments and views expressed are the responsibility of the writer and are not those necessarily held by Lopen Parish Council and its members.

# Lopen Parish Council

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## MONTHLY MEETING ROUND-UP

- Following the great turnout for the Annual Village Meeting, the Parish are stepping up its speed-watch actions, to get camera data reported, get some speed-camera signs and push for more Council attention.
  - The Parish Council have agreed to nominate the ARK at Egwood for Somerset Council Chair's Award for Service to Community 2023.
  - No Planning applications have been received.
  - Work on the village web site is in hand. any skilled support would be very welcomed!
  - We are still looking for an additional Parish Councillor the more the merrier and its not THAT onerous!
- Somerset Council Advice to be made available in Libraries, with trained Customer Service staff.
  - Kids Summer Reading Challenge kicks off at Libraries; navigate your way round sports, games and physical activities through reading challenges, with rewards and incentives. Open to 4-11 year olds.
  - Suffering from Type 2 Diabetes? If you are between 18 and 65, you can join the 'Path to Remission' programme in Somerset. Contact your GP for referral.
  - Council Highways have started their Summer Maintenance programme with surface dressing and other works. Check out where on [www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/surface-dressing/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/surface-dressing/)
  - Report potholes and overgrown verges to:
  - [www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/)

## NEXT MEETINGS:

**Monday AUGUST 21st**

**& Monday SEPTEMBER 25th**

**at 7.00 PM** in the Sunday School Room, everyone welcome.

## PARISH COUNCILLORS:

**Chairman – Nick Jones** - [nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com](mailto:nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com) - 01460 241643

**Stephen Crane** – [scrane1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:scrane1@hotmail.co.uk) – 01460 241412

**Jenny Feeney** – [jfeeneylopenpc@gmail.com](mailto:jfeeneylopenpc@gmail.com) – 01460 419569

**Chris Marsh** – [chrismarshlpc@gmail.com](mailto:chrismarshlpc@gmail.com) – 07951 239110

**Caroline McKendrick** – [caroline.mckendrick.lopenpc@outlook.com](mailto:caroline.mckendrick.lopenpc@outlook.com) – 01460 359201

**Parish Clerk** – [lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com) - Lisa Wilson - 07587 211150

## OTHER CONTACTS:

**District Council:** Cllr Adam Dance - 07767 224213 - [adam.dance@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:adam.dance@somerset.gov.uk)

Cllr Jo Roundell Greene - 07341 560016- [jo.roundellgreene@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:jo.roundellgreene@somerset.gov.uk)

**Member of Parliament** - Marcus Fysh - [marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk)

**Just Women** - Pauline Rook - 240644 - [prook12@gmail.com](mailto:prook12@gmail.com)

**Lopen Lads** - Trevor Power - 07878 185537 - [trevorpowermbe1967@gmail.com](mailto:trevorpowermbe1967@gmail.com)

**Neighbourhood Watch** - Carron Richards - 242640 - [carronrichards@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carronrichards@yahoo.co.uk)

Caroline McKendrick - 359201 - [carolinemckendrick@outlook.com](mailto:carolinemckendrick@outlook.com)

**Police CSO** - Mike Bell - Dial 101 and ask for PCSO 7954 - [mike.bell@avonsomerset.police.UK](mailto:mike.bell@avonsomerset.police.UK)

# All Saints Church

All Saints Church in Lopen is an important centre for the village. Not only is it a place of worship, but a vital community building also used for concerts, meetings and events.

## SERVICE DATES:

Every Monday at 9:00am

Morning Prayers lasting about 30 minutes is said for the people of Lopen.

## AUGUST Services:

Sunday 6th - Holy Communion at 9.00

Sunday 20th - Parish Communion at 10.30

## SEPTEMBER Services:

Sunday 3rd - Holy Communion at 9.00

Sunday 17th - Parish Communion at 10.30

Sunday 24th - Harvest Festival at 4.00pm

Rev Bob and Julia Hicks 01460 76406

bobhicks66@gmail.com juliahicks1@gmail.com

Jonathan Delbridge 01460 240025

info@jonathandelbridge.com.



## LOPEN

### Harvest Festival

Sunday 24th September

at 4.00pm

## Church & Sunday School Room

### Working Party

Our annual working party is a great opportunity for you all to ensure our churchyard and the Sunday School Room are spick and span for another year. A list of tasks will be displayed in the church porch the week before - choose whatever suits you best. A ploughman's lunch provided! It is a great opportunity to meet new faces and discuss new ideas.

Contact Steve Chapman -249549



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**CONTACT - Chris - 07714 631007  
- 01460 240506**

# What you may have missed...

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## Village Clean Ups...

### Saturday June 24th & July 22nd

Saturdays are obviously not good days, three people turned up on the 24th and two on the 22nd ! Hopefully now these have moved to Sunday mornings (non service ones!) from 9.30 to 12.00, more people may find some time help keep our village tidy. Stay as long as you can and come when you want.

As an added bonus, we will finish up with a cuppa and cake! See you there.

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## Lopen Lads - June 17th & July 16th

17th June saw the Lads heading to Burrow Hill Cider Farm - all about the walk and talk of course (cider just incidental)!

The 16th July event is still to happen at the time of going to press, but no doubt more walking, talking and a good breakfast!



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## Wilder Open Gardens - June 24th

A big thank you to everyone who participated and supported both the Walk for Water and the Somerset Wildlife Trust Wilder Gardens events in June.

The walk was lovely and in the hot weather the cafés along the way did brisk business! We raised just over £1100 towards a clean water system for the Kazuru district on the remote Uganda/Congo border.

The Wilder Gardens event included 3 very different gardens in Church Street and attracted our Lopen neighbours and was also well supported by South Petherton Tree and Wildlife group. We plan to repeat early next June – do be in touch if you would like to join in. Annie Gurner, Michael Armstrong and Angela Naunton Davies

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## Lopen Roman Mosaic Weekend - July 7th and 8th

A re-edit of an original film relaying the story of our village Roman mosaic find and the resulting story was launched over a weekend of activities, including Roman food and talks. It was a great success, raising some £500 with all proceeds going to the support the maintenance of the preserved and publicly visible piece of the mosaic in the church, and the Sunday School Room restoration fund.

As a footnote, we ask every villager to write to our MP, asking that the Lopen mosaic be made a 'scheduled monument', to preserve its future.



# AUGUST - Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
9th Wednesday	Coffee Stop 10.30am Sunday School Room	Tea, coffee, cake and a catch up, all for a good cause and a £1!
18th Friday	L'Open Arms - Pop Up Pub Pub Quiz Night 7.30 pm Sunday School Room	Contact Les 391574
19th Saturday	Lopen Lads Meet 09.00 at the Sunday School Room Drive to South Petherton hospital and walk to the Ranch Cafe at Parrett Works	Contact Trevor 07878 185537
21st Monday	Lopen Parish Council Meeting 7.00om Sunday School Room	All Welcome
23rd Wednesday	Coffee Stop 10.30am Sunday School Room	Tea, coffee, cake and a chat, all for a good cause and a £1!
25th Friday	<p><b>LOPEN MUSIC WEEKEND</b></p> <p><b>A History of Keyboard Music</b> 7.30pm All Saints Church</p> <p><b>Trumpet Virtuoso Showcase</b> <b>Crispian Steele-Perkins</b> 7.30 pm All Saints Church</p>	
26th Saturday	<p>Information &amp; Tickets £8.00 at <a href="http://jonathandelbridge.com">jonathandelbridge.com</a> 01460 240025</p> <p>Tickets for both concerts £22!</p> <p>Information &amp; Tickets £16.00 at <a href="http://jonathandelbridge.com">jonathandelbridge.com</a> 01460 240025</p>	
27th Sunday	Village Clean Up No 5 9.30 - 12.00 Meet at corner of Frog Street & Holloway Bring tools, gloves and humour!	Tea, coffee & cake as a reward!



# SEPTEMBER - Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
9th Saturday	Pitcher Assoc Field Auction TRACTORS, MACHINERY, VEHICLES, GARDEN MACHINERY AND ARCHITECTURAL ANTIQUES.	Mill Lane, Lopen Contact Richard Pitcher 07754 754 629
10th Sunday	Church and Sunday School Room Working Party 10.00 am	Contact Steve Chapman 249549
12th Tuesday	Just Women 7.30 pm Sunday School Room Peter Kay - Laurences Auction House Talk on art and a Bring & Buy	Proceeds to Smile Train Contact Jean Morton
13th Wednesday	Coffee Stop 10.30 am Sunday School Room	Tea, coffee, cake and a catch up, all for a good cause and a £1!
16th Saturday	Lopen Lads Meet 11.15 at Sunday School Room Walk to Dinnington Docks	Contact Trevor on 07878 185537
24th Sunday	Village Clean Up No 6 9.30 - 12.00 Meet at corner of Frog Street & Holloway Bring tools, gloves and humour!	Tea, coffee and cake as a reward
24th Sunday	Harvest Festival Service 4.00pm All Saints Church	
25th Monday	Lopen Parish Council Meeting Sunday School Room - 7.00pm	All Welcome
27th Wednesday	Coffee Stop 10.30 am Sunday School Room	Tea, coffee, cake and a catch up, all for a good cause and a £1 !
29th Friday	L'Open Arms - Pop Up Pub Pub Sing-a-long 7.30 pm Sunday School Room	Contact Jonathan 240025

# A Walk on the Wild Side - Revisited...

We first talked about our footpaths back in the October/November 2022 issue, and the priority to keep our footpaths clear, especially the circular walk ones within the Parish.

Keeping the paths accessible is down to all of us villagers, not just the community spirited few with a strimmer or the Ranger (who is responsible for verges, weeds, drains and signage in his one day per month).

To that end, we are hoping villagers will '**Adopt a Footpath**' - as an individual, or a family or even your street/lane, to be responsible for its upkeep, accessibility and general tidiness. Make it a team project! This is to give us all some pride and ownership of what Lopen looks like. We know not everyone can do this, but if the majority step in, many hands will make light work. You will see there are only 10 paths to adopt, and a couple of hours every month can make a huge difference.

Opposite is a list of all the footpaths and the Parish Boundary Map, so you can look and decide what challenge you may be up for! The Parish Council support this action, but are not funded for it in anyway, and it will be at your risk, but I am sure we will all manage something.

Please respond to the contacts below by end of August or as soon as you can if you wish to adopt a path, and which one. We will then circulate a map of the adoptions later in August. Meantime an e-map is available via [www.roam.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.roam.somerset.gov.uk).

A big THANK YOU in advance to the many we are sure will participate.

**For more information - contact Chris Marsh, Jenny Feeney or Trevor Power - contact details on Page 4.**

## List of footpaths and those already adopted:

18/1 & 2 - available

18/3 - available

**18/4 - adopted**

18/5 - available

18/6 - available

**18/7 - adopted**

**18/8 - adopted**

**18/10 - adopted**

18/11 - available

**18/11a - adopted**

**18/13 - adopted**

**18/14 - adopted**

18/17 - available

**18/18 - adopted**

18/19 - available

18/20 - available

**18/21 - adopted**

18/23 - available

Can those who think they have adopted a path, please confirm with Jenny, Trevor or Chris, thanks.

**Check Out:**

[www.roam.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.roam.somerset.gov.uk)

# Lopen Parish Map with Footpath details

You can also go on line at <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map#> to zoom in on the map and check details. There are some short footpaths in the detail, not identified on the main list or in the map below, many of which are across fields maintained by the farmers.



We will provide an A3 printed copy to those adopting a footpath

# Always look on the bright side...

## Sunday School Room Fundraising Update:

We are pleased to report that at the time of going to press the fund now stands at **£26,500** following money raised at the Mosaic weekend, a £5000 award from the Bernard Sunley Foundation, and £2500 from the Somerset Community Foundation. The target of £60,000 is still a way off, but this does mean we have raised the amount required to complete the urgent work on the thatch and prevent further water leaks and damage.

A question has been raised if it were possible to replace the thatch with slate, to save replacing every 20 years or so. Steve Chapman has spoken to conservation and due to its listed status, this would be extremely unlikely. The listing counts the SSR and Church Farm as one building, so any changes would be seen as detrimental to the historic structure as a whole. So the PCC has decided not to pursue this. We would like to thank you all for your support in our fundraising.

If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Delbridge - 01460 240025, [info@jonathandelbridge.com](mailto:info@jonathandelbridge.com)

## Rainfall report 5th July 2023:

May had a slightly above average rainfall of 67mm, however the rain was concentrated in the first half of the month, with 33mm falling in one day (the 9th), the highest daily amount since last December. For the second part of May and first half of June we had very little rain, which combined with the hot weather gave drought-like conditions for farmers and gardeners.

June's total rainfall was just 24mm - under half the average, again the majority falling on one day (19th when 20mm fell. This 'drought' continued till the 4th July, when we recorded 29mm.

Rainfall is variable in nature and accurate records only go back 100 years, so it is easy to think current conditions are exceptional, when they are not. Back in 1952, there was a terrible flood surge at Lynton and Lynmouth where 34 people died after heavy rain, and records talk of a much bigger incident back in the 18th century. So not so unusual.

**JEREMY ROOK**



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# LOPEN MUSIC WEEKEND 2023

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## *A History of Keyboard Music*



**FRIDAY 25 AUGUST 2023**

A unique opportunity to hear Jonathan Delbridge perform a diverse programme of music on the Pipe Organ, a Regency Period Broadwood Square Piano and a modern Yamaha Grand Piano!

**Tickets - £8 Concert begins at 7:30pm**

**£22 for both concerts!**



## *Crispian Steele-Perkins*

**SATURDAY 26 AUGUST 2023**

Internationally acclaimed virtuoso trumpeter Crispian Steele-Perkins showcases a wonderful selection of repertoire from Haydn's Trumpet Concerto to Howard Goodall's Shackleton's Cross featuring a variety of different trumpets! Accompanied by Jonathan Delbridge.

**Tickets - £16 Concert begins at 7:30pm**

For more information or to purchase tickets visit [jonathandelbridge.com](http://jonathandelbridge.com)  
or contact Jonathan directly on 01460 240025 or [info@jonathandelbridge.com](mailto:info@jonathandelbridge.com)

Venue - All Saints Church, Church Street, Lopen, TA13 5JX

# Lopen History Casebook

## CHAPTER 2 - A Medieval Fair, Exeter Cathedral and a Lopen Legend.



After the Romans, Lopen became part of the Saxon Kingdom of Wessex. There is evidence of two Saxon settlements in the village and are later referred to in the Domesday Book. They total around 500 acres - the size of the current Parish. One settlement was around the area of Lopen Farm (now Manor Farm) and what we call Frog St, the other around the Church. After the Norman Conquest, the King granted a charter for a Fair in Lopen in 1201, probably to a de Meriet (as in Merriot village), who owned the manor including Lopen at this time. The Fair charter was taken back into Crown hands in 1280 and given to appointed keepers, who received rent from the traders.

The Lopen Fair was held at the top of Higher Street (now Church Street), where the road is wider. The remains of the medieval market cross can be seen at the base of the Cross tree. The village stocks were also kept here.



For 22 years the craftsmen building Exeter cathedral came to buy iron goods at the fair. In 1300, they bought 250 horseshoes, with 1,500 nails. 2,000 other nails were bought for building works and many may still be there!

The Fair gradually declined, but was still going in the 19th Century, but by this time it was called the Lopen Play, and most of the time was spent wrestling, and stick and cudgel playing.

Interestingly, a very famous historical person was supposedly put in the stocks at Lopen, establishing one of Lopen's legends. There is little hard evidence, but it makes a good story...

#### **A LOPEN LEGEND**

In the 16th century, Sir Amias Poulett of Hinton St. George was keeper of the peace at the time of the fair. One day, the vicar of Lymington, one Thomas Wolsey attended the festivities. He imbibed too much and was put in the stocks for being drunk and disorderly.


Subsequently vicar Thomas Wolsey became Cardinal Wolsey under Henry VIII, and he got his own back by putting Sir Amias under house arrest in the Inner Temple for 7 years. Poulett apparently managed to bribe his way out by paying to put Wolsey's coat of arms on the Entrance Gate of the Inner Temple.



Not much detail is available of the period between the 16th and 19th Centuries and the village grew slowly. But by the 1880's all that remained of the Fair was a gingerbread stall. By this time the Fair had moved to the Inn at White Cross - now Lopen Head, as there was more passing trade. By 1900 it had stopped altogether, only the Inn remained. Today we know this place as the Lopen Raj!



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**BAKERY**

**COUSSANT**  
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**PAIN AU CHOCOLATE**  
(45kcal)  
**PAIN AU RAISIN**  
(102kcal)  
**CHOCOLATE MUFFIN**  
(172kcal)  
**SAGEL**  
(254kcal)  
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