

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter **DECEMBER 2016**



**MISTLETOE
FAYRE**

See inside for
pictures



Lopen Parish Council and the team at Lopen Eye would like to wish everyone in Lopen a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 3rd December - Children's Workshop

See inside for more information.

Wednesday 14th December from 10.30am - Coffee Stop - the last for 2016!

Do come and share the hospitality in the Sunday School Room from 10.30am until 12 midday - coffee, cake/biscuits and refills all for £1.

Sunday 11th December at 11 am - All Age Communion

Dedication of the new altar made in memory of Hubert Scammell and credence table in memory of George Milner. You will all be able to see the beautiful oak tables made by John Milner

Wednesday 22nd December at 6.00pm - Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 25th December at 10.30am - Christmas Morning Service

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!



Sadly we have lost another councillor with Jenny Feeney announcing her resignation just a few days ago. As we have yet to have anyone come forward following the previous resignation, this means that we now have two vacancies.

I am struck by the apparent paradox that, although we have high levels of interest

in the actions of the council at this time, no one seems to want to get directly involved. I'm also concerned that there also seems a sense, amongst some villagers, that the Parish Council is remote from the village and it's wishes.

This is unfortunate as the whole purpose of the council is to represent the interests and concerns of the village. Due to the very limited communal resources in Lopen, there are few assets to manage, but the council still has an important role to play in co-ordinating small maintenance tasks around the village, liaising with the District and County councils to ensure the roads, footpaths and other services function correctly and commenting on planning applications that affect the parish. There is also a broad health and wellbeing role, which is not getting enough attention at present.

In order for the council to do its job properly it needs to have its full complement of seven councillors, ideally covering a broad cross-section of the village.

I realise that time is a problem for many people. In fact, we only aim to hold 6 meetings a year (though planning applications may sometimes add to this) taking around 2 hours each. There may sometimes be a little "homework", but this will rarely be onerous.

So, if you've lived in the village for a year or more, have a few hours a month to spare and would like to do something for the community, this is your chance. An interest in local affairs, desire to help, practical common sense and a sense of humour are the most important qualifications, though a bit of local knowledge is definitely an advantage.

If you would like to become a councillor, or just find out more about what being a councillor involves, please contact any of the councillors or Lisa Wilson, the Parish Clerk.

The other part of ensuring that the Parish Council does represent the needs and views of the village is to make sure that the council knows what your views are. If we are not made aware of matters that need attention, then we cannot deal with them and, if we don't know your views, then we cannot represent them. We need your input. If there is a matter that you feel needs to be discussed at a meeting, this needs to be made known at least week before a meeting as, by law, decisions can only be made on matters that are on the meeting agenda. Please contact a councillor or the Parish Clerk if there is a matter you would like to be put on the agenda.

ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Things have moved on in the last few weeks with a meeting between Cllr. Le Hardy and the Highways design team. In the end this took place without the direct involvement of parish councillors or SLOW members. Feedback from the meeting makes it clear that the Improvements Scheme is in fact intended to address a wider range of interests than we had originally been led to believe. However, the deeply unpopular plans for major works at Snapant, appear to have been dropped in favour of a more general approach, which will include some of the elements we have been asking for. We still await the formal design from the Highways team to discover exactly which, but we are assured that they have been made fully aware of our wishes and concerns.

SPEED WATCH

I'm pleased to report that the initiative by SLOW to re-start the Speed-Watch scheme is going well. At a recent meeting Ben Goldsmith gave a presentation on behalf of the area Speed-Watch group chairman, giving details of how the scheme works. A group co-ordinator and communicator were selected and it was agreed to proceed to the next stage. This involves a short training course for volunteers. More volunteers are still needed so if you'd like to get involved, please contact Ben Goldsmith or Roger Gurner, who can also supply copies of the presentation.

DRAINS

Still on the subject of roads, autumn leaf fall and heavy rain have recently conspired to block road drains. In many cases this is just a carpet of compacted leaves over the top, which can be scraped away in seconds with the toe of a boot. Sometimes a stick may be needed to clear the grill. If you do spot a drain like this whilst walking, performing this simple clearance can save flooding later. However, please don't take any risks and watch out for traffic! Drains that are more seriously blocked should be reported to a councillor or directly to Highways at <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/>

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council meetings will take place at the Sunday School Room at 7.00pm on the following dates: December 5th (Monday)

January 2017 - TBC

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

Do you have any news, or a story, that would interest our readers?

Items can be sent in for consideration no later than the 23rd of the month preceding cover date.



LOPEN MISTLETOE FAYRE

The annual Mistletoe Fayre was a resounding success, with a record breaking total of £2,089.10 raised! This is divided between All Saints Church (for upkeep of the church and School Room) and this year's chosen charity: the St. Margaret's Hospice. There were plenty of stalls loaded with many items including homemade cakes, savouries & preserves, plants, local hand made craft items, and of course the ever popular bottle tombola! With the star prize of a metal sculpted Heron donated by George Hider the raffle did really well - the Heron was won by Carole & Ray Mansfield of South Petherton. A special thanks also to all the volunteers who gave their time to make produce, run stalls and the refreshment area throughout the morning. A big thank you to all who came and supported the fayre.

On a sad note, the two large cut-out Christmas trees, that are placed at either end of the village to promote the Fayre, were stolen in the weeks before the event. If you have any information that could help recover them please contact the editor.



UPDATE FROM SLOW ON CLLR. LE HARDY'S REPORT OF THE MEETING OF 11TH NOVEMBER 2016

Following a meeting with members of the **SLOW** Action Group, and a separate meeting between Councillor Le Hardy and County Highways, regarding the traffic situation through Lopen, a number of issues have been identified and discussed. Summary points from Councillor Le Hardy's meeting are shown below - a full copy of the report is posted on the village notice board at the junction of Holloway and Church Street. A copy is also available from the village web site - <http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk/Traffic>



In summary:

- The meeting included sufficient elements to satisfy only some of the immediate concerns about road safety within the village.
- Highways have included at least 22 changes stretching from Lopen Head to the junction with Lopen road to Hinton St George. All of these will help to enhance road safety and are intended to control speeding.
- The scheme design is undergoing a final revision and should be available in time for the December meeting of the Parish Council. It will also be sent to **SLOW** as soon as it is available.
- Once this first phase (Phase A) is in place; then further consideration can look at any necessary further enhancements (Phase B).

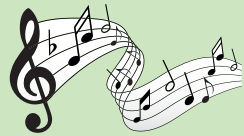
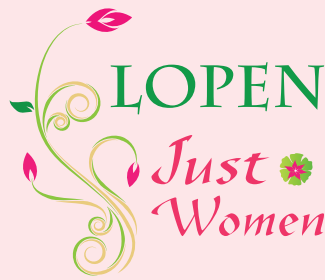
What it did not include:

- The principal Right of Way at Snapant will continue as at present, from Lopenhead towards Merriott.
- There will not be a new 20mph zone for a number of reasons: the police will not support one; the national statistics show that the effect of traffic speed is minimal, around 1-2 mph only; the national standard through villages is 30mph; 20mph zones are only installed in exceptional circumstances.
- The changes to signage should include a reduced 30mph zone with clear, distinct red tarmac marked 30mph gateways at either end of the village; the 20mph advisory starting above Snapant may be extended down to the 30mph gateway opposite the Laurels (both subject to final confirmation by Highways).
- The suggestion of a white line down Upper Holloway is complicated by the parking of cars outside homes thus impeding a marked footway.

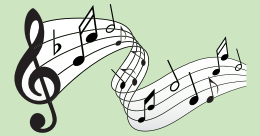


Following the Parish Council's consideration of the final design, all the measures will be put in place, hopefully by Spring 2017. Any further enhancements need further evidence from the community and secondly police support. So, there is a deal of work before the next stage.

SLOW has further commented that whilst we must take what positives we can from the Snapant SIS and Cllr. Le Hardy's report, it goes nowhere near addressing our main concerns for safety on the road. The **SLOW** group will therefore continue to campaign, in concert with the Parish Council, for better road safety measures and to improve the quality of life for Lopen residents.



Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday 13th December
 at
The Sunday School Room
 at 7.30pm



We plan on a **Christmas Get Together and Sing-along**, led by our own Just Women choirsts, and helped down with festive beverages and snacks.

Non-members are always welcome - 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.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2016

Thank you to everyone who donated - 25 boxes and several bags of sundry items were collected.

SPECIAL EDITION MUGS - £6.50

We have a few mugs left over from the Mistletoe Fayre and are keen for them to be sold.



With all profits going towards the Lopen Church and School Room Funds, buy yours today!



Contact: Christianne: T: 249 766

E: christiannelong@btinternet.com

The next Childrens Christmas Workshop

is to be held on

Saturday 3rd December
 from 2.00 to 4.00pm



in The Sunday School Room, Lopen

Come and make a hanging Christmas tree complete with decorations, glitter and a little snow.

All welcome - young children will need to be accompanied by parent.

For more information please contact Christianne Long on 249 766, or email christianne@lopen.me.uk

There will be no Lopen Eye in January

All Saints' Church, Lopen now has a small prayer team who meet regularly. There are prayer request cards and a locked box inside the church for you to use for requests, anonymously if you wish.

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	Nick Jones	241 643	nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com
Vice Chairman	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
	Teresa Sienkiewicz	241 363	tsloopenpc1@btinternet.com
	Ed Moore	394 583	ed.moore.loopenpc@gmail.com
	Mark	242 889	mbloopenpc@gmail.com

Parish Clerk	Lisa Wilson	07587 211150	loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com
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DISTRICT COUNCIL	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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COUNTY COUNCIL	Cllr Christopher Le Hardy	01935 850 212	clehardy@somerset.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	bohicks66@gmail.com
Churchwarden	Angela Naunton Davies	240 921	nauntondavies@btinternet.com

JUST WOMEN

Chairwoman	Lynn Benfield	929 205	lynn.ian@virgin.net
Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	christianne@lopen.me.uk
Secretary	Margaret Linton	241 162	margarettinton79@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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COFFEE STOP at the Sunday School Room

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

DECEMBER DATE
 Wednesday 14th

JANUARY DATES
 Wednesday 11th & 25th
 10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome - including parents with young children.

All proceeds to
 Children's Hospice South West

The views expressed in Lopen Eye are not necessarily those held by Lopen Parish Council and its members.