
LOPEN *Life*

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2023

Local
Events &
Diary

*Happy
First Birthday*



Lopen
History
Casebook
Chapter 3

ISSUE 07



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SUPERIOR OAK FOR DISTINCTIVE BUILDS

Edit this...

One Year On

Amazingly a year has shot by since we launched Lopen Life, and a big thank you to all our contributors and advertisers. Your efforts have made the publication an interesting village read, provided a feel for the community and its issues and raised some money towards the Lopen Village Fund, with its on going objective to support village based community projects.

This issue introduces some village family names and places in **Chapter 3** of the **Lopen History Casebook**. In the last issue we challenged the village to see if the idea of 'adopting a footpath' to help manage our 'jungle' would work, but proved indeed to be a challenge, so we remain to see what happens next.

As this is the preceding issue to the festive season those already starting their planning will note some useful dates and events in the diary. Also keep an eye open for additional notices and events in the Village Notice Board at Cross Tree/Church Street and in the Church porch.


Thank you again 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 November 10th.

Contact Details:

Email: chrismarshlpc@gmail.com

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

Visit our village website: www.lopenvillage.org



PUBLICATION FOOTNOTE:

- **COPY Deadline** – for articles and photographs – approx **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

MONTHLY MEETING ROUND-UP

County update from Adam Dance and Jo Roundell Greene (full report available on the Village website):

- Current levels of Care spending - both child and adult - are unsustainable and put the council viability at risk with 2 years.
- New family health and well-being resources worth £100 for every Somerset resident has been launched. Visit connect.somerset@somerset.gov.uk
- Welcome Hubs - are continuing their key role supporting a caring and diverse community in Somerset for all individuals and communities resettling here.
- 6 Months on - Local Pantries in Somerset (Westfield in Yeovil and in Chard locally) are still looking for volunteers.
- Lopenhead Roundabout looks to be part of a new Council Advertising and Sponsorship scheme, taking responsibility for all Highways roundabouts. Watch This Space!
- All Somerset Council Advice to be made available in Libraries, with trained Customer Service staff.
- **Please continue to report potholes and overgrown verges to:**
www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/

NEXT MEETINGS:

Monday October 30th & Monday November 27th at 7.00 PM
in the Sunday School Room, everyone welcome.

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Chairman - Nick Jones - nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com - 01460 241643

Stephen Crane - scrane1@hotmail.co.uk - 01460 241412

Jenny Feeney - jfeeneylopenpc@gmail.com - 01460 419569

Chris Marsh - chrismarshlpc@gmail.com - 07951 239110

Caroline McKendrick - caroline.mckendrick.lopenpc@outlook.com - 01460 359201

Parish Clerk - lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com - Lisa Wilson - 07587 211150

OTHER CONTACTS:

District Council: Cllr Adam Dance - 07767 224213 - adam.dance@somerset.gov.uk

Cllr Jo Roundell Greene - 07341 560016 - jo.roundellgreene@somerset.gov.uk

Member of Parliament - Marcus Fysh - marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk

Just Women - Pauline Rook - 240644 - prook12@gmail.com

Lopen Lads - Trevor Power - 07878 185537 - trevorpowermbe1967@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch - Carron Richards - 242640 - carronrichards@yahoo.co.uk

Caroline McKendrick - 359201 - carolinemckendrick@outlook.com

Police CSO - Mike Bell - Dial 101 and ask for PCSO 7954 - mike.bell@avonsomerset.police.UK

All Saints Church

SERVICE DATES:

Every Monday at 9:00am

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

OCTOBER Services:

Sunday 1st - Holy Communion at 9.00

Sunday 15th - Parish Communion at 10.30

NOVEMBER Services:

Sunday 5th - Holy Communion at 9.00

Sunday 12th - Remembrance Service at 9.00

Sunday 19th - Safeguarding Sunday Service at 10.30

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.

Rev Bob and Julia Hicks 01460 76406

bobhicks66@gmail.com

juliahicks1@gmail.com

Jonathan Delbridge 01460 240025

info@jonathandelbridge.com.



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

What you may have missed...

Lopen Lads - Update

With an average of 6 blokes attending each event the Lopen Lads has been successful in the first year.

Finding a good venue, a convenient time and a suitable distance that appeals to such a diverse group can be challenging, thankfully several have been well attended.

Over the last couple of months I have been thinking of ways to improve the success of the group. To that end, I would like to trial a WhatsApp group which gives all members the opportunity to post an invite for others to join a walk, social event or a trip to the pub etc. To prevent many unnecessary 'pings' I would suggest no replies sent. Messages examples would be either...

eg A.

Just turn up if interested

Trip to the Royal Oak for a beer or two

Date: XYZ Time: 18:00

Meet: Sunday School Room, Church St

eg B.

Contact me directly if interested

Event: Illegal Eagles (tribute band)

Date: 14 March 2024 Time: 19:00

Tickets: £28

To join the group please message Trevor on 07878185537

Sunday School Room - Update - Steve Chapman

The June/July issue outlined the Sunday School Room project. At that time we had raised £18,500 towards the target of £60,000. The great news is that this has now swollen to £37,000.

We were awaiting a Lottery Awards for a decision. However, they are now withdrawing the current £10,000 scheme and replacing it with a £20,000 scheme in November to which we will apply.

The re-thatch contract has been awarded and is scheduled for next summer. The floor, etc will be scheduled once the additional funds have been raised.

Please Keep on Donating - and our grateful thanks to those who already have

OCTOBER - Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Name that date...	Look out for the Lopen Lads Whats App messages for events and get togethers	To join up contact Trevor 07878 185537
Tuesday 10th	Just Women Edibles & Skittles 6.30pm Dinnington Dock	Contact Jean Morton 1460 391574
Wednesday 11th	Coffee Stop 10.30am Sunday School Room	Tea, coffee, cake and a chat, all for a good cause and £1 !
Wednesday 25th	Coffee Stop 10.30 am Sunday School Room	Tea, coffee, cake and a chat, all for a good cause and £1 !
Monday 30th	Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm Sunday School Room	All welcome

Home required...
for
Lopen Village
Bier

TO BIER OR NOT TO BIER - THAT IS THE QUESTION...

To our knowledge the origin and ownership of the village bier was provided by a village resident believed to be a Sidney Lawton in about 1930.

Earlier storage had been at Mrs Fennymore's outhouse in Church Street.

The type of wood is unknown. A temporary solution for storage had been provided in the village but a long term location needs to be found. Many residents would like to see a better use for the bier, but that it remains in the village for their use.

Anyone interested in housing this village artefact, please contact Angela Naunton Davies

NOVEMBER - Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Saturday 4th	Chocolate Tasting Event 7.00pm St Georges Hall, Hinton £10 per head (£5 Children)	Contact Steve Chapman 01460 249549
Sunday 5th	Bonfire Night	Keep the animals safe!
Wednesday 8th	Coffee Stop 10.30am Sunday School Room Well done - over £150 raised for Smile Train so far	Tea, coffee, cake and a chat, all for a good cause and a £1 !
Saturday 11th	11.00 - 11th Day - 11th Month Remembrance Day	Lest we forget
Tuesday 14th	Just Women Kate Lynch - Somerset Artist Portraits & Stories of Somerset Crafts 7.30 Sunday School Room	Contact Jean Morton
Friday 17th	Wine Tasting Evening 7.30 pm - Sunday School Room £12.50 ph winetasting@mossdog.co.uk	Contact Richard or Sarah on 01460 249325
Wednesday 22nd	Coffee Stop 10.30am Sunday School Room	Tea, coffee, cake and a chat, all for a good cause and a £1 !
Name that date	Lopen Lads - Whats App and lets get out there!	Contact Trevor 07878 185537
Friday 24th	L'Open Arms - Pop Up Pub Comedy Night 8.00pm Sunday School Room	Contact Jonathan 240025
Saturday 25th	Christmas Produce & Gift Sale Sunday School Room - 2.00-4.00pm	Come and fill your stockings!
Monday 27th	Parish Council Meeting - 7.00pm	Sunday School Room

Lopen Christmas Produce and Gift Sale

Saturday 25th November 2-4pm

Jams, Marmalades, Chutneys & other Preserves

Christmas Candles & Gifts

Wood Turning

Cakes & Biscuits

Tea, Coffee, Mince Pies

Sunday School Room

All Saints Church, Church Street, Lopen

All proceeds raised will go towards the
Sunday School Room Renovation Appeal

Lopen Parish Footpath Follow Up



Following last months idea of villagers maybe adopting a village footpath care and upkeep, which together with a lack of volunteers interested in maintaining the village generally, it will continue to remain up to a handful of people together with the Ranger, to keep our arteries open.

Individual villagers can still report any issues with foot paths by going on line at <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map#>

Anyone still interested in adopting a footpath should go to the Ramblers Adopt a Pathway Site - <https://www.somersetramblers.co.uk> and download a leaflet with all the details.



RAFT (Refugee Aid From Taunton) after eight years continues to request donations to send to refugee camps overseas, with some for refugees settling in Taunton and now volunteering at the charity. Raft has a Facebook page showing immediate needs.

From October we are seeking clean warm washable clothing and suitable footwear for all – from babies to older people. Unopened hygiene products, toiletries and off-the-shelf medication for every group are always in short supply, plus new underclothing. At present prams, buggies and travel cots are needed too. No bedding please except blankets.

Refugees from wars and from natural and climate disasters are constantly increasing and it seems an insurmountable issue. US President Theodore Roosevelt once said, 'I did what I could, where I was, with what I had.' RSG and Raft would say the same. While we continue to collect and receive donations, fundraising is difficult without the support of volunteers - all help is very much appreciated.

Thank you generous supporters,
Geraldine Downey RSG 01460 271358

Always look on the bright side...

Rainfall report 19th September

July was a wet month with 111 mm of rain, twice the long term average and my second wettest July (after July 2009). A friend in Haselbury Plucknett recorded 190 mm

Over the Wessex catchment area it was the sixth wettest July since rainfall records began in 1891. To illustrate the variable nature of rain, July 2016 was my driest ever month with just 2.7 mm recorded. August was a pretty average month, with 72 mm of rain, mostly in the last 10 days. And September had a wet spell of 46mm in just 3 days, but nothing out of the ordinary.

Compared with the South West Water area, we in the Wessex area benefit from having large aquifers (underground water storage in the rocks and soil), so we are not as vulnerable to variations in rainfall.

The South West Water area of Devon and Cornwall has large areas of impermeable rock (granite) which does not store water. It also has a population which at least doubles during the dry summer period. Building more reservoirs is very costly and because consumption is increasing SW Water is looking at desalination plants to extract fresh water from the sea.

The problem of storm discharges of sewage water (much in the news) is caused by the fact that in many towns and cities rain water runoff from buildings built before about 1980 is directed into the sewers and causes massive overloads at the sewage works. This historic problem will take a lot of time and money to rectify in the next few years – and a lot of digging up of streets ! On the bright side - we will eventually have better sewage!

JEREMY ROOK

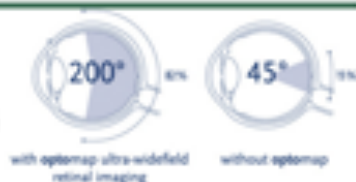


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Chocolate Tasting



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7pm

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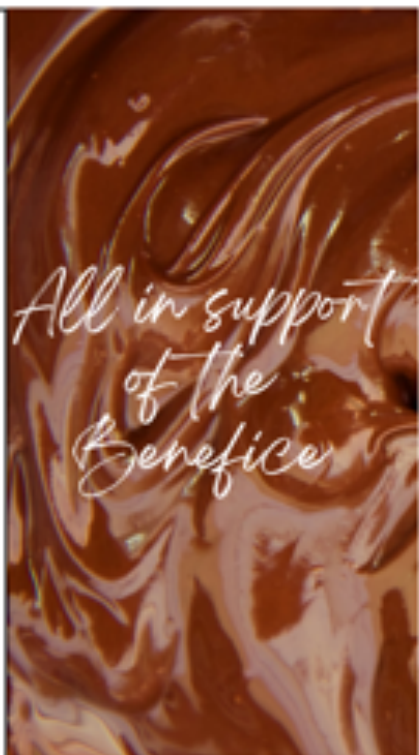
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Lopen History Casebook

CHAPTER 3 - Village People

A village is made up of its people, and Lopen is no exception. Some families have lived here for very many years, and some of the descendants of those people are still living here today. A few families can be found on the 1841 census, including the **Denmans, Rylands, Pitchers** and **Cables**. The **Nortons** are here from 1861.

One of the earliest village records in 1527, tells us that a curate was appointed to the church. His name was John Vawdye, and he was described as "unmeet for the charge, being a Jersey man, not having the perfect English tongue, and unlearned." That certainly wouldn't happen today! And his name is long forgotten.

A man called John **Rowe**, was born in Lopen in 1788 into a poor family. He was a glover in Yeovil, but educated himself in English and Latin. He was a devout Baptist, and went to the Baptist mission in Yeovil. He married, and in 1814, they both set sail for Jamaica, where he became the first Baptist minister there. A story of courage and determination.

In 1835, John **Templeman** was the vicar here. He lived in Cross Tree House, which became the vicarage.

His son, Thomas Templeman was a sailcloth manufacturer. He built Lopen House opposite the church, and had a tower built into it, so that he could look over to his factory by the mill, to keep an eye on the proceedings! He sold the business in 1861. He had a stock of sailcloth of 1,000 bolts (an old measurement), which was sold in London.

Religion has always played a big part in village life. In the 19th century, there were a few Protestant denominations holding meetings in private houses. There were quite a few Congregationalists, and a preacher called the Reverend Samuel **Hebditch**, built the chapel in 1864.

The Denmans have been involved in the village for many years. They were landowners, farmers and carpenters, and they owned the flax factory at one stage, which they took over from the Sutton brothers. One Denman lived in Applehay in Frog Street, and another one built Ina's House in Church Street.

The **Giffords** were a wealthy family, first recorded in 1764. They had property in the area, and later lived in Ballarat in Frog Street, where twine was produced. One of Lopen's two rope walks was situated there.

The **Nortons** seem to have arrived in the village by 1861. Benjamin Norton was a cattle dealer who lived at Ballarat. Elizabeth Norton was the school mistress, and lived in the school house in School Lane. Their descendants still live here.

There are several more interesting old families, but we will end with a more recent one. This story was given to me by Alan **Gillard**, who was born on a farm at Lopen Head.



This is a picture of his grandfather with probably the only horse which returned to Somerset after the First World War. He said he was still fine, but tended to go too fast!

Anyone who feels a similar long term connection with the village, do get in touch, the more we can collate and curate the better.


Joan Farris

And a final word or rather images from our Flower Festival:





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(102kcal)
CHOCOLATE MUFFIN
(172kcal)
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