

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter **NOVEMBER 2016**



LOPEN ROAD SAFETY ACTION GROUP (LRSAG)



Residents in Lopen recently formed the Lopen Road Safety Action Group with the main aim of improving safety on the main road through the village. Another of their objectives is to re-establish Speed Watch in the village. The Group met to select a Spokesman and contact names after the Eye went to press. Further information as to how you can become involved will be available in the December issue of the Lopen Eye.

LOPEN MISTLETOE FAYRE

will be held this year on

Saturday 19th November

the fun starts at 10.00am

All Saints' Church, Lopen.



Do come along and enjoy searching for Christmas gifts, buying plants in readiness for an early Spring, attempting to win on the Bottle Stall, finding a book to read and maybe a bargain on the bric-a-brac stall, also this year we expect to have a good selection of items made in Lopen.

And then after all that, enjoying a cup of coffee or tea with a bite of something to eat - all in aid of St Margaret's Hospice and All Saints Church, Lopen.

There will be activities for the children to enjoy and the raffle will again have a beautiful hand crafted sculpture kindly donated by George Hider, plus lots of other lovely raffle prizes available, so do buy your tickets early!

ITEMS STILL NEEDED!

If you have any suitable items you would wish to donate for sale, please call the appropriate numbers below to arrange collection or delivery, or contact Ian Benfield on 01460 929205.

HANDMADE ITEMS

Ian/Lynn 929 205



PLANTS

Joan 242 254
Marion 240 179



CAKES & PRESERVES

Carolyn 240 717



BOTTLES

Peter 242 474
Les 242 254



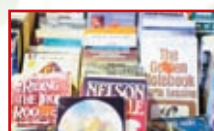
GIFT ITEMS

Lynn 929 205



BOOKS

Martin 241 765



LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL



COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Following the resignation of Sarah Mason, the Council has a vacancy for a councillor. 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.

ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Although it has long been known as one of Lopen's biggest issues, at the last council meeting it became evident just how strongly many villagers feel about the main road situation. A large group of residents representing the recently formed "Lopen Road Safety Action Group" (LRSAG) attended the meeting to make their feelings known. This representation followed a 25-strong inaugural meeting the previous weekend and is a very positive development.

The safety measures suggested included:

- 20mph speed limit right through the village
- Flashing speed indication signs at both ends of the village
- White lines and "soft kerbs" at the sides to make the carriageway appear narrower.
- Larger, clearer signage.

A clear message was also delivered that measures in the village centre should take priority over changes to Snapant, as favoured by the County Council.

The other important development is the strong intention by LRSAG to re-start a Speed Watch scheme, something that the Council is very happy to support. As well as its basic deterrent effect, this is also an important way of collecting data on traffic speeds, volumes and numbers of HGVs, to help gain further support from the police and County Council. The aims of LRSAG are very much in line with the aims of the Parish Council and we look forward to working together.

As has been written before, there is an improvements scheme already in the design stage with many of the suggestions made already in the design brief. We are still awaiting the design proposal from the County Highways team and hope to meet with them in the near future.

REPORT A PROBLEM ON THE ROADS

A new online, interactive map has been launched by Somerset County Council to allow residents to report potholes and other issues on Somerset's Highways. This allows road users to report any issues across all 4,206 miles of Somerset's highways. Residents can

now go on the website to report issues they find on a highway such as a pothole, blocked drain or poor road surface. Simply log the issue on the map by location and then fill in the details of the problem using an online form. People can also leave an email address to receive updates on potholes they have reported. The County Council state that "reported road defects will be inspected within 3 working days, and programme repair work will be scheduled where required".

'Report it' is now available at:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/>

DOG POO BIN

The recent PC meeting saw further discussion on the dog poo bin subject. It was agreed that Lopen needs at least one poo bin and Councillor Dance has offered to try and get one for us. This then leads to the question of where it might be best located. It needs to be somewhere on regular dog-walking routes, by a road where it can be easily accessed for emptying and where there is space for it. Locations suggested so far include:

- Rydon Lane,
- Corner of Water Street and Kitchen Lane, adjacent to the footpath entrance
- Further up Kitchen Lane where the footpath goes off to the west.
- Top of School Lane, where the footpaths branch.

The final location will have to be approved by SSDC mainly to ensure they can access it.

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 WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FORTHCOMING LPC MEETINGS?

Forthcoming LPC meetings (listed above) 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 Lisa Wilson, Parish Clerk, at lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com or telephone 07587 211150 and add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.

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.



I would like to express my thanks to the Lopen Just Women group, and indeed other people in the village, for the generosity shown at the recent Garden Quiz Charity Event. Akamba Aid Fund (<http://www.akambaaidfund.org/>), the

charity of which I am a trustee, was chosen to receive the proceeds from the evening, money which is destined to pay for cataract operations for people in the impoverished eastern part of Kenya.

The proceeds from the quiz, along with a number of donations from other villagers, brought the total to £392. This will ensure that at least 11 people are given the gift of sight again, so I would like to thank the good folk of Lopen on their behalf.

Simon Frackiewicz

SEASONAL CRIME REDUCTION



With the evenings starting to draw in, it is perhaps time to check your house security. Leaving lights on timers can give 'illusion of occupancy' - you can even buy a timer device that makes it look as if you are at home watching the TV. This is particularly useful when you are going out during

the evening taking, part in hobbies, going to the theatre, watching Carnivals across the county, going on holiday etc. For those in a rural community you may also be topping up your oil tanks in readiness for the winter. Criminals take advantage of this and we often see a rise in heating oil thefts during the autumn. Consider adding an approved padlock to the tank or perhaps a tank alarm which can be linked to your domestic system or can even send a message to your smartphone.

REPORTING CRIME/SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

It is important to remember that all crime and suspicious activity should be reported to the police. Numbers to use are:

999 Including emergencies which are life-threatening, in fear of safety, crime in progress, bogus callers.

101 To report incidents that require non urgent police attention including reporting of crime, suspicious activity, intelligence.

0800-555111 To report suspicious activity and intelligence matters anonymously.

You can also report crime, suspected crime, make general enquiries, complaints or contact Crimestoppers via the Police website: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/contact-us/>

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 supporters welcome.

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

SOMERSET OPEN STUDIOS 2016

Pauline Rook held a photo caption competition during her exhibition in the Somerset Open Studios 2016. The lucky winner, Christine Dyson, will receive a framed print of the Land Rover. Christine, who lives in Buckinghamshire, makes a special trip to visit the Arts Week.



Winning caption - *I only popped to the pub!*

DIARY DATE

The Carols by Candle light in Lopen Church will be at 6pm on Thursday 22 December. There will be a glass of warm festive cheer after the service.

Little shepherds and angels are welcome.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED CHURCHYARD GRASS CUTTING

Five people keep the Churchyard grass cut for the Parish Council and the PCC, but we are one short!

To find out more please contact:

Steve on 249 549 or Mike on 240 912.

An extra pair of hands would make it easier for everyone.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2016

Just a reminder that once again we will be collecting Shoe Boxes this Christmas. An explanation for new villagers who perhaps are not familiar with this charity - a shoe box, or box of similar size, is filled with small gifts for children such as toothbrushes/toothpaste, soap, hat/scarf/gloves, toiletries, stationery items, clothes, etc. The box should be wrapped. The charity collects the boxes and they are shipped to end up in the hands of an underprivileged person, child or adult, somewhere in the world.

If you would care to help, please contact Sally-Ann at Crown Cottage in Church Street or call 241 765.

All boxes to be ready for collection by November 4th.





Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday 8th November
Skittles Evening with Buffet
 at
The Rose & Crown, East Lambrook
at 7.00pm

Come and enjoy an evening of skittles with a buffet supper - partners are welcome.

Price per head for skittles and buffet is £9.95.

Please let Margaret Linton (241 162) know if you are coming by October 28th.

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.

All Souls Service for the Bereaved

Sunday 6th November

4pm at Lopen Church

Please come along to remember

loved ones departed.

The Service will be followed by refreshments.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

At 10.50am on Sunday 13th November, for the first time, the names of the Lopen born Greenham brothers will be read out from our War Memorial. Their names have been added to the Memorial thanks to the generosity of some private individuals in the village, to which the Parish and Parochial Church Councils have made additional contributions. If you would also like to contribute, please contact the chairman of the Parish Council.

Holy communion is not celebrated at this service.



There is a Defibrillator in the porch of All Saint's Church, Church Street.

If you are interested in being trained to use the equipment please contact Sarah Mason on 249 219 or sarahmason6@yahoo.com

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
	Jenny Feeney	419 569	jfeeneyloopenpc@gmail.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
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	Christianne Long	249 766	christianne@loopen.me.uk
Secretary	Margaret Linton	241 162	margaretlinton79@yahoo.com

POLICE CSO

Ceara Sturt	Dial 101	ceara.sturt@avonandsomerset.police.uk
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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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COFFEE STOP
 at the
Sunday School Room

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

NOVEMBER DATES

Wednesday
 9th & 23rd

10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome - including parents with young children.

All proceeds to
 Children's Hospice South West