

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

MAY 2018



Lopen Village Spring Plant Sale

Saturday 12th May
10.30am - 12noon

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our annual plant sale. There has been much activity around greenhouses and cold frames, labelling a wonderful selection of bedding, perennial and vegetable plants, so please join us. Our School Room cafe will also be open for delicious refreshments.

Further donations of plants most welcome on the Friday at the Church or to Marian at The Old Bakehouse - 240 179.

KIM RAISES OVER £4000 FOR THE TEENAGE CANCER TRUST

Kim Hendrick, who lives in Paddock House, Water Street, completed the hottest ever London Marathon on April 22nd. Kim commented 'It was a fantastic experience, not quite the time I'd hoped for but my calf went at 5 miles and given the temperatures I'm pretty happy with the result. Once my calf had gone I knew I wouldn't reach my target time of sub 4.30 so decided to just relax and enjoy the experience. I still managed to run all the way and didn't have to walk, the crowds were outstanding and I just gave it a final push right at the end to sneak in at just under 5 hours!! An amazing day raising money for a fantastic cause. A huge thank you to all friends and neighbours that have supported and sponsored me, everyone's generosity has been outstanding and is greatly appreciated'.



ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY WINNER!



Pauline Rook, of Lopen Farmhouse, Church Lane, has won the monthly Royal Photographic Society Competition for April with her prizewinning photo of trees in Kenya. The picture will be published in next months members journal.

Pauline commented 'It was taken with a camera that has been made sensitive to the infrared radiation that comes from green leaves. It was ideal for taking pictures of the lovely Riverine Acacia trees that grow on the river banks in Kenya. The animals had all rather spread out as it was rainy season and so I turned my attention to the wonderful trees that didn't run away!!'

LOPEN FLOWER FESTIVAL

Planned for the weekend of 18/19th August,
10am-5pm both days.

The next meeting for flower arrangers will be on
Thursday 17th May at 4.30pm in the
Sunday School Room.

Anyone who would like to help with flowers
is welcome to join us.

For more information call Liz Constable on 240 912.

BOTTLE TOPS!

Milk bottle tops are still being collected, and when sold, the money goes to The Air Ambulance. Lopen collection point is 2 Church Street (Crown Cottage).

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!



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 Lisa or one of the councillors for more information.

NEW COUNCIL YEAR BEGINS

It's that time of the year again. With May once again, it's time for the AGM (24th May) and election of a chairman for the coming year. It also marks 3/4 of the way through this electoral period, with elections due this time next year, though an actual election would only be needed should more than seven people put themselves forward.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The statutory annual village meeting will be held entirely separately from any Parish Council meeting, as it was last year. The intention is to have a PC presence at the plant fair on Saturday 12th May, followed by a short meeting in the evening. This will include a brief review of the year's bigger issues but it is mainly an opportunity for you to come along and talk to the councillors on an informal basis. Find out who we are, what we do, tell us what your local concerns are, tell us what you think we should be doing. This year, more than ever, we'd really like to see you as we are going to be updating the parish plan and need your input. We would also like to get your views on the purchase of a speed indicating device and ideas about how to help with its funding.

SURVEY

For those unable or not wishing to come to the Parish Meeting there is also the opportunity to have your say via a short questionnaire. Copies of these will be available at the Plant Sale on May 12th., with a post-box for completed ones to be returned to. The same survey can also be completed online at <http://bit.do/Lopen2018> and will take less than 5 minutes of your time. We'd very much appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey because,

as I've said several times before in this column, in order for the Parish Council to represent your views, we need to know what they are!

2017/18 ROUND-UP

Looking back over the last year of Council business, as it was the year before, the main road through the village has been the subject most at the fore. The County Council "Small Improvements Scheme" continued to be extremely contentious and while we were eventually able to reach a compromise, we still await confirmation of when it will actually be carried out. Following on from this the possibility of getting our own village Speed Indication Device (SID) has emerged. This is not entirely straight-forward but seems well worth pursuing. Planning, especially anything to do with our two industrial areas, also takes a lot of time and the latest application by Probiotics, for a very large warehouse building at Lopen Head, has been no exception. At time of writing it appears to be on hold following objections from County Highways about HGV access and parking, so the story is not over yet.

PARISH BIER

The recent sale of Elizabeth Fenwick-Moore's property made it necessary to clear the house and barn. This has meant the re-discovery of the village bier, which has been resting in there for many years having been displaced from the Bier house by chairs, tables and the lawnmower. It is quite a substantial thing, nicely made and, while in need of some TLC, basically sound. Apparently, it dates from around 1932 making it a significant piece of village history that ought to remain in the village. Right now though, it lacks a purpose and a permanent home. Ideas welcome!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- Wednesday May 2nd.

(extra-ordinary meeting due to planning deadlines)

- Thursday May 24th. (AGM)

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.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

- Saturday May 12th.

Please contact a councillor or the Parish Clerk at least one week before if there is a matter you would like to be put on the agenda.

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.

Childrens' Workshop

is to be held on
Saturday 7th July
from 2.00 to 4.00pm
in
The Sunday School Room, Lopen

Pre Sea Sunday Workshop, all things nautical for the
Seamans Service the following day. Making boats, etc.
All welcome.

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

COUNTRYSIDE CODE FOR THE PUBLIC

Spring is a lovely time of year when we 'break out' from the winter and enjoy the countryside - daffodils, lambs, and the lovely fresh air. So, just a reminder to think of the farmers too when out walking, remember:

- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths.
- A farmer will normally close gates to keep farm animals in, but may sometimes leave them open so the animals can reach food and water.
- Leave gates as you find them or follow instructions on signs. When in a group, make sure the last person knows how to leave the gates.
- Follow paths unless wider access is available, such as on open country or registered common land (known as 'Open Access' land).

LIFT WEST LTD.

Dunstall Holdings Limited, based in Staffordshire, has acquired Lift West Limited from Andrew Whitehouse. The acquisition of Lift West represents their second major purchase following the acquisition of its agricultural business, Rea Valley Tractors in 2010. Dunstall Holdings commented 'Lift West is a successful business serving customers within its locality and we look forward to continuing its success within the Dunstall Holdings Group'.

DID YOU KNOW...

South Somerset District Council fund a loan scheme for homeowners, for essential home repairs and improvements? (*Subject to Status*)

For more information, visit www.wrcic.org.uk, call 01823 461099, or email enquiries@wrcic.org.uk
Your local, not for profit lender working in partnership with South Somerset District Council - Wessex Resolutions CIC, Heatherton Park Studios, Bradford on Tone, Taunton, TA4 1EU.

A WARM WELCOME!



Michael has bought Yarn Barton in Church Lane. He has lived in London for the past 30 years, the last 18 of them in Bloomsbury. His mother, father and brother (who will no doubt be assisting with the renovation!) live near to Okehampton. Michael worked

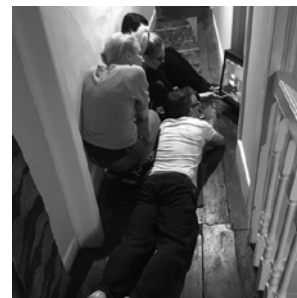
in finance until 2012 and now just wants to get away from it all, relax and see more of the family, splitting his time between Lopen and London. He commented 'I'm very excited to be in Lopen and really appreciate the welcome I've received from my new neighbours'.



Shanice, son Jayden, and sister Charlotte have moved into 4 Kitchens Lane, from Norton sub Hamdon. Welcome all to Lopen!

GRACEMARCH FILMING

The filming for the pilot of the new film series called 'Gracemarch' took place in Cross Tree House, Church Street during the week of 8-16 April. Several dramatically costumed characters were seen through the windows and strange lighting at odd hours was observed! The pilot will broadcast in the Autumn - hopefully we will get the dates for you.



RAINFALL UPDATE

Jeremy Rook has kindly supplied the following data - March 2018 has been the wettest March in my 30 years of recording with 164mm (previous highest March 2001 with 133mm). The Long Term Average is 63mm. There were only 4 days in the month when no rain fell.

However this March is nothing like January and February 2014 when we had 225 mm and 209 mm respectively



Our next event will be on
Tuesday 8th May
 Visit to The Swan Theatre
What the Butler Saw
by Joe Orton



A fast moving and funny farce set in the late 1960's and takes place in a private psychiatric clinic run by Dr Prentice.

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

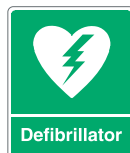
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM



To hire the Sunday School Room, by the Church, or for loan of equipment, please contact Liz Constable (240 912) or Angela (240 921).

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN DESKTOP PUBLISHING?

As our editor, Les Morton, is away from time to time we are looking for someone to prepare artwork for the Lopen Eye, maybe 2-3 times a year. Full tuition and software is available. If you are interested please contact Les on 391 574 or email lesmorton26@gmail.com



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
	Ed Moore	394 583	ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com
	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
	Simon Frackiewicz	394 975	simon@toadhall.email
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 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

JUST WOMEN

Chairwoman	Pauline Rook	240 644	prook12@gmail.com
Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	christianne@loopen.me.uk

POLICE CSO

	Amy Douch	Dial 101	amy.douch@avonandsomerset.police.uk
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ask for PCSO 8186

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
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LOPEN EYE TEAM

Editor	Les Morton	391 574	lesmorton26@gmail.com
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Proof-reading	Penny Little	242 474	penelopejittle@gmail.com

COFFEE STOP at the Sunday School Room

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

MAY DATES
 Wednesday
 9th & 23rd

10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome - including parents with young children.

All proceeds to AKAMBA AID
 sight-saving eye clinics in Kenya
www.akambaaidfund.org