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# LOPEN *Life*

APRIL - MAY 2023



Local events  
& Diary

Coronation  
Weekend  
Activities

Easter &  
Ecology

ISSUE 04

# YOUR VILLAGE

## **LOPEN VILLAGE FUND:**

The Lopen Village Fund exists to support activities and projects for the collective benefit of the village and its residents. The Fund is non-parochial and following its initial set up contribution back in 2019 has supported the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and is open to ideas for future projects that meet its criteria, with not much activity thanks to Covid. The Fund is managed by a team of three villagers - Michael Armstrong, Sue Champion and Chris Marsh.

With an initial goal of securing a public village space, the Village Fund looks to invest in activities that in turn will benefit and build the fund, like this years Easter Egg Hunt, where contributions and proceeds from the sale of tea and cakes will be split between the Fund and the Sunday School Room repairs.

Those interested in knowing more, willing to contribute or have a project to be considered, please contact one of the team:

Michael - [md.armstrong@btinternet.com](mailto:md.armstrong@btinternet.com) / Sue - [sue\\_champion@hotmail.com](mailto:sue_champion@hotmail.com) / Chris - [chrismarshLPC@gmail.com](mailto:chrismarshLPC@gmail.com)

## **VILLAGE CLEAN UP**

Its the time of year to get ahead of the summer vegetation take-over, clean road signs and pick litter. In our collective efforts to keep the village tidy, an informal group of volunteers (yes you!! Everyone welcome) can join forces for one weekend morning each month to tackle the offending areas.

Come and join the Lopen Loppers for the first of this years clean ups - 9.00-12.00 April 2nd at corner of Holloway and Frog Street for a pre-Easter challenge. Free tea and biscuits on completion!

**YOUR TIME • YOUR SUGGESTIONS  
YOUR SKILLS • YOUR IDEAS  
YOUR ENTHUSIASM • YOUR HELP**

# Edit this...

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Okay, so what happened to all that water we were warned about? Our reliable weather to the fore again, thankfully for some. Thanks Jeremy for the details, an exceptional rather than rule period again.

These two months give us a true jump into Spring with Easter and our own Egg Hunt taking place and then of course in May, a once in a lifetime for many, the Coronation. Look out for details about we can celebrate the occasion. So a full calendar ahead.

We feature two very worthwhile charities for the Ukraine war and the Turkey/Syria earthquake reliefs and start a new feature 'What you may have missed' covering some of the things that did happen in the last couple of months - unlike the rain!

On that note, anyone interested in trying their hand at some reporting and photography to cover the village happenings and any news for Lopen Life, please get in touch. The feature 'And another thing' starts a new chapter, with a big thanks to Angela Naunton Davies for giving us so much these last three issues.


As with many things in the village, we have all the typical village needs, but being small few people to help make things happen. Your Village needs YOU! Check in with any of the Parish Councillors for details about how you could help - or even better join the team. Check out the Lopen Village Fund update, and see if you have the time to join the Village Clean up, our new monthly get together.

Chris Marsh - *Editor*

*Next Issue deadline for dates, articles and stories is May 8th please*

**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

Headlines from County Council via Adam Dance and Jo Roundell Greene:

- April 1 - New Council vesting day
- New web site - **[www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk)**
- New Phone number: **0300 123 2224**
- New Council has 5 Priorities:
  - A greener more sustainable Somerset
  - A healthy and caring Somerset
  - A fairer and ambitious Somerset
  - A flourishing and resilient Somerset
- Includes more funds for vulnerable people, libraries and waste site to remain as current. 18 Local Community Networks to be set up.

Full Text of Council Plan:

**<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/documents/s25969>**

## Other Council announcements include:

- 93% of Secondary school 1st preference places achieved
- School term dates and holidays - parents invited to have their say
- 'Step Up' to social work - a £20,000 tax free bursary to attract people
- Looking for residents input for new Transport in Rural Communities Local Transport Plan.

## NEEDED - 1-2 PARISH COUNCILLORS

Okay we are small - but beautifully proportioned as they say - however we do need more people on the Parish Council to keep us ticking along and continue to make our Village the place we want it all to be. Don't be afraid, come and be part of the community, we are looking for one or two new heads. Contact the Parish Clerk for details.

## NEXT MEETINGS

**Monday April 24th & Monday May 22nd at 7.00 PM** in the Sunday School Room. Everyone welcome.

## PARISH COUNCILLORS:

**Chairman – Stephen Crane** – [Scrane1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Scrane1@hotmail.co.uk) – 01460 241412

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

**Jenny Feeney** – [jfeeneylopenpc@gmail.com](mailto:jfeeneylopenpc@gmail.com) – 1460 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)

## 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

SERVICE DATES APRIL & MAY:

**Every Monday at 9:00am**

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

**Friday April 7th - 3.00pm**

An Hour at the Cross

**Sunday April 9th - 10.30 am**

Easter Day Communion Service - Floral displays welcome please

**Sunday April 16th - 10:30am**

Parish Communion

**Sunday April 30th - 10.30am**

Benefice Communion



**Sunday May 7th - 10.30 am**

**Benefice Communion  
for the Coronation  
at St George Church  
Hinton St George**

**Sunday 21st May - 10.30am**

Parish Communion followed by APCM

# Come & Sing...



## WEST SIDE STORY

...and other popular songs from the musicals

*Saturday 13th May - 10am*

All proceeds will go towards the Lopen Sunday School Room Repair Fund.

Cost £15 per person to include music hire.

Booking in advance is essential as spaces are limited.

There will be an informal performance of the music learnt at 4pm to which family and friends are welcome (no charge but donations appreciated).

Contact Jonathan for more information - 01460 240025 - [info@jonathandelbridge.com](mailto:info@jonathandelbridge.com)

# April - Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
1st Saturday	New Somerset Council Vesting Day <a href="http://www.somerset.gov.uk">www.somerset.gov.uk</a>	5 become 1 No joke!
2nd Sunday	Village Clean Up - 9.00-12.00 Meet Corner Holloway & Frog Street	Bring tools, gloves and humour!
7th Friday	Good Friday	Easter starts here
9th Sunday	Easter Sunday	Easter Communion Service - 10.30
10th Monday	<b>Lopen Easter Egg Hunt 12.00-2.00pm</b>	Contact Trevor Power 07878 185537
11th Tuesday	Just Women Meeting 7.30 pm	Members will be advised in due course
12th Wednesday	Coffee Stop Sunday School Room - 10.30am	Tea, coffee, cake and a catch up - all for a good cause
15th Saturday	Lopen Lads - Meet 9.30 am Sunday School Room, drive to Sth Petherton & walk to Old Dairy Cafe Bower Hinton	Contact Trevor 07878 185537
24th Monday	Lopen Parish Council Meeting Sunday School Room - 7.00pm	All Welcome
25th Tuesday	Just Women Outing Octagon Theatre, Yeovil - 7.30pm 'Wodehouse in Wonderland'	Members Outing Contact Pauline Rook 240644
26th Wednesday	Coffee Stop Sunday School Room - 10.30am	Tea, coffee, cake and catch up - all for a good cause

# Lopen Easter Egg Hunt



*Want to keep the little ones occupied for an hour or two this Easter?*

*Why not join us on Monday 10th April between 12noon and 2pm for a Treasure Hunt with a tasty prize for finding the answers to the Easter Bunnies questions.*

*A short stroll around the fields surrounding Church Street and Rydon Lane will be followed by the option to relax with tea and cake at the Sunday School Room where the children can colour in the pictures and cards to give to family and friends.*

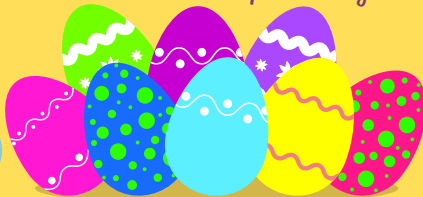
*\*Free for all children resident in Lopen*

*\*Refreshments, cake and biscuits available*

*\*Starts at Sunday School Room on Church Street 12 noon*

*Contact Trevor for further information 07878 185537*

*Proceeds to the Lopen Village Fund*



# May - Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
1st Monday	Bank Holiday	Another day to do everything and nothing!
<b>6th/7th/8th Coronation Weekend</b>		<b>Look out for local Village Celebration details</b>
9th Tuesday	Just Women Meeting Royal Encounters and tea	Contact Pauline Rook 240644
10th Wednesday	Coffee Stop Sunday School Room - 10.30am	Tea, coffee, cake and a catch up, all for a good cause
13th Saturday	<i>Come &amp; Sing!</i> 10.00 am Sunday School Room	Contact Jonathan 01460 240025
14th Sunday	Lopen Lads Details to follow	Contact Trevor 07878 185537
22nd Monday	Parish Council Meeting Sunday School Room - 7.00 pm	All welcome
24th Wednesday	Coffee Stop Sunday School Room - 10.30 am	Tea, coffee, cake and a catch up, all for a good cause
26th Friday	L'Open Arms Pop Up Pub Sunday School Room - 8.00pm	Games Night Contact Angela - 01460 240921



# Coronation Weekend

The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May.



Other celebratory events over the weekend include:

**Sunday 7th May - Coronation Concert** from Windsor Castle, including 'Lighting Up the Nation', a nation wide illumination of iconic buildings.

**Monday 8th May - Coronation Big Lunch** - neighbours and communities invited to share food and fun together across the country.

**Monday 8th May - The Big Help Out** - to encourage people to volunteer their time and join work being undertaken to support their local areas.

Your Pictures & Stories

Please send in your pictures and stories from the Coronation Day/Weekend in to the Editor, for a Coronation Remembered feature in the next issue of Lopen Life

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**CONTACT**

Chris on  
07714 801007  
or  
01460 240566

# Always look on the bright side...

## Seasonal update from Philip Harper from the Churchyard Eco-Group:

### Bird Boxes -

'the beginning of February found Ben, Nick and myself checking the bird boxes for signs of activity and clean out the old nests, only to find all four tit boxes had been used for nesting. However there had been little use of the two open-fronted Robin boxes. The tit boxes needed a little maintenance to ensure they will be waterproof for the coming season and some screws needed replacing.

### Planting -

Our next activity was the snowdrop and primrose planting session on the 25th of February.

### Bird-watch -

Whilst checking the bird boxes we spotted Britains smallest bird - the Goldcrest. An individual bird is said to weigh little more than a five pence piece. Its call has been likened to 'rubbing a damp finger down a pane of glass', but its song has been called 'a wonderful silver-toned tinkle'. Apparently it is useful as a standard test to ones hearing, as it is said to be the first song old-age loses.

### Free Compost -

We also opened the left-hand compost bay in the Churchyard for anyone to help themselves for their own gardens.

### April watch -

Finally, something to listen out for in April is the cuckoo. Twenty-five years ago they were very common in the village, but have gradually become less so. I only heard one on one day last year, but traditionally mid-April is the time sightings start.

And by the time you read this the bats will have emerged and should be a common site again.

Philip Harper

## Rainfall report 13 March 2023 - Jeremy Rook

After a wet January, February was very dry. I recorded only 4.2 mm of rain during that month and it was the driest February that I have recorded. My second driest February was 1993 with 8 mm of rain. The Long -Term Average for February is 67 mm.

The first half of January had rain practically every day and it felt as though we were going to have a repeat of January and February 2104, when large low-lying areas of Somerset experienced flooding. Fortunately the rain stopped and we had a dry February.

Now in March we have a week where we have had rain every day so there is reduced danger of a Spring drought. Reservoir levels are now full in the Wessex Water area.





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# WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED...

## Lopen Lads

The arrival of 2023 gave the group a chance to hit the ground running... well walking actually!

January- we managed a route that was not too muddy for the time of year, our group of 12 was the not very 'Dirty Dozen' when we arrived at the Riverside Cafe at Rose Mills in Ilminster. The walk was a relatively flat 1 mile each way, although difficult to justify a breakfast for the energy expended, we needed something to accompany the tea, coffee and conversation! February's get together encompassed a slightly longer 3.2 mile circular walk from South Petherton with a welcome pit stop at the Ranch Cafe where a slice of toast may have been accompanied by several other breakfast items.

The first 2 walks of the year have been an a reminder for many of the Lads that we have amazing walks and food & drink establishments on our doorstep. Finding new places to take family and friends while engaging with chat and banter is an amazing tonic, why not join us and experience first hand.



**Basic Life Support training session** - the first of these essential skills evening saw villager Sarah Lethbridge take 8 villagers through some very practical important identification and actionable life support techniques from chocking to heart attacks, how to administer CPR and use the Village defibrillator. (Located in the Sunday School Room porch in case).

If you have any young or vulnerable family or neighbours, these are very useful practical skills. Further sessions will be held, so please look out for details get your name down for the next event by contacting Trevor on 07878 185537



# Charity Update:



## REFUGEE AID FROM TAUNTON 2023

In March much of Britain was covered in snow and temperatures are very low everywhere. But small signs of spring were also everywhere and summer will eventually follow. As it is for us, so for Southern Europe and for the Middle East where night temperatures can be freezing. In preparation, Raft is requesting, from those who are able to give, lightweight clean washable clothing for men (not extra large, please), women, children and babies and suitable footwear for all; unopened hygiene products for all are very necessary. Raft has also been specifically asked for crutches, folding wheelchairs and new off-the-shelf medication. When I recently visited Raft's warehouse a huge number of boxes of medical supplies, mainly funded by trustees selling new items online, but some by supporter fundraising, were waiting to be collected and transported overseas.

## MUSIC IN THE MEADOW - SUNDAY 21ST MAY - HINTON ST GEORGE - 2PM

Refugee Support Group is holding its annual much enjoyed musical afternoon in the village in the Secret Garden at the end of West Street. This year there is a different line-up - three groups. Ricky Romain playing sitar with accompanist, followed by folk band Toad Flax and folk duo Mitchell and Vincent. There will be stalls and a raffle. Please bring chairs and perhaps drinks and a picnic. Adults £10: Children free. Please put this event in your diary. All money raised will go to refugee charities.

Many thanks for all support.

Geraldine Downey RSG 01460 271358



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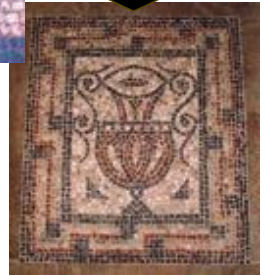
# And another thing...

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I would like to start this issue 'And another thing...' with a big thank you to Angela Naunton Davies for her contributions to the first three issues. Her observations and historical teasers will now give way to a revised feature that will focus on Lopen's History.

We will look at how this village has evolved starting with the historical records and as seen through the eyes and stories of some of the families associated with the village. Hopefully answering questions like what happened to our three pubs, why Frog Street is called Frog Street, which road is the ancient Fosse Way, and how big is the Lopen Roman mosaic?


Some of the answers may be fact, others fiction and hearsay, but hopefully either way they will make for an interesting read. In the meantime here are some images connected to some of the stories we will cover:



ShelterBox, is a Rotary Club based organisation based in Truro, that turns donations into a complete disaster shelter kit.

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