
LOPEN *Life*

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2022

Local events
& *Diary*

Walk on
the
Wild Side

A.N.D
*another
thing*

ISSUE 01



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Edit this...

Welcome to this first issue of LOPEN Life, a new local voice born out of the Lopen Eye.

After more than 10 years in its Lopen Eye format, (a big thank you to Les Morton, Les Farris and the team for their endurance and perseverance!) post pandemic and with the increase in digital dialogue, it was felt a good time to try something new. Your feedback is key as we want this to be a newsletter by the community for the community.

Lopen Life will be bi-monthly, giving a mix of local news, content and comment, local articles and support for local businesses through some advertising.

Aside from helping cover the production costs, local business is essential to our livelihoods and helps us grow and prosper, and brings new people and life to our community.

On that note, the new Somerset Council has issued details of the proposed Local Community Network (LCN's) - please go online and complete the short survey - our Village may depend on it. <https://somerset.inconsult.uk/LCNs/consultationHome>

Our editorial agenda will be open and content, articles and input is gratefully received and welcome.


Since starting this journey we have the sad status of the passing of our Sovereign Her Majesty The Queen, whose sense of duty, family, honour and community are central to our society and in that also to our village. Our celebration this year of her Diamond Jubilee is a worthwhile village celebration of an amazing person and life. And to that we celebrate our new King, Charles III. Long Live the King.

We hope you enjoy this first issue, and look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Marsh - *Editor*

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 – 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

Feedback from County Council via Adam Dance and Jo Greene, reports that the Unified County Council is moving ahead for completion in Spring 2023, and in the meantime are looking into localised solutions and support for the cost-of-living crisis, and warm place venues planning for the winter.

PLANNING

Currently under review are:

- a) the Council proposal for advertising hoardings on the Lopenhead roundabout – Parish Council believes as these will be quite in proportion they should be considered as long as they include a responsibility to upkeep the roundabout.
- b) the ADM Protexin application for solar panels on their flat roof structures, regrading with the Parish Council has no objection
- c) the ongoing application by Altegra Integrated Solutions for additional garaging for electric forklifts and equipment. As this is not entirely visible from the road, the Parish Council has no direct issues other than landscaping commitments need to be met before completion – unlike previous actions.

SSID

Village Speed Camera. Latest reports are that the top speed reported in the last month was in excess of 70mph through the village, which further strengthens our ambitions to increase the amount of traffic management in the village. Bi-weekly traffic speed data reports are continuing to be sent to the police to support our arguments for more controls.

DEFIBRILLATOR

A second defibrillator is going to be placed in the village, on the west side of the village, (the one we have is in the Church porch) but we need suggestions for suitable siting PLEASE! Any ideas contact a Parish Councillor.

GENERAL

Hedges, dog poo bins and more - continuing issues about the regularity of hedge and verge cutting round our narrow lanes are being raised to the Council, along with emptying the dog-poo bin in Kitchen Lane more frequently. Also taking this up with the Ranger.

NEXT MEETINGS

October 31st & November 28th at 7.00 PM
in the Sunday School Room – Everyone welcome, please come and be heard.

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Chairman – Stephen Crane – Scrane1@hotmail.co.uk – 01460 241412

Nick Jones – nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com – 01460 241643

Jenny Feeney – jfeeneylopenpc@gmail.com – 1460 419569

Chris Marsh – chrismarshlpc@gmail.com – 07951 239110

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

Parish Clerk – Jane Collins – lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com – 07967 218478

All Saints Church

SERVICE DATES OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER:

Every Monday at 9:00am

Morning Prayers lasting about 30 minutes is said for the people of Lopen. All are welcome to join in.

Sunday October 2nd 9:00am

Holy Communion

Sunday October 16th 10:30am

Harvest Festival followed by coffee and seasonal refreshments. Produce including some to decorate the church, store cupboard items, and financial donations will be welcomed and will be shared between the Pilsdon Community and the Lords Larder.

Sunday 6th of November 9:00am

Holy Communion

Sunday 13th November

Remembrance Service

Full details of the planned Remembrance Day Service and Ceremony will follow nearer the time. We are looking for volunteers to support this, and especially welcome Lopen village ex-service personnel. Please contact Trevor Power (07978 185537) for details.

Sunday 20th November

Parish Communion 10:30 followed by coffee



Strings & Quories

Marianne Olyver - Violin
Jonathan Delbridge - Piano

Saturday 8th October @ 7:30pm
All Saints Church, Lopen, TA13 5JX

To include Franck's sensational Sonata in A major

Tickets - £15
Contact Jonathan Delbridge
01460 240025
info@jonathandelbridge.com



“Stunning... the thrill of the week!... The dizzy violin of Marianne Olyver shone brilliantly, as to the manner born”
The Independent

...“thrilling solos and flamboyance... a thoroughly toe tapping affair”
The Daily Telegraph



By Request!

Jonathan Delbridge - Piano

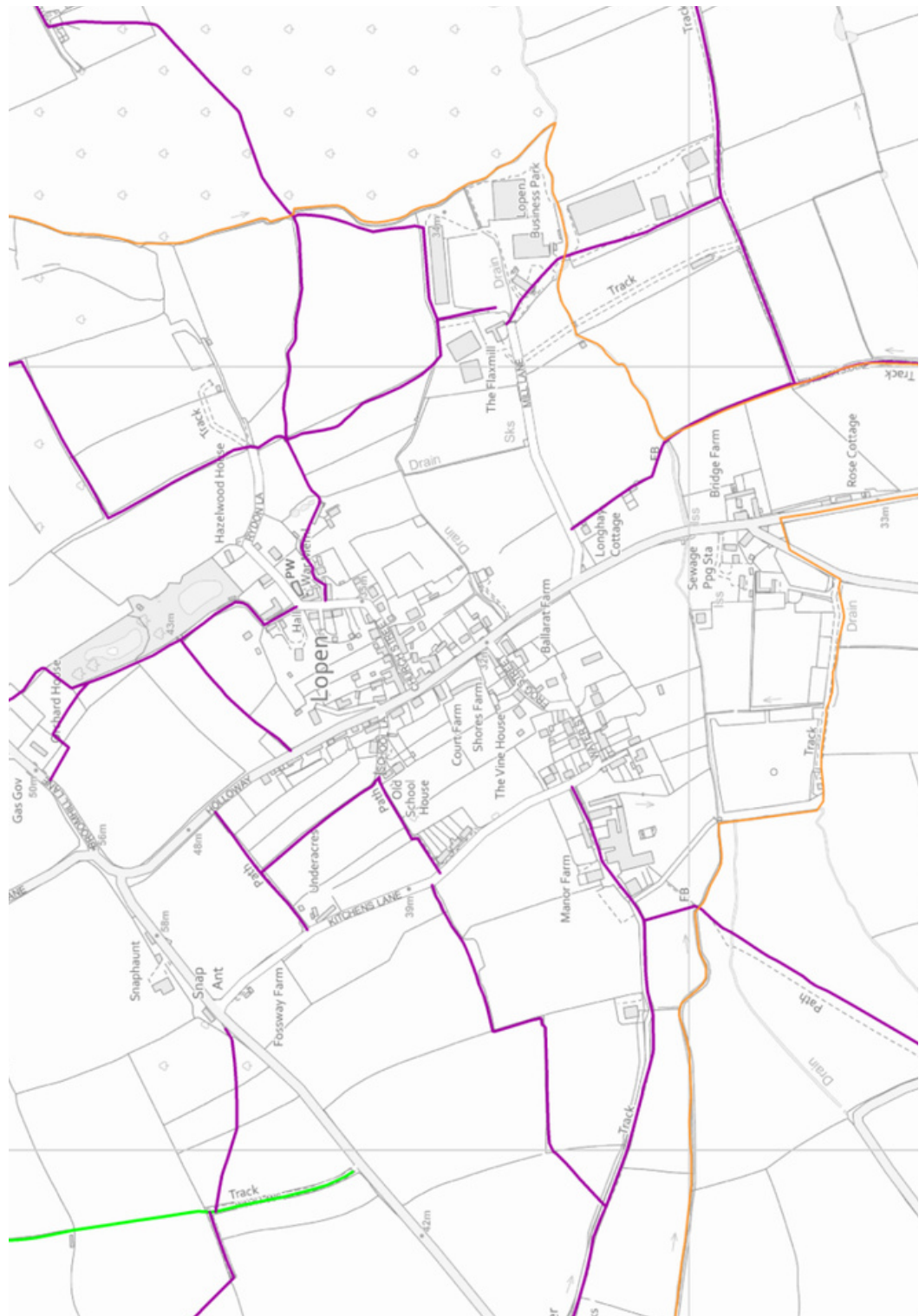
Sunday 9th October @ 3:00pm
All Saints Church, Lopen, TA13 5JX

Join Jonathan Delbridge as he shares his By Request programme which includes famous piano works such as Debussy's Clair de lune and Beethoven's Fur Elise as well as less familiar pieces like York Bowen's Romance and Poulenc's Novelette in C.

Tickets - £7
Contact Jonathan Delbridge
01460 240025
info@jonathandelbridge.com



£20 for both concerts!





Walk on the wild side

Let's talk about footpaths, those traditional arteries that can upset as much as they are trodden, and a constant topic around Lopen.

Since April we have had a new Rights of Way warden – Debbie Ebsary, who has an advantage of most of her predecessors in that Lopen is local to her. On a recent visit to the Parish, a range of matters were raised, including boundaries, gates, and general maintenance and accessibility. Priority will be creating a circular walk that is accessible, and identified paths that need clearance, and to this end Debbie is keen to meet residents to work together on these projects.

Lopen has a great network that criss-crosses the main roads with a mix of footpaths and bridleways that provide different levels of walking access. The challenge is to make sure they remain accessible, whilst mindful of the farmers land and animal safety. It is incumbent on the community and the landowners to keep the paths open and in a fit state to encourage usage, which will grow in importance as the cost of fuel increases and 'going local' becomes more the normal.

The Council can support you in ensuring the rights are protected and physical aspects like gates, fencing and styles are kept in good repair, but we need the villagers to support us with information and volunteering too.”

Somerset County Council produce a map of all footpath routes in the County:

www.roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map

If you see a problem with any footpaths please report it using this link:

www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/

So – strimmers to the fore, and to help you find your way, check the map opposite. And have fun!

October - Diary Dates



DATE	EVENT	NOTES
8th Saturday	Lopen Music Weekend All Saints Church 7:30pm Strings & Ivories	Tickets £15 from Jonathan Delbridge 01460 240025
9th Sunday	Lopen Music Weekend All Saints Church 3:30pm By Request	Tickets £7 from Jonathan on 01460 240025
11th Tuesday	Just Women Meeting - Sunday School Room 7:30pm	History of Cider, with James Crowden, and a tasting! - contact Pauline Rook 01460 240644
12th Wednesday	Coffee Stop – Sunday School Room - 10.30am	
13th OCT - 17th NOV GAS PIPELINE ROAD CLOSURE LOPEN TO OVER STRATTON		
15th Saturday	Harvest Supper - Sunday School Room 7:00pm	Dinner for 2 @ £10 per person, BYO - Contact Carolyn 01460 240717
26th Wednesday	Coffee Stop – Sunday School Room - 10.30	
22th - Saturday	Lopen Lads Meeting 12.30 - Sunday School Room	Contact Trevor Power 07878 185537
31st	Lopen Parish Council Meeting – School Room - TIME All welcome – and Halloween (no co-incidence!)	Trick Or Treaters welcomed at Hazelwood House garage between 4.30pm - 7.00pm



REMINDER

December & January Events
Deadline for December Issue – 10th November



November - Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
5th Saturday	Bonfire Night	Keep the animals safe
8th Tuesday	Just Women Meeting - Sunday School Room 7:30pm	'Delightfully Deceived' – the story of Trompe L'Oeil over its 500 years of deception and artistry, by Richard Kay, Auctioneer. Contact Pauline Rook on 01460 240644
9th Tuesday	Coffee Stop Sunday School Room - 10.30	
11th Friday	Remembrance - 11.00	Tommys and Poppies on display and a full Ceremony on Sunday 13th
13th OCT - 17th NOV GAS PIPELINE ROAD CLOSURE LOPEN TO OVER STRATTON		
23rd Wednesday	Coffee Stop - Sunday School Room 10.30am	
26th Saturday	Mistletoe Fayre- 10.00 - 1.00pm	All Saints Church – Bottles, Plants, Crafts, Raffle, Toys, Mulled Wine, Books, proceeds to the Church, Village Fund & Sunday School Room Repairs
28th Monday	Parish Council Meeting School Room	All welcome



REMINDER

December & January Events

Deadline for December Issue – 10th November

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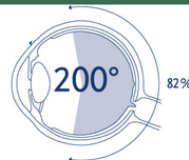


ROBERT FRITH OPTOMETRISTS

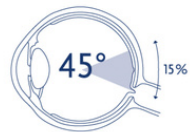
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Always look on the bright side

This feature is a topical story that needs to make us think about local issues and how as a community we can benefit from the way we approach the issue.

Most of you will have received the open letter to all residents in August regarding the community facility that is the Sunday School Room (SSR).

As a village we all know Lopen struggles to provide a focal point outside the Church, with no school, no pub, no public spaces. Borrowing fields, whilst generous of the Cantons and other supporters is no substitute for our own 'space' that's accessible to the community 24/7. Whilst the SSR is locked when not in use, it is our one community space, and the challenge to keep it viable is incumbent on everyones support.

It is the wider issue of a public space we all need to consider. We know this is not straight forward – from accessibility, parking, health and safety, insurances and a potential endless list of bureaucracy, but it is not impossible. Most villages can support such a space, and whilst most of the land in and around the village is working land, there are pockets that with suitable consideration could offer this potential. We will start to identify these and be contacting the owners to discuss the opportunity to establish something, along with Council support.

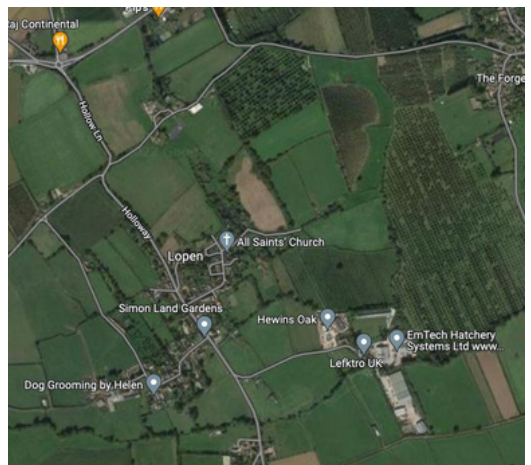
This is where the Lopen Village Fund comes in. Its original an continued aim is to support projects and actions in the village interest - from helping pay for some elements of the Jubilee Celebrations, to a new gazebo at one level.

At a loftier level it can be to help finance the long term rental or purchase of a field that becomes our community space. From small beginnings - but we have to start somewhere.

This subject will not go away, and whilst we all look to how we can contribute to the SSR Repair Fund in cash and deeds, suggestions to the Editor on this topic will be welcomed and communicated through Lopen Life.

There is a target of £20,000 needed to carry out all the SSR repairs to the one space we can call a community space, and is very much used to hold events and activities that raise funds for various Village projects. Maybe a Village lottery ticket syndicate is needed!

On the subject of space - the Village urgently requires a dry lockable storage facility, about the size of a single garage, with a suitably wide entrance. Please contact the Editor if you can help.





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Refugee support group

Recently we held two successful fundraising events: Music in the Meadow, our annual May open-air event and in June a member event in Ilminster. Between them £2,000 was raised for refugee charities. We now invite you to enjoy two more events to raise further necessary funding for those facing winter in refugee camps.

QUIZ?

Friday October 15th.

Our QUIZ, popular and wide-ranging, preferably for teams of four, is scheduled for Friday October 15th. This year it will be in Ilminster in the Parish Hall, North Street (TA19 0DG) starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £10pp including supper, with wine available for a donation. We look forward to welcoming you so book the date now with your team members and look out for posters with further details.

 **Concert**
Thursday 27th October

A CONCERT has been organised by Jo Martin for Thursday 27th October at 7.30pm in the David Hall, Roundwell Street, South Petherton. It features Jo, a singer/songwriter with a jazzy bluesy sound, who has played on 6Music.

She will be supported by Mitch Norman and both freely give their talent to support refugee charities. Tickets will be £12 from Jo or available on the door; there will be a bar; and there will be a raffle. Look out for her posters. RAFT (refugee aid from Taunton) is seeking donations for refugees, including for those in Ukraine. They need unwanted clean washable winter clothing and suitable winter footwear for men, women, children and babies; hygiene items for all; and blankets, sleeping bags and tents.



RAFT will also accept clothing and footwear of any kind in very good condition if donors are willing for them to be sold to raise money to buy, for example, necessary hygiene items, or to use towards the rent of their new building. RAFT address – Unit 4, Enterprise Park, Priorswood Rd. TA2 8FR - if you wish to deliver the items.

Otherwise I will receive donations and deliver to RAFT.

With grateful thanks to all who care and are able to support this work - Geraldine Downey - RSG - 01460 271358

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO

Lopen's Mistletoe Fayre



RAFFLE | BOTTLE STALL | GIFTS & CRAFTS
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Saturday 26th November
2pm - 4pm
All Saints Church
TA13 5JX

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED
PLEASE CONTACT JONATHAN DELBRIDGE - 01460 240025

IN AID OF THE CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM REPAIRS

A.N.D *another thing*



I have been wondering about the reasons why people have come to live in Lopen, more specifically what is on offer here. A road that runs from East to West, too narrow in many places for a vehicle and person to pass let alone two. This is the Fosse Way and was the route between Exeter and Lincoln and had been for two millennia. It is difficult to imagine crossing the road at the S-bend to go either way and be confronted by Roman soldiers and carts. Those banks on either side have retained their reputation for up ending both earlier and more modern forms of transport. Gradually that road was superseded by the A303, long before the roundabout at the Raj existed and that junction had been known as White Cross until the Paulett Arms was built, even that lost its status when the bypass was opened between Ilchester and Ilminster. Now with a 40 mph speed limit, it is accessible to people from here on foot but only if careful. Going from north to south the main road or Holloway bisects the community, attempting to cross it makes a very short walk into a life risking exercise. Parking for those living on the roadside requires skill and strong nerves. Guess the speed of the through traffic could be a new a fund raising game.




At the top end of Church Street recently following the shifting of machinery and barriers a mechanical digger got into action. The gash it made across a field of meadow-grasses revealed layers of beautiful fine grade 1 soil, said by many to be some of the finest in the country. For some this area is known as boys land, because if you can't grow things in this soil you will not be able to grow them anywhere. But this field was being prepared for receiving clean yellow wide dimension pipes ready to take an increased flow of gas when the whole project is finished. From the number and size of them my anxiety is about the shortages of fuel I'm not sure if they'll be able to fill them up.

In some places the trenches will be going across footpaths of which we have a good network. In the past they were used by people going about their daily tasks, reaching workplaces and schools. Now they are more likely to be used for leisure, exercise or dog walking. These are the resources that are now becoming more precious. They are some of our greatest assets. It is suggested as a source of the name Lopen, and to be from early French via Latin which translated meant "A Blessed Plot" - So perhaps this is why people choose to live here.

Angela Naunton Davies



Lopen Raj



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