

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

APRIL 2020



HELP DURING THE IMPOSED CORONAVIRUS 'LOCKDOWN'



With the latest announcement from the Government we are all in 'lockdown'. And although supermarkets are still opening, and therefore shopping is possible, some people will go into isolation, either because they have symptoms or just don't want to come into contact with people who could carry the virus. Luckily we have many independent traders in this area, who should be supported in these tough times, and they are doing everything they can to keep us all fed and supplied - shops, pubs, restaurants, etc. who are offering delivery services. Contact them directly to see how they can help you:

- In and around Lopen - prepared food can be delivered from The Lopen Raj (242566), The Royal Oak (240906) and New Farm Restaurant (240584) in Over Stratton, The Brewers Arms (241887) in South Petherton.
- The Trading Post at Lopen Head (241666) are offering a delivery service.
- In South Petherton the shops are working together to offer a delivery service - Winters Butchers (240569), The Fruit & Veg Shop (242523), Bakery Royal (242632), Provender Deli (240681) and N&D Newsagents (249564) are offering a joint delivery service so you can order items from each and they will arrive on one delivery.
- Further afield, Ilminster Home Hardware (52506) is teaming up with Bonners Butchers (52465), Wine World (55512) and PB Fruits (and vegetables) (52180) for combined deliveries to Lopen.
- In Crewkerne Barrett Bros Butchers (72900) and James Hardware (73133) are delivering.
- And remember the fresh fish man calls into Church Street every Thursday, early morning!



Due to the Coronavirus situation the Lopen Plant Fayre has sadly been cancelled.

Lopen Plant Fair

While we have decided to cancel our Spring Plant Fair on 9th May, we are considering ways to make some of our stock available over the coming weeks. We are busy potting up and on, seedlings and plants and it would be a great shame if this bounty was not shared. We will therefore be circulating a Plant List with prices, by email, to local Clubs and Horticultural Societies for circulation to their members and if you would like to be included please let us know at christiannelong@btinternet.com. We have a range of stock which has been out all winter and is ready to go while others need a little longer in the protection of the greenhouse. This approach may then enable us to prepare orders for collection over several days and thereby adhere to any current policy of social distancing. If in the meantime, government policy becomes more restrictive we will need to think again, however we wanted everyone to know that we are planning on having at least some of our plants available.

As a consequence we are not in a position to accept any more plants.

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Parish Council meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Lopen is a small community but it too has its share of vulnerable people, some living alone. During this extraordinary time the practical difficulties of daily life, getting vital supplies in, coping with the standard household mishaps, or someone to just talk to are all part of the challenge. The debilitating effects of isolation, especially for those living alone (though the stress of being locked-in with a spouse, however dearly beloved, for a long and apparently open ended period is not to be taken lightly). Luckily we have modern communications; mobile phones, texting, Whatsapp, Facetime, Twitter, Skype, or even your old fashioned landline. Though it might seem silly to use these things to talk to someone just a few yards away, someone you'd normally see in person - right now, it's far better to use these methods than not talk at all. We are also blessed with a rural location - and in recent days improving weather and drying footpaths. Spring is in the air, get out and enjoy it. If you meet fellow travellers, then it would seem reasonable to speak, provided a respectful distance is maintained. However some support may be needed for any number of reasons. Some around the village have already dropped leaflets or been in touch with neighbours to offer assistance and support in different ways. The following may also be of help:

Somerset Village and Community Agents have a Village agent for Lopen, Alex Fenion, who is available on alex@somersetccc.org.uk Other people under this scheme are available with specialist skills. These can be found on www.somersetccc.org.uk

We wish everyone a safe, healthy and calm few weeks ahead, and as with any community, lets stay connected – Councillor contact details are listed on the back page of the Lopen Eye.



The Neighbourhood watch coordinators Caroline and Carron, have put together an email outlook group so that important Neighbourhood watch information can be distributed to

the villagers, printing and hand delivery of regular information is not feasible there is no funding. This New email group will help to get the word out to you all more effectively and in a fast manner. They've only had a limited reply to the request posted through your doors.

Please could you send Your name, Email address, and home address details on an email to carolinemckendrick@outlook.com

All information held will be in alignment to the current GDPR regulations.

RAINFALL UPDATE

Jeremy Rook has kindly supplied the following data:

I recorded 161 mm in February against the Long Term Average of 62 mm. There were only three days on which no rain fell. Although it was very wet it was not as wet as February 2014 when we had 209 mm and only one dry day.

It has felt like a wet Winter and in the six months 1st September 2019 to 29th February 2020 we have had a total of 727 mm - more than in either of the two calendar years 2010 and 2011.

However this period 1st September 2019 to end of February 2020 was only the fifth wettest six months since I have been recording.

COTTAGE NAME CHANGE

As there is always a lot of confusion for the postman and delivery drivers over the various properties with the name 'Cross Tree' such as - Cross Tree, Cross Tree House, Cross Tree Cottage, Cross Tree Cottages 1, Cross Tree Cottages 2, Cross Tree End and Cross Tree Court, John Milner & Lyn have decided to make things a little easier and rename



Cross Tree Cottage as 'Stocks Cottage' due to the proximity of the original village stocks. "We have registered the new name with SSDC and will put a name plate outside. No doubt

this will cause more confusion at first, but hope it will make things easier in the long term".



Due to the
Coronavirus situation -
please don't leave any
more bottle tops until
further notice.

CORONAVIRUS GUIDANCE

Stay at home to stop Coronavirus spreading. Everyone must stay at home to help stop the spread of Coronavirus. You should only leave the house for 1 of 4 reasons:

1. Shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible.
2. One form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle – alone or with members of your household.
3. Any medical need, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
4. Travelling to and from work, but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home.

IMPORTANT

These 4 reasons are exceptions – even when doing these activities, you should be minimising time spent outside of the home and ensuring you are 2 metres apart from anyone outside of your household.

CHURCH CLOSED DURING CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

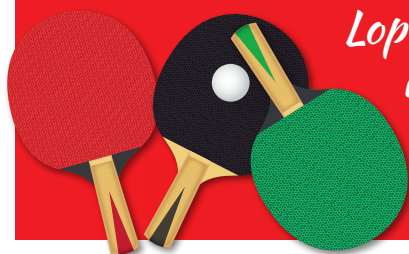


Sadly our church will be closed until further notice. However the churchyard has some seats, try them, but please observe social distancing guidelines, and only visit with members of your own family with whom you share a house. The trees and early wild flowers look particularly

beautiful in the mornings, and even better if the sun is out. The big cherry tree is almost in full white blossom. Don't miss, it does not last long. Notices will be posted in the church porch if there are any changes in these arrangements. We are very sorry the Lent Lunch was cancelled. Maybe we will be able to have something similar later in the year.

TABLE TENNIS

Due to the Coronavirus situation Lopen Table Tennis is cancelled until further notice.



A WARM WELCOME!



Emma and her two children Evelyn and Pearl have recently moved in at Three Robins Cottage in Church Street. Emma is a full time mum and teaching assistant, and previously lived in Chiselborough.

SUNDAY WALKS WITH PUB LUNCH

Due to the Coronavirus situation Lopen Sunday Walks are cancelled until further notice.

If you are interested in future walks please contact Belinda on 240 973 or email belinda.bezance@gmail.com

OUT WALKING



Outdoor exercise is one of the few things we can do whilst the country is in lockdown. However when you are out walking, and using the many footpaths we have around Lopen, please wear gloves at all times. If gates and stiles are infected with Coronavirus it can remain active for days! If you are infected (even if you don't know it yet) you can leave the virus on gates and stiles. If you aren't infected you could easily pick it up!

Also this time of year 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).



Unfortunately, like everyone else, we are having to rethink our monthly meetings and have come to the conclusion it is best for all if the April and May meetings are cancelled. Our garden visit in June may also be cancelled in due course and we will confirm this later. Should there be a miraculous change of events we can always arrange a gathering at short notice. Whilst we contemplate a 12 week period of adjustment and more time on our own, you may be interested in what our major museums are offering on their websites (Tate, Royal Academy, Southbank Centre, British Museum, V&A). I appreciate this will require computer access, however there is a wide range of interviews, articles and podcasts to provide intellectual stimulus which may be most welcome after a lengthy period of a 'white bread' diet of day time television and box sets. So in the meantime please stay safe and well at home. Our best wishes to all and please keep in touch with one another.

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

FOOD BANKS

Food banks are having problems getting supplies for those who have nothing to fall back on. A list of the items found to be most helpful will be inside the church porch. The Lords Larder food bank donation box will be close by for items they welcome, if you can provide anything to help it would be much appreciated. I am trying to find the phone number for people who might like to make a monetary donation instead. Angela Naunton Davies 240 921.

RECYCLE YOUR PLASTIC POTS

We now have a container by the side steps at the church for the collection and recycling of any plastic garden pots, trays and containers. Please feel free to claim any for that garden project or just leave any that are now unwanted. The idea is recycle these items as much as possible to avoid them going to landfill. Terracotta pots, whole or broken, are also welcome, however please leave these outside the crate.



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	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
	Nick Jones	241 643	nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com
	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
	Jenny Feeney	419 569	jfeeneyloopenpc@gmail.com
	Chris Marsh	07951 239110	chrishmarshlpc@gmail.com

Parish Clerk	Jane Collins	07967 218478	loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com
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DISTRICT COUNCIL	Cllr Adam Dance	07767 224 213	adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk
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	Cllr Crispin Raikes	07968 291 588	crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk
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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
Churchwarden	Angela Naunton Davies	240 921	nauntondavies@btinternet.com

JUST WOMEN

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

POLICE CSO	Mike Bell	Dial 101 ask for PCSO 7954	mike.bell@avonandsomerset.police.uk
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Caroline McKendrick	359 201	carolinemckendrick@outlook.com
	Carron Richards	242 640	carronrichards@yahoo.co.uk

LOPEN EYE TEAM

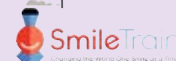
Editor	Les Morton	391 574	lesmorton26@gmail.com
	Les Farris	242 254	leslifefarris23@aol.com
	Michael Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
Proof-reading	Penny Little	242 474	penelopejlittle@gmail.com

COFFEE STOP at the Sunday School Room

Due to the Coronavirus situation Coffee Stops are cancelled until further notice.



Everyone welcome - including parents with young children. All proceeds to



An international children's charity with a sustainable approach to problems with cleft lip and palate.