

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

JUNE 2019



The Lopen Picnic is held every other year and customarily attracts most of Lopen's residents - a great village occasion!

LOPEN VILLAGE PICNIC

Fun for all ages - children's games, cream teas, hog roast supper and live music for dancing!

Sunday 14th July
3pm until late

in The Canton's Field

(courtesy of Michael and Valerie Canton)

Please bring your own drinks and something to sit on!

Entry by ticket. All-in price includes a cream tea and hog roast supper.

Your visitors are also welcome.

Adults - £8, Under 16's - £4, Children under 4 - free.

Lets be eco friendly - bring your own cups, cutlery & plates.

Tickets are available from:

Kate Jones - 241 643 or
Michael Armstrong - 354 023,
by July 6th
(to allow for catering).

HELP NEEDED - please could we have some help from strong and fit individuals to erect the marquees on Saturday 13th July and to dismantle them on Monday 15th.

The more the merrier!
Please volunteer your help at the School Room at 10am on Saturday 13th July.



LOPEN PLANT FAIR EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS - AGAIN!

A brilliant result was achieved again on Saturday May 11th by all involved in the running of the annual Plant Fair - a total of £2071.50 was raised from the plants and teas; up over 27% from 2018's excellent result! This is quite an achievement for a small village like ours. So, a huge thank you to Christianne Long, Marian O'Brien and all the team who put in so much time and effort to create such a stunning display and to provide refreshments, as well as the people who made cakes, ran the car parking, fetched the tables, etc. - you know who you are! These proceeds are a very important contribution to the cost of maintaining All Saints Church and our Sunday School Room.



LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS WANTED

With just four of a possible seven positions occupied, the Council currently has three 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.

There is just a short update this month. The Annual Village Meeting was held on Monday 13th May and due to unforeseen circumstances – and as the weather was kind – nobody seemed to mind it being held in the Churchyard. This



was followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7:30, by which time the key to the Sunday School Room had been located so we adjourned inside to complete the evening's business.

The four members of the new Council were duly installed and the posts of Chairman and Vice Chairman were decided, along with the responsibilities of the Councillors, as listed below:

Stephen Crane – Chairman

Responsibilities: Highways/drains and Ranger liaison.

Nick Jones - Vice Chairman

Responsibilities: Planning.

Jenny Feeney

Responsibilities: Footpaths.

Valerie Cantan

Responsibilities: Health and Wellbeing.

PLANNING

There are currently two outstanding planning applications relating to the Frogmary Green Farm anaerobic digestion plant. The plant is actually in South Petherton Parish, so why should we in Lopen care? Well, the nature of the local road network means that the heavy traffic accessing the site has to go via Lopen Head. While not wishing to be negative about a significant source of renewable energy, the sheer scale of the increases does raise serious questions about the suitability of the location and what the effects might be on the surrounding road network.

The first application (19/00699/S73) has been made by the plant operators SEG Ltd and requests an

increase in permitted feedstock from just under 20,000 tons a year to almost 70,000 tons a year. At the same time they wish to increase the export of digestate from the plant from a notional zero to almost 60,000 tons per year. The result of these increases is a more than fourfold increase in heavy traffic to the site which, with the current access and road network, all has to negotiate the single track road to Lopen Head roundabout.

By the applicants own figures, this represents an increase of 8,500 heavy vehicles (mix of HGVs and large tractor/trailer combinations) to just over 10,000 per year. However, a close look at their numbers suggests the payload figures for the vehicles used have been significantly over-estimated resulting in the vehicle movements being under-estimated by almost 30%. This might mean as many as 13,000 heavy vehicles a year, with significant peaks at harvest time.

In spite of the above it is claimed that apart from the addition of a gas collection dome to the digestate storage tank, no significant alteration/expansion needs to be made to the plant itself in order to process the extra feedstock, although no evidence is offered as to whether the plant can actually do this.

The second application (19/00753/FUL) is made by the farm itself and requests permission for a weighbridge, silage clamps, rainwater run-off lagoon and digestate storage lagoon. These would appear to be some (at least) of the plant expansions that were claimed not to be needed in the first application! There is also a request to re-open and expand a historic lane to the west to allow access from Davids Lane at Fouts Cross. This has the potential to reduce traffic at Lopen Head, though it is not clear by how much.

In itself, the second application appears to offer little to directly to concern Lopen, but in reality it appears to be an integral part of the first application and we believe that the sheer scale of the traffic increase that would bring cannot go unchallenged. LPC therefore oppose both applications.

Full details can be found on the SSDC website - there is a lot there!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Sunday School Room at 7pm on:

- Monday June 17th.

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.

SUNDAY WALK WITH TEA

The next walk will be
Sunday June 2nd.

Meet at 2pm at Barrington Court National Trust car park. A 2.5 mile circular walk around the village, followed by tea in Strode House. There is a restriction on dogs in the house & gardens.

The July walk will be on Sunday July 7th - 11.30am meet at the Sunday School Room, with a walk to the Dinnington Docks for lunch. If you are interested please contact Belinda on 240 973 or email belinda.bezance@gmail.com at least one week prior with menu choice so she has numbers for the booking.



The May walkers enjoying lunch at The Feed Station in Merriott.

THE BRIDE AND GROOM!



Louise and Guy Anderson with their daughter Milly and her new husband Matthew on their wedding day on May 18th. A lively wedding reception was held at Knapp House - with dancing into the early hours.

A WARM WELCOME!



Holly & Simon Leach with their daughter Bella, who have moved into 2 Broomhill Lane, from Crediton, Devon.



Dorothy Clark and her little dog Toby have moved in to Hazelwood House, Church Street from Ottery St. Mary in Devon.

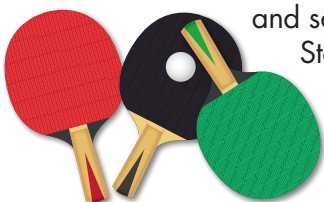
ONE MAN, OR LADY, NEEDED TO MOW!



We have a vacancy on the team of 4 who mow the churchyard grass. This only requires an hour a week in the summer months, mower and fuel provided, reward - great satisfaction in keeping our lovely churchyard tidy. A big thank you to Nick George for his contribution over many years - we wish Nick and Jackey much happiness in their new home. If you would like to join the team, please contact Steve Chapman on 249 549.

TABLE TENNIS DATES

For the summer months we will be meeting **once** a month on the following dates **June 16th, July 21st, Aug 18th and Sept 15th**, from 3pm until 5pm. Thereafter 2nd and 4th Sunday's. Open to all ages from little ones to elderly ones. We have a kettle and some cake/biscuits for a 'Tea Stop'. We shall have to make a charge of £1 to cover the cost of the hall and the electricity. I look forward to seeing you - **Carolyn**.



OBITUARY

Dorothy Clark (see above) and her son Graham moved into Hazelwood House, Church Street on May 22nd/23rd. We are sad to report that Graham passed away on May 27th. Dorothy, her daughter Gaynor and partner Trevor would like to thank everyone for the kind concern and support that has been offered by people in Lopen.

BURIAL SERVICE

Further to the mention of the burial service in last months Lopen Eye, the service took place on Saturday May 4th. Refreshments were enjoyed in the Sunday School Room after the service where Elizabeth Harrington Lynch chatted with people from the village. A lovely display of old pictures of Lopen, and pictures of her husband William were on display. Elizabeth was flying back to the USA the following day.





Our next meeting will be on
Thursday 6th June
2pm to 5pm
 at

The South Wood Farm, Cotleigh



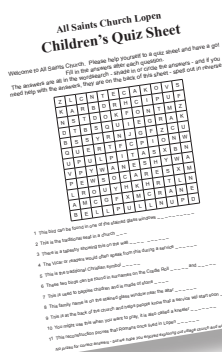
A classic English flower garden with a contemporary twist and set around an old manor house, this garden designed by Arne Maynard comes highly recommended.

This is a 'ladies only' event and open to friends.

Non-members welcome.

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

Children's Quiz Sheet



There is a children's Word Search Quiz available in the church, which is open every day during daylight hours, should anyone have any young visitors to entertain. Sadly no prizes for finding all the answers!

LENT LUNCH

The £365 that was raised was donated to Refugee Community Kitchens - from one lunch to another seemed most appropriate. They started in the Calais camp more than three years ago - a chef and a couple of organisers - and now have a number of outlets, including Calais, and other areas in France and Britain.

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

Parish Clerk	Lisa Wilson	07587 211150	loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com
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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
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	Malissa Thompson	Dial 101 ask for PCSO 6827	malissa.thompson@avonandsomerset.police.uk
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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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COFFEE STOP at the Sunday School Room

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

JUNE DATES

Wednesday 12th & 26th
 10.30am to 12.00 midday



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