

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

MAY 2020



Due to the ongoing Covid-19 lockdown situation the Lopen Eye is reduced in size for this issue. Hopefully we shall be in a position to bring you a full size edition next month.

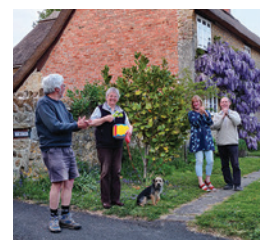
LOPEN'S VERY OWN NHS HEROS



There are a number of NHS staff living in Lopen - if you would like a mention in the Eye please contact the editor - lesmorton26@gmail.com. Mark & Sarah Lethbridge have sent me this: As front line NHS employees, Sarah is a Critical Care Nurse Specialist and I am an Emergency Department Practitioner, we are overwhelmed when we are home on a Thursday evening to hear the village clapping in support of the NHS and Carers in general. On a personal level, there have been a couple of families that have offered us support with regards to child care help and such like. So we would like to thank them. But,

as a whole and on behalf of all our friends and colleagues, we took the opportunity, whilst donning our PPE, to take these pictures to thank everybody for their ongoing support. Take care, be safe. *Mark and Sarah - 2 Cross Tree.*

And to follow the NHS theme we have a few pictures of the 8pm Thursday evening clapping and general noise making, to show our appreciation of all the great work our NHS staff are doing through this terrible Covid-19 situation. Not just our own NHS staff in Lopen but the whole of the NHS throughout the UK. These are only a few of the people and streets in Lopen, if I have missed yours I do apologise, but I can only get around so many streets at 8pm. If you have any pictures of your street please email them to me at lesmorton26@gmail.com.



£1000 RAISED FOR NHS CHARITIES



While music lovers are unable to get out to attend concerts at this time, concert pianist Jonathan Delbridge has begun providing live music from his own home in the Chapel using Facebook broadcasts.

Like all self-employed musicians, Jonathan's work has been severely affected by the Coronavirus. He is still doing some piano teaching online but forthcoming concerts and other events have had to be cancelled. However, Jonathan was determined to find another way to provide live music to his audiences so on Friday 27 March at 11am he held his first online piano concert which was broadcast live on Facebook. The programme lasted for about 30 minutes and included requests that were submitted in advance. Within hours, over 600 people had viewed Jonathan's live concert broadcast and he continues to entertain every Friday at

11am at [facebook.com/JonathanDelbridgeMusic](https://www.facebook.com/JonathanDelbridgeMusic). Jonathan said "It's a great way of still being able to provide live music at this time. People can make themselves a cup of tea or coffee and sit down in the comfort of their own homes to watch a short weekly concert!". Jonathan is also inviting audience members to make a donation if they wish and so far £280 has been raised for Somerset Community Foundation's Coronavirus Appeal and over £800 for NHS Charities Together.

LOPEN COMMUNITY FUND

For some time Lopen Village Community have requested the setting up of a village fund that provides money to support local projects and causes to the betterment of the whole village. To do this and provide an accountable process we have looked into what other villages do and how they operate similar schemes. A structure similar to the Parish Council needs to be in place – with 4 lead people, a ‘Constitution’ that outlines the aims, method and objectives, and such simple items as a bank account.

Once this is set up we will come back to you and give you an update, but in the meantime it would be interesting to hear from people on two fronts – ideas on how to raise money, and how to spend the money that is raised.

Obviously current circumstances do not support physical gathering or events, so some creative thinking is needed on that, but this will not last forever, so we will have opportunities later in the year hopefully to put some of the ideas into action.

Several thoughts came out of the Village survey a couple of years back, which also acted as the stimulus for this Fund.

This included such things as:

- Village in Bloom – planters/baskets to beautify the village (can include Christmas Tree/ decorations and Lopenhead roundabout management)
- A second village Notice Board
- Specific roads/streets enhancements – individual street or house issues that would benefit everyone
- New Bus Shelter
- Safe spaces for children to use
- Village defibrillator centrally located, with resident training on use
- Private/public transport links to improve shopping access mobility for villagers
- Annual Footpath Reclamation work
- On a larger scale, to build a fund large enough to buy some land that becomes the village community space - with a village hall, children’s play area etc, to enhance the appeal of the village for new generations.

This fund will be run by the Village for the Village. This is not a Parish Council initiative, so does not need the Parish/District/County oversights, but it is believed that it is best served with a member of the Parish Council on the team to help coordinate with any Parish led initiatives. The team currently involved are Ed Moore, Michael Armstrong and Sue Champion and from the Parish Council – Chris Marsh, who will collect any thoughts, ideas and comments via his Council email – chrismarshlpc@gmail.com at this initial stage.

EASTER SUNDAY HYMNS

As our church is currently closed due to the Covid-19 restrictions, there was a small gathering in Church Street to sing ‘Jesus Christ is Risen Today’, and other hymns, on Easter Sunday morning. With no organ or other musical instruments present the singing was acapella, and sounded very good too!



CORONAVIRUS GUIDANCE

Stay at home - only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home). If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times, wash your hands as soon as you get home, do not meet others, even friends or family. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms. At present the government is reviewing the lockdown status so over the coming days and weeks the situation could change. Please monitor the local and national news for further information.



Scams & Fraud Video

The next of our popular senior safety videos, which discusses the topic of Covid-19 scams and frauds that are being targeted at the vulnerable and elderly, is now available. This may help protect the many frightened and vulnerable elderly citizens in our communities. Please pass the link to anyone who you think would benefit, or watch and take notes to pass on to those residents nearby who don't have access to the internet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUWkITYmcQg&feature=youtu.be>

Another Covid-19 Scam

Trading Standards have told us that a number of residents have been called on their landline from a fake 01225 number, claiming to be from the Government. The automated voice said that the Government is instructing them to wear a face mask and to press a number on the keypad to make a purchase. Fortunately the residents have recognised this as a scam. Although these calls were made to residents in the Bath area at present, it is likely that this will become far more widespread and will no doubt include our area. Please remain alert to any potential scam calls.