

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

JULY 2021



LEAVING LOPEN AFTER 35 YEARS



On 12th June Church Street got together to say goodbye to Mike & Liz Constable, who have now moved to Seavington St Michael. Mike & Liz moved to Lopen in 1986 with their three young teenage daughters. Liz was a night nurse at the time and Mike worked in agriculture. During the last 35 years they have both been very involved in village life, and the life of the church. Both were members of the PCC and Liz was Church Warden for many years. Mike was treasurer for many years, and instigated the church giving scheme - which has resulted in the comfortable financial position the church is in now, and has enabled many projects (including the loo!) to go ahead. Liz is renowned for her beautiful flower arrangements and for organising the biennial flower festivals, which have been hugely successful. Both have been involved with the village picnics, supper parties, working parties and a host of other activities. They will be greatly missed and we wish them good luck and happiness in their new home.

TABLE TENNIS DATES

Fortnightly table tennis 'Club' will be resuming! Held on Sunday **July 18th and August 1st, 15th & 29th** from 3pm until 5pm. 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.*



Lopen Village Summer Plant Fair

Saturday 3rd July 2021

10.30am to 1pm

at

Bailiffs Cottage, Church Street
Lopen

We will be selling a limited range of summer flowering perennials and grasses plus outdoor succulents

All proceeds to be shared equally between the Lopen Church and School Room Maintenance Fund and the Hinton St George School Classroom Appeal

PATHWAYS ACCESS IN THE VILLAGE

With all the recent mixed weather there has been somewhat of a growth spurt in the undergrowth along village footpaths. There are a couple of paths that are regularly used which are becoming inaccessible - in particular the path along School Lane to Kitchen Lane and the pathway that runs along the back of Lopen House (near the lake) where you can walk to Broomhill Lane and on to the Main Road. General pathway maintenance - there would ordinarily be a village 'Pathway Maintenance' day arranged by the Parish Council, however with the continued Covid restrictions and uncertainty this isn't appropriate. Could we ask that everyone in the village, who uses the footpaths, could 'do their bit' towards maintaining pathways whilst on walks. Carry secateurs to trim back growth or maintain pathways near their houses please. We need residents to help with this please.

*Do you have any news, or a story, that would interest our readers?
Items can be sent in for consideration no later than the 23rd of the month preceding cover date.*

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

During the COVID lockdown LPC meetings were held online. As of May 25th, the LPC Meeting can be held in a public space with social distancing measures in place so will be held in All Saints Church - the public are welcome to join the meetings. Masks, track & trace and sanitising will be part of the meeting process in accordance with current Government guidelines. The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.00pm on:

Monday 19th July

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.

MEETING MINUTES

Please note that Parish Council minutes, audited accounts and other statutory information, which must be made available to the public, are available on the village website - www.lopenvillage.org

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FUTURE LPC MEETINGS?

Forthcoming LPC meetings (listed above) are posted on the village notice board, which is located at the junction of Holloway (the main road) and Church Street and on the village page of the website. However, if you would like to receive email notifications, please contact Jane Collins, Parish Clerk, at lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com to add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.

RAINFALL UPDATE

Jeremy Rook has kindly supplied the following data: This was only my second wettest May - I recorded 157mm in May 2002.

April was drier in 2007 when we only received 4mm in total and we also had 8mm in 2011. I have a rainfall buddy in Haselbury Plucknett who consistently receives 8 - 10 % more rain than us here - we are closer to the barren desert heart of Somerset which lies between Bridgwater and Somerton!

After only 7.7mm in April I recorded a total of 147.9mm for May. The wettest period was 12th/ 13th May when I recorded 45.5mm in 24 hours.

90th BIRTHDAY!



On the 24th June Clare Coxall of Water Lane enjoyed celebrating her 90th birthday with family, friends and neighbours. Her garden was looking beautiful and the weather remained dry. A fine cake and delicious refreshments were enjoyed by all.



All Saints Church, Lopen

Churches Wildlife Count



Saturday 3rd July
from 10.30am to 1pm
Lopen Churchyard

Come along and help identify the trees, flowers, plants, birds and insects in the churchyard! Wildlife detectives of all ages invited!
Bring binoculars and magnifying glasses if you have them.
Books and field guides will be provided.

This is part of our ongoing Eco-Initiative at the church.



We will be outside and observe all current COVID regulations and guidance.

Identification sheets will be available.

We look forward to seeing you.

THERE WILL BE NO LOPEN EYE IN AUGUST

WHAT A FEAT!

30 years ago this month John Milner closed his workshop in Church Street and flew to Marathon just outside Athens and ran home - a distance of 2600 miles! He did it to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. As it amounted to 100 marathons, he called it the Hekathon from the Greek ekato for 100.



With Paddy Ashdown, who ran the London leg with John

Carrying his own kit including a bivvy bag, he averaged 34 miles per day and slept where he could. As well as Greece, the route took in the former Yugoslavia just before the Balkan wars, Italy, Switzerland and France. He had hoped to run through the newly constructed channel tunnel but despite initial permission, it was finally declined for safety reasons. The trees on the North side of our churchyard were donated by an American family to commemorate the run.

Pet Sitting Service



Guinea Pigs Rabbits
Fish Mice
Gerbils Hamsters



For additional information and pricing email:
pets@toadhall.email
Or visit facebook.com/
ToadHallPetSitting



A WARM WELCOME!



Magnus, Clair, their two boys Tore (8) and Per (6) and their dog Oban have moved in to Ina's House in Church Street. Magnus is a doctor and Clair a teacher. Previously they lived in Michigan in the USA for 8 years.



Shed break ins, small theft

Unfortunately we have been made aware of a small number of break-ins or thefts around the end of Rydon Lane. There have also been some suspicious vehicles seen. If you see something or someone suspicious (whether people or vehicles) you need to report it to our Police CSO is Mike Bell, you can dial 101 ask for PCSO 7954 or email Mike: bell@avonandsomerset.police.uk

You should not approach people or vehicles.

WORKING PARTY IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH

Normally, at the beginning of August, we have a day when we are able to do the annual one off jobs to maintain our church. However due to the Covid situation we will not be able to have such a gathering nor the very sociable coffee breaks or the ploughman's lunch, with local cider, to round off the morning.

But we still have jobs that need to be done!

If you could offer some time and would like to join in, please have a look at the list of what needs to be done - you will find it in the church porch from mid to late July. If you are able to offer your services you would be very welcome! Please contact either Angela 240 921 or Steve Chapman on 240 549. We do have some tools/equipment but most people to prefer to bring their own.

Thank you.

During September there will be a Festival of Flowers within the Church. All villagers are invited to join us in bringing a jug or pot of flowers and leaving them in the church porch on the morning of September 14th. These will be arranged inside by a church team - this will decorate the church at the beginning of a festival period for the village, with many other happenings in the church and including Arts Weeks Open Studios.
More information the September Lopen Eye.



Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday 13th July
a History Walk
in Hinton St. George



A walk around the village and church where our speakers will be from the Hinton St George History Group.

This will be followed by tea and cake in a lovely, private garden in the village.

There will be a charge of £5 towards their fund.

Please meet at the church at 3pm.

Just women's September meeting on the 14th will be Open Gardens in the village.

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

All Saints Church	Sunday 4th July at 9am Holy Communion	Sunday 1st August 9am Holy Communion.
Services in Lopen:	Sunday 18th July at 10.30am Parish Communion with music	Sunday 15th August 10.30am Parish Communion with music

Have you 'liked' the Lopen Events Facebook page? Have a look - www.facebook.com/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/

CONTACTS Village website - www.lopenvillage.org

PARISH COUNCIL			
Chairman	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
	Nick Jones	241 643	nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com
	Jenny Feeney	419 569	jfeeneyloopenpc@gmail.com
	Chris Marsh	07951 239110	chrismarshpc@gmail.com
	Caroline McKendrick	359 201	caroline.mckendrick.lopenpc@outlook.com
Parish Clerk	Jane Collins	07967 218478	loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com
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			
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MEMBER of PARLIAMENT			
	Marcus Fysh		marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk
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
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH			
	Caroline McKendrick	359 201	carolinemckendrick@outlook.com
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LOPEN MANOR FARM			
	Steve	07769 657 168	For loose or fallen cattle in Lopen
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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.

JULY DATES
 Wednesday 14th & 28th
AUGUST DATES
 Wednesday 11th & 25th
 10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome - including parents with young children.

All proceeds to



The Lord's Larder: providing emergency food supplies for people in need.