

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

JUNE 2021



LOPEN TOMMIES

You may have noticed the black Tommy figurines at the entrance to each end of the village. These have been purchased as an acknowledgement of Remembrance Day in Lopen - the fact that we have WW1 graves in the cemetery adds more substance to their presence in the village. *Did you know that our church graveyard is a World War I grave site?*



These are made by the RBLI (Royal British Legion Industries) so supports a good cause. The Parish Council felt that it seemed most appropriate to have one at each end of the village, and we took that opportunity to have different texts



on each, as each one carries a different message and weight to the reader. They arrived in time to put them in place for VE Day commemorations and the plan is they will be on site for VE, VJ and Remembrance Day celebrations, staying in place for 2-3 weeks around the commemorative date. Any thoughts or questions regarding the Tommies, please contact Chris Marsh - chrismarshLPC@gmail.com

SPONSOR A BEEHIVE



Would you like to sponsor a £25 beehive for solitary bees in our churchyard? Solitary bees do a great job at pollinating plants and are non aggressive. If you'd like to sponsor one, please contact Mary Chapman on 01460 249 549 or email mechapman2016@gmail.com. And if you'd like a name plate for it, we'll do our best to find a kind person to write one for you. More info on what's happening in the churchyard in this issue of the Lopen Eye - see page 3.

MUSIC IN THE MEADOW.

Refugee Support Group (RSG) has provisionally arranged its much appreciated annual **OPEN AIR MUSICAL AFTERNOON** in the Secret Garden (at the far end of West Street in Hinton St George)

Sunday 25th July - from 2pm.

As long as all is well we shall enjoy accomplished sitar music from Ricky Romain along with his accompanist followed by folk group Teasing The Cat applying their expertise to traditional instruments and songs, all performing freely for charity. There will be a raffle, interesting stalls, hand sanitiser and social distancing.

**Tickets cost £10 per adult
a donation for children please.**

Please bring your own chairs and drinks.

We look forward to a happy event in aid of refugees.

Thank you for all your support.
Geraldine Downey - 271 35.

*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?

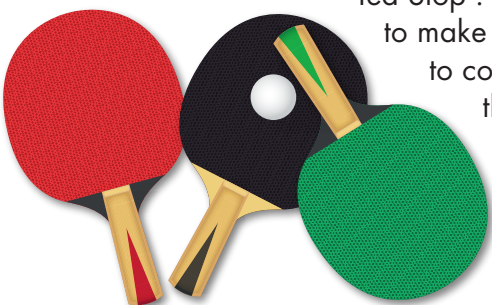
Forthcoming LPC meetings (listed above) are posted on the village notice board, which is located at the junction of Holloway (the main road) and Church Street and on the village page of the website. However, if you would like to receive email notifications, please contact Jane Collins, Parish Clerk,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

TABLE TENNIS DATES

Fortnightly table tennis 'Club' will be resuming! Held on Sunday **June 13th & 27th** from 3pm until 5pm. And continues on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. 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.



Flubot - Text Message Scam.

We have been made aware of a new text message scam called Flubot. This is a malicious piece of Spyware that is installed on your Android device (mobile phone or tablet), once you receive a text message asking you to install a Tracking App due to a 'missed package delivery'. The 'Tracking App' will actually steal your passwords and other sensitive data, whilst sending messages to your contacts to do the same.

The text message asks the user to click on a link - **PLEASE DON'T**, doing so will take you to a website where you will be prompted to download the App - **DEFINITELY DON'T!**

Please forward any scam messages to 7726 (SPAM on your keypad), which is a free reporting service.

Although this scam only appears on Android phones at the moment, Apple iOS users should remain alert as this could apply to these devices at some point.

Please see the link below for information on the National Cyber Security Website.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/>

THE LOPEN VILLAGE WEBSITE

The new Lopen Village web site is up and running on

www.lopenvillage.org



There is a business in Ilminster (www.superfastsites.com) who have kindly offered to set this up for us for free, however the site you can currently see is a basic copy of our old web site, so please be patient - it will be improved and modernised in due course.

This change also provides us with an opportunity to refresh and add more substance & content to our site. This will provide our community with more shared information, and will present a broader appeal to those who visit the site and wish to discover something about Lopen.

Please offer any constructive comments on how we might improve the site to Chris Marsh -

E: chrismarshlpc@gmail.com

Plant Fair Result

As you may be aware from the Lopen Eye, our Spring Plant Fair was this year an 'open nursery' held at 'The Bakehouse' where a mouth-watering display of plants was laid out under marquees.

The result was an amazing £1,401



A huge thank you to Christianne and Marian and their team for all their hard work and to all you happy gardeners for supporting this event. The team very generously do not charge for their costs so every penny of sales goes to the charitable causes.

Proceeds to be shared equally between the Lopen Church & Sunday School Room Maintenance Fund and the Hinton St George Primary School Classroom Appeal.

OUR CHURCHYARD

Last year Lopen Church PCC (Parochial Church Council) nurtured a small meadow area in the churchyard to encourage plant species and wildlife. This year, the churches of Lopen, Merriott, Hinton St George and Dinnington have been awarded a Co-op Community Fund grant to further develop 'eco initiatives' in their churchyards. So we are building on the success of last year.



We have formed a small steering group (Ben Goldsmith, Nick Jones, Philip Harper and Mary Chapman) to take the project forward in Lopen, and have registered the church with the Somerset

Wildlife Trust's 'Wilder Churches' scheme and the national 'Eco Church' movement.

By their nature, churches and churchyards are good places for plants and wildlife. The combination of old walls, monuments and buildings, hedges and mature trees provide a wealth of habitats for lichens, invertebrates, and birds. Our aim is to identify and encourage these, whilst maintaining the churchyard as a haven of calm for remembrance and a pleasant place for everyone to visit.

So far, we have started to make lists of species found, with a simple record sheet for people to jot down details of what they've noticed, put up some beautiful oak bird nest boxes (thank you Seamus and Nick), enhanced the meadow area with plug plants and hazel hoops to mark its boundaries. We are considering holding an Open Day to involve people in identifying and recording what species are in place. Would you be able to help with this? We would welcome your ideas and comments (if possible by mid June please) on what elements of Lopen Churchyard you particularly value and how you would like to develop biodiversity of this beautiful area.

Please contact: Ben at lopenwildspace@gmail.com



Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday 8th June
 an afternoon visit to
Westbrook House Garden
West Bradley near
Glastonbury



This will be a 'Self Drive' event and the entrance charge will include Tea and Cake.
 For further information about Just Women please contact Pauline Rook T: 240 644 E: prook12@gmail.com

All Saints Church

Services in Lopen
Sunday June 6th at 9am
Holy Communion
Sunday June 20th at 10.30am
Parish Communion on
Fathers' Day

We are still opening the church for 'Private Individual Prayer' twice a week:
Sunday 10am-12pm and Wednesday 2pm-4pm

With the uncertainty of a Church Work Party this year we would welcome offers of help and skills to maintain the buildings for community and church use. If you are interested please contact Angela on 240 921.

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
	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
	Jenny Feeney	419 569	jfeeneylopenpc@gmail.com
	Chris Marsh	07951 239110	chrismarshlpc@gmail.com
	Caroline McKendrick	359 201	caroline.mckendrick.lopenpc@outlook.com

Parish Clerk	Jane Collins	07967 218478	lopenpc.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@lopen.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
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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 9th & 23rd
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.