

LOPEN EYE

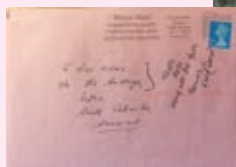
Lopen Parish Newsletter

MARCH 2020



LOST XMAS CARD

The lost Christmas card found its rightful owner - Emma Lewis of The Cottage in School Lane.



Emma's Mum wrote us a nice thank you letter:

Thank you for putting Emma's card in the Lopen Eye to help reunite her with her great grandmothers card. The kindness the village has shown by helping my family and their honesty when the money was still inside is heartwarming. Emma is lucky to have all of her family very local except her great-grandmother in Minehead. This address mix-up has caused a happy development as she is now writing letters to her, encouraging Emma to write and hopefully read any letters in reply. I know this will mean so much to my grandmother in Minehead and it's all thanks to the Lopen Eye.

Thank you for bringing my 7 year old and 70 year old closer together.

Many thanks.

Sophie Lewis (Emma's mum)

FAKE EMAILS

A number of people have received emails, purportedly from Stephen Crane (Chairman of the Lopen Parish Council), and usually requesting money. **THESE ARE FAKE EMAILS!** It seems that the individuals are people whose names are either published on the village web site, or feature in the Contacts section of the Lopen Eye (also available on the village web site).

If you receive such an email **DO NOT RESPOND** - just delete it.

CHURCH ROOF LEAD THIEVES ARE ABOUT!



Ilton church has had the lead stripped from their roof by thieves during the night of Friday February 21st. That makes five churches in two weeks! Barrington, Ilton, Kingsbury Episcopi, Middlezoy and Meare. Please be vigilant for our church. If you see, or suspect anyone unknown in or around the church please report it to the Police immediately.



Lopen Plant Fair Plants Needed!



As spring begins to make itself known and thoughts turn to the garden, please remember us should you be lifting and dividing plants. We are happy to accept unwanted clumps of things to divide, pot up and bring on for the sale.

Contact Marian at 240 179 or email marianobrien@me.com or leave at The Old Bakehouse.

Call to all, are you able to help on the day? The Spring Plant Fair has become a regular feature to many gardeners in the area and we now need a small army of helpers to ensure everyone has a good time.

No horticultural knowledge needed, just enthusiasm.

If you are interested contact - Christianne at 249 766 or email christiannelong@btinternet.com

For your diaries this year's event will be held on

Saturday 9th May (Bank Holiday weekend) - from 10.30am to 1pm

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

An extraordinary Parish Council Meeting was convened on Wednesday 19 February to deal with a Planning Application that was duly considered. At that meeting we also took the opportunity to give an update on the road resurfacing work and the road safety Small Improvement Scheme through the village.

Several complaints from villagers have been noted, with regard to the implementation of the works done and what appear to be unnecessary and unwanted installations. Therefore, a list is being compiled and will be passed to the County Highways Department for their explanations. Furthermore, this much-delayed safety scheme appears to have been installed in only half of the village, so the Highways Department also will be asked when the rest is to be done to complete the works expected.

On another topic, the subject of a 'tree give away' was raised. While we may well have missed this year's deadline, the Parish Council would like to hear from any villagers who would be interested in planting trees on their property and if so, how many and where the proposed planting would take place. Please give consideration to this and any villagers interested in this scheme should please contact one of the Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk.

There will be no report in the April Lopen Eye, as the copy deadline is before the next Parish Council Meeting which has been deferred to 30 March 2020.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Sunday School Room at 7.00pm on:

- Monday 30th March

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.lopen.btck.co.uk/LopenParishCouncil

Lopen Eye back copies are available on the Lopen web site as downloadable PDF files from this link:

<http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk/LopenEyeNewsletter>



COUNCILLORS WANTED

With just five of a possible seven positions occupied, the Council currently has two 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 the Parish Clerk Jane Collins, or one of the councillors for more information.

DAMAGED GRASS VERGE IN LOPEN



Two weeks after the road re-surfacing in Lopen was completed the damaged grass verge at the junction of Merriott Road and Frog Street has still not been repaired. This was caused by HGVs travelling up through Merriott during the Lopen road closure, reversing into Frog Street then turning south so they could get into Mill Lane for the industrial estate. They then had to come back and do the same manoeuvre so they could head south out of Lopen. HGVs were even queuing up to do the manoeuvre! SSC Highways have been informed, as has our local Councillor Adam Dance - we wait to see how long it will be before the repairs are completed!

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.



Milk bottle tops are still being collected, the money goes to The Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance. Lopen collection point is Crown Cottage, Church Street.

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.



A garage has been broken into in Broomhill, Lopen between 6pm on the 8th & 5:08pm on February 9th. The offender had broken the locking mechanism to gain entry. It is currently unclear if any items

have been stolen from within.

If you contact the Police about this incident, please call 101 & quote Reference number: 5220032878 or Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME



The South Somerset Community Car Scheme offers travel to essential services such as health appointments, accessing work, shopping or to help with social inclusion like visiting friends. Some schemes even offer further services such as prescription pick-ups.

It is a not for profit organisation, usually run by volunteers. Any potential passengers must first become a member of the scheme before they can use the service. They will then be charged a fare each time they travel to cover fuel expenses. Further information is available on the Travel Somerset website - <https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/community-car-schemes-in-south-somerset/>

Spotted in The Times newspaper recently - a useful tip from one of our Lopen residents!

Line of defence

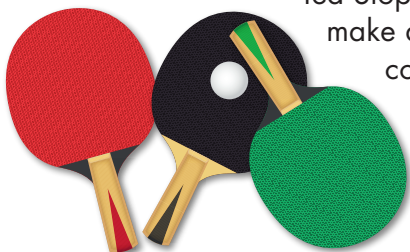
Sir, Further to Carol Midgley's comments on scammers, (Notebook, Feb 15), my late mother-in-law had the perfect answer to unwelcome phone calls. She would cheerfully tell the callers that they had come through to the private line at the local police station and that they should hold on while she transferred them to the desk sergeant. Invariably the call would end abruptly.
Teresa Sienkiewicz
Lopen, Somerset

TABLE TENNIS DATES

Remember the fortnightly table tennis 'Club' will be held on Sunday **March 8th & 22nd** 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*.



SUNDAY WALKS WITH PUB LUNCH

Forthcoming Lopen walks

Sunday 1st March

Brewers Arms, South Petherton
(Carvery - only dog friendly in the bar area)

Sunday 5th April

The Dinnington Docks

Please meet at the Sunday School Room at 11.30am promptly as all pub tables are booked for 12.30.

All walks are dog friendly.

If you are interested in the walk please contact Belinda on 240 973 or email belinda.bezance@gmail.com at least one week prior so she has numbers for the pub booking.

LENT LUNCH

(Soup & Ploughmans)

Wednesday 25th March

12 to 2pm

in

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM

In aid of the local charity Yeovil 4Families.

FUNDRAISING COFFEE MORNING IN CREWKERNE MUSEUM

On Friday March 27th from 10.30am to 12 noon, the museum will open for the Refugee Support Group to serve coffee and home baking to raise money for a refugee charity which safely and legally transports people bombed out of their homes, very much in the news from Syria, to host countries willing to receive them.

Please drop in during a shopping trip to Crewkerne, perhaps meet a friend there, and visit our produce stall, all for a very worthwhile cause.

Further information available from Geraldine Downey on 271 358.

FREE TYRES

Winter Tyres looking for a new home, no charge.

Good, clean condition:

Avon Ice Touring - 175/65 R14

Full Set

Pirelli Sottozero Run Flats -

2 x 225/40 R18 92V and 2 x 255/35 R18 94v

Contact Rob - 249 766.





Our next meeting will be on

Tuesday 10th March at 7.30pm Sunday School Room



Annie Naish - A Rural Life

Chris King tells her fascinating story of how, when she moved to West Pennard in Somerset and started to collect postcards of the local area, they were all photographed by one Annie Naish. Chris then discovered that this wonderful archive of images of times past was by one of Somerset's pioneering Photographers.

The story has a final link to Lopen, you will have to come to the talk to find out more.

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

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

with coffee & biscuits, will follow the

All Age Service

on Sunday 15th March at about 11.30am.

You will be very welcome to come even if you are unable to come to the service. This is the meeting when we report on the activity in and around the Church and Sunday School Room during 2019. Election of Churchwarden(s) take place, normally two are in post so we are still looking for a second person.

Mothering Sunday 22 March

There will not be a special service in Lopen this year, but there will be one in Merriott at 10.30am. Parents and children are all welcome.

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	chrismarshlpc@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

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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.

MARCH DATE*

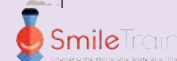
Wednesday 11th

10.30am to 12.00 midday

* due to Lent Lunch on March 25th there will be no Coffee Stop on that day.



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.