

# LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

JULY 2017



The Lopen Picnic is held every other year on the Summer Bank Holiday Sunday 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 27th August**

**3.30pm 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 - £6.50, Children age 4 to 12 - £3.50, Children under 4 - free.**

Tickets are available from Jean Morton - 01460 391574 by 20th August (to allow for catering).

**HELP NEEDED** - please could we have some help from strong and fit individuals to erect the marquees on Saturday 26th August and to dismantle them on Monday 28th.

The more the merrier!

Please volunteer your help at the School Room at 10am on Saturday 26th August.



## CARE FOR YOUR VILLAGE DAY

*(very sociable - come and meet your fellow villagers!)*

**SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST**

From 9.30 am - School Room, Church Yard and Church Working party, with coffee and ploughman's lunch! Everybody is welcome, whatever your skills, to do inside and outside jobs.

Following the successful footpaths afternoon a few weeks ago, footpath maintenance will also be a part of the 'Care for your Village day'.

Ed will be coordinating from the churchyard where any footpath work is required.

**For both sessions please bring gloves, protective clothing and the tools you like to use.**

For more information please call - for Church Angela on 240 921 or - for footpaths Ed Moore 394 583.

*There will be a list of work needed in the porch; if you are able to do any before the day, that would be also be appreciated.*



# LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

## **ANOTHER NEW COUNCILLOR**

At our June meeting we were fortunate enough to be able to co-opt Simon Frackiewicz as a new councillor. A village resident for two years with a young family, Simon is keen to get more involved in village life. He is particularly interested in the road safety improvement scheme, though this is by no means his only interest and he brings a number of useful ideas with him. He also brings his years of experience as a business owner, people manager, fundraiser and negotiator to the council and I believe we are very lucky to have him.



## **NEW COUNCILLORS**

The Council has one further vacancy so there is still the opportunity to join if you wish to put yourself forward.

## **ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN**

At the June meeting the internally audited annual financial return was approved by the Council. It has now been submitted to Grant Thornton for external audit and draft copies can be found on the Council notice board and village website.

## **ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

We have now finally had the written follow up to our meeting with County Highways. While we have moved on considerably from their original proposal, there is still room for improvement. The Council is working with SLOW to make a response to this and continue to press for a reduced speed limit before County Highways submit their next formal design proposal.

## **BROADBAND**

As you have probably gathered from earlier editions of the Eye, the arrival of the new BT cabinet in Holloway has made Superfast Broadband available to much of the village. Some residents are already enjoying connection speeds of up to 75Mbps. So, if you are wanting a faster connection, it is well worth checking again at:

<https://www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk/when-can-i-get-fibre.aspx>

In most cases you should find that you are now connected to Cabinet 17, meaning a Superfast service is possible. A few may find they are still connected to Cabinet 11, which unfortunately means that Superfast is not yet available to them. We are also aware of at least one case where a property is listed as connected to Cabinet 17, but is in fact still connected to Cabinet 4. This meant that their upgrade failed, causing all kinds of complications. Our understanding is that all households formerly connected to Cabinet 4 should

have been moved to Cabinet 17, so if you find yourself still listed as being connected to Cabinet 4 or are having problems with an upgrade as described above, please contact Nick Jones or Roger Gurner, so it can be taken up with CDS.

One further word on this: when approaching your provider for an upgrade, you will probably find they want to charge you more for the privilege. They may also be offering better deals for new customers than existing customers, something wholly unacceptable in my view. Do a bit of homework first and haggle with them. It's a competitive market and they will do a deal!

## **FOOTPATHS**

Following the success of the footpaths clearance event in May and with wet and then warm weather causing vigorous weed growth, it has been decided to have a second event on Saturday 5th August at the same time as the annual churchyard tidying day. It is hoped that combining the two will bring in a wider cross-section of the village.

In the meantime, if you come across any particularly overgrown areas whilst out and about, please let Ed Moore or any other councillor know. Broken stiles, gates, etc. can be reported the same way or directly to the SCC website at

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/>

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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

- Thursday July 20th.

- Thursday September 14th.

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](http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk/LopenParishCouncil)

## **DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FORTHCOMING 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 Lisa Wilson, Parish Clerk, at [lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com) or telephone 07587 211150 and add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.

*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.*

## HARVEST FESTIVAL AND OPEN CHURCH WEEKEND

30th September & 1st October

Flower (and produce) arrangers wanted - on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday before 30th September- please put your name on the list in the church entrance porch if possible during August.

### MISTLETOE FAYRE in early November

Anyone interested taking part/helping please contact Victoria Bennett on 01460 240077.

### TICKS WARNING!

Michael Canton has been in touch - this swallow landed on the roof of Rosehue Cottage. It is unusual to see a swallow alight anywhere so I took a closer look and saw that it was carrying an unwelcome passenger - a tick with an engorged abdomen. Ticks are a menace to pets and people as they can carry Lyme's disease, so pet owners should check their animals carefully and children and adults should wear long trousers when walking through grassland. If you or your pet gets a tick do not pull it out or you will just pull off the body leaving the head in the flesh. Get professional help.



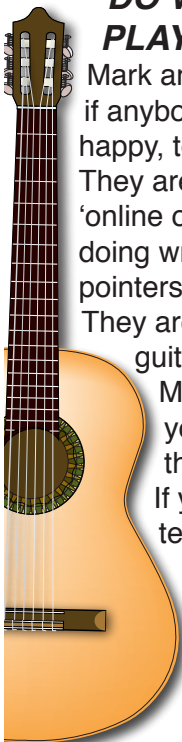
### DO WE HAVE ANY GUITAR PLAYERS IN LOPEN?

Mark and Sarah at Cross Tree are wondering if anybody in the village would be able, and happy, to help with guitar playing? They are looking for someone to interact with as 'online or video clips don't explain what you're doing wrong!' Basically someone to give some pointers and guidance.

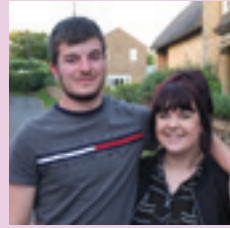
They are complete beginners on acoustic guitar.

Mark wants to learn a little as their youngest son wanted a guitar so they thought it would help to encourage him! If you can help please contact them on [teamlopen@yahoo.com](mailto:teamlopen@yahoo.com)

*Editor: I play acoustic at intermediate level, mainly strumming, so could help, but if there are other budding players in the village maybe we could get a regular practice session going?*



## A WARM WELCOME!



Luke & Aimee have moved into 3 Church Street from Stoke sub Hamdon and Merriott respectively. And since being here they have a new addition to the family - a lovely baby boy whom they have named Jackson. Welcome to Lopen!



This month's update on the state of play with Lopen CSW. Of the more than 6,500 vehicles observed to date 357 have been reported and of those 158 (or over 44%) have

been travelling at 40 MPH or faster within the 30mph speed limits.

What is perhaps of interest is that, with the lighter evenings, we have operated several sessions later in the day - that is after the normal working day - and have found the proportion of vehicles exceeding the speed limits tends to increase. This has also been our experience with sessions held at weekends.

### STONEHENGE TREK



Jenny Feeney, who recently served on the Lopen Parish Council, will be participating in the Stonehenge Trek on Saturday September 2nd. It's a demanding trek of 13 miles, which she aims to complete in 4.5 hours, and she hopes to raise at least £500 for the Alzheimer's Society. This money could pay for a person with dementia, and their carer, to attend a weekly Singing for the Brain session for an entire year! Singing for the Brain uses singing to enhance communication, confidence and well being. If you wish to sponsor her please visit her fund raising page -

<http://www.justgiving.com/Jennifer-Feeney>

**THERE WILL BE NO LOPEN EYE  
IN AUGUST**



Our next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday 11th July**  
**Garden Walk**  
**in Lopen**



With refreshments and possibly a BBQ at Church Street House afterwards.  
 The walk and BBQ are weather dependent so be prepared for last minute changes.

Non-members welcome.

For further information please telephone Margaret Linton : 241 162 or email [margaretlinton79@yahoo.com](mailto:margaretlinton79@yahoo.com)



Maddie Bennett, who lives in Lopen and attends Wadham School in Crewkerne, has organised a fund raising **Charity Meal at 6pm on Saturday July 8th.** at the

**School Room in Lopen.** Maddie is part of a team called the **Disney Dynamos** who will be running (in Disney Costumes!) in the **Relay for Life** to raise funds in aid of **Cancer Research.**

Ticket prices are:

**£10-adult or £6-children**

To book a ticket call Maddie on 240 077.

Numbers are limited so book ASAP!

**Bring a bottle!**

A donation of £150 has been sent to the children's charity Smile Train UK from the Coffee Stops. The new charity being collected for is the Somerset Prostate Support Association who provide a wide range of support available both locally and nationally. There are many members who offer telephone support. These are men who have had the experience of one of the many types of prostate cancer and can talk first hand of their experience, which often helps husbands and wives when confronted with news of the condition.

Have you liked the Lopen Events Facebook page? Have a look - [www.facebook.com/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/](http://www.facebook.com/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/)

## CONTACTS

Village website - [www.lopen.btck.co.uk](http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk)

### PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Nick Jones	241 643	<a href="mailto:nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com">nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com</a>
Vice Chairman	Stephen Crane	241 412	<a href="mailto:scrane1@hotmail.co.uk">scrane1@hotmail.co.uk</a>
	Ed Moore	394 583	<a href="mailto:ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com">ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com</a>
	Mark	242 889	<a href="mailto:mbloopenpc@gmail.com">mbloopenpc@gmail.com</a>
	Valerie Canton	242 751	<a href="mailto:mvcanton@talktalk.net">mvcanton@talktalk.net</a>
	Simon Frackiewicz	394 975	<a href="mailto:simon@toadhall.email">simon@toadhall.email</a>

Parish Clerk	Lisa Wilson	07587 211150	<a href="mailto:loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com">loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com</a>
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<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	Cllr Adam Dance	07767 224 213	<a href="mailto:adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk">adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk</a>
	Cllr Crispin Raikes	07968 291 588	<a href="mailto:crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk">crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk</a>

<b>COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	Cllr Adam Dance	07767 224 213	<a href="mailto:adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk">adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk</a>
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<b>MEMBER of PARLIAMENT</b>	Marcus Fysh		<a href="mailto:marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk">marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk</a>
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### ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Benefice Office	Issy Welsh	73226	
Rector	Rev. Julia Hicks	76406	<a href="mailto:juliahicks1@gmail.com">juliahicks1@gmail.com</a>
Rector	Rev. Bob Hicks	76406	<a href="mailto:bobhicks66@gmail.com">bobhicks66@gmail.com</a>

### JUST WOMEN

Chairwoman	Pauline Rook	240 644	<a href="mailto:prook12@gmail.com">prook12@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	<a href="mailto:christianne@loopen.me.uk">christianne@loopen.me.uk</a>
Secretary	Margaret Linton	241 162	<a href="mailto:margaretlinton79@yahoo.com">margaretlinton79@yahoo.com</a>

<b>POLICE CSO</b>	Amy Douch	Dial 101	<a href="mailto:amy.douch@avonandsomerset.police.uk">amy.douch@avonandsomerset.police.uk</a>
		ask for PCSO 8186	

<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH</b>	Valerie Canton	242 751	<a href="mailto:mvcanton@talktalk.net">mvcanton@talktalk.net</a>
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### LOPEN EYE TEAM

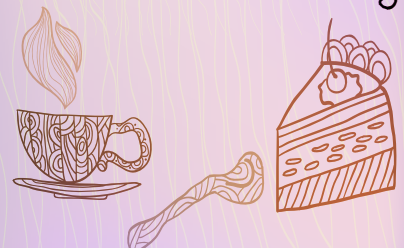
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## COFFEE STOP at the Sunday School Room

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

**JULY DATES**  
Wednesday  
12th & 26th

10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome -  
including parents with young children.

All proceeds to  
Somerset Prostate Support Association