

# LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

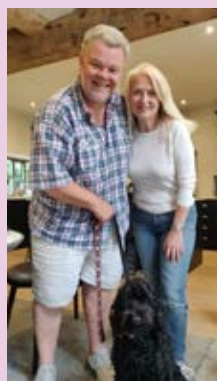
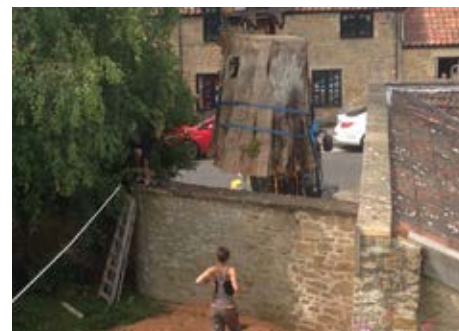
JULY 2020



Due to the ongoing Covid-19 lockdown situation the Lopen Eye is reduced in size for this issue. There is no August issue so we plan to print and distribute the Lopen Eye from the September issue.

## **THE QUIRKY TREE HOUSE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE GARDEN OF CROSS TREE HOUSE**

The tree house was created from a massive Monterey Cypress, over 150 years old and was the largest tree in Lopen. It was home to a colony of rooks and some owls, but due to its age it had begun to drop large branches that it could no longer support, and was becoming a danger to people, property and traffic. So it was dismantled in 2006 as it was too big to fell. Having been too big a presence to lose completely, John Milner left a 10 foot stump which was then hollowed out by a tree sculptor called Aidy. Then he installed a door in the side and a shingle roof on top. It could take 2 adults or 3 children and was much loved by people staying in Cross Tree House. At the time of writing it is for sale in Castle Reclamation in Martock.



### **A WARM WELCOME!**

Marcus & Caroline Chipchase, and their lovely Labradoodle Charlie, have recently moved in at Cross Tree House in Church Street. They have moved from Bangkok having been in South East Asia since 1992.

### **GARDEN FIRES**

There have reports of problematic garden bonfires recently, with smoke and ash drifting into neighbours gardens. The Government have asked that bonfires are not lit during the Covid-19 situation as it can affect breathing for people showing symptoms. During the summer & autumn there is a need for bonfires to burn off your garden waste, but could we remind readers to give due consideration to their neighbours and ensure the wind is in a direction that will not cause a nuisance - especially the danger of flying sparks where thatched properties are nearby!



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

*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 MESSAGE FROM CAROLE MANSFIELD IN SOUTH PETHERTON



Carole & Ray used to live in Lopen and still have many connections with the village. Carole sent this message - *my yoga teacher is organising fresh*

*produce for donation to the food bank system, to be collected at a hub in Over Stratton, South Petherton (her daughters house). The produce will be collected from the hub early on Sunday afternoons for delivery to the food banks on Mondays, from now until September. It is hoped that with good weather and people able to tend their gardens during lockdown, there might be a surplus of fresh fruit and vegetables this year, that people would be willing to drop off in Over Stratton. It sounds a good idea to me although my garden is tiny.*

*I thought of all the green fingers in Lopen and wondered if people might be interested in the scheme?*

*The address for donations of fresh fruit and veg is:*

*8 Swedish Cottages  
Over Stratton  
TA13 5LD*

*(down through the village, facing you at the junction are two blue clapperboard American Cape Cod style houses, no 8 is the first one).*

## RAINFALL UPDATE

Jeremy Rook has kindly supplied the following data: As the press reported, May was a dry month - I recorded 8mm in total against the Long Term Average of 59mm. In our catchment area it was the driest May since 1896. My 8mm was more rain than my driest month of July 2016 when I recorded 2.7mm in total for the whole 31 days.

Gardeners and farmers will be pleased that June has not followed suit. In June to date (27th) I have recorded a total of 74mm - over the average of 53mm. 31mm (that is 42% of the month's total so far), fell in the night of 18 -19 June - only a short distance away in Haselbury Plucknett, a friend recorded 58mm that night. In the 2020 six months to date, we are exactly on the Long Term Average despite the dry May, because of the very wet February.

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>



## All Saints Church



We are happy to tell you that we can now open the church for private prayer. You are welcome to come and enjoy the peace and quiet in church.

We will start with twice a week:

**Saturday mornings 10am to 12 midday**

**Tuesday afternoons 2pm to 4pm**

Church services are still suspended at this time, but the church is available for small funerals.

*Revds Julia and Bob Hicks and Lopen Church PCC*

## SECURITY IN HOT WEATHER



As summer temperatures rise new opportunities arise for burglars and scammers. To keep cool we open

windows and doors to encourage breezes

to flow through, but this also can encourage unwelcome 'opportunists' to come in as well!!

So do remember to:

- Avoid leaving downstairs windows open after you go to bed.
- If you're out enjoying the garden, make sure your front door is locked and any accessible windows are secure.
- Always close and lock windows and doors when leaving the property - even a small open window could entice a burglar.
- Ensure that any side entrance is secure, locked and not easy to climb over, even when someone is at home.
- Always pack away tools after a day tending to your garden or doing some DIY and make sure they're locked away and out of reach.
- Do not leave valuables visible through windows.
- Keep car & house keys out of sight and away from windows and doors.

Similarly, if you have a car:

- Do not leave valuables in sight of any potential thief.
- Remember to close the windows and lock the car when you park.

As our editor, Les Morton, is away from time to time we are looking for someone to prepare artwork for the Lopen Eye, maybe 2-3 times a year. Full tuition and software is available. If you are interested please contact Les on 391 574 or email [lesmorton26@gmail.com](mailto:lesmorton26@gmail.com)