

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

JUNE 2016



QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

A Street Party will be held in Church Street on Sunday June 12th, starting about 12.30pm and going on to about 2.30pm.

Entry will be by means of a homemade crown or tiara!

There will be games and treasure hunt etc. for children. Tables will be provided - you will need to bring a plate of food to share, your own drink and a chair to sit on (chairs for the elderly will be provided).

We look forward to seeing you all.



PLANT SALE RAISES A WHOPPING £1000

After some rain, a break in the weather brought out many locals who enjoyed a comprehensive variety of flowers, plants and vegetables at the Annual Lopen Plant Fair. When the rain did return, the School Room was packed with people enjoying the range of home made cakes and refreshments. A huge thank you to everyone who came to support the event to make this so successful. We raised over £1000 for the Church and School Room:

Teas £92.00, Cakes £100.05, Raffle £103.00, Plants £714.40 = **Total of £1009.45**

This is a brilliant result, an increase of over 50% on 2015's £658.41!



FLOOD IN FROG STREET

The deluge of rain that fell on May 11th resulted in Frog Street flooding (again!). So much water coursed through the drains that the manhole cover outside Shores Farm was forced open to release even more water into the flooded road. SCC have been asked, on numerous occasions, to clear the drains but to no avail! Hopefully the initiative that Councillor Adam Dance has taken will get something done!



LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

At our recent AGM Teresa stepped down as chairwoman.



Nick Jones

The new chairman is Nick Jones. We thank Teresa for all her hard work and guidance over the last year. She remains on the council and will continue to work on planning matters and the traffic situation.

Also stepping down after five years on the council, four of them as chairman, is Barry Davolls, who is leaving the village. Barry has put an enormous amount of time and effort into the council, often going well beyond the call of duty; his energy and expertise will be much missed. We thank Barry for the huge amount of work he has done for the council and the village and wish him and his partner Kim McDonald, who has been serving as Parish Clerk, all the very best in their new venture!

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU

PARISH CLERK

With Kim soon to be moving away, our need for a Parish Clerk is now urgent. This is a vital role, providing administrative support to the council and needing approximately 3 - 5 hours a week. There is a modest salary available. If you are interested, please contact Nick or Teresa for details.

COUNCILLOR

Now that Barry Davolls has stepped down we have a vacancy for a councillor. This is already advertised on the parish notice board. If you are interested, please contact Nick Jones.

PARISH COUNCILLOR ROLES

Following the AGM, some councillor roles have changed and are now as follows:

Cllr. Nick Jones: Chairman and Planning Lead

Cllr. Stephen Crane: Vice Chair, Highways, PCC Liaison

Cllr: Sarah Mason: Community, Health and Welfare

Cllr: Jenny Feeney: Planning and Licensing, Footpaths

Cllr: Ed Moore: Footpaths Lead

Cllr: Teresa Sienkiewicz: Policies, Traffic Movements, Planning

PLANNING MATTERS

You may remember that in April we reported that a building had been put up at the south end of the Mill Lane industrial estate, apparently without planning permission. This did prove to be the case and since then, SSDC has issued a stop notice, followed by a demolition order. It turns out that as well as being built without

permission, there is also a covenant from a previous planning permission that forbids any further development on that part of the site due to the inadequate access via Mill Lane. An application has now been made to get this covenant lifted, which was considered at our last meeting. The council unanimously decided not to support this application, but if you have strong views either way there is still time to make your thoughts known to SSDC via their website.

TRAFFIC THROUGH THE VILLAGE

You may have noticed the occasional presence of a flashing speed indicator on Holloway. As well as flashing up the speed and reminding drivers to slow down, it records the speed of each vehicle with the results being made available to the council. Results for the southbound direction in the first two weeks of May show that each week-day nearly some 1,200-1,500 vehicles pass through the village, one way. Typically less than a quarter of these are obeying the speed limit. Even more alarmingly, a few are exceeding 50 mph! While these figures make alarming reading, they will come as no surprise to Holloway residents and serve to demonstrate to the County Highways department that we have a real problem that needs their attention.

There is also the separate issue from the problem of HGVs or farm vehicles "short-cutting" through the village in breach of the 7.5 tonne limit. Offenders can be reported to the police (as some have done before) - if you become aware of persistent offenders, like the farm tankers we had in April, please let Nick or Teresa know.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council meetings will take place at the School Room at 7.00pm on the following dates:

August 16th

October 18th

December tbc - Budget

January 2017 tbc - Precept

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

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 Kim McDonald, Parish Clerk, at mcdonald.lopenpc@btinternet.com or telephone 242 297 and add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.

BROADBAND APPEAL

There seems to be some confusion between SCC and BT as to whether Lopen has fast broadband. Although efforts have been made to address this problem, there seems to be little progress. It seems the only way Lopen is going to get the fast broadband service (that all the surrounding villages enjoy) is to go to their website and request the service. We encourage anyone in Lopen (even if you don't need the service yourself) to go to the BT 'Better Broadband' web site to register your interest - www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk/when-can-i-get-fibre.aspx The object is to try to focus BT's attention, by flooding them with registrations, to the fact that although they show Lopen fully connected in their survey maps, the distance from the relevant enabled cabinet No.4 in South Petherton renders the service completely unavailable to the village.

MIKE CONSTABLE RETIRES AS LPCC HONORARY TREASURER



After 14 years as Honorary Treasurer to the Lopen PCC, Mike is leaving the finances in good order. His careful stewardship has made it possible for the Church and School Room to thrive and be available for everybody in Lopen to use. He was given, as a token of our appreciation, a folding table and two chairs which Mike and Liz will be able to use as they spend more time relaxing. They are giving up being on the PCC having been members for many years, Liz a total of twenty seven, both here and elsewhere. They will be much missed.

LOPEN'S LINK TO THE FA CUP WINNERS

Nick & Nicki Middleton, who live at Cross Tree Cottages, are very proud parents as their son, Luke Lazenby, has been appointed as an U18 Performance Analyst at Manchester United Football Club. Luke, who is a Football Studies Graduate, will be responsible for analysis at the U-18 level. Luke joined MUFC from Brentford Football Club.



LOPEN EVENTS FACEBOOK PAGE

Last year Kate Westwood set up a Facebook page for the Mistletoe Fayre, which seemed to get quite a lot of interest. People were still viewing the page months after the event so, when she was asked to do another one for the Spring Plant Sale, it made sense to have one page to advertise all Lopen events.



Please visit the page and like it: www.facebook.com/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/ If anyone has any information, photographs or results from any Lopen events, please let Kate know at kate_westwood1@hotmail.com, and she will update the page.



In the last year Kate has been working as a pet portrait artist and she is now also selling a range of pen and watercolour prints and greeting cards. She will be at the Yandles Craft Market in Martock on the 23rd July, and also has all her work available on her new website: www.katewestwood.com

LOPEN RAJ RE-OPENS



On Monday May 23rd the Mayor of Taunton, Vivienne Stock-Williams, attended the grand opening of the Lopen Raj. The new owner, Salman Farshi, commented that they will be offering a contemporary menu of Indian Cuisine with a take-away service.

Come and join the Choir

Merriott

Hinton St George

Call to all enthusiastic singers - everyone welcome!

An exciting opportunity to join a brand new choir for our village churches. The choir is open to both children (8+) and adults with the aim of enjoying singing together at occasional special services in our four beautiful churches.

We rehearse fortnightly on Wednesday evenings in term time.

No auditions, just lots of enthusiasm required!

UPCOMING WEDNESDAY REHEARSALS:

18th MAY 7pm, 1st JUNE, 7.30pm, 15th and 29th JUNE 7pm,

13th JULY 7pm

at MERRIOTT CHURCH

Dinnington

For more details please contact Bob or Julia Hicks on 01460 76406 or simply come along to Merriott Lopen



ROUTE 60+ ROAD SAFETY

Somerset County Council's Road Safety Team aims to reduce the number of casualties on the county's roads through a programme of education, training and publicity. Route 60+ is one of our most popular presentations and is run for older drivers.

The presentation addresses not only how vehicles have developed over the years, but also how our own driving skills and habits may have changed. The presentation itself lasts approximately 60 minutes and there are opportunities to talk to members of the road safety team about any driving or road safety concerns.

The session is run free of charge, at your venue, and drivers don't even have to be over 60 to come along! If you are interested in this workshop, please contact Somerset Road Safety either via email at roadsafety@somerset.gov.uk, or by phone on 01823 423430.



Our next meeting will be at
7.30pm on Tuesday 14th June
 at
The School Room



Local author, Shelagh Mazey, is coming to talk to us. Shelagh lives just across the border in the county of Dorset and specialises in writing regional, historic, romantic novels. The talk will take the format of questions and answers, discussing her first novel 'Brandy Row', which the JW Reading Group will have read as its first project. Signed copies of her books will be available for purchase.

Non-members are always welcome - anyone wishing to join is more than welcome, membership is £3 for the year and £2 for each meeting thereafter (if held in The School Room).

For further information please telephone Margaret Linton : 241 162.

LOPEN CHURCH OPEN MEETING

Around 20 Lopen residents came along to the Open Meeting on Monday 9th May. We were treated to a fine supper and then got down to some work! We considered what we value about Lopen church, how we can enhance that, what barriers and problems there might be and what Lopen church can offer the community. It was a very positive evening, with lots of good ideas and much for the PCC to think about and carry forward. Thank you to everyone who came. We will try to provide some more detailed feedback soon. Revs Bob and Julia Hicks.

UPDATE ON LOPEN WAR MEMORIAL.....

As mentioned in the April issue of Lopen Eye, public subscriptions are welcome towards the cost of adding the two names to the memorial. So far we have received donations of about £130. The full cost of adding these names is in the region of £600 - so if you feel able to make a contribution, please make all payments to Lopen PCC via the Treasurer, Steve Chapman. Also, if you are a UK Tax payer and Gift Aid your donation, this will enable your donation to be increased by 25% at no cost to you.



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	Nick Jones	241 643	nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com
Vice Chairman	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
	Sarah Mason	249 219	sarahmason6@yahoo.com
	Teresa Sienkiewicz	241 363	tsloopenpc1@btinternet.com
	Jenny Feeney	419 569	jfeeneyloopenpc@gmail.com
	Ed Moore	394 583	ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com

Parish Clerk	Kim McDonald	242 297	mcdonald.lopenpc@btinternet.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	Cllr Christopher Le Hardy	01935 850 212	clehardy@somerset.gov.uk
-----------------------	---------------------------	---------------	--------------------------

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	Lynn Benfield	929 205	lynn.ian@virgin.net
Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	christianne@loopen.me.uk
Secretary	Margaret Linton	241 162	margaretlinton79@yahoo.com

POLICE CSO	Ceara Sturt	Dial 101	ceara.sturt@avonandsomerset.police.uk
		ask for PCSO 8340	

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
----------------------------	----------------	---------	-----------------------

ARCHIVE & HISTORICAL GROUP	Nigel Potts	240 369	nigelpotts@talktalk.net
---------------------------------------	-------------	---------	-------------------------

LOPEN EYE TEAM

Editor	Les Morton	391 574	lesmorton26@gmail.com
	Les Farris	242 254	leslifarris23@aol.com
	Michael Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
Proof-reading	Peter Little	242 474	peteralittle6@aol.com

COFFEE TIME at the School Room

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

JUNE DATES

wednesday
8th & 22nd

10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome -
including parents with young children.

All proceeds to
Médecins Sans Frontières.