

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

MARCH 2021



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown situation the Lopen Eye is reduced in size for this issue. We will continue to publish as a PDF version, which is emailed out or can be downloaded from the village web site. If you know of anyone who would like to be emailed a copy please let the editor know and they can be added to the mailing list.

WEDDING BELLS ON 6TH FEBRUARY 2021

Maria Morgan, a third-generation Morgan to have lived in Lopen, and Craig Wells, were able to get married on 6th February in our little church. Social distancing presented challenges that in the end made for an even more special occasion as only six adults were allowed. The design of our church is such that it does not feel empty even with so few people - it remains friendly and welcoming as everyone can see one another. Normally there would have been about 40 to 100+ people.



With the bride and groom, were Maria's mother Cynthia Dadzetis, and sister Louise (bridesmaid) whose very young daughter Daisy was a delightful little flower girl. Maria's Dad, Jeff Cocks, completed her side of the family. Craig's parents were not able to come because of Covid-19, but his best man was a good supporter. Paul Dadzetis, who filmed the whole event, and his son James as photographer, were also allowed. Reverend Bob Hicks clearly enjoyed being able to perform this happy service.

February is not the warmest of months but on the day it was mild and dry. Outside, there was only one chance for the scattering cones - mounted on 2 metre long decorated bamboo canes, made by Paul.

Hopefully during the Autumn we might be able to see more of Mr and Mrs Wells family and friends when they come back for a wider celebration of this wonderful day.

Many people now in Lopen will be unaware that Maria's grandmother was the perfect village postmistress & shop owner, which she ran from their home in School Lane for many years. It was where her children grew up and where Bill, her husband, had his builder's yard in the old school opposite.

SPRING IS HERE!

The early signs of Spring are showing with new buds peeping out and the Snowdrops, Primroses and Crocuses appearing. If you have some Spring photos taken around Lopen please send them in for publication.

We could all do with some cheering up after this Covid Winter!



Lopen Spring Plant Sale

While the rules are changing, we are continuing with our plans to have a mail order sale of plants in early May. The cold weather has meant a slow start to the season, but we fully expect things to gather apace as we enter March. We will be sending out our plant list at the beginning of April and it is not too late to add your name, or any of your friends, to the list. We are also considering a second sale of later flowering plants in early July. Please remember us if you are digging up and dividing and that we have our village flower pot recycling box by the church for your use or to leave no longer needed pots and containers.

Contact me at christianne@lopen.me.uk

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

NEW COUNCILLOR

We are also delighted to welcome Caroline McKendrick to the council. This brings us up to six councillors, which is a much better position but still leaves a further vacancy, so there is still the opportunity to get involved if you wish.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

During the COVID lockdown LPC meetings are being held online using Zoom. The public are welcome to join these meetings. If you would like to join please see the village web site Home page (www.lopen.btck.co.uk) or contact Jane Collins (Parish Clerk) (lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com) and she will email you an invitation.

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

- Wednesday April 7th

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

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.

HINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL APPEAL

The school have launched an appeal to raise £75,000 to fund the purchase and installation of a fully fitted



(housed on the first floor of the main school building). It will be constructed from two used shipping

containers, and importantly, will allow direct access to the outdoors, which is not possible in the present situation - so important for the development of young children. The building will allow access to children with mobility challenges who are not able to access the existing pre-school accommodation

A WARM WELCOME!



Brian & Janice have moved into Rowbarrows in Frog Street (Guy Taylor's old house), having come from Chilmark in Wiltshire. Brian was a Pattern Maker and worked with Guy for 30

years from 1963, making castings. Having known Guy for about 56 years they knew the house whilst Guy lived there, so it's come full circle!



Dog Thefts

There were two incidents where dogs were stolen during the night of Tuesday 26 January. On both occasions pure bred dogs or new-born puppies were taken from secure outside pens. One incident was in Alveston, South Gloucestershire and the other at Queen Charlton in Bath & North East Somerset. Whilst both of these were outside of our area, this does not mean it could not head our way and it is far better to be forewarned.

We want to remind all dog owners to review and increase the security of their pets wherever possible. Ensure that they are microchipped and registered, and make sure your garden is secure.

It is estimated that dog thefts have increased by 250% as the Covid restrictions have caused a huge demand for puppies across the country. Although these offences are classified as "Theft", losing a pet in this way can cause enormous trauma and heartbreak to a family.

You can find advice on protecting your dog on many sites on the internet, one of them being:

<https://www.bluecross.org.uk/>

containers, and importantly, will allow direct access to the outdoors, which is not possible in the present situation - so important for the development of young children.

- This new facility forms part of a wider expansion of the school which is now a Primary School: the pre-school and school are now able to offer a really good level of education for children from age 2 -11 years.
- We are proud to have raised over £25,000 to date towards our target of £75,000, all from local people and organisations.

If you would like to support the appeal, please contact jwheeler@hsgschool.co.uk (01460 76771) or go to JustGiving and search for Hinton St George.

ARE YOU FED-UP WITH DOING THE SAME OLD WALKS?



Walking in Somerset www.walkinginengland.co.uk/somerset is the free website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print for free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

There is so much walking information on the web but it is often difficult to find. Walking in Somerset (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England, has brought it all together in one place. So whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus, and a note of suitability for pushchairs & wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!



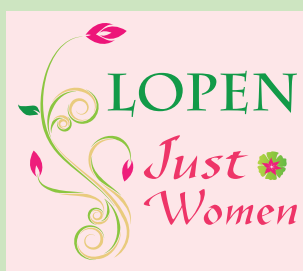
LOPEN VILLAGE PICNIC

This year we should be looking forward to the biennial Lopen Picnic. However with the Covid situation as it is, and the uncertainty as to how the year will unfold, it has unfortunately been decided to postpone the event until the summer of 2022.

We have liaised with the Parish Council, who insure the event, and they feel they cannot endorse it given the current situation. This in turn raises issues regarding carrying out a full risk assessment.

Hopefully by the Summer of 2022 we should all feel more confident to really enjoy our social gatherings.

The Picnic committee realise this will be a disappointment to all of us, hopefully we can all make up for it next year!



With the Sunday School Room currently out of bounds it has been decided, the best way forward for the group to continue, is to hold Zoom meetings instead.

Very enjoyable talks were given by Mike Pope & Pauline Rook during February and this will continue for March:

Tuesday 9th March - Katherine Crouch, Garden Designer will tell us of her behind the scenes experiences of winning BBC 'Gardener of the Decade' and her Chelsea Gold award.

Tuesday 23rd March - Marjorie Bishop – will be giving us a talk entitled "Oh Knickers!" a light hearted look at fashion for both men and women throughout the ages.

An email will be sent out to Just Women members with a joining link the day before the meeting.

If anyone would like to join us who is not a member please contact Jean Morton at - jeanandlesm@gmail.com or Tel: 391 574.

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

LENT LUNCH

You may have guessed that this year we are unable to enjoy the very sociable and delicious Lent Lunch, with lots of people packed into the Sunday School Room. This means the charities who normally benefit from the donations will go without. In recent years, the recipients have been Lord's Larder or other organisations who provide meals or food to people in difficulties. Instead of soup and bread and cheese for you, can you give non-perishable goods, perhaps more protein rich tins of fish or meats and not too many soups or baked beans? Financial donations can sometimes be even more helpful, so the organisers can buy supplies needed for distribution. You can leave items in the Lord's Larder box in the church porch. Cash (in an envelope addressed to the Lent Lunch) can be posted through Sally-Ann's letterbox at 2 Church Street, Steve Chapman at Ballarat House in Frog Street, or Angela at Denman Cottage, Rydon Lane.

If you wish to make a direct donation please do so using the following bank details:

Sort code: 60 19 37

Account No: 31001319

Account Name: Lopen PCC

Please ensure your donation has the reference 'Lent Lunch' in the payment details.

We will announce the amount raised and to whom it was sent in the next edition of Lopen Eye.

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	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 Carron Richards	359 201 242 640	carolinemckendrick@outlook.com carronrichards@yahoo.co.uk
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LOPEN EYE TEAM

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All Saints Church



Services will resume in
Lopen again on
Easter Sunday April 4th
with a 10.30am Communion
Service

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

The Sunday School Room
remains closed.

The first live Benefice
service is on Palm Sunday
March 28th at, 10.30 in
Merriott Church.