

# LOPEN EYE

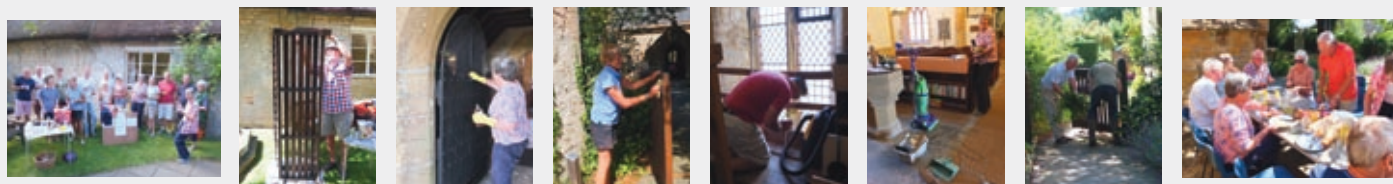
Lopen Parish Newsletter **SEPTEMBER 2016**



## CHURCH WORK PARTY

Saturday August 6th was a lovely sunny day - ideal for the volunteer work party who undertook the annual maintenance day at All Saint's Church. About 18 people gave their time to what has become quite a sociable event maintaining the church and church grounds along with the Sunday School Room and the Bier.

Coffee was taken mid morning, with Jean & Les providing a lovely home-made chocolate cake to celebrate their first year living in Lopen. And at the end of a good mornings work a ploughmans lunch was provided for the weary workers!



## LOPEN MISTLETOE FAYRE

*will be held this year on*

**Saturday 19th November**

Lopen's popular fayre is now being planned for the date above. This years format will be similar to previous years with the emphasis on fun for all, with of course lots of items to buy as well. If you are willing to donate suitable items for the various stalls then in the first instance please contact Ian Benfield on 01460 929205 for details.

Items sought will include homemade cakes, savouries and preserves, items for the gift stall, bottles for the bottle stall, plants and associated items, good quality bric-a-brac and craft items made in Lopen. All donations will be gratefully received and of course collections can be started now. This years charity has not yet been decided so if you have a favourite local charity you would like us to support then please again contact Ian with your suggestion.

Hope to hear from you soon.



**Defibrillator**

The most common cause of a cardiac arrest is a life threatening abnormal heart rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF). Ventricular fibrillation happens when the electrical activity of your heart becomes so chaotic that the heart stops pumping and quivers or 'fibrillates' instead.

Giving an electric shock through the chest wall, by using a defibrillator is the only way a person can recover from a cardiac arrest. This can be done in the ambulance, or at hospital, or it can be done by a member of the public at the scene of a cardiac arrest if there is a community defibrillator nearby.

***There is a Defibrillator in the porch of All Saint's Church, Church Street. If you are interested in being trained to use the equipment please contact Councillor Sarah Mason - details on the back page.***

## FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP FOR AUTUMN AND HARVEST FLOWERS

Angie Blackwell is coming to hold another very entertaining and inspirational session to decorate the church for the Harvest Festival on

**Thursday 29th September at 7pm**

Please put you name on the list in the Lopen All Saint's church porch or email Angela - nauntondavies@btinternet.com if you are able to come. There will be a supply of oasis and some trays/vases but if you have a container you would like to use and are prepared to leave in the church you might prefer to use it.

£6 per person should cover her fee.

Decorating the church as a group works well as flowers and views can be shared - and it's social!

## HARVEST FLOWER FESTIVAL AND OPEN WEEKEND

**1st & 2nd October**

**9 to 5pm**

Followed by a Harvest Festival service at 6pm on Sunday and an informal buffet supper in the Sunday School Room.

# LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

## **NEW PARISH CLERK**

At our August meeting it was agreed that Lisa Wilson be appointed as our new Parish Clerk. We anticipate that the formal changeover will be on 1st September.

## **BROADBAND**

Christopher LeHardy arranged a meeting involving representatives from the "Connecting Devon and Somerset" partnership (CDS), BT and a few villagers. They told us that phase one of their program, which aimed to bring superfast broadband (at least 24Mbs) to 90% of homes and businesses in Devon and Somerset by the end of 2016, is doing well and expected to meet its target. However, there is no more work to be done under phase one in this area. That is the bad news. The better news is phase 2, which aims to increase coverage to 95%, is already out to tender with the successful bidder(s) to be named in the late autumn. Work is to be completed by the end of 2017. It is fully understood that Lopen falls well short of the target speeds and is thus highly likely to be covered under phase 2 meaning that there is a very good chance matters will improve before the end of 2017. Once the contract is awarded it will be possible to check exactly what works are planned and we will be keeping a close eye on this.

## **SUMMER SOUNDS AND SMELLS**

How nice it is to have a real summer. With the warm weather comes wide-open windows and people enjoying their gardens. With central Lopen being quite compact, noise that would be scarcely be noticed the rest of the year can become an issue. Power tools, music or barbeque party noises that would go un-noticed in warmer weather lead to irritation and ill-feeling. Spare a thought for your neighbours, warn them of your party plans - or even invite them! Another source of irritation which is much more noticeable in summer, is the garden bonfire. There have been a number of complaints and comments this year, most generated by a single late-evening bonfire in mid-July, which left most of central Lopen coughing and cursing. Most of us love a good bonfire and they can be the easiest way to dispose of garden rubbish, but care and consideration is needed to stay in favour with your neighbours. The SSDC website offers the following advice

*'Our advice is that you should have bonfires only occasionally and at times and in weather conditions when the smoke is unlikely to cause nuisance to your neighbours. If you are going to have a bonfire, follow these simple rules:*

- *Think about composting as an alternative or taking your waste to a local recycling centre.*
- *Burn only dry materials.*

- *Never burn general household rubbish, plastics, foam, treated wood or similar items.*
- *Check no-one has any laundry drying in nearby gardens and remember that smoke can drift some distance.*
- *It is often a good idea to let your neighbours know if you planning to light a bonfire.*
- *Don't have a fire late in the evening as the smoke tends to hang close to the ground.*
- *Have a quick, hot fire to reduce smoke emissions.*
- *Remember your personal safety and never use liquid fuels to get a fire going.'*

<http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health/environmental-protection/air-pollution/>

## **PLANNING MATTERS**

An application for new garage and store at Brooklyn on Holloway was considered. This was supported with comment.

## **ROADS**

The road matters are ongoing. A strong turnout at the recent Council meeting once again demonstrated the strength of feeling on this matter, with the increasing number of children living on Holloway raising the level of concern. This is perhaps Lopens' most persistent issue and the current funding represents the efforts of several successive councils. The brief submitted by Christopher LeHardy to County Highways covers the issues comprehensively. We await the Highways proposal with interest.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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

- 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](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 [loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com) or telephone 07587 211150 and add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.

# The next Children's Workshops

to be held on

**Saturday 3rd September**

from 2.00 to 4.00pm in The Sunday School Room

The aim this year is to get as many of the village children and any young summer visitors involved in creating a large scale art work for display during Somerset Arts Weeks - 17th September to 2nd October 2016. The plan is to create a long meadow scene, up to 5 metres long, using pens, paint and paper, to hang along one wall of the Sunday School Room. At the request of Bob and Julia Hicks, this will stay in place until after Harvest Festival, so there will be plenty of opportunities to view the work.

The Workshop is open to all ages to allow as many children to participate.

Due to the complex nature of the piece, parental support would be very much appreciated.

For more information please contact **Christianne Long** on 249 766, or email [christianne@lopen.me.uk](mailto:christianne@lopen.me.uk)

The first stage of work completed by the children on Saturday 20th August.



*The early stages of the Summer Meadow Scene wall picture in the Sunday School Room. The picture developing in the afternoon with some of the young artists who were involved.*

*They are looking forward to coming back to complete the picture - hopefully there will be more children to join in!*

## COFFEE STOP DONATION

A donation of £150 was made to the Medecins Sans Frontieres charity in June. This was money raised from the twice monthly Coffee Stop held at the Sunday School Room.

The next charity to benefit from the Coffee Stops will be Children's Hospice South West. See the back page for dates and times of Coffee Stops.



## STRAW BALES FOR SALE

Pauline Rook bought straw bales for the skittles at the recent Queen's Birthday Celebrations, however due to the rain on the day they were never used. She would like to sell them to recoup some of the expense, so 4 straw bales are for sale - £4 each or best offer. Tel: 01460 240644 or 07845 968125.

## PENSION ADVICE

Pension Wise, a free, impartial service offering guidance to people over age 50 with defined contribution pensions. It's designed to help individuals understand and navigate the choices available to them to empower them to make the decision that's right for them.

Citizens Advice Taunton is one of the delivery centres for this service and offers appointments across Somerset and East Devon.

If you have any questions or wish to book an appointment, please contact us on 01823 448970 or visit [pensionwise.gov.uk](http://pensionwise.gov.uk).

Pension Wise is a free and impartial service set up to help you understand your options

Call **0800 138 8292**

to book a phone or face-to-face appointment with a guidance specialist



## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2016



Just a reminder that once again we will be collecting Shoe Boxes this Christmas. An explanation for new villagers who perhaps are not familiar with this charity - a shoe box, or box of similar size, is filled with small gifts for children such

as toothbrushes/toothpaste, soap, hat/scarf/gloves, toiletries, stationery items, clothes, etc. The box should be wrapped. The charity collects the boxes and they are shipped to end up in the hands of underprivileged person, child or adult, somewhere in the world.



If you would care to help, please contact Sally-Ann at Crown Cottage in Church Street or call 241 765.

**All boxes to be ready for collection by November 1st.**



A recent door-to door collection raised £122.25 for the RNLI Lifeboats appeal. A big thank you to those who donated.



Our next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday 13th September**  
**An afternoon visit to**  
**Burrow Farm Gardens near Axminster.**



The tour of the gardens will start at 2.30 p.m.  
 Mary Benger (co-owner of the farm) will be conducting the tour.  
 The visit and tour will be £4 for members and £6 for non-members.  
 For further information about the farm please visit their website at  
[www.burrowfarmgardens.co.uk/](http://www.burrowfarmgardens.co.uk/).

Contact Margaret on 241 162 or Lynn on 929 205 for further details..

*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.*

## SIXTEEN BELLS' CHOIR PERFORM A TEA-TIME TREAT OF A SUMMER CONCERT

The newly formed Sixteen Bells' Choir, named after the 16 bells of Dinnington, Hinton St. George, Lopen and Merriott churches, to which it is affiliated, gave a wonderful and uplifting performance on the afternoon of Saturday 23rd July at Merriott Church. Numbering around 45 singers, the Choir, who came together for their first rehearsal back in May, sang a range of music from finger clicking spirituals, to Howard Goodhall's theme to the BBC's Vicar of Dibley, to Thomas Tallis.

Their enthusiasm was evident from both the magnificent sound they produced and the joyful smiles on their faces. The Choir's director, Rachel Crane, encouraged the audience in a spot of communal singing (with actions!) which appeared to go down a storm.

All of this was followed by a sumptuous tea with a huge array of delicious homemade cakes.

The Choir was formed to provide music for the four churches of the Merriott Benefice at their main feasts and festivals. They meet fortnightly during term time on a Wednesday evening at 7pm at Merriott Church and welcome new members. No former singing experience necessary.



**UPCOMING WEDNESDAY REHEARSAL:**  
**Wednesday September 7th at 7pm. at Merriot Church.**



For more details contact Bob or Julia Hicks on 01460 76406 or simply come along to the Merriot church for the next rehearsal.

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	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	tslopenpc1@btinternet.com
	Jenny Feeney	419 569	jfeeneyloopenpc@gmail.com
	Ed Moore	394 583	ed.moore.loopenpc@gmail.com
	Mark	242 889	mbloopenpc@gmail.com
Parish Clerk	Lisa Wilson	07587 211150	loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com

<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	Cllr Adam Dance	07767 224 213	adam.dance@southsomerset.gov.uk
	Cllr Crispin Raikes	07968 291 588	crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk

<b>COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	Cllr Christopher Le Hardy	01935 850 212	clehardy@somerset.gov.uk
<b>MEMBER of PARLIAMENT</b>	Marcus Fysh		marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk

<b>ALL SAINTS CHURCH</b>			
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

<b>JUST WOMEN</b>			
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

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

<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH</b>	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
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<b>ARCHIVE &amp; HISTORICAL GROUP</b>	Nigel Potts	240 369	nigelpotts@talktalk.net
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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.

## SEPTEMBER DATES

wednesday  
 14th & 28th

10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome -  
 including parents with young children.

All proceeds to  
 Children's Hospice South West

The views expressed in Lopen Eye are not necessarily those held by Lopen Parish Council and its members.