

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter **NOVEMBER 2017**



Lopen Mistletoe Fayre

Saturday 2nd December

at

All Saints' Church and the Sunday School Room

Father Christmas
will be making
a special
appearance in
his Grotto!



**10.30
until
12.30**

Childrens' Games

Raffle



Festive stalls

Refreshments

Cakes



All money raised will be shared between the Lopen Church & Sunday School Room, the 1st Hinton St George Scout Group and Merriott Guides.



ITEMS ARE STILL NEEDED! - if you have any suitable items you would wish to donate please contact the appropriate person below for collection, or they can be taken to Victoria or Marion. Items can also be delivered to the Sunday School Room on Friday 1st December.

**HANDMADE
ITEMS**

Victoria 240 077

PLANTS

Joan 242 254

Marion 240 179

GIFT ITEMS

Victoria 240 077

BOOKS

Valerie 242 751

**CAKES &
PRESERVES**

Carolyn 240 717

BOTTLES

Les F 242 254

Les M 391 574



LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH CLERK

We are still looking for a Parish Clerk. Lisa has agreed to stay on until we find a replacement and we have one expression of interest so far, but nothing definite. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please see the advert in this edition giving more details.

NEW COUNCILLORS

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

ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Having reluctantly accepted the revised Small Improvement Scheme with minor alterations, we have now been informed by County Highways that it has moved on to the "Stage 2 Safety Audit". This is progress, though we've also been told that no actual work is likely to take place until the next financial year, which is rather disappointing.

On a more positive note, and as mentioned last month, parishes are now being encouraged to purchase their own electronic SID devices.

Therefore the Council will be exploring the options and contacting the councils of neighbouring villages with a view to purchasing our own or a share in one.

SOUTH SOMERSET LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

The current South Somerset local plan covers the period 2006 - 2028 and was adopted in 2015. It is going to be subject to an early review to cover the period 2014 to 2034 with a revised plan to be adopted in March 2018. SSDC are running a public consultation which begins on 26th October and runs until 11th January. There will be 9 "drop-in" meetings to be held around the area and public participation and comment is encouraged. More information can be found at <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/issuesandoptions>

ELECTORAL REVIEW

This matter was discussed at the last Council meeting and we have written to say that Lopen would prefer to stay in the South Petherton Ward.

DOOR TO DOOR SALES

From time to time you may get someone, usually a young man, coming to your door to try and sell you over-priced cleaning products. They usually claim to be part of a young offenders rehabilitation scheme or something of that kind and will even show you some kind of laminated ID card. It is in fact a legal requirement for anyone selling door to door to have a pedlars certificate, which is issued by the area police force. This should have the words "Pedlars Certificate" on it, the name of the police force and the description of the pedlar with their signature, but

no photo. For fairly obvious reasons the probation service doesn't run this kind of scheme, so it is in fact a scam, and unless they have a pedlars certificate, illegal. While this may be fairly harmless much of the time, there are dark sides too. Though most of the callers I've had have been pleasant and will take no for an answer, I've had a recent report of one who was overly pushy and turned nasty when refused. I'm curious to know how much of an issue this is in Lopen and would be interested to hear of your experiences. If you have a bad experience with one or have concerns then you should ring the police. They are often brought into the village and picked up again by car or minibus and getting the registration number would help the police.

FAMILY SERVICES CONSULTATION

This concerns the Somerset County Council "Sure Start Children's Centre Services". The focus of this consultation is specifically on three main services; health visiting, school nursing services and the getset service which is run by the Council. The getset service includes the children's centres for 0-4 year olds and family support services for families with children aged 0-19 years.

The Council is needing to save money and looking to reduce the number of expensive-to-run permanent centres, and instead run local sessions in schools, doctors surgeries, village halls and similar. This seems like a reasonable idea, but looking through the consultation document I was struck by the fact that there is no service in the Martock / South Petherton / Merriot village areas now and none proposed, which seems wrong considering that these are all villages with large numbers of children.

More information can be found at

<http://www.somersetconsults.org.uk/consult.ti/FamilySupportChildrensCentres/consultationHome>

This includes a link to a straight-forward questionnaire making it easy to have your say. The consultation closes on 1st December.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- Thursday December 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 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.



PARISH CLERK VACANCY

With Lisa having tendered her resignation we have an urgent need for a replacement Parish Clerk. This is a vital role,

providing administrative support to the council and needing approximately 4 hours a week. There is a modest salary available and training will be given. If you are interested, please contact Nick or Lisa for details.

VILLAGE SUPPER

Friday November 17th

7pm in the

Sunday School Room

There will be a village supper with 'entertainment'. Please bring your own drink.

Tickets are £5 per person - available from Carolyn White 01460 240717.

We are limited to 40 people - so book early to avoid disappointment!

Poppy Willow Lethbridge was Christened on her 2nd birthday. She was accompanied by her parents Mark & Sarah, and brothers Cameron and Sebastian. Poppy's name is the last name of the 127 to have been entered on the Cradle Roll that was first used in 1959. It hangs in the back of the church. We look forward to welcoming the first person to go on the new list. If you would like it to be one of your family to be Christened next, contact Rev'ds Julia or Bob Hicks at the Rectory in Merriott on 01460 76406.



SUPER FAST BROADBAND IN LOPEN

Further to the mention in last month's Lopen Eye, I am still appealing for

information on broadband speeds throughout Lopen. A number of residents are now enjoying much improved broadband speeds, thanks to the arrival of the Big Green cabinet in Holloway; however, there are also people who have experienced very real difficulties in updating their service. Could I please appeal again for you to let me have, by email preferably, details of your address and post code, the ISP involved (service provider such as BT, Talk Talk, Plus Net, etc), the speed of service obtained or, if you are experiencing difficulties, all the above plus brief details of your current situation and any offered solution or otherwise. Many thanks - Roger Gurner: itcs@btconnect.com

Childrens' Christmas Workshop



is to be held on
Saturday 9th December
from 2.00 to 4.00pm



in
The Sunday School Room, Lopen

Come and make a hanging Christmas decoration complete with ornaments, glitter and a special Lopen candle box.

All welcome.

For more information please contact Christianne Long on 249 766, or email christianne@lopen.me.uk

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

At 10.50am on Sunday 12th November.

During this service we will be laying a wreath on our war memorial after reading the names of those people in Lopen who lost their lives during WW1. There will be coffee and biscuits available afterwards.

Carolyn White will be selling poppies around the village.



DIARY DATE

The Carols by Candlelight in Lopen Church will be at 6pm on Thursday 21st December. There will be a glass of warm festive cheer after the service.

Little shepherds and angels are welcome.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



A limited supply of special Lopen Mugs - 'I'd rather be in Lopen' and 'I'm a Lopen mug'. Available from the Plant Stall at the Lopen Mistletoe Fayre,

and also available from Christianne -
T: 249 766 E: christiannelong@btinternet.com

SHOE BOX APPEAL 2017



We are fast approaching Shoe-Box time again and we would be delighted if you could help once more with our 2017 Appeal. We are so grateful for your generosity every year and we know that many desperately poor and marginalised people in

Eastern Europe will be deeply touched as they receive their shoe-boxes this Christmas.

Boxes can be sent to every age-range, from babies to the elderly, so the choice is yours! Leaflets giving more details are available from mid September in the Church and the Broadway Garage, Merriott.

Completed boxes as well as 'fillers' can be dropped off at the address below. We would also be grateful for any extra empty shoe-boxes. Thank you so much.

Sally-Ann Howell Crown Cottage, Church Street. Tel 241765
All boxes to be ready for collection by November 4th.



Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday 14th November
 at 7.30pm in the
Sunday School Room
Show & Tell Evening



An evening where we ask members to bring along a personal or family item which has a story to tell. It can be an item of clothing, a picture, a photo, a letter, an ornament, a train or theatre ticket - perhaps a long forgotten item in a box in the attic or at the back of a cupboard.....something that tells a story about you or your family - it should make for an interesting evening.
 Non-members welcome.

For further information please telephone Margaret Linton : 241 162 or email margaretlinton79@yahoo.com

Church Service Review

With the help of our Churchwardens and PCCs we are beginning to review the service pattern for the 4 churches in this Benefice. Please could you help by sending your comments and suggestions to us by letter or email or by completing a questionnaire (available in churches). Please tell us:

- which current services you most value and why (please state church and time of service).
- which times of day which are better for you.
- any other factors that help you or others to worship.
- any ideas you have for new services or activities for all ages, and for those who do not currently attend.

Serving the Community

We are very keen to hear from you about how the church can BETTER SERVE the Lopen community. As well as all our regular Sunday services, baptisms, weddings and funerals – our buildings and their people are already doing quite a few things:- eg coffee mornings in Sunday School Room; offering quiet spaces in our church and churchyard; and regular prayers for our community. But what else could or should we be doing? Are there important needs that the church could meet locally? Who and where are the most vulnerable groups of people in our community? We want to hear from you. Please get in touch with any PCC member or Julia and myself; by email, Facebook, phone or letter – whichever method suits you best! Thank you. Revd Bob Hicks 01460 76406.

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
	Ed Moore	394 583	ed.moore.lopenpc@gmail.com
	Mark	242 889	mblopenpc@gmail.com
	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
	Simon Frackiewicz	394 975	simon@toadhall.email
Parish Clerk	Lisa Wilson	07587 211150	lopenpc.clerk@gmail.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 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

JUST WOMEN

Chairwoman	Pauline Rook	240 644	prook12@gmail.com
Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	christianne@lopen.me.uk
Secretary	Margaret Linton	241 162	margaretlinton79@yahoo.com

POLICE CSO

	Amy Douch	Dial 101	amy.douch@avonandsomerset.police.uk
		ask for PCSO 8186	

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

	Valerie Canton	242 751	mvcanton@talktalk.net
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LOPEN EYE TEAM

Editor	Les Morton	391 574	lesmorton26@gmail.com
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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.

NOVEMBER DATES

Wednesday
8th & 22nd

10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome -
including parents with young children.

All proceeds to
Somerset Prostate Support Association