

# LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter

JUNE 2022



## Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration



Counting down to

# Saturday June 4th

## From 3pm - FREE ENTRY

Bring your own picnic, drinks & chairs.



From 3pm children activities & games plus Adults Tug of War if you're feeling strong!!

Live Music from 'Jeroka' with lots of dancing to be done from 6.30pm,  
and to commence with a toast to the Queen.

*We are hoping to capture celebrations by taking photographs and would welcome support with this so we can display them at a later date.*

By now we should all be getting into the spirit by decorating your houses & window displays (red, white & blue theme). Any help tidying pathways and grass frontages would also be welcome.

A **Treasure Hunt** is also being organised details available at Hazelwood House (on bend of Rydon Lane, past the Sunday School Room). The winner will be announced on the evening of 4th June before the band are in full swing!

### So where do we go for our picnic and dancing.....

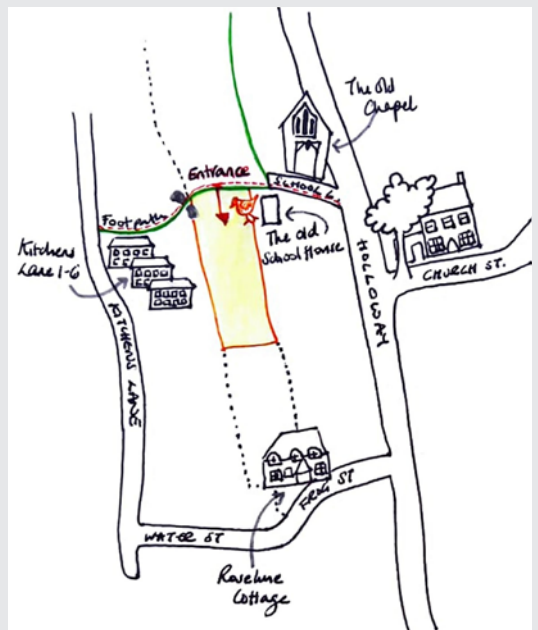
Our Village Picnic will be held in the field above Rosehue Cottage - courtesy of Michael & Valerie Canton.

The entrance is via the TOP of the field, via the public footpath which runs between School Lane and Kitchens Lane.

***There will be signs!!!!***

If anyone has any access concerns please contact Steve (07710 235249)

Alternative contact for further information  
Jenny 419 569



## PICTURES & STORIES

Would you please take pictures and write down your thoughts and stories of the Jubilee weekend for a special commemorative issue of the Lopen Eye that will be published in July.

*Please send them to - [lesmorton26@gmail.com](mailto:lesmorton26@gmail.com)*

# LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to the ending of Covid rules LPC meetings can now resume in the Sunday School Room. The public are welcome to join the meetings.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- Monday 27th June
- Monday 25 July
- Monday 22nd August (*29 is a Bank Holiday*)
- Monday 26th September
- Monday 31st October
- Monday 28th November
- Monday 19th December (*26 is Boxing Day*)

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 - <https://lopenvillage.org/council>

## 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](mailto:lopenpc.clerk@gmail.com) to add yourself to the Parish Council mailing list.

## DEFIBRILLATOR EXTRA LOCATION NEEDED



A second defibrillator is going to be placed in Lopen as it is felt the one in the Church Porch is too far away for residents living on the west side of the village. We are looking for a suitable location - easily accessible and with a power supply to keep the battery charged up. Can anyone offer such a location? - please contact a Parish Councillor.

## VILLAGE WEB SITE - HELP NEEDED

Nick Jones has kindly taken on the task of building the new Lopen village web site, as our previous provider is no longer in business. However Nick would welcome some help! His web building abilities are limited so if there is someone out there who could assist him he would like to hear from you.

Contact Nick Jones on 241 643 or [nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com](mailto:nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com)

## COMPUTER CLINIC

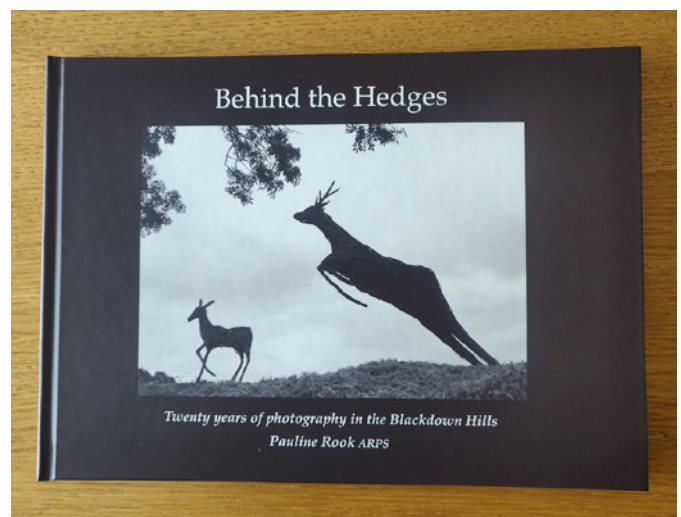


The next Clinic will be at the June Coffee Stop:

**10.30am  
Wednesday  
June 22nd.**

If you are having problems with your laptop, tablet or mobile phone, or just want to know how to do something on it like updating, downloading, set up a new app, getting online, etc., we will do our best to help you. If there are any other volunteer 'techies' that can help please, the more the merrier.

Following the great success of Pauline Rook's exhibition at the Somerset Rural Life Museum earlier this year, she has now published a book



featuring many of the photos from the exhibition. Available in hardback or softback.

Contact Pauline on 240 644 or email [prook12@gmail.com](mailto:prook12@gmail.com) if you would like to purchase a copy.

## GARAGE SALE

Mary & Steve Chapman would like to thank everyone who contributed to their recent garage sale in aid of the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukrainian Appeal. With the generosity of everyone the total donated was **£130**.



## LOPEN PLANT FAIR



The Lopen Plant Sale last Saturday May 7th was an amazing success, raising **£1,565**. Sincere thanks to everyone who put in all the hard work, not just on the day, but in the weeks leading up to the day.

All proceeds to be shared equally between the Lopen Church & School Room Maintenance Fund and Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine.

### ECO UPDATE

#### ***Birdsong in Lopen Churchyard - (Take two cows, David!)***

Having planted almost 150 wildflower plug plants in our meadow area, the dry end to April and early May made watering necessary for the eco-group. However this task was made easier by the birdsong heard. The first was the Great Tit with it's call of 'teacher, teacher teacher'. Later the beautiful song of the blackbird (for those of a certain age the first five notes of 'Barbie Girl' may be noticed!) Another two note call is that of the Chiff Chaff. This is a summer visitor which says it's name over and over again. I listened for a Song Thrush but did not hear one. The call is a repeated phrase of notes, usually three times – each group different to the last. Hardly melodious but nevertheless interesting is the cackling call of the Magpie. If two 'converse' it sounds like two old gentlemen telling after dinner jokes, Again not really a song but the call of the Wood-Pigeon is also interesting for the folklore associated with it. It has several variations but the one often heard at this time of the year is of five notes. The RSPB suggest that in some parts of the country children thought they said 'Take two cows, David'. After extensive research several years ago (I asked my mother) she told me that in Crewkerne in the 1930's they said the call was 'My toe hurts, Betty'. A friend of hers who grew up in South Wales used to say 'Take two cows, Taffy' In our house we have told the older grandchildren that they say 'It's your round, Tommy' – but that's another story.



Philip

#### ***No Mow May***

My lawn might look terrible in May, but it is buzzing with life. All those daisies, buttercups and dandelions that have been allowed to push their heads up during my 'no mow May' have attracted and fed a diverse array of bees, beetles and birds, not to mention resting my mower..... And so it is with the small area of uncut grass in Lopen Churchyard. Left unmown during spring and summer, even this small area of old turf yields a remarkable opportunity to support wildlife. Unlike the surrounding agricultural landscape, our churchyard has received few pesticides and fertilizers, and as a result, when left unmown has sprung back to life with many of the old meadow plants that have otherwise declined over the past decades. As we reflect on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, perhaps we should also consider that during her extraordinary reign we have lost over 90% of our wildflower meadows and seen a reduction of over 50% of our common songbirds. Wildlife should not be allowed to become a luxury item, it should be the norm. No mow May, and small areas of sensitively managed grassland, such as those in our churchyards, can have a remarkable and positive impact for the wildlife in our villages and wider countryside. What might seem like small individual actions in our gardens and communities can in fact help swing the tide of biodiversity loss in the UK and bring nature and all its benefits back to be commonplace.

*Did you know....?*

What we consider to be the humble "dandelion" actually consist of 240 separate species within the UK – all so similar, it has taken decades of research to identify and separate them.

There are over 270 species of bee in the UK – and honey bees and bumblebees account for only about 10% of these. The rest are mainly solitary, and do not sting!

Ben



Our next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday 14th June**  
 at  
**Bishop's Palace Gardens, Wells**



Following the fascinating talk in March by James Cross, head gardener of the Bishop's Palace Gardens, we will be visiting the gardens by coach - leaving in the afternoon from Lopen returning in the early evening.

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

**All Saints Church Services in Lopen:**

**Sunday 5th June at 9am**  
**Holy Communion**

**Sunday 19th June at 10.30am**  
**Parish Communion**

**REFUGEE WEEK 2022**

The week beginning June 20th is World Refugee Week. Please join Refugee Support Group (RSG) in ILMINSTER on THURSDAY JUNE 23rd from 10.30 to 12.30 at 20 SILVER STREET, the house just before the Minster, where there will be coffee and home-made cakes and books to buy. It is a chance to meet friends and other supporters and help to make a difference.

*We look forward to meeting you.*

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.lopenvillage.org](http://www.lopenvillage.org)

<b>PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
Chairman	Stephen Crane	241 412	scrane1@hotmail.co.uk
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	Jenny Feeney	419 569	jfeeneyloopenpc@gmail.com
	Chris Marsh	07951 239110	chrismarshpc@gmail.com
	Caroline McKendrick	359 201	caroline.mckendrick.loopenpc@outlook.com
Parish Clerk	Jane Collins	07967 218478	loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com
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	Cllr Crispin Raikes	07968 291 588	crispin.raikes@southsomerset.gov.uk
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Rector	Rev. Bob Hicks	76406	bobhicks66@gmail.com
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<b>JUST WOMEN</b>			
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Treasurer	Christianne Long	249 766	christianne@loopen.me.uk
<b>POLICE CSO</b>			
	Mike Bell	Dial 101 ask for PCSO 7954	mike.bell@avonandsomerset.police.uk
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH</b>			
	Caroline McKendrick	359 201	carolinemckendrick@outlook.com
	Carron Richards	242 640	carronrichards@yahoo.co.uk
<b>LOPEN MANOR FARM</b>			
	Steve Godfrey	07769 657 168	For loose or fallen cattle in Lopen
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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.

**JUNE DATES**  
 Wednesday 8th & 22nd  
 10.30am to 12.00 midday



Everyone welcome - including parents with young children.

All proceeds to



The Lord's Larder: providing emergency food supplies for people in need.