
LOPEN *Life*

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2024



Local
Events &
Diary

ISSUE 09

Lopen
History
Casebook
Chapter 4



PROUD SUPPLIERS OF OAK FOR THE
CREATION OF LUXURY SHEPHERD HUTS
MANUFACTURED IN ILMINSTER BY:



Blackdown
SHEPHERD HUTS

Edit this...

Spring has sprung, the grass is riz

I wonder where the birdies is.

The bird is on the wing.

But thats absurd, the wing is on the bird.

Or so I've heard.

We can but hope that indeed spring presents itself during this issue, whilst in many cases it seems like it is already here, with daffodils in full bloom in January. But our ever changing climate is doing a great job of confusing us and the flora and fauna. Our cover shot in December of the village in snow was a nod to the season rather than the weather itself over the festive period.

2024 already appears a challenging year on the global stage, and no less in Somerset at a more parocial level. Time will tell how things shape up and with an election planned towards the end of the year at the time of writing, who knows what lies ahead. What we do know is that our little village is ever evolving, at its own pace and in its own way, and the good news is we can (and should) all participate as best as we are able to make it something of which we are proud. The Parish Council page provides an update on the challenge of the Somerset devolution of services - check it out.

Chris Marsh - Editor


Next issue deadline for diary dates, articles and stories is March 10th 2024.

I would very much appreciate anyones input on subjects, stories and photographs related to the village. It only needs to be a paragraph or two, or more. This platform is your (our villagers) voice, please feel free to input to it.

Thank you.

Contact Details:

Email: chrismarshlpc@gmail.com

 [/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/](https://www.facebook.com/Lopen-Events-277018432630673/)

Visit our village website: www.lopenvillage.org



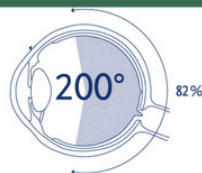


ROBERT FRITH OPTOMETRISTS

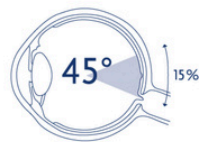
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CONTACT - Chris - 07714 631007

- 01460 240506

Lopen Parish Council

MEETINGS ROUND-UP

DEVOLUTION - the big challenge

Residents will no doubt be aware from national and local news that Somerset Council declared a financial emergency in November 2023. The situation has been evolving rapidly, and Lopen Parish Council have engaged in recent meetings, webinars and updates, whether via Somerset Council, the Somerset Association of Local Councils, The Local Council Network or other information sources to equip us with as much knowledge of the situation as possible and enable better informed decisions moving forward. We have also been connecting with other town and parish councils to discuss pooling of service providers for better economic advantage and hopefully a more efficient service. In Lopen's case this is primarily for the Ranger Services, previously supplied direct by Somerset Council at a subsidised rate.

More detailed information, including potential impact upon Lopen, can be found on the Parish Council page of the village website.

<https://www.lopenvillage.org/about-5> .

We also emailed directly those residents on our mailing list, and links have been posted on the village WhatsApp and Facebook pages.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Monday February 26th & Monday March 25th at 7.00 PM

in the Sunday School Room. Everyone welcome.

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Chairman – Nick Jones - nick.jones.lopenpc@outlook.com - 01460 241643

Stephen Crane – scrane1@hotmail.co.uk – 01460 241412

Jenny Feeney – jfeeneylopenpc@gmail.com – 01460 419569

Chris Marsh – chrismarshlpc@gmail.com – 07951 239110

Caroline McKendrick – caroline.mckendrick.lopenpc@outlook.com – 01460 359201

Parish Clerk – loopenpc.clerk@gmail.com - Lisa Wilson - 07587 211150

OTHER CONTACTS:

District Council: Cllr Adam Dance - 07767 224213 - adam.dance@somerset.gov.uk

Cllr Jo Roundell Greene - 07341 560016- jo.roundellgreene@somerset.gov.uk

Member of Parliament - Marcus Fysh - marcus.fysh.mp@parliament.uk

Just Women - Pauline Rook - 240644 - prook12@gmail.com

Lopen Lads - Trevor Power - 07878 185537 - trevorpowermbe1967@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch - Carron Richards - 242640 - carronrichards@yahoo.co.uk

Caroline McKendrick - 359201 - carolinemckendrick@outlook.com

Police CSO - Mike Bell - Dial 101 and ask for PCSO 7954 - mike.bell@avonsomerset.police.UK

Always look on the bright side...

Rainfall report 10th January 2024

As most people will no doubt have noticed, December 2023 was a wet month with more than double the Long Term Average (LTA) rainfall. It was the wettest December I have recorded – but not the wettest month which was January 2014.

It also had only 9 days when no rain was recorded.

Over 27 hours on the 3rd and 4th I recorded 89 mm which is the highest I have recorded in such a period. My total for the month was 213 mm (approximately 8.5 inches).

However my “rainfall pal “in Haselbury Plucknett recorded 253 mm in December so we were not the wettest place locally.

Not surprisingly 2023 was a wet year with total rainfall 30 % above the L T A, only being beaten by 2012 and 2000. The last under-average month was June and the reason we did not have a record-breaking year was the very dry February 2023.

Early January 2024 was again wet with 52mm in 4 days – thank goodness the rain has stopped for a bit now !

However the ground saturation is now at a level where average amounts of rainfall could well cause further flood issues, and we need to watch areas like the cut from Lopenhead to Holloway for further erosion.

Jeremy Rook

All Saints Church

SERVICE DATES:

Every Wednesday at 08.30

Morning Prayers lasting about 30 minutes is said for the people of Lopen.

FEBRUARY Services:

Sunday 4th - 9.00 am

Sunday 18th - 10.30 am

MARCH Services:

Sunday 3rd - 9.00 am

Sunday 17th - 10.30 am

Thursday 28th - 7.00pm Maundy
Communion

31st Easter Sunday Service - 10.30am

Rev Bob and Julia Hicks
01460 76406

bobhicks66@gmail.com
juliahicks1@gmail.com

Jonathan Delbridge
01460 240025

info@jonathandelbridge.com



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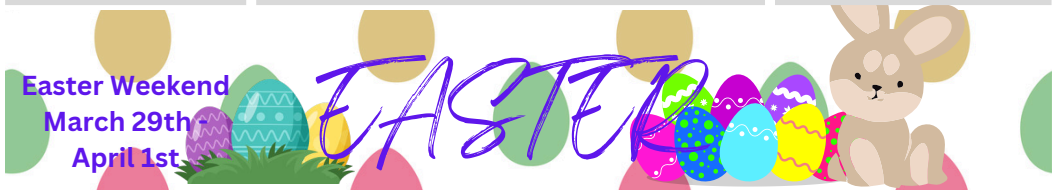
FEBRUARY 2024 - Diary Dates

| DATE | EVENT | NOTES |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Name that date... | Look out for the Lopen Lads Whats App messages for events and get together | To join up contact Trevor 07878 185537 |
| Wednesday 14th | Coffee Stop 10.30 - 12.00 am Sunday School Room | Tea, coffee, cake and chat - all for a good cause and £1 ! |
| Wednesday 14th | St Valentines Day ! Surprise someone | Make their day |
| Tuesday 20th | Just Women 7.30 PM - via ZOOM David Lapp - Landscape and Travel Photographer | Details to follow |
| Friday 23rd | Pop Up Pub 7.30 PM Sunday School Room | Details to follow from Jonathan Delbridge |
| Monday 26th | Lopen Parish Council Meeting 7.00 pm Sunday School Room | Hope to see you there |
| Wednesday 28th | Coffee Stop 10.30 - 12.00 am Sunday School Room | Tea, coffee, cake and chat - all for a good cause and £1 ! |



MARCH 2024 - Diary Dates

| DATE | EVENT | NOTES |
|----------------|--|--|
| Name that date | Lopen Lads Look out for WhatsApp Messages for events and get-togethers | To join up contact Trevor on 07878 185537 |
| Sunday 10th | <i>Mothersing Sunday</i> | Say a Big Thank You! |
| Tuesday 12th | Just Women - AGM Annual Subscription renewal Bring Holiday Souvenir & stories! | For details Contact Jean Morton |
| Wednesday 13th | Coffee Stop 10.30 - 12.00 am Sunday School Room | Tea, coffee, cake and a chat, all for a good cause and a £1 ! |
| Friday 22nd | Pop Up Pub 7.30 Sunday School Room | Look out for details |
| Monday 25th | Lopen Parish Council Meeting 7.00 pm Sunday School Room | All Welcome |
| Wednesday 27th | Coffee Stop 10.30 - 12.00 am Sunday School Room | Tea, coffee, cake and a chat - all for a good cause and a £1 |





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"A Mini
Borough
Market"

- Sunday Times
May 30 2021

Winners of the Muddy Stiletto Award
for The Best Farm Shop/Deli in
Somerset & Dorset 2021



Sunday School Room

Funding Appeal

January 2024 Update

Personal Donations x13 £3,010

Gift Aid on Donations £730

Pop up Pub £354

Previous Fundraising £2,922

PCC Reserves £5,500

Garfield Weston Foundation £6,000

Bernard Sunley Foundation £5,000

Mosaic Weekend £646

Somerset Community Fund £2,500

Fairfield Charitable Trust £5,000

Flower Festival £402

Anonymous Charity £5,000

Produce Fayre & Raffle £1,505

Candlelit Concert £422

Christmas Wreath Sales £453

Total Raised £39,444

Target £60,000

A big thank you to Christine Hill & Mary Chapman for the very successful Produce Fayre & Raffle, for Jonathan Delbridge's amazing Candlelit Concert (the proceeds were shared with Shelterbox) and Christianne Long's Christmas Wreaths.

The Lottery "Awards for All" have withdrawn their £10,000 limit fund and replaced it with a new £20,000 fund. As a result we have withdrawn our application for £10,000 and have submitted a fresh application for £20,000. We hope to hear end of March.

A £20,000 grant would achieve our target but is not guaranteed, so it is **really, really** important that we continue our fund raising efforts.

Steve Chapman

What you may have missed...



Villagers Invade the Raj!

Rather than grab a takeaway en-masse, a group of Lopen Villagers enjoyed a classic Lopen Raj feast. Look out for the notices to join the next one.

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HONOUR FOR RAFT

The Kings Award for Voluntary Service (MBE for charities) was granted to Raft (refugeeaidfromraft.org.uk) in November 2023 for eight years of voluntary work overseas and in their local area.

Raft trustees wrote on their facebook page: “This belongs to each and every one of our wonderful volunteers, past and present, who have given time, hard work and commitment over eight years.” Those sentiments include all who have supported Raft through Refugee Support Group (RSG): all who have donated goods, have organized, taken part in and attended fundraising events, and who have printed articles. Obviously, nothing could be achieved without such supportive volunteers and we do hope it will continue.

Raft continues to request clothing: clean, washable and in good condition for men and women (all sizes for both), teenagers, children and babies in refugee camps. These include waterproofs; winter clothing (especially for men); boots, shoes and trainers (in great need); new underwear for all; hygiene products (especially for women and babies); and toiletries (unwanted Christmas gifts?) for all. Any item is very much welcomed.

Raft is always being asked for blankets, sleeping bags and tents and, with so many victims of wars and natural disasters, disability aids are very much needed, e.g. sticks, crutches, walkers, medical supplies. If you have anything you consider may be useful to an injured person please include it. A charity in Cardiff collects from Raft and ships them off in a container which Raft helps to fund.

Our grateful thanks to all supporters as usual.
Geraldine Downey RSG 01460 271358

Lopen History Casebook

CHAPTER 4 - THE HISTORY OF INNS

There have always been places where people have gathered together to have a drink and socialise. The favourite tipple for the English was Ale which is beer without the addition of hops.

The Romans preferred wine, so when they arrived on our shores, they set up taverns on their new roads. These provided food and drink, and sometimes accommodation for travellers. At that time, the climate was warmer, so there were many vineyards able to produce the grapes needed for the wine. When a tavern had sufficient wine, a bunch of grapes would be hung up at the door.

After the Romans, the Anglo Saxons preferred ale. Usually, one person in the village would brew it and the thirsty would gather there for a drink and a gossip.

After the Normans came, many churches and monasteries were built. The monasteries, sanctioned by the church, created guest houses to offer succour to pilgrims. They mostly brewed their own beer, and offered food and lodging. After a while, the monasteries couldn't cope with the demand, and individual houses were set up near by.

A branch of greenery was hung up outside to let people know that the ale was ready. This is the forerunner of the Inn sign.

The ale tasters would visit and judge how good the beer was and tax it accordingly!



Recognise these? Read on...

INNS IN LOPEN...

There was an Inn in Lopen by 1735, but the site is not known. There were for some time, especially in the C 19th, three Inns or public houses in Lopen.

The Crown was situated in Church Street, and was known of in 1840. It was a large establishment, with gardens and skittle alley, as well as a large room upstairs where dances were held. These were especially popular during the war, as the soldiers from the camp in Hinton visited regularly.

The Inn was sold by auction in 1918, when the landlord was a George Larcombe. It eventually closed in 1950, and is now two houses.

The Poulett Arms was established in about 1800 at White Cross (now Lopen Head) There was a licensed Inn there by 1813, mostly to accommodate the travellers on the London to Exeter road. There were stables where horses could be changed, and travellers could refresh themselves at the same time. The hunt would also take the stirrup cup there.

It was sadly burnt down, but rebuilt only to be burnt down again in 1942, It was rebuilt again and was sold as part of the Poulett estate in 1918. The landlord at that time was Thomas Pitcher.

The King William was open by 1813. Elizabeth and Job Carter were the landlords then. In 1871, Ann Long was a “Beer house keeper” which may have been the King William. It was closed in 1920, but there is still a sign on the wall outside saying King William House.

Sadly, we no longer have an Inn in the village, but we do have our “Pop up pub”. So look out for the dates in the Lopen Life diary - or come to the next one and experience Lopen’s ‘gathering together to drink and socialise’. You just might enjoy it!



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(120Kcal Per Sausage)
HASH BROWN
(100Kcal)
VEGETARIAN BLACK PUDDING
(54Kcal)
BAKED BEANS
(65Kcal Per Spoon)

SLICED BREAD

WHITE (90Kcal)
SEEDED BREAD (86Kcal)

BAKERY

CROISSANT
(212Kcal)
PAIN AU CHOCOLATE
(145Kcal)
PAIN AU RAISIN
(132Kcal)
CHOCOLATE MUFFIN
(172Kcal)
BAGEL
(254Kcal)
CRUMPET
(88Kcal)

BUTTER PANCAKE
(116Kcal)
INDIAN PARATA
(165Kcal)

EGG

SCRAMBLED
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FRIED
(112 Kcal)
POACHED
(79Kcal)
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cooked breakfast + all you
can eat from our continental
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