
LOPEN

Life

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2024



Local
Events &
Diary

Lopen
Music
Weekend
& more

The
Greener
Lopen
Initiative

ISSUE 12

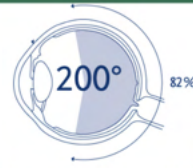


ROBERT FRITH OPTOMETRISTS

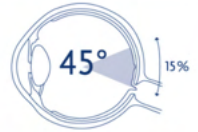
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- 01460 240506

Edit this...

Okay so what is a certain cider company's balloon doing on our cover? Well, its a famous Somerset brand, and in these summer months it is beautiful to catch the hot air balloons early and late in the day drifting overhead. A cold tippie, clear summer skies (on occasion!) all adding to the local epitome of August and September months in our area.

This issue looks back at a memorable D-Day celebration - thanks Mr Power; a fun 'Festival' themed Pop Up Pub, and for those who like numbers, some scary statistics on our digital speed cop - SID. As usual the diary keeps you informed of a host of things to look forward to over the summer months. We also announce a new **Greener Lopen** bio-diversity and environment initiative.

Plus a challenge from our Parish Council - hot on the heels of a new local MP, a new Government and ahead of a possible new President of the US - will we, the Villagers of Lopen find a new Parish Councillor? The gauntlet has been downed, who will rise to the challenge?!

Chris Marsh - Editor


Next issue deadline for diary dates, articles and stories is September 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. Also we are keen to keep Lopen Life going, and welcome any new local businesses and sole traders to contact me in regards to advertising.

Thank you.

Contact Details:

Email: chrismarshlpc@gmail.com

 /Lopen-Events-277018432630673/

Visit our village website: www.lopenvillage.org



OTHER CONTACTS:

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

Member of Parliament - Adam Dance - 07767 224213 - adam.dance.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

D-DAY Anniversary Commemorations - June 6th & 8th 2024

From all of us in the village who enjoyed a brilliant D Day Commemoration, thank you Trevor, Gaynor and Lisa and all those who were 'the support team'. There was something in the programme to connect with everyone and we all had a great time. If you weren't there, you missed a brilliant occasion!

Thank you, to Trevor especially, for bringing us all together. It was a memorable event. NOTE - VE Day 80th anniversary is 8th May 2025!



What you may have missed...

A SPECIAL OCCASION AT RAFT - to attend the presentation of The King's Award for Charities to Raft (Refugee Aid from Taunton) by the Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, Mohammed Saddiq, who together with the Mayor of Taunton, Nick O' Donnell, presented the scroll and glass sculpture on behalf of the King to Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts, founder of the charity in 2015. Originally set up in her garage, it is now located in the Enterprise Park. From September we require and request good clean winter clothing and footwear, hygiene supplies, toiletries and blankets. Blankets are always in demand. Raft's Facebook page often has mention of specific goods currently needed. With thanks to all our supporters. **Geraldine Downey 01460 271358 Refugee Support Group**



Lopen's Wilder Open Gardens June 2024

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, several Church Street gardeners and the churchyard team welcomed visitors and raised £200 for Somerset Wildlife Trust. Michael showed his wildflower meadow and large scale native tree planting, Angela explained the value of a 'dead hedge' and the glories of a woodland garden, and Mary, Ben and Philip and the churchyard team encouraged identification of a wide range of wildlife. At Oswalds, our Kerry Hill sheep were showing off their twin lambs, together with honeybee colonies and a newly installed wildlife pond. Discussions about rainwater harvesting, the impact of climate change on plant selection and survival, succeeding with peat free substrates, the value of water and wild areas for biodiversity and use of solar energy around the garden, all took place.

It was a team event! We were grateful to Marion and Christianne for donating plants left from their Plant Sale, and to Rosemary Heard from South Petherton for providing many native plants and managing the Plant Sales. Annie provided sheeps fleece as an alternative to chemicals to discourage slugs and also valued by nesting birds. Mary organised activities and a video at the Church. Members of the South Petherton church Greener Futures group provided manpower plus raffle prizes and cakes for teas on the lawn.

Our thanks to all who supported the event by their presence and engagement. The majority of visitors came from Hinton, Seavington, Merriott and South Petherton, leading the host gardeners to conclude that we should offer a different event, such as a seed swap (other suggestions welcome) next year, with Open Wilder Gardens returning in 2026. **Annie Gurner.**

Lopen Parish Council - your village needs you...

With a new MP (congratulations to Adam Dance!) and a change of Government bringing a renewed focus on Public Service and the further devolution of powers and responsibilities downwards, it seems timely to remind Villagers that a Parish Council, bedrock of local democracy, is also about Public Service, but one that comes from within. Lopen Parish Council (LPC) urgently needs more people to step forward as councillors or we will be challenged to continue to function and provide a Public Service to you.

A full council for LPC would be seven councillors. Over the last 10 years we have typically had between 4 and 6. Currently we have 5 councillors, but are at substantial risk of losing at least one councillor imminently due to too many commitments, so we need ideally at least 2 new councillors to join us. LPC legally require a minimum of 3 councillors present at a meeting to be quorate and as the pool of councillors falls below 5, this becomes harder to achieve and can result in meetings being delayed or cancelled. It also increases the workload on individual councillors. If the total number of councillors falls below 3 (which we hope will not happen!), then the council ceases to be able to function and cannot then be restored without the outside help of Somerset Council. At that point, should it still prove impossible to find sufficient councillors, it might be necessary to revert to a "Parish Meeting" or consider amalgamation with an adjacent Parish. This will mean we will have even less independence to action anything locally.

The councillor role typically entails a couple of hours per week to follow up on emails and feedback on issues, responsibility for a Village activity (eg planning or the ranger) and the monthly Meeting, which is usually approx 2/2.5 hours on the evening of the last Monday of the month, as well as being a contact point for villagers on village matters.

For details and information either visit <https://www.lopenvillage.org/councillor-advert>, contact the Parish Clerk, Lisa or one of the current councillors below.

Thank you.

NEXT LPC MEETING:

Monday 30th September 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 – jfeeneyloopenpc@gmail.com – 01460 419569

Chris Marsh – chrismarshlpc@gmail.com – 07951 239110

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

Vacancy -

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

All Saints Church

SERVICE DATES:

Every Wednesday at 08.30

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

August Services:

Sunday 4th - 9.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 18th - 10.30 am Parish Communion

September Services:

Sunday 1st - 9.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th - 10.30 am Parish Communion

Rev Bob and Julia Hicks
01460 76406

bobhicks66@gmail.com
juliahicks1@gmail.com

Jonathan Delbridge
01460 240025

info@jonathandelbridge.com

Please check the Church Porch notice board for latest information

Sullivan Nuptials - May 25th

Mark and Suzanne would like to thank our dear friends and neighbours for their good wishes, cards and gifts and to those who came and helped us celebrate our wedding on 25th May; and also for those who kindly provided flowers to make our beautiful church look wonderful with colours to match the bridal party. A special thank you to Mary Chapman for co-ordinating and arranging these so beautifully. A thank you to Reverend Julia for marrying us with a lovely and personal ceremony, Jonathan Delbridge for our music, and Angela Naunton Davies for acting as our Verger. We feel truly blessed to have been so warmly welcomed into our forever home in the Lopen community.



AUGUST 2024 - Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
MONDAY's	Tai Chi @ ARK at Egwood 9.30-10.30 am	£5 Just turn up!
THURSDAY's	Yoga @ ARK at Egwood 9.00-10.00 am	£5 Just turn up!
Thursday 1st	Greener Lopen - Monthly Wildlife Walk - Sunday School Room 7.00pm	All welcome
Wednesday 7th	Coffee Stop 10.30-12.00 Sunday School Room	Tea, coffee, cake and chat, all for a good cause and a £1
Saturday 17th	Lopen Church & Sunday School Room Annual Working Party The great clear up - starts 10.00am Contact Steve Chapman 249549	Task list in Church Porch, Ploughmans provided, all welcome
Sunday 18th	Greener Lopen Nature Hunt Colinton House, Rydon Lane 2.30-4.30	Everyone welcome, refreshments provided
Date TBC	Lopen Lads Out & About & Chat Details to follow	Details on Whats App group & Trevor 07878 185537
Wednesday 21st	Coffee Stop 10.30 - 12.00 Sunday School Room	Tea, coffee, cake and a chat, all for a good cause and a £1
Friday 30th	ARK at Egwood Fundraising Supper Book in advance please	Call 01460 391974 or office@arkategwood
SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 19th	Harvest Supper from 6.30 pm Sunday School Room	Contact Caroline carorooney1@gmail .com

SEPTEMBER 2024 - Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Mondays & Thursdays	Mondays - Tai Chi - 9.30-10.30 Thursdays - Yoga - 9.00-10.00 ARK at Egwood	£5 Just turn up!
Sunday 1st	Greener Lopen - Monthly Wildlife Walk - Sunday School Room 7.00pm	All welcome
Saturday 7th	ARK at Egwood Open day 10.30am - 4.00pm	All welcome
Tuesday 10th	Just Women Skittles Evening - 7.00pm Dinnington Docks	Partners welcome
Saturday 21st	Lopen Lads West Bay Coast & Cafe	Details on Whats App group & Trevor 07878 185537
Wednesday 25th	Coffee Stop 10.30 - 12.00 Sunday School Room	Tea, coffee, cake and a chat, all for a good cause and a £1
Friday 27th	L'Open Arms Pop Up Pub Volunteer Landlord Needed!	Contact Mary Chapman on 01460 249549



LOPEN MUSIC WEEKEND
 Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th
 'I Love Paris!' & Moments Romantique

See Adverts and Posters for details and tickets or contact Jonathan Delbridge on 07719 187508

Monday 30th	Lopen Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm Sunday School Room	All welcome
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Lopen Music Weekend

I LOVE PARIS!



SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

JOIN MEZZO SOPRANO LOUISE INNES AND PIANIST
JONATHAN DELBRIDGE FOR AN EVENING OF FRENCH MUSIC.
THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE WORKS BY
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CONCERT BEGINS AT 7PM



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WILL BE AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE CONTACT
JONATHAN DELBRIDGE ON 07719187508, 01460 549464
OR INFO@JONATHANDELBRIDGE.COM

BOTH EVENTS
TO BE HELD AT
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CHURCH STREET
LOPEN

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ON 07719187508 OR
INFO@JONATHANDELBRIDGE.COM

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29TH
SEPTEMBER
TICKETS ON SALE
EVERYONE
WELCOME!

MOMENTS ROMANTIQUE



JONATHAN DELBRIDGE PERFORMS A THOUGHTFUL
PROGRAMME OF IRRESISTIBLE MUSIC FOR THE PIANO.
INCLUDING PIECES BY BEETHOVEN, CHOPIN AND GRANADOS

SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

TICKETS: £8 - UNDER 16'S FREE

CONCERT BEGINS AT 3PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE CONTACT
JONATHAN DELBRIDGE ON 07719187508, 01460 549464
OR INFO@JONATHANDELBRIDGE.COM



The Greener Lopen Initiative



We are all aware of the need to work together to take actions to limit the negative effects of climate change to safeguard our planet for the future of our children and grandchildren.

Greener Lopen encompasses a wide range of topics including biodiversity of habitats, sustainability through recycling/up-cycling and reduction in power consumption, litter-picking, maintenance of footpaths and watercourses.

Greener Lopen has the support of our Parish Council, and through them there are various local and national resources we may be able to apply to for funding to support our ideas.

New initiatives:

The village website <https://www.lopenvillage.org/> now has a Greener Lopen page. This includes a record of wild-life seen in the village, useful resources regarding wildlife and sustainability etc. It is a work-in-progress, so please let us know of anything that we could usefully include.

Monthly Wildlife Walk on the 1st of each month (April to October). Meet outside the Sunday School Room at 7pm for a stroll around the village streets. We will record all wildlife seen...plants, animals, birds, insects.

Nature/Sustainability Hunt on Sunday 18th August from 2.30-4.30 pm in the garden of Colinton House in Church Street. All ages are invited to enjoy tea and cake, and take part in a scavenger-hunt. We can share our progress with projects to date and hopefully generate some new ideas to take forward as a village.

Please contact if you have any questions, ideas etc
Kate Jones via jkate082@gmail.com
or text/phone/whatsapp 07881 503772
or Lisa Wilson on 07587 211150

Bio-diversity and Environment in Lopen

As an example of Greener Lopen, we have been encouraging wild flowers in Church St. In this short stretch by the wall there are all these different specimens:

- Self Heal
- Mugwort
- Valerian
- Ivy leaved toadflax
- Mexican Daisy
- Sow thistle
- Lesser Celandine
- Hollyhock
- Lemon Verbena
- Herb Bennett
- Herb Robert
- Dandelion
- Jack by the Hedge
- Nipplewort
- Hogweed
- Deadnettle
- Cow Parsley
- Broomrape
- Biennial Wormwood



Discuss and share ideas
for a Greener Lopen

Tea & Cake in
the garden

Greener Lopen

Sunday 18th August
2.30-4.30pm

Colinton House, Rydon Lane
(next to churchyard)



Garden Nature
hunt





Always look on the bright side...

Rainfall and weather report 2nd July 2024 - Jeremy Rook

May with its above-average rainfall has already receded into ancient history now that June has given us the first significantly below-average rain month since May last year. This has caught out some farmers growing maize, who for one reason or another did not get their crops planted early enough to benefit from May's rain. Cold weather in May did not help either.

Maize fields which were planted early are now looking good with the plant's leaves covering the rows, and no bare ground to be seen, whereas late plantings are poor and thin.

Some of the early sowings of maize were planted under what looked like plastic but is in fact a film made from potato starch, and is completely bio-degradable. It is soon consumed by all the soil bugs when its job is done !

Many of us gardeners and growers were absolutely astounded by the Met Office's announcement that May this year was the warmest on record. If that was the case why were plants not growing? The explanation we were given was that cold days were offset by nights which were warmer than average (with no frosts). This led to a lot of questioning of the Met Office data and a friend who works for that organisation told me that it was not true for South West England.

Some data which I can vouch for is that the rolling 12 months 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2024 was very wet - I recorded 1,245 mm in total compared to my long term average of about 900 mm. The Environment Agency who collect rainfall data say that for our area it was the wettest 12 months since records began in 1871.





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Market"

- Sunday Times
May 30 2021

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for The Best Farm Shop/Deli in
Somerset & Dorset 2021*



S.I.D. Update ...

Period 3: 11-25 May

13,338 vehicles clocked

63% over 30 mph limit

1 over 90 mph

Period 4: 25 May - 7 June

14,414 vehicles clocked

63% over 30 mph limit

1 over 90 mph - again!

Period 5: 7 - 20 June

15,815 vehicles clocked

83% over 30 mph limit

3 over 90 mph

Period 6: 20 June - 7 July

13,149 vehicles clocked

87% over 30 mph limit

2 over 90 mph



Data update - a couple of adjustments from last issues reports - vehicles clocked are not just 'cars', and the 40-50 mph percentages quoted were actually 30-50 mph. Also please note the larger traffic volume fluctuations and percentages over 30 mph are affected by the location of the monitor and other local traffic situations.

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