

LOPEN

Life

JUNE - JULY 2024

Local
Events &
Diary

D-DAY
Events

Creating
a Green
Village

ISSUE 11

Edit this...

YES! We finally had some sun at last, in between the usual, but this and the general temperature uplift has done the same for our spirits and our gardens, and paves the way for this issues 'green' agenda. Look out for the Wilder Open Gardens, how to engage village biodiversity and flood prevention.

Kicking off with D-Day on 6th June, the 80th, and expected to be one of last with survivors still with us, we have an extended commemoration on the 8th June in the Village, (hopefully with everyone decking the village with bunting). With luck these next two months will start to really feel like summer is here, and if it does rain - there is always Wimbledon and more to keep us entertained!

For those who missed the Annual Parish Meeting, we have details on the SID Traffic Monitoring Camera and reporting, and what most of us missed - a beautiful shot of the amazing Aurora Borealis on Frog Street. Evidence from both that Lopen Never Sleeps!

Finally. Lopen Life is keen to hear from any of our younger Villagers who wish to write a regular feature or be a Village Reporter, and as a publication we are also very interested to hear from new potential advertisers, to make sure we continue to go to print in our own small way. Please get in touch.

Chris Marsh - Editor


Next issue deadline for diary dates, articles and stories is July 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



D-DAY Anniversary Commemorations

June 6th & 8th 2024

Volunteers and Help still needed please...



Thursday 6th June: *Get the bunting out!*

6.30pm -

National Bell Toll in All Saints Church, Lopen

6.45 -9.00pm -

Dress the Sunday School Room

9.15pm -

Lopen joins the International Lighting the Lamp of Peace in the Church

Saturday 8th June:

12.00 -

Sunday School Room D-Day Event opens

1.00pm -

We'll Meet Again -

Singalong in the Church

2.30- 4.30pm -

D-Day film in SSR

5.00pm - D-Day Quiz

6.00pm onwards -

D-Day/1940's Theme Pop Up Pub in SSR

Contact Trevor Power 07878 185537 for details

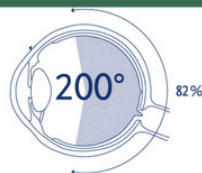


ROBERT FRITH OPTOMETRISTS

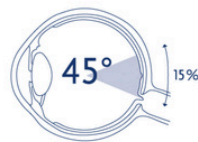
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CONTACT - Chris - 07714 631007

- 01460 240506

Lopen Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on the 20th April in the Sunday School Room and was well attended with some thirty-five or so Villagers present. One of the key topics was the Speed Camera (SID) re-introduction and reporting. The other key subject was in regard to the opportunity to lease a couple of acres of land from the Council in Kitchen Lane ahead of any sale or development.

There is a SID report in this issue and an update on the land will follow with a village invite to a special meeting to discuss what happens next and make any decisions. Meantime this issue also looks at our local bio-diversity, look out for the Wilder Gardens event which includes our beautiful Church yard, and we have some details about what some people need to do because of the large amount of rain we have had.

The Lopen Parish Council are also keen to hear from any new prospective Councillors to get involved in the village. Contact the Parish Clerk if interested.

NEXT LPC MEETINGS:

Monday 24th June, and Monday 27th July 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 – lopenpc.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

What you may have missed...



**Our own Frog Street and the Aurora Borealis the night of 10th May -
courtesy of Caroline Humphreys**

Lopen Plant Fair - with big thanks to the efforts of Marian and Christianne, supported by numerous people over the years, this last annual Lopen Plant Fair raised a fabulous £1201, with the proceeds going towards a new window in the Sunday School Room.



Parnham Voices & Springtime in All Saints- The Parnham Voices a capella chamber choir performed to an audience of over 40 in our Church, raising £268 for Church funds. Look out for the popular Lopen Music Weekend in September.



All Saints Church

SERVICE DATES:

Every Wednesday at 08.30

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

JUNE Services:

Sunday 2nd - 9.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 16th - 10.30 am Parish Communion

JULY Services:

Sunday 5th - 9.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 21st - 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

Sunday School Room - Update

Many will have heard my update at the Village Meeting on April 26th, when I covered funding, timescale and setting up an SSR group. The Lottery Fund came good in the end taking our total to £59,460. Now Christianne, Marian and the team have raised an amazing £1201 in the Lopen Plant Fair, taking us past the magic £60,000 mark. This latest contribution will go towards the replacement of one of the two decaying windows.

Some time ago we considered the installation of an audio/visual system, but there were greater priorities at the time. However the Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund was relaunched in February, so we have submitted an application for £4000 for such a system.

Although we have now achieved our target of £60,000, there will always be additional items such as better external lighting, improved acoustics, an effective hearing loop, redecoration and possible overruns - so in a word, please keep donating!!

On timescale, the floor will dictate the other items, and that in turn is dependent on the decision of the Planning Authority as the building is listed and so requires consent. And the good news is we have some users that have formed a group to pull together ideas for the SSR, and will meet for the first time at the end of May. **Steve Chapman, PCC Treasurer**

JUNE 2024 - Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Thursday 6th	D-DAY See D-DAY page for details	Starts at 6.15 pm in the Church
Saturday 8th	D-DAY Village Commemoration See D-Day page for details	Starts at 12.00 in the Sunday School Room
Sunday 9th	Lopen Lads Check Whats App Group for details	Details to follow Trevor 07878 185537
Tuesday 11th	Just Women 2.30 pm Visit to Abbey Farm Gardens, Montecute	Open to partners & friends £12 inc refreshments
Wednesday 12th	Coffee Stop 10.30-12.00 Sunday School Room	Tea, coffee, cake and chat, all for a good cause and a £1
Sunday 16th	Wildier Open Gardens See advert for details	2.30-4.00 pm
Monday 24th	Lopen Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm Sunday School Room	All Welcome
Wednesday 26th	Coffee Stop 10.30 - 12.00 Sunday School Room	Tea, coffee, cake and a chat, all for a good cause and a £1
Friday 28th	Pop Up Pub - FESTIVAL NIGHT! get on your headbands, beads and flowers in your hair - if you dare!	Create your own Glasto Experience from 7.30 pm Sunday School Room

JULY 2024 - Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Tuesday 9th	Just Women 1.30 pm Visit to ARK at Egwood Talk and our of the gardens	Open to partners and friends £12 inc refreshments
Wednesday 10th	Coffee Stop 10.30 - 12.00 Sunday School Room	Tea, coffee, cake and a chat, all for good cause and a £1



Pub Landlords needed!

The L'Open Arms Pop Up Pub is looking for Volunteer Landlords to open, close and host the monthly Pub nights - go on, you know you have always fancied it!



Contact Mary Chapman on 01460 249549

Sunday 21st	Lopen Lads Out and About and Chat	Details on Whats App group & Trevor 07878 185537
Wednesday 24th	Coffee Stop 10.30-12.00 Sunday School Room	Tea, Coffee, Cake and Chat, all for a good cause and a £1
Friday 26th	L'Open Arms Pop Up Pub Who's the Landlord this Month? Surprise us - like the Lottery - it could be YOU!	Contact Mary Chapman on 01460 249549
Monday 29th	Parish Council Annual Meeting	SSR - 7.00

Bio-diversity and Environment in Lopen

Since January 2024, public authorities, including town and parish councils have a statutory Biodiversity duty under the 2021 Environment Act.

But did you know...

- Somerset has lost over 5% of its total grassland habitats.
- Butterfly distribution has declined by over 330 square miles over 30 years
- Lapwing records have declined to worrying levels.
- The number of 'Good' quality rivers in Somerset has decreased.
- Non-native invasive species cover has increased by 260%.

Lopen already have the resident-run Eco Churchyard Group & Wilder Open Gardens operating in the village....

There is so much more that we can all do - if you have ideas, plans, curiosity or passion and/or already are involved in work, study or volunteering within this field, your knowledge could be valuable to the village and to nature.

Is there any interest in forming a Green Cluster Group in the village?

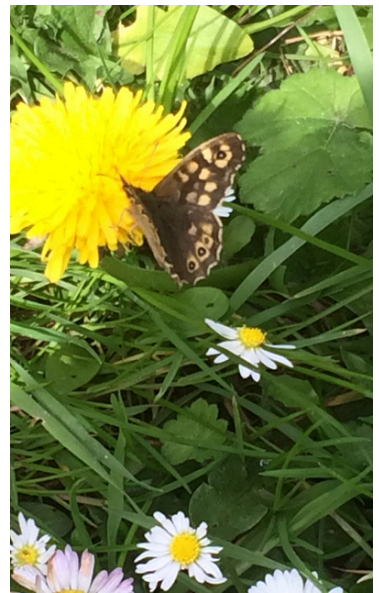
Are you interested in compiling information on local wildlife sightings; taking photographs; writing a column for Lopen Life ?

Or become involved more creatively with the focus on the natural environment ... a creative writing group; photography; making items for your own garden, whether that is bird or bat boxes, bug homes, a pond etc.

You could become involved by:

- Becoming a Flood Warden
- Helping prepare a Flood Plan for Lopen
- Somerset Rivers' Authority Research Project
- Building a Climate Adaptation Programme

The Parish Clerk has all the information you need.



Join us for
tea, cake and a
Wilder
Open Garden



Sunday 16th June
2-4.30pm

Church St, Lopen

Several gardens and churchyard.

Join us for **tea and cake** to help us raise vital funds for wildlife, and explore how you can make a few changes for nature in your own outdoor spaces.

Plant sale, wildlife spotting & Raffle

Want to join in with your garden?

Contact revgurner@btinternet.com

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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



Always look on the bright side...

Rainfall report 2nd May 2024 - Jeremy Rook

March and April this year have both been above average rainfall months, and in the year from 1st May 2023 to 30th April 2024 we have had only 2 months with below average rain – they were June last year and January this year.

On a rolling 12 months, I have recorded nearly 1,200 mm compared with the Long Term Average of about 900 mm – so we have received about one third above LTA. This sort of overshoot has occurred 5 times in the 35 years I have been recording.

The wet Autumn and Spring has brought problems for farmers, making harvest difficult and expensive and delaying the sowing of crops. A lot of dairy farmers will be keeping their cows in Winter housing because their hooves will destroy the pastures, trampling the grass into the mud. Back in Medieval times, a similar continuously wet year would have been disastrous for our ancestors, who lived a subsistence life, very dependent on each year's harvest. Several famines are recorded and in one just before the Black Death, the king and his followers arrived at St Albans only to find that there was literally no food to be bought – even for ready money!

How a local resident is managing the flooding - by Alex and Hasi Peto-Dias

We live in The Old Mill at the Merriott end of the village

Our end of the village was badly flooded on Monday 4th December last year and the whole of our ground floor was destroyed. We have been living near Chard since then, waiting for the house to dry and 15 weeks later we have finally been given the green light to start restoration, which started this April. We hope to be back 'home' sometime in June.

Since the flooding, we have embarked on a programme of clearing and digging, re-routing channels & widening ditches in our fields to help take water away from the road and the village. One of our main projects has been to dig a huge pond quite near to the Lopen stream with the intention of catching and holding firstly a significant amount of water from excessive rainfall and secondly to hold water when the river bursts its' banks and over flows on to the village road.

Since we have lived in the village (about 20 years) we have always maintained and cleared the ditches around us and kept, wherever possible, the drains outside the house on the road free from debris and we hope other private land owners and farmers are doing the same.

Age UK Somerset is looking for friendly people in our area who would like to get involved with making life happier for local older people.

As we get older, living alone and lacking the confidence or mobility to get out of the house can lead to anxiety, low mood and devastating loneliness (and as if that wasn't bad enough, this has been linked to an increase in health problems).

To solve these issues local charity Age UK Somerset have two wonderful free schemes running here - **Walk and Talk** which matches a volunteer with an older person for a weekly gentle walk and chat, and Wellbeing Friends where a volunteer visits each week to offer some friendly company.

However, they are desperate for volunteers to lend a hand and be matched with the older people they have on their waiting lists for both services.

If you can spare an hour a week (flexible) and would like to feel like you are making a difference in your community please contact them - volunteers@ageuksomerset.org.uk or **01823 345627**.

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Look Out - There's a SID about!

The Speed Indicator Device - SID - is back and reporting for duty. Thanks to Trevor Power, Ben Goldsmith, Mark Sullivan, Mark Lethbridge and Clinton Parker we now have a SID Crew working in rotation to move, charge and report on the village traffic antics.

It will be moved every 12-14 days, traffic/battery dependent, in 6 week cycles. Reports every 2 weeks from one of 6 different locations will be sent to the police via the Parish Clerk. Then we should start to see a more obvious police presence.



The two reports to date top line tells us the following:

Week 1 - 14-26 April

14,989 cars 'clocked'

72% were over the speed limit

5 people clocked over 90 mph

65% were between 40-50 MPH

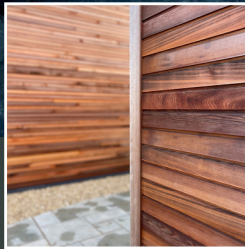
Week 2 - 26 April-11 May

15,826 cars 'clocked'

86% were over the speed limit

5 people clocked over 90 mph

50% were between 40-50 MPH



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