

Open Field

£1

April 2021



Amy-Eloise Markovc, grand daughter of the late Son and Eva Frecknall, winning the 3000m for GB at the European Indoor Athletics Championships in Poland, March 2021

The monthly publication of the parish of Laxton & Moorhouse
www.openfield.org.uk



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Special thanks to Pawel Skraba Sports Photography for permission to use photos taken at the European Indoor Athletics Championships in Poland

Open Field

www.openfield.org.uk

Flowers and Brasses Rota - suspended until further notice

Mr & Mrs S Clarke
Mrs M Beckitt & Mrs B Noble
Mrs S Rose & Mrs R Creighton

Coffee Morning Hosting Rota - will be published when they are resumed

We always welcome contributions and can help if you are not sure how to write what you want to say.

Contributions for the next edition TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY NOON ON 16th APRIL 2021 PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED. You can send at any time.

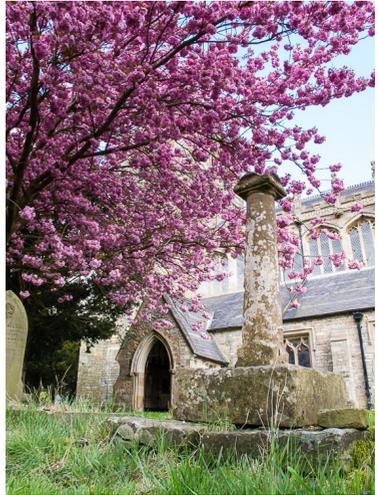
A Message from our Churchwarden

We are very sorry that we were not able to open our churches for Mothering Sunday, but we are pleased to say we shall be opening some of our churches for Easter Services.

On Easter Sunday we will be joining with Egmonton at their church for a service of Holy Communion at 10.30am. This service will be taken by Canon John Smith from Southwell Minster.

Unfortunately we have only two priests to serve ten churches and, with it being Easter, although the church likes to have a service, it is not possible to hold one everywhere this year.

The service rota for April appears on the left centre page of this edition of 'Open Field'. Our first service at Laxton will be on April 11th at 10.30am.



Brenda

Church Help



We were just wondering if anyone could spare an hour or two to help tidy the church yard before mowing begins.

Because of the bad weather and winds there are a lot of twigs etc to pick up and ivy to get rid of.

If anyone could help we were thinking of meeting on Saturday 10th April at 2.00pm. There is plenty of room in the

church yard for social distancing.

If you could help, please get in touch with me on **870541** or just turn up.

Thank you

Brenda

Registers - Sympathy Pat Freer,

As reported in last month's 'Open Field', we were saddened to learn of the death of Pat Freer in Bassetlaw hospital on the 15th February 2021, at the age of 81.

Pat lived in the Millar's House at Laxton. She was originally from Old Ollerton and moved to Laxton when she married Robert Grundy. After Robert died, she married Lawrence Freer.

Her funeral service was held in Laxton Church on Thursday 25th February, unfortunately under strict Covid restrictions which meant only 30 people could attend in the church. Several people paid their respects standing in the churchyard.

The service was conducted by Lay reader Heather Brown, with Graham playing two hymns - but we could not sing. Burial followed in the churchyard. Our sympathy goes to her son Richard and to her family - sisters Gill, Joan, Marjorie and Sally and brothers Mick and John.

Get Well Wishes

We have not heard of anyone newly becoming unwell this month, which is great news.

Margaret is recovering at home, while Heather is also continuing her long recovery at home. Everyone else who has been unwell recently seems to be making good progress as well, for which we are thankful.

We wish everyone well and hope better health comes to everyone with the (hopefully) better weather.

ROB Collections

We are pleased to report that by the time you read this, ROB will have carried out their first doorstep collection since the recent lockdown. Please put out any glass for them on the Tuesday of the week that the recycling collection by the council occurs. Large cardboard items can be taken to their depot on Boughton Camp

The Shepherds' Memorial Seat



Whilst walking through the church yard recently we noticed the seat near the Shepherds' graves is looking very smart following a refurbishment.

New plaques have been fitted and Mary and Ken are proudly displayed together on the middle plaque.



Parish Council News

May Council Elections

The Village Hall has been booked some time for County Council elections at the beginning of May. We have no details at all about how this is going to be managed by the Council but in the mean time be prepared to take your own pen/pencil and facemasks if it happens!!!

Michael Manning

Pat Freer, Formerly Grundy

It was very sad to hear the news of the passing away of Pat following a period of poor health.

Pat was always very keen on keeping up with events within the village despite her health and we always had a health conversation when I called for her Bonus Ball money!

She was a very active member of both the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee over the years and I think Pat was probably one of very few female members of the Council there has ever been!

As a Village Hall Committee member she could always be relied upon to attend meetings, organise Hall events for the Grove and Rufford Hunt and provide raffle prizes / puddings for all the quizzes. It was only due to her health that she was not as active recently, but the puddings/ raffles prizes kept coming, albeit delivered to the Hall by Richard!

So we say good-bye to another iconic village member but she will always be remembered. Her Bonus Ball number was 37 and if anyone would like to take it on in her memory, please let me know. (01777 870844)

Michael

Pat's Plant Stall

I will soon be sowing seeds for plants for the stall.

Kitchen Garden plants will include runner beans, French beans, broad beans, leeks, tomatoes, kale, courgette and cucumber.

If you would like any of the above please place your order on

01777 870601

They will be ready for sale/planting by the end of April to early May.

Flowers will include the usual bedding and basket plants. These can just be purchased from the stall from May onwards. As always donations of plants suitable for sale will be very welcome. The charity to be supported by this year's stall will be announced soon.

Pat



Tuxford Young Farmers



Since our last report the first meeting we had was a pancake themed meeting where we made our own pancakes and decorated them, with Emily Hennell's winning.

The next meeting we had was a talk from a local animal physiotherapist, Sophie Germany, about how

she has started her own

veterinary physiotherapy company and how she works with horses and dogs.



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Next we had a meeting with Fliss from our Notts YFC team. She showed us a bit of yoga. After this we have had a meeting with a speaker from Yorkshire Air Ambulance, which showed us what they do and how they are funded as a charity.

Finally the last meeting we had was from 'Ladies in Pigs'. They showed us how to make a pork casserole dish and had a cook along with it.

We are hoping now as we are easing out of lockdown that we can soon have meetings in person again. Hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Emily

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APRIL CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special event this month.

We would love to give a mention to anyone who is celebrating, so please send in details with dates in good time for the right month.

The birthday roll of honour for this month is a real bumper list! Margaret I, Brenda C, Johnny G, Roy H, Cath M, Jean M, Joyce S, Andrew H, Roger B, Joan C and Derek S.

We wish a happy anniversary to anyone celebrating this month. Do send in details so we can celebrate your special day

If you are celebrating a special date, we send best wishes and if you know someone we have missed, please tell us in time for the next edition.



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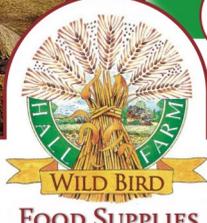


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Coffee Mornings

The Coffee Mornings remain suspended for the time being. We will let you know when we can start again. The rota on the inside cover will remind hostesses so that we can start as soon it is right to do so.




“Now that I’m older” Part 2

- ☆ A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money so I got up and helped him.
- ☆ I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day.
- ☆ Just remember, once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed.
- ☆ Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put your clothes on and leave the house.
- ☆ It's weird being the same age as old people.
- ☆ What's that other word for senility?
- ☆ It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.
- ☆ My wife told me that I never buy her flowers. To be honest, I never knew she sold them.

Eating in the UK in the 50s, Part 1

- ☆ Pasta had not been invented.
- ☆ Curry was a surname.
- ☆ A takeaway was a mathematical problem.
- ☆ A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.
- ☆ Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.
- ☆ All crisps were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.
- ☆ A Chinese chippy was a foreign carpenter.
- ☆ Rice was a pudding, and never, ever part of our dinner.
- ☆ A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.

European Gold with a Laxton Connection

Those who have lived in Laxton for a good number of years will remember well Arthur (Son) and Eva Frecknall.

Son was the son of Arthur Frecknall, the last farmer to



farm at The Dovecote when it still had 57 acres attached to it. He married Eva and they lived at various places in the area through a long and hard working life. This included running the Grapes Inn, Southwell, for 19 years before moving to the Old Reindeer Inn, Edingley, which they ran for 20 years before retiring and 'coming home' to Laxton in 1992.

They had two daughters, Elaine and Elizabeth. Elizabeth was well known for her sprinting, competing at national level as a girl. She seems to have passed the running gene to her daughter Amy-Eloise.

Amy-Eloise was born in England, so qualifies in her own right for the British Team. Then Elizabeth and husband Richard moved to America when Amy-Eloise and her brother, Alexander, were small. Amy-Eloise began running aged 7 and worked her way through school competing at higher and higher levels in the athletics world in her different age groups.

The Newark Advertiser carried an article on 17th August 2007 about Son and Eva travelling to America to watch her run, aged 11, in the US Track and Field Junior National Olympics, in California. Amy-Eloise won the 1,500 and 3,000 metres for the 11 to 12s' age group at the event, for the best young athletes in America. Her time for the 3,000 metres was 10 minutes, 37.43 seconds. Her grandparents were so proud of Amy-Eloise's running achievements and would have been beyond proud of her performance in a British vest at the

recent European Indoor Athletics Championships in Torun, Poland in March.

Amy-Eloise, running now in her married name of Markovc, and Verity Ockenden got Great Britain & Northern Ireland off to a great start taking gold and bronze in the women's 3000m final. Three British athletes were in contention with two laps to go.

Amy Eloise took and held on to the lead, despite a strong challenge from the French athlete, taking her first European Indoor title in 8 minutes 46.43 seconds. Verity Ockenden was pipped to the silver medal by the French runner.

After the race, Amy-Eloise said: "It's unbelievable! That was the goal coming into it and I wanted to keep that winning mentality. It was definitely a bit nerve-racking and I'm just really pleased that I ran confidently, stayed calm and trusted myself when I went to make a move."

"I'm really pleased with the result and it makes it even better that I'm going to be standing on the podium with Verity. I've been really focussed recently and I've just been really confident. Knowing that I was ready, trusting myself and trusting my instincts and having that positive self-talk throughout the race paid off because the last few weeks, things have really turned around for me and now I've crossed the line with the Union Jack around my shoulders, so that's incredible. It's a dream come true".

Amy-Eloise is married to Jernej Markovc, who competed as a rower for the Slovenian National Team and University of Washington. To add to the Laxton

connection, he proposed to her during a visit to the village. We wish Amy-Eloise well and will follow her career with interest.

Many thanks to Pawel Skraba of Pawel Skraba Sports Photography for permission to use his photos to illustrate this article and the cover.



Scarecrow Update

We have welcomed more than the usual number of new residents to Laxton over the last year, so first a brief recap.

This time last year the population expanded considerably with an imaginative, amusing and colourful influx of scarecrows of every type imaginable. This was the brainchild of our Young Farmers, who must be due congratulations for managing to remain positive and enterprising in their activities throughout the difficulties we have all faced.

The scarecrows were intended to thank our key workers as well as to encourage them as they drove around on their way to and from their vital work. They remained with us for several months, but gradually retired into memory.

It was a great surprise when, late last year, we were contacted by professional photographer Terence Lane, (known privately as Peter) who had entered photos of some of them in a national competition and had three accepted for an exhibition.

Of course, the public exhibition never happened as planned, but the organisers set up an on line version and also published a newspaper style catalogue of all the exhibits.

Early this year, Peter made contact and, finally giving up on any chance of a presentation in person for the anniversary of lockdown, delivered an A3 framed copy of the three and a copy of the newspaper for each of the three makers of the scarecrows in his photos.

Congratulations to Ruby Doyle, Jo Godson and Katie Gent on making the scarecrows featured.

Many thanks to Peter for his kindness and generosity and maybe he should have the final word:

'The scarecrows were a wonderful sight. I wanted to thank the makers for them and to let them know that, even when you are unaware of it, the things you do get noticed in ways you never expect.'



Litter Collection 2021

The final week of February saw a village coming together to clear our footpaths, verges and field trackways of litter. What a wonderful response and a huge sense of achievement. One hesitates to speculate on the number of bags it was necessary to fill but I know it had to be in excess of 30 compost / black bin bags. Thank you to Sam for providing the grabbers and bin bags on the 26th itself. The grabbers are available to borrow, just ask Sam.

Unfortunately we have to acknowledge that this collection will need another major input from us next March as our 2021 collection was discarded litter which had accumulated since all the verges were cleared in March 2020. Society appears to have decided that discarding your litter is not a problem as someone, somewhere, some time will clear it up. How very sad that is.

The majority of us I think were encouraged at a very early age to 'take our litter home' and 'Keep Britain Tidy' but these messages do not appear to be at the forefront of people's mind when they park in field entrances to drink from their cans or bottles or just throw cans and general litter out of their car windows.

Again unfortunately, within a few days there was fresh litter on some of the verges but it would appear that some of you are continuing to keep a watchful eye on your patch as it seems to disappear quickly.

I'm reminded of one (old) gentleman I had a chat with while cycling through Norwell. He had taken it upon himself to walk each of their five feed-in roads, one a day, Monday to Friday, for his exercise while picking up any litter.



I am very pleased with how our approaches now look and a big thank you is sent to all who contributed their time and efforts to achieve it. The end result is a joy to see.

Jeff

Many thanks to Sam at The Dovey and everyone who turned up for the recent Laxton Village Litter Pick. You can see from the photos how much was collected and again thanks to Sam for organising its disposal. It seems a good idea to have another one, check the village Facebook and e-mails group for news.

Michael





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Improvements at Egmonton



The last month has seen an unprecedented amount of work in Egmonton, which will benefit everyone.

The first signs of activity were due to the old path at the church being dug up. It was a concrete structure and had been badly cracked and deformed by the roots of the yew trees beside it. The new path was put down while the church was closed, so the work inconvenienced nobody. It is a vast improvement and will be appreciated by everyone attending the service there on Easter Sunday.

Next came some minor drainage works followed by the road closure and removal of the old road surface. Even before the new tarmac went down this was a considerable improvement. In three days the road was transformed. No longer need cyclists fear for life and limb or drivers fear for their tyres. There is now beautiful smooth tarmac, complete with white lines. Long may it survive the impact of the fallout from the trees and rookery as well as the torrents streaming down from the Tuxford direction.



Finally, and probably of more interest to those living close to it who would prefer not to be flooded, the culvert which was supposed to direct the torrents into the water feature installed a couple of years ago, has been lined. Several times it had been rendered useless by vegetation



and lack of a proper run off, but this now seems to have been cured. Bollards have even been installed to prevent it being used as a lay by!

That's Books: "This is a well written and very moving novel"
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Subtle Smiles Part 1

- ☆ Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.
- ☆ Shotgun wedding - a case of wife or death
- ☆ A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
- ☆ Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- ☆ Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- ☆ When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- ☆ A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
- ☆ Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
- ☆ In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.
- ☆ A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- ☆ If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.

Laxton History Group



We have been informed that there has been a good response to calls for contributions to this year's online Great Nottinghamshire History Fair, which will run for the whole month of May.

It seems likely there will be a variety of things to see. Some groups have suggested PowerPoints of old photographs, or about the work of their society; others are doing video presentations about projects they are working on, and audio podcasts. All these will include links back to the society's website.

We plan to submit a selection of 25 - 30 old photos as a PowerPoint presentation. The number is the maximum each club's space can accommodate. It is still not too late to let us know if you have any old photos which others have not yet seen? We have a wide selection to choose from, but it would be great to give priority to pictures which have yet to be shared with a wider audience.

Please contact Jean (**870276**) or Joy (**871506**) if you can help.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

HC = Holy Communion EP = Evening Prayer MP = Morning Prayer
Es = Evensong WfA = Worship for All

2nd April Good Friday

10.30am	Walesby HC	Margaret G
6.00pm	Wellow EP	Heather B

4th April Easter Day

9.00 am	Kirton HC	Alistair & Janice
10.30am	Egmanton HC	Canon John Smith
10.30am	Walesby HC	Rev David McCoulough
4.00pm	Wellow HC	Margaret G

11th April

10.30am	Laxton HC	Alistair L
4.00pm	Egmanton EP	Heather B

18^h April

9.00am	Egmanton HC	Margaret G
10.30am	Wellow HC	Margaret G

25th April

10.30am	Kirton HC	Janice
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For any enquiries about baptisms, weddings etc, please contact our churchwarden Brenda in the first instance (**870541**)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



2021

Forward Planning

Suspended during the pandemic

Regular Events:

Parish Council *4th Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November*

Quiz Nights *1st Friday of December & March tbc*

Copy Date for May: 12 noon, 16th April

Please let us have your contributions in good time. We do what we can to include last minute items, but it is not always possible. Late arrivals are unlikely to make it into print.

Police Aid Clothing Bin Reminder

The clothing bin provides a small income from your donations, which is held by the Parish Council to fund any future village plans. It is still being emptied regularly. The following can be donated.

Clothing and Towels

Curtains

Handbags

Sheets and Blankets

Paired Shoes

Many thanks *Michael*

The Old Infant School in Laxton



As regular passers by will have noticed, work is proceeding apace on the building at the old Infant School site.

Apparently there is to be a house with a

separate double garage and



workshop, and it is this which is the focus of activity at the moment.

We hear that the workers are entertaining all who pass with their singing!

Laxton WI



Once again there is nothing much to report as WIs are still not able to hold meetings. We all miss seeing each other and hope it will not be too long before we can all catch up again. Maybe after June 21st we will know where we stand and can think about planning.

It seems strange at this time of year not to be thinking about the Newark Show and our group exhibit in particular. Normally members would be working on the crafts, the overall display and sorting out suitable recipes to go with this year's theme. Of course this year we have no theme, and no show. There was a hope that it might have been possible to hold a one day show, but everyone has given up even that idea now and for the second year there will be no county show.

The same may happen to our National Federation AGM at the Albert Hall in June. For once Laxton had not come out of the hat as the WI to send a delegate. That is East Markham's role this time. There are plans to send one person to represent eight or nine institutes rather than the usual three or four. Instead of the bus ride and overnight stay the plan is to get the train, returning the same night. Now even that is under consideration. Even if the government permits gatherings of that sort by then, will anyone want to go?

We hope everyone is keeping well in these strange times.

Brenda

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Nottinghamshire has been making good progress on getting everyone vaccinated. We are delighted to hear that some of our 'Over 50s' have had their first jab, while some of our older residents are coming up to being due for their second.

At the time of writing in mid March, the over 50s are now eligible for vaccination, despite a recent glitch when the web site announced that over 40s could book. Local experience shows that using the following routes are the best way to book yours. You can also use the web site to check if the age range has been extended.

Book online: <https://swiftqueue.co.uk/nottinghamc19vpatient.php>

Book by phone: 0115 883 4640

Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
20/2/21	10	Stuart Rose
27/2/21	20	ROLLOVER
6/3/21	15	Anne Dutton
13/3/21	20	ROLLOVER

We have various numbers available. Here is the up to date list of the 14 spare numbers: **1, 2, 7, 11, 20, 23, 26, 27, 34, 51, 52, 56, 57, 59 (14)?**

Please contact Mike Manning 870844. Thank you.

Michael Manning

Group Oil Order

There have been one or two mentions of oil recently. A fourth order for the year is possible during the early part of April if enough people need some. If you would like a delivery, please let me know ASAP with the volume you would want. If there are enough requests to make up an order, I will prepare one.

If you have my personal email please use that as it reaches me more quickly. If you are new then please use the general address of oil@openfield.org.uk. New

residents in the villages are very welcome to join. Please contact me and let me have your full address, contact details (email and phone) and any special instructions.

Please ensure I have your current up to date contact details. If in doubt, please resend and I will check with my list.

Keep safe and warm,

Joy



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Moorhouse Memories

This article has been adapted from one which appeared in 'Newark Memories' answering the question: 'Where is Moorhouse?'

This is Moorhouse Church, painted in 1958, towards the end of the horse and cart era, the end of binding, of stooking and of leading the crops home to the stack yard. My brothers, Ken and Noel, are there, building the



stack to await the threshing machine later on in the year

The first church was a private chapel founded by Robert de Lexington in the early 13th century to 'maintain a priest 'to sing masses there for ever for the good of my soul.' The Chapel over hundreds of years became unused and derelict. Rebuilt in 1861 it still stands in a field. Where the railings end, you step out into Church Croft, a grass field, belonging to the farmer.



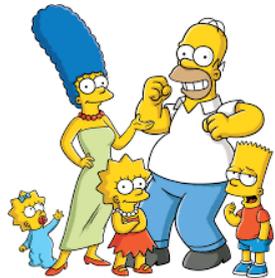
Access is by custom and usage. The footpath to the Hop Yard road did not exist until my dad made an opening there to collect eggs from the pullet field and even then only to the lane and not to the church. In fact my brothers were asked by my dad, to build a concrete path to connect the little church gate to the end of the occupation lane, Church Lane.

Dad said that when he first took the farm the then Vicar asked if he could bring his pony and trap down the lane. Dad went further than that and in inclement weather, he stabled the pony and allowed the Vicar to shelter the trap in our Gig House. Edie How, organist, used to bike from Laxton in all weathers and leave her bike at the farm.

After this year's closure, I wonder if it will ever open again.

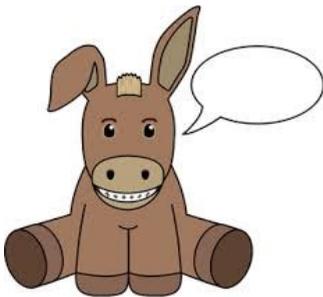
All the World's a Stage

I was going to write a play, but news these past few weeks has quashed my hopes. Apparently several 30-year-old wannabe luvvies announced they would not take roles that are not authentic to their “real being”. Also the people who make The Simpsons have sacked the actor who has provided the voice of one of its cartoon characters for many years on the grounds that he doesn't fit the “social profile” of the drawing. Crackers!



Now, I always thought acting was the ability to take the work and prose of an author and bring it to life, to entertain, amuse or provoke. Apparently not.

Take the Bard. Shakespeare has been around for a while and he's reckoned to be a bit talented, but how real is it? In *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the weaver Bottom is turned into an ass by a fairy (imagine the auditions for that!!). In the interests of us all, the research has been done, lots of donkeys and asses interviewed – someone had to do it. Please don't think I'm donkeyist, but the truth is, they are not up to it. They can't get the dialogue, you see. Stage management is fraught, and they aren't house trained.



Look at *King Lear*. Sir Ian McKellen gave a towering performance they say, but how can that be possible? The ~~man~~ (sorry, person) is from Blackburn, isn't a king and doesn't have daughters called Goneril, Reagan and what's-her-name. (Speaking personally, if he donned a long wig he could probably convince me he's Cleopatra. I think it's called talent).

Who's going to own up to being eligible to play Caliban in *The Tempest*? Described as half-man, half-beast, a deformed monster whose mother was a witch. Do you know anyone who qualifies? And don't write in and say you married him. It won't be believed.

There used to be pantomime fantasy, but that must be out now. To you it may be magic, laughter and fun, but is it true to someone's “real being”? Ali Baba, for instance. Do you often see ~~men~~ (sorry, persons) walking around in funny trousers rubbing their lamps? Not in the Co-op, you don't! Fairy godmothers are in short supply, Peter Pan is a definite non-starter, and what about that glass slipper fetishist in *Cinderella*?

Opera? Musicals? When did anyone see a herd of Wagner's Valkyries

steaming down the aisles in Tesco yodeling their heads off looking for the baked beans? The only venue suitable for someone cradling a dying lover after a street fight in West Side Story singing “There’s a Place for Us” would be an estate agent’s. It’s all very depressing.

It will rebound, I’m sure. Crowds will hardly flock to fill the theatres to see yet another mind-boggling new style show about “Sid the Plumber loses his Washers”, and thespians will start to be out of a job.

Will they be desperately adapting themselves to the new style and the few shows and plays left with crowd pulling appeal? It could be tricky if this goes too far. Let’s face it, if you have spent the last six months giving your all as Frankenstein’s Monster you are not going to be a shoo-in for James Bond. Not if you’ve had bolts put through your neck and big stitches round your forehead you’re not.



Other parts would suggest that it is not a good idea to get a complete makeover. One really could not play a Jane Austen heroine as a chalk white waif-like creature with razor sharp fangs hanging out of your mouth and blood dripping down your chin.

Something is not quite right here, and I’ve got a sneaking feeling that the reluctant theatricals have got the focus wrong, or – unworthy thought – they just can’t act.

As usual, the remedy is in our own hands. – that is to do our own thing. Laxton has a fine theatrical heritage. Witness the thrilling production not long ago of the Laxton Mummers Play. Who can forget it?

The ideal play for us is already written – rich in drama and true to us all. So get your copy of Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons, view the wonderful film of it with Alastair Sim and listen to the superb audio book read by Kenneth Williams, you will be enthralled.

We’ve got it all – location, atmosphere - so go for it. Choose your part. Will you be Aunt Ada Doom, who saw “something narsty in the woodshed” and ruled the farm with iron resolve and a rolled-up copy of “The Milk Producer’s Weekly Bulletin and Cowkeeper’s Guide”? Or Urk Starkadder, who was obsessed with water voles? Could you be Agony Beetle, or the lounging, graceful Seth Starkadder, or maybe old Adam Lambsbreath with his beloved cows Graceless, Pointless, Feckless and Aimless?

Perhaps there are people you would like to nominate for a role. I’m sure they would be delighted and grateful.

Auditions by arrangement.

Lesley Booth

Musing on the Good Times

I think this is my last poem, don't want to sound too formal,
But Covid is receding and we're getting back to normal.
So, now I'll write of cheerful things, my latest pan of soup,
Yes, another squash & lentil, but it's tasty, cheap and very, very good
(do you know how hard it is to rhyme with soup?)

The garden's looking stunning , it gives me quite a thrill
To see the sunny brightness of my favourite daffodil.
I fell in love with this plant when just a little child,
When we moved into Walnut View, they were simply growing wild.

They grew under the walnut tree, huge armfuls, sunshine yellor,
The dainty scent drowned out the smell of damp from down the cellar.
But character abounded there, and life was never bland,
Just joy and freedom every day whilst playing on the land.

A tiny school I went to, the teacher, she could talk,
But best of all was when she said "let's go on a nature walk"
We learned the names of flowers, and became supremely able
Of labelling and arranging them on our old nature table.

I'm sure that's where I learned my love of all of nature's bounty,
Quite simply ,as we walked the lanes, in our small rural county.
And also I learned baking every Friday afternoon,
Victoria sponge sandwich, stirred with a wooden spoon.

I played up at The Cedars, a haunting, listed pile,
Antiques there were aplenty, the house was full of style.
Well, some of the rooms were empty, you would never have the cramp,
But just like our old farmhouse, it too was full of damp.

That's when I knew that old things and old places were my thing,
You can keep your new IKEA, M&S and all that bling.
Just give me old mahogany, or rosewood I can pardon,
It looks so good when polished sporting flowers from the garden.

And so dear readers it's farewell, I hope no more to write
Of lockdowns, vaccines, politics, of rancour, fear and spite,
Instead let's just appraise the year that we have all survived
And thank our lucky stars and just be glad to be alive.

Happy Easter.

Brenda Wilson March 2021.

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Asymptomatic Testing in Ollerton

Mike Manning recently circulated the following message:

'We have just heard that New Ollerton is having a mobile asymptomatic Covid-19 testing unit on Mondays and Thursdays from 10am to 5.30pm starting today 18/3/21.

It will be located in the Forest Road Car Park- no appointments are necessary and when you arrive you will be asked to register to get your results.

It appears the test only takes a few seconds and within 40 minutes the result is sent to your smartphone if you have one.'

'Courier Fraud' Warning from the Police

Nottinghamshire Police is warning you to watch out for a rise in courier fraud scams.

Victims have received a call from someone claiming to be a police officer investigating counterfeit currency or fraudulent use of the victim's bank card. The caller tells them not to talk to anyone else about the call as it may jeopardise the police investigation, then tries to persuade them to withdraw a large sum of money, purchase gift cards, foreign currency or expensive jewellery / watches. A 'courier' is then sent to the victim's home address to collect the cash / items.

Scammers have been using genuine telephone numbers 'spoofing'. The chosen number appears on your Caller ID to make calls appear genuine. Even the Nottinghamshire Police 0115 telephone number has been used.

DS Anna Haynes said: "We are urging people to share this amongst neighbours and relatives. If you receive such a call you should not give out any personal information and hang up immediately. **No police officer will ever call you out of the blue asking for personal information, including bank account details.**

A police officer would never ask you to withdraw money or purchase high value items such as gold or watches as part of an investigation. If you receive a phone call like this please report it to the police immediately and inform Action Fraud."

You can report fraud online via the Action Fraud website

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> / or on 0300 123 2040.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who expressed their enjoyment of last month's magazine. There can be no mistaking the fact that the highest number of thanks came in the month when a record number of people had sent contributions.



Particular thanks go to Brenda Wilson for the poems she has sent monthly for the last few months. She tells me she started to write at the beginning of the pandemic, although only began sending to us some months later. She is now giving herself a well earned rest, but we would like her to know that her friendly and amusing poems have provided a lighter spot for our readers these last few months. We hope that if she feels the irresistible urge to write again, she will copy us in.

Finally thank you and sympathy at the same time to Jan, who for many years now has been one of the first with her contribution, telling us all about the Dukeries Singers. Last month I thought I must have misfiled her message because I could not find it, and was deeply saddened to hear that her husband had recently died. She is, understandably, taking a break from writing her upbeat bulletins about life with the choir. We send our thanks and condolences and look forward to a time when she feels able to write once again.

Joy

Milton Mausoleum

The Mausoleum will be open every Sunday from 2pm – 4pm, beginning Sunday 2nd May until the end of September 2021. The AGM will be held on Sunday 6th June at 2pm when refreshments will be available. We welcome visitors to this meeting which will be held inside the Mausoleum subject to Covid regulations, of course.

As before the building will be open every Sunday but refreshments will only be available on the first Sunday in the month on a trial basis on 4 July / 1 Aug / 5 Sept).

Enquiries, please to Email: milton.mausoleum@outlook.com

Phone Gillian (01777 248310) or Jenny (0779 1527569)



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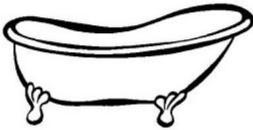
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One way to stretch household finances is to shop around for the best deals on your mobile phone and broadband (depending on the details of your price plan), and on utilities, such as electricity. Installing a water meter can also sometimes bring savings.

It's worth checking your insurances and subscriptions - cancel any you don't need and shop around for the others. It's normally cheaper if you don't leave it until just before the renewal date.

Make a list of the cost of your priority outgoings - such as bills, food and essential travel - against your new income. You could use our [budget tool](#) to help you.

A fall in income may mean you're eligible for benefits, especially if you're a parent or carer. [The Turn 2 Us](#) benefits checker is very useful.

If you have school age children there may be help available with uniforms, technology and free school meals. [Our website](#) has more details.

It's easy to slip into overdraft, or miss a payment, and it can then become more and more expensive - and stressful - to get on the right track and out of debt. Likewise, think carefully about any 'buy now pay later' deals - they're not always the best option long term.

If you are worried contact Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark for information and advice:

General advice via our Adviceline on **0800 144 88 48** or ring our local office Mon - Fri 9 - 5 on **01623 861769** where you may be offered a call back

Chat online to an advisor by visiting our website www.citizensadvice.org.uk/contact-us.

To contact us via email use advice@sn-ca.org.uk

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Need support to make a new claim for Universal Credit? Call the **0800 1448444**. Web-chat: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/helpclaim

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Family History Request

This month we received the following information and request from Stuart Gagg. He has given permission for his email address to be published in the hope that someone may have further information on his family which they could share with him.



If you can help, please contact Stuart directly at:

thegagga@gmail.com

Thank you.

I have been doing some research into my family history while in lockdown and in the nineteenth century there are a lot of connections with Laxton. I have been most interested in my great, great grandmother Martha (1828 - 1909) and her parents were James and Sarah Dolby who farmed in Laxton.

She went away to work in domestic service and gave birth to my great grandfather in 1859. He was registered as illegitimate and seems to have been brought up by his grandparents. He was always known by their name – Dolby.

On April 7 1868 Martha married Samuel Clark in Laxton. She seems to have gone on working away from home as a servant and cook while her husband lived with her father in Laxton.

However things changed at some time in the 1870s and she and her husband ran the Dovecote Inn. Samuel died in 1877 and Martha stayed as the publican and farmed with 57 acres and two servants. She seems to have been the publican for many years after this.

In May 1887 she married Thomas Gray. He died in 1895, but, according to the electoral rolls, she stayed on as publican until at least 1903. For a reason I do not understand, I cannot trace her in the 1901 census. She died at the age of 80 in January 1909. Frederick had helped with the farming at the Dovecote and went on to run farms in other villages and died in 1940 at Manor Farm Bevercoats, where he had lived for almost 40 years.

I am really interested in knowing whether anyone has information on Martha's time as publican at the Dovecote Inn – or anything else related to my ancestors in Laxton. While she was running the inn she was Martha Clark and then Martha Gray.

Stuart Gagg

Egmanton Village Hall

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk / 01777 871171

Please check the EVH web site or call for latest details.

- ◆ **Yoga with Greg** – Suspended. Watch for details of restart.
- ◆ **Egmanton WI** - Suspended at present
- ◆ **Zumba Class** - Cancelled for now **Call 07817 311627**
- ◆ **Computer Problems?** - Call **01777 871171** for phone advice
If your computer is misbehaving or you need help setting up a new one, please call. Donations to Egmanton Village Hall in lieu of fee.

Village Notices

Mike Manning maintains a list of email addresses for villagers and other local people who want to receive up to date information.

If you are not already on the list and would like to be kept informed, please contact Mike on **870844**.

Laxton Defibrillator

The defibrillator in the Visitor Centre, is always accessible as neither the Visitor Centre door nor the cabinet housing it is locked.

Please do remember that the defibrillator must only be used once authorised by a call to 999.

Michael Manning



Sandra Clarke is still collecting stamps for Bransby Horses throughout the year.

If you receive any during the year, please collect them trimming the stamp off the envelope, leaving at least a centimetre all around to ensure that the stamp is not damaged.

You can leave yours with Jean Hennell in Laxton or with Joy Allison in Egmanton and they will be passed to Sandra.

Thank you.

Useful Contact Details

Defibrillator Contacts:

Neil Randall 01777 871229 & 07710 398745, evenings and weekends
Pat Naylor 01777 870601, evenings
Jeff Naylor 01777 870601, as required
Mark Hennell 07812 908316, evenings
Stuart Rose 07939 228353, as required
Jeanette Geldard 07956 959135, daytime in Kneesall,
evenings / weekends
Anne-Marie & Geoff Rose 07961 933290 / 07957 991002, as required

Police

Sgt 2949 Christial Hurley, Sherwood Neighbourhood Policing Team,
Ollerton Police Station
PC Gary Sipson 07525 226575 or 101 x 800 7673
Email : gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

PC2548 Deborah Bakin supported by
PCSO 8524 Richard Dunn at Southwell 07595 074292

Web, showing other contacts: www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

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Ollerton Surgery - Middleton Lodge Practice 01623 703266
Newark Hospital 01636 681681
Bassetlaw Hospital 01909 500990
King's Mill Hospital 01623 622515

Fire Safety Advice (Tuxford Fire Station) 01777 870381
MP Mr Robert Jenrick: robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk 01636 612 837
County Councillor: cllr.mike.pringle@nottsc.gov.uk 0115 977 5661

Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk



Another of Lynda Moore's lovely sunset photos.

Ruby Doyle with the framed picture of her 2020 scarecrow which was given to her by photographer Terrence Lane, and which was featured in a national on line exhibition of art in lockdown. Jo Godson and Katie Gent's also received photos.



A solitary mandarin duck at Rufford which seemed to have developed a meaningful relationship with a female mallard.

