

# Open Field

50p

August 2018



*Sandra and Dorothy in the Stocks on the Laxton Mothers' Union  
Visit to Winkburn, July 2018*

The monthly publication of the  
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

[www.openfield.org.uk](http://www.openfield.org.uk)



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# Open Field

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

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE WITH THE  
 EDITOR BY 16th AUGUST PLEASE.  
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Cover: Members in the Stocks  
 at Winkburn  
 Photograph by Janet Cooke



# Letter From the Curate, Philip Howson

July 2018 marks one year on from when I was ordained by our Bishop as a Priest in the Church of England.

Some of you might find that surprising because I've been around for two years wandering around the community with a dog-collar on, so I assume some of you are thinking "hasn't he been a *priest/vicar/minister* all that time?"

The answer is "sort of". The Church has various levels of calling and responsibility and likes to make sure people are the right stuff before it lets us loose on communities wearing the priest badge. Think of it like a tree: all trees have trunks and branches and roots, but by being ordained as a priest I've had a few more branches added and some slightly deeper roots dug.

First the new branches. The first thing I noticed a year ago is that life suddenly got busier. The extra branches were weddings to do and Holy Communion services to take which added more balls to juggle, and some of that is scarier than it looks. For example, the quality of my handwriting is rubbish (imagine writing with your weakest side and combining that with a drunken spider and you've about got it). However, when a priest records a wedding in a marriage register it has to be perfectly legible and entirely correct: General Registry Office is not known for its kindness towards mistakes. So, for the first time in about 40 years I spent some hours re-learning how to write properly, so rather oddly one of the most nerve-wracking new things I did this year was write up the Marriage Registers for my first wedding.

The nice thing about having these new branches is they are also for shade and for resting under, so providing such special spaces for people to rest and re-connect in is a special pleasure. Some people are formalising their commitment to each other while others want to deepen their connection to God through Holy Communion. I get the fun of enabling people to enter these special places

The deepening roots have been in the care, which is the bittersweet privilege of parish work. Joining communities in their daily life creates connection; connection morphs into belonging; and belonging means the pains and struggles deepen as people invite you to join them in their deepest "valleys of the shadow of death". We all wish the valleys weren't there but sometime or other we all walk them. If nothing else, at least some have had company in their valley.

Not all of caring is so raw. Supporting this year's St George's Day Celebration and watching the Committee flourish in its creation of such a great day for the community was a massive pleasure. Life is also about

blossoming rather than always pruning, and joining everyone in re-creating and celebrating its identity was great. At the festival our young people performed in "Ollerton's Got Talent" in front of the Mayor, our Member of Parliament, our Vicar and our County Councillor as attentive and appreciative judges. Young people matter so much, and I loved seeing their aspirations given such attention.

So, yes, life as a priest has been deeper and richer and harder but so worthwhile.

All the best

*Philip*

## From the Registers: Wedding



Congratulations to Gavin Thomas Billings and Evangeline Rose Hunt of Bilsthorpe who were married at St Michael the Archangel Church, Laxton on Saturday 30th June by the Rev. Philip Howson.

Evie is the daughter of Kevin hunt and step-daughter of Ann Hunt of Egmonton and daughter of Debbie Randall and step-daughter if Neil Randall of Laxton.

We wish them both well in their future life together.

It was lovely to see the church beautifully decorated in the yellow worn by the bridesmaids



with sunflowers inside and to see Evie walking across for the service with Kevin and Neil who jointly gave her away. With their reception on the Sports Field, it was a real village wedding and a lovely day.



## Mothers' Union

All the Mothers' Union members enjoyed their trip to Winkburn Hall. We were made very welcome by Mr & Mrs Craven-Smith-Milnes.

Our tour of the Hall ended with us sitting around the kitchen table drinking tea / coffee and enjoying biscuits! We then



moved next door to the church for a tour. It is a very interesting church.

Our August meeting will be a meal out, yet to be arranged.

Please try and come to our celebration on 24th September of 120 years since the branch was formed.

Everybody will be very welcome.

*Janet*

## Thelma Cheetham

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Thelma Cheetham in July. Thelma was well known to many from her early days as a friend of Laxton young people through Young Farmers and more recently as the founder of Thaymar Ice Cream and Tea Room. She had local connections through her son, Chris Cheetham and his family who were until recently lived in Laxton, and her brother James Hoyland and his family in Egmont. Our sympathy goes to them all members of her family and friends.

Thelma was one of those people who was always greeted you with a cheery word and an infectious smile.

She established Thaymar as a quality brand and hosted group visits. Laxton WI members went some years ago. They were made very welcome and given the enviable opportunity to try every flavour. Thelma will be sadly missed by many people.

# Rides Through Laxton



Late June and early July saw Laxton and Laxton people very involved in riding events ranging from pedal power to horse power.

## Cycle Live 125

First came the 'Cycle Live' event which had a number of routes over different distances starting in Nottingham. The longest route, at 125 miles, came through Egmont and up to Milton before turning south, coming up Cocking Hill, along Acre Edge and down through Laxton to catch up with the 100 mile riders who cut that loop off and rode across from Ossington to Kneesall Crossroads.

It was impressive to see how well the riders were coping with the fierce heat. Some were even chatting as they reached the top of



Brockilow Hill!

## Young Farmers' Vintage Tractor Road Run

The same day the local Young farmers, their families, friends and enthusiasts took part in a road run which started and finished at Hall farm Granaries at Weston. Around 50 tractors took part and Laxton was well represented, though not all had a smooth ride.

George Noble had a passenger trailer attached to his tractor and daughter Paula, who has herself driven more than a few road runs, was enjoying a chance to admire the view from a comfortable seat. Mark and Amanda Hennell both drove tractors and their daughter Emily had fun riding with her Dad. They stopped for lunch at Cromwell where she enjoyed her 'meal on wheels' delivered by Grandma as only the drivers get fed. When the convoy set off again they discovered that the Open Gardens at Norwell were a great attraction, filling the narrow streets with vehicles and people. Stuart and Jess were missing from



the group on the road as their tractor refused to restart after its break. Everyone enjoyed another great YFC event and swapping stories back at the Tea Room at Hall Farm.

## **Rufford Hunt Pony Club Picnic Ride**

The following weekend around 40 young people and their ponies with ample numbers of helpers and outriders gathered at Manor Farm, Egmonton for this event.

Much effort had gone into the planning and replanning of the routes as it was so hot and the organisers were wary of overtaxing the ponies. They also realised they had picked the same date as the Michael Dicksbury Memorial Vintage Tractor Road Run. They were very grateful indeed to the Dicksburys for changing their route so that there was not a potentially dangerous mix of ponies and tractors with flapping flags and waving passengers on the same tracks.

The young riders divided into several groups based on age and ability. The youngest and least experienced went on lead reins so their route took account of the leaders as well. They stopped for a snack just before coming down the 'No Through Road', along High Street and up the track beside Crosshill Farm. Some rode up through West Field, across Mill Field, down Eel Lane and back up to return to base via the same track. Great fun was had by all and everyone, human and equine, returned safely.



## **Michael Dicksbury Memorial Vintage Tractor Road Run**

This popular event, which starts and finishes in Tuxford, always attracts a good entry. It raises funds for the cancer ward at Weston park Hospital, Sheffield. The Dicksbury family organise it and support it with their own vehicles and drivers. Laxton enthusiasts always enter and it adds to the local interest when they drive through the village.

The route is a closely guarded secret so you never know when or from which direction they might appear. This year after a good ride they stopped for lunch at Tony Strawson's Hexgreave Estate, then set off towards home. Their route brought them through Kneesall, into South (Bottom) Field and across east Moor out onto the Moorhouse road.

Around 100 tractors took part so the convoy took some time to pass by.





Each year there seem to be more trailers, better equipped with comfortable seating - even sofas in some cases - and enthusiastic passengers. Those also equipped with overhead covers were perhaps best prepared on a blisteringly hot day. Drivers of tractors with cabs were seen trying to prop open doors and find ways of cooling as the vehicle engine pumped heat into an already hot cab.



Mavis Beckitt was very well cared for on a trailer fitted with a special comfortable seat and driven by Nigel Leach of Egmonton while her son, Roger, drove his own vehicle. The Hennell family enjoyed the comforts of a newly bought trailer

and their party included family visiting from Wales. Emily joined them while her parents and aunt Mel all drove separate tractors and George Noble was once again in the driving seat with Paula, Lee and friends riding behind.



# Lammas Day

**Holy Communion, Laxton Church**

**8.00am, Weds 1st August**

**The blessing of the first sheaf of corn by Rev. Zoe**



## Laxton's Historic Farming System

The AGM of the Visitor Centre Trust took place on Monday 2nd July 2018 and Andrew Fallows from Carter Jonas / The Crown Estate was present. He said that due to the move into the holiday period, the sale of the Estate will now be at the end of September.

Sir John Starkey said that he was still very confident that support would be forthcoming from both universities. He has been in contact with Nottingham University who had expressed a willingness to support the maintenance of Laxton's History and also Nottingham Trent University who have suggested that financial support could be available.

A meeting with Sir John, the Vice Chancellor of Nottingham Trent University and Newark & Sherwood District Council Tourism Director is to be arranged before the Estate goes on the market.

## Kelham Bridge Closure

We have been notified of plans to close Kelham Bridge for repairs to the damaged parapet. The closure is scheduled for **Sunday 5th August to Friday 24th August**.

The suggested alternative routes for people directly affected are via the A616. This is inevitably going to result in more traffic on the already busy road used by most in Laxton to travel to and from Newark. You might want to allow extra time for your trips into Newark during this period.

## A616 Speed Limit

There has been a consultation recently about a proposal to lower the speed limit on the A616 to 50mph along the whole length from Ollerton to South Muskham, except where existing limits are already lower than this. Some residents have responded but we were not informed in time to publish details before the closing date. Look out for further information in the local press.



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# Visiting Researchers

The four strong team of researchers from Oxford University thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Laxton in June. They were here as part of a wider study looking at 'Feeding Saxon Britain' and stayed for three nights in the village to give them two full days out in the fields.

On the first day they toured round with Stuart Rose, who pointed out the sykes and strips and helped them decide which areas would best suit their needs.



Having identified areas of interest they were able to get to work identifying and counting the species within a half meter square grid placed on the ground in selected locations around the fields. They exceeded their expectations for the species in a square in the first location and were delighted with what they found.

John Hodgson, the plant expert with them, was an education. There seemed to be nothing he didn't know and we anticipate receiving their list of the species identified at a later date. They took away a number of



samples for definitive identification. John commented that he had been surprised to see one specimen, which he had not seen since he was a young man. They expect their list to run to more than 100 different species. It was a particular pleasure to spot several species of orchid growing in the sykes at various stages of their life cycles. They were well camouflaged by the tall grasses, but it was exciting to see two bee orchids (see left) in different locations.

# Open Churches Weekend

Open Churches Weekend was held again this year in our deanery. It took place on July 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Rev Zoe asked us this year to have a display with a wedding theme to encourage people who are thinking of getting married in church.

Thank you to everyone who loaned articles for display and to everyone who helped in any way. We were a little disappointed in the attendance but we hope everyone enjoyed the weekend and especially thanks to everyone who attended the songs of Praise on Sunday morning. Our thanks to Joan Wood for taking the service and to all the readers who took part.



The church looked lovely. Outside was Stuart's Riley ready to transport a bride. There were beautiful flower arrangements in the windows, pew end sprays and a swag around the centre arch of the screen. The lace covered table where the Registers are signed displayed



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Janet's album of village weddings going back many years.

The main display was of wedding dresses, most with photos from the weddings where they were worn. They showed just how fashions change over the decades and each of them looked beautiful



displayed on dummies to give the full effect of the styles.

Janet and Brenda were on hand to tell visitors all about them and reveal one or two little secrets about how the dress or some other part of

what the brides wore honoured grandmothers and others on the day.

Complementing all this were a selection of bridesmaids dresses, mostly worn by Ruby and by her mother Paula when she was a girl. Alongside them were some examples of beautiful wedding cakes in a variety of styles made by Janet's daughter, who is clearly very talented in this craft.

Of course it wouldn't be Laxton if there was not a selection of cakes to tempt visitors along with their cups of



tea. A big thank you to those who made them and to those who came along to help serve them. It was a shame that England's endeavours in the World Cup clashed with the Saturday, but those who visited could see the effort which had been made and those who didn't come missed a treat. Thank you and well done to all involved.

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## Pat's Charity Plant Stall

Congratulations to Pat, who has once again raised a huge amount of money for the Inner Wheel Club of Sherwood Forest's chosen charity through her plant stall.



As 'Open Field' goes to print, she is planning to close the stall for this year on 20th July. She has been able to donate £981 to the Pituitary Foundation. Money raised during the final period of opening will be donated to Laxton Church and Pat will publish a final report on 2018's activities next month.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped Pat by growing and donating plants and to everyone who has bought them.

Congratulations also to Pat on recently becoming President of the Inner Wheel Club of Sherwood Forest for the coming year.

## Wood Carving Course

By popular demand, the Dukeries Community Workshop is running another wood carving course, which is suitable for beginners, in the workshop.

This is a creative and relaxing craft and you will be amazed by what you will achieve without the need for machines.

Laxton resident, Roy Haynes, will guide you through the techniques you will need. The workshop is part of the Dukeries Complex off Whinney Lane, New Ollerton, NG22 9TD.



You can speak to Roy, Alan or Tina at the Workshop for more information or you can call **01623 860545 ext. 152**

You can reserve your place on this number as well as by email to: [\*\*communityworkshop@dukeries.org.uk\*\*](mailto:communityworkshop@dukeries.org.uk).

There is a website at: [\*\*thedukeriescommunityworkshop.weebly.com\*\*](http://thedukeriescommunityworkshop.weebly.com)





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# Laxton Gymkhana

Only recently the Laxton Gymkhana was rained off. This time the numbers were a little down because the ground had been baked so hard that



some felt they did not want to let their children or horses / ponies jump on it.

Despite that there was a busy atmosphere early in the day before the sun really got hot and plenty of competitors came along to register.

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to get the rings and site ready and to put everything away afterwards as well as the stewards and helpers on the day. It is a lot of work and quite physical too, so those who undertake it every year are to be congratulated for their efforts.

## Coffee Morning

*9th August, 10.30am - 11.30am*

The next coffee morning will take place on Thursday 9th August at The Dovecote Inn.



Why not come and join us? Everyone is welcome to this informal group. You don't have to come every month and are welcome to pop in to enjoy some friendly, cheerful company.

Plenty of tea, cakes, and chatter.

# A Walk to Buckden Pike

Linda, 2 work colleagues and I caught the bus from Buckden to Grassington and walked back to Buckden along the Dales Way, which is around 10 miles. The walk was quite shaded and along the route we saw several spotted flycatchers, dippers, kingfishers and grey wagtails.



On the second day we were there, a Sunday, 2 of us walked from Buckden Village up Buckden Pike which is a 2,303 feet climb. It was 24 degrees centigrade on leaving Buckden but the top of Buckden Pike was cooler.

On reaching the summit there is a war memorial. A Wellington Bomber crashed on the Pike in 1942 during a snowstorm. Five

Polish airmen died and there was one survivor. The five who died are buried in Newark cemetery.

The survivor organised the building of a cross in 1973 on top of the pike. He died in 2017 in his 90's and was cremated in Cambridge. His family brought his ashes to be buried half in Newark Cemetery and half on Buckden Pike.

We walked away from the memorial, off the fell into Starbottan village, along the River Wharfe back into Buckden Village which is a circular walk of 8 miles.



*Max McNaught*

## Stuart Shepherd Memorial Football Match

This event has taken place in August for several years. Unfortunately this year due to other commitments it has not been possible to organise it. It is hoped that it may be possible to do so again in the future.

## Parish Council

The Pinfold refurbishment is nearly complete as is the refurbishment of the bench in memory of Bob and Sybil Froggatt next to the telephone box.

Many thanks to Roy Haynes and Eric Wright.

*Michael Manning*

## Village Hall Update



Little to report at the moment. Piles of information are still being sent about changing our constitution but we are sure we will get there in the end!!

We are still looking for the Hall to close at the beginning of September.

*Michael Manning*

## Historic Churches Ride & Stride



This is another event which finds itself clashing with a much larger event outside its control. The Ride and Stride has been organised for 30 years and more, in almost all English counties each year on the second Saturday of September, so it is unfortunate that the Tour of Britain have elected to be in our area on the same day this year - Saturday 8th September.

There will be unavoidable delays to anyone wanting to travel over the same roads or to cross those being used by the Tour riders. There are likely to be road blocks of about an hour to allow the riders to pass safely.

The bonus is that preparations for the Tour will no doubt include fixing potholes which present a danger to cyclists, so Ride and Striders should find their route easier to travel as a result. Please see the separate article on the Tour of Britain for estimated timings.

# Laxton History Group



## Visit to Ryedale Folk Museum

A big thank you to Jean for organising this trip for us.

The yard at Corner Farm was turned into a car park

for the day as everyone was able to leave their vehicle there safely off the road.



The journey to the Museum took rather longer than anticipated due to heavy traffic and a combination of other factors, but we arrived around midday just in time to make our way to the catering outlets.

The museum is situated at Hutton-le-Hole, a picturesque village north of Pickering within Ryedale. Jean had told us that there were no

catering facilities on site, but plenty nearby and so it proved to be. The museum is entered from the main street and cafes aplenty and a pub were very close by. We were given passes for the museum which had discount vouchers for two cafes on the reverse so it was no surprise that most people headed for the one offering the larger discount.



We had no idea what to expect at the museum, but everyone seems to have been really amazed by how much was there and how well it was set out. The site stretched back from the entrance and included buildings which had been dismantled and transported there to be faithfully rebuilt.

A row of tiny shops gave a good idea of how shops were long ago before supermarkets. Some of us recognised items for sale. Who remembers blue bags, Sunlight soap, Izal toilet paper and gas mantles for the lights? All these and

many more once familiar items were arranged on the shelves.

Some who remember Laxton shop from years ago describe the chemists drawers which used to be visible behind the counter as very much like those we saw with the Latin names of the remedies they contained. Some of the preparations and implements we saw looked more likely to kill than cure, but this is how it was.



Various dwellings had been reconstructed from an Iron Age roundhouse - very dark and smelling of smoke with the central hearth - to a thatched cottage which looked picture postcard perfect from the outside. This and an older house were more familiar in their layout but strikingly cold inside on a warm day. It was very clear that the way of life was very different then.

There were some less likely things to see including a French designed glass making system which had been discovered on the moors and would have been illegal in its day.

Also present was a miniature corn field which was part of a 'Cornfield Flowers Project' which aims to grow and reintroduce the native plants of cornfields which are now seldom found. This rang a particular bell as some of them were species the Oxford researchers had found in the Laxton fields.

Unsurprisingly there were many agricultural implements and it was interesting to have our farming members with us to explain how some of them were used and to describe similar items used by them in their younger days.



You never know how long a museum will take to visit, but everyone found this visit took most of the time we had there.

There was a small craft centre on the main street and most people found time for a look in there. Wet felting, wood turning, glass work and chocolate making were all represented. By strange coincidence the wood turner was the demonstrator the following Wednesday at the Dukeries Woodturning Group in Ollerton

At the end of a very enjoyable and informative visit everyone had time to partake of their chosen refreshment or a relaxing sit on the green where sheep grazed and children played in a pool created by the stream which runs through the centre of the village before getting on the bus for the return journey.



The 'Folk' theme will continue in August when David Mooney comes to talk to us about 'Folklore and Customs'. This will be the first of our meetings in Egmont Village Hall while the work at Laxton is underway. We look forward to seeing everyone there at 7.30pm.

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

July / August 2018

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

### **29th July Trinity 9**

10.30am      Egmonton, Family of Churches **HC**

### **5th August**

9am

4pm

### **Trinity 10**

Kirton **HC**

Wellow **EP**

### **12th August**

10.30am

4pm

### **Trinity 11**

Laxton **HC**

Egmonton **Es**

### **19th August**

9am

10.30am

### **Trinity 12**

Egmonton **HC**

Wellow **HC**

### **26th August**

9am

10.30am

### **Trinity 13**

Moorhouse **HC**

Kirton **HC**

### **Midweek Holy Communion Service at St Giles, Ollerton Village**

**Wed 8th & Wed 22nd August** at 10am. The church will remain open after the service until 4pm

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Zoe Burton (01623 862818) [revzoe@live.co.uk](mailto:revzoe@live.co.uk)

Church Administrator: Eileen, Fridays 9 - 2.00pm at Revd Zoe's vicarage in New Ollerton or email: [churchadmin1931@gmail.com](mailto:churchadmin1931@gmail.com)

**Tuesday 14th August – ‘Open Vestry Hour’ for baptism and wedding enquiries** 6.30 – 7.30pm, St Paulinus Church Office, Church Circle.

Alternatively phone the Church Administrator, see above



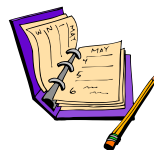
# *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*

2018

**Aug 8<sup>th</sup>**                      **WI**                                      **@ Egmonton**

**Aug 9<sup>th</sup>**                      **Coffee Morning**

**Aug 15<sup>th</sup>**                      **History Group**                      **@ Egmonton**



## **Forward Planning**

Sept 24<sup>th</sup>                      MU Service of Celebration for 120 years

Sep 25<sup>th</sup>                      Parish Council

Sept 29<sup>th</sup>                      Southwell Ploughing Match

Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>                      History Group Craft Fayre

Nov 27<sup>th</sup>                      Parish Council

Dec 7<sup>th</sup>                      Laxton VH Quiz Night @Egmanton VH

NB New entries appear in ***bold italics*** for the first month.

If you know the date of a meeting or an event, please pass it on so that others can take it into account when planning.

**Copy Date for September: 16th August.**

Please ensure we receive your contributions for the magazine by this date. We cannot guarantee to publish anything received later. We appreciate receiving items as early as possible.

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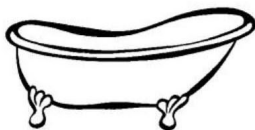
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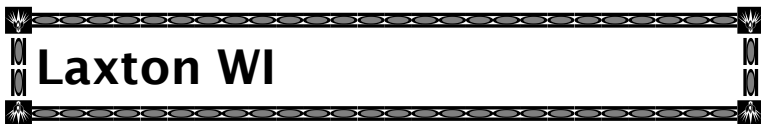
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# Laxton WI



Our meeting on July 11th clashed with England playing Croatia in the Football World Cup, so although there were six football-related apologies, there was still a much better attendance to greet our speaker Sue Floyd than might have been the case. We did manage to keep in touch with the scores as the evening drew on so were prepared for disappointment when we met those who had watched the match and seen the last minute goal sending the game into extra time, when Croatia scored their winner. At least Jean could go ahead with her Strawberry Tea without a clash with the Final!

It was a busy evening when we heard that our team had survived the County Quiz, though without any apparent anticipation of winning... The room was full for the event, which was obviously as popular as ever, and we *had* taken part.

It seems we are better at croquet. Four members had been to this year's event and come away with joint third places for Lesley and Doreen - both first timers. We have attended for three years and been placed each year.

The Walking Netball, introduced at the Fun Day last July has been very successful and there was great enthusiasm for the next opportunity to play, which will be in Retford in September.

Jacqui had written a piece for entry into the Lady Denman Cup competition. The piece is limited to 500 words and this year had to be on the theme of 'The Day that Changed My Life'. Brenda read the piece, which was very well written and moving and we all wish Jacqui luck with it.

Brenda reported on our Group entry for the Notts Show, which featured on the cover of the June magazine. We had gained a creditable third place with 40 votes and from a total of 400 cast by the public. Coddington won with 60 and Bestwood Village came second with 43. Our entry was a great joint effort.

Sandra was thanked in her absence for organising a very good trip last month. The lunch was particularly enjoyed. The talk and tour of Thoresby Walled Garden was paid for from funds.

It was agreed that we were unlikely to use the county centenary photobook if we were to purchase it, and after some discussion it was agreed that we would produce a 2019 calendar to celebrate the occasion rather than another photobook as County no longer produce one. Orders will be needed by October.

As not all institutes meet in August, the opportunities offered included as far ahead as October, which made autumn seem too close for comfort. 'Apple Day' in Southwell will be on 20th and the group competition is for a

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'Tea in 1918'. We even heard about the Spring Council in April 2019 and next year's national AGM, which will be at Bournemouth.

Finally Sue Floyd was able to share her talk on Royal Brides, which had been postponed from earlier in the year due to illness. We learned that the Royal Collection includes dresses from Jane Seymour onwards. Before bleaching, white was a difficult colour to make so important dresses were made in silver and gold. These dresses were hugely expensive and because of the cost, a number of them were made as a bodice and skirt, often with a Honiton lace overskirt so that they could be used separately afterwards. Queen Victoria's was a case in point, costing £31,000 and we learned that she really loved it, even arranging to be buried wearing her veil.

The pattern for the lace was destroyed afterwards on her instruction. The myrtle in Victoria's bouquet began the tradition of every royal bride since having a sprig of myrtle included in her bouquet.

We saw a succession of wedding cakes, each larger and more elaborate than the last, and it was good to see that in more recent times, although the number of separate cakes had risen, the size had become more modest. Sue told us that the Queen's post War wedding to Prince Philip required coupons for the fabric etc., but somehow a 9 ft. cake was produced with ingredients from around the Commonwealth which cut into 1000 portions. One (inedible) piece, still in its tin, was recently auctioned for £560.

We learned that Nottinghamshire lace workers had made the lace trim for Diana, Princess of Wales' dress sleeves and neck. They were unaware of the customer for their handiwork and were only told on the morning of the wedding to look out for it on the television.

Diana's dress was a huge confection which grew larger and larger as designer David Emanuel got carried away and Sue told us that it was only on the morning of the wedding that he thought about trying to fit it in the royal carriage. That accounted for the crumpled look of the garment, which looks much more as it should have now it has been ironed and stands on display.

In total contrast Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, better known to most of us today as the Queen Mother, wore a very simple dress with a short train and longer veil when she married the future George VI. At the time of the marriage she was not expected to become Queen and so the event was far simpler than for an heir to the throne.

Our next meeting will be our first in Egmont Village Hall in readiness for Laxton's major refurbishment. It will be in the form of a Faith Supper prepared by the Committee. **Members are asked to make something for the competition in the Suffragette colours of green, white and violet**, the initials of the colours standing for 'Give Women Votes'.

Everyone is welcome at Egmont for 7.30pm on August 8th.

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## An American Tale, Episode 4

### ‘AND THREE WEEKS TO GET BACK.’

What happened to all our adventurers?

John Rose lived in School Farm with his family where his son in law, Frank Sampson, gradually took over the farming. He died in 1918 aged 75 years

Mary Jane lived on there with her daughter and family until her death in 1925 aged 74 years.

Bertha had been going out with Fred Duckmanton but the relationship was disapproved of so she went to work for a Dr Teasdale in Retford. She later advertised for her sister in America, found her and went to join her in Illinois, along with her young man.

She married Frederick Bartle Duckmanton in America in 1903 and settled in Joliet where they had several children. Fred was registered in World War 1. Bertha corresponded with Violetta saying she wished she had never gone.

Rebecca Reeny married Mr William Quibell on 24th May 1907 with Violetta as one of the bridesmaids as detailed in the report discovered by Jo Godson in the local paper and printed last month. They went to live at Copthorne Farm, where they had a girl, Madge and 2 boys. She died there in 1943, 59 years old and was buried at Laxton.

Dorothy Violetta married Mr Frank Sampson in 1909 and they remained at School Farm, where their family was born. They moved to Flaggs Farm in 1926. Violetta died in 1980, 93 years. She was buried at Gedling near Nottingham.

Mr Gray probably lodged at The Dovecote for he later married the landlady, widow Martha Clark, and became publican and farmer there. He died in c1895. His wife retired from the Dovecote, living on her own means.



His daughter became a nurse.

William White set up as a house painter in the Nottingham area where he married and had a family.

MWS

## Laxton Players, 1933

*Having dipped into the weddings of Laxton past and to which we will return, we turn again to the activities of the Drama Group discovered by Jo Godson in her researches in the Retford, Gainsborough and Worksop Times.*

### 3rd February 1933

The "Laxton Players" affiliated to the Notts Drama League, gave their first performance this winter on Friday Jan 20th, when they presented three one-act plays – "A Simple Sketch", "Neighbourly Love" and "The Old Bull" with musical items at intervals. There was a full and appreciative audience in the schoolroom and the evening was voted by all as highly entertaining.

The players in "The Simple Sketch" were Misses M Merrills, M Quibell, I Newbold, D Laughton, E Cocking, and Mr and Mrs J Cook. Characters in "Neighbourly Love" were played by Messrs G Hennell, J Cook and O Laughton with Misses E Cocking and D Laughton. "The Old Bull" was played by Messrs D Henderson, R Cree, J Quibell, J Cook and M Quibell.

Songs, duets, monologues and pianoforte solos were rendered by the following:- The Misses Edith and Irene Cocking, D Laughton, M Quibell and Messrs R Cree, D Henderson, J Cook and J Quibell.

The whole performance, especially the three plays, was a highly creditable one and showed what great strides the players have made since their first season. The way in which it was carried through without a hitch and without seeking outside talent, demonstrates what team work and enthusiasm will do.

This group of players truly illustrates the aim of the Notts Drama League, for it consists entirely of rural workers – sons and daughters of the soil, with no talented members – who have banded themselves together to spend their evenings enjoyably and educationally, giving pleasure to themselves and to others. They have a hard working and enthusiastic secretary in Mr G Hennell.

It is a pity that the charges on these entertainments – royalties, entertainment tax, etc., are so heavy, as the net proceeds of the evening will be only 17s.

### 24th February 1933

NOTTS VILLAGE PLAYERS – The semi finalists in the Notts Drama League's play competition were announced on Monday as follows: Collingham players, "Elizabeth Refuses", Cuckney players, "Thread of Scarlet", East Bridgeford players, "Nothing But His Due" and Laxton players, "Neighbourly Love". These companies will compete in the final judging on March 11th. There were 37 entries.



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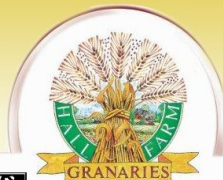
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# An Open Letter from Ian and Angie

To all of our wonderful friends, neighbours and acquaintances in Laxton & Moorhouse.

We would like to say thank you for the generosity of spirit that you have shown to Angie and myself while we have lived amongst you for the past 6 years or so. Due to family and work commitments we find ourselves on the move again but we will always remember fondly our chapter here in your most beautiful and unique village.

In a time when most of the UK mourns the loss of community and traditions - Laxton demonstrates to the rest of Britain that these qualities still thrive in abundance.

Thank you also to the Open Field Magazine for such a valuable publication and conduit. Along with Private Eye - it is the only magazine that I read from cover to cover.

We wish you all well and hopefully we will be able to make it back to any Village Hall, Church and Dovecote functions from time to time. You will certainly see us wandering over the Open Fields footpaths whenever we get the chance.

Take care of each other.

*Ian & Angie Cunningham*

## Milton Mausoleum

Friends of Milton Mausoleum conclude their summer programme with their event for Heritage Open Day on **Sun. 9<sup>th</sup> Sept** with a **Vintage Tea Party.**

**2 - 4pm, £5 per ticket, ticket only.**

We have early notification of the Carol Concert which will take place at the Mausoleum on 1<sup>st</sup> December between 2 and 3pm

**For more details of both events and tickets, please contact:**

Jenny on 07791 527569 or

Bobby on 07708 042065 / [milton.mausoleum@outlook.com](mailto:milton.mausoleum@outlook.com)





# Strawberry Tea for Hospital Helipads



The weather generally seems to be the major talking point when discussing the Strawberry Tea. Will it be dry, will it be windy, will it, just maybe, be warm?

This year there was the added dilemma of whether to even go ahead as hopes had been high until mid-week that England might have been playing in the World Cup Final. Croatia helped Jean make that decision by ensuring they weren't, but that still left the final being played between France and

Croatia and the Men's Singles final at Wimbledon. A particular thank you to everyone who put this event at the top of their 'to do' list.

Well 2018 certainly delivered with 'warm'. With temperatures around 29C - that's 84F for those of us who still remember Fahrenheit - nobody was cold! By the end the sides of the marquee, which had been left off in the hope of cooling things down or encouraging a draft of cooler air, were put up in a last attempt to keep out the heat.

Despite all that, Roy, Jean and their extended family rose to the challenge of producing another delicious tea. There were the usual stalls, raffle, tombola and bric a brac which all helped add to the funds raised to help build helipads at hospitals.

Many thanks to everyone who came; to those who helped with the food, the marquee, the setting up, washing up and taking down; those who donated items for the stalls and games and those who sent donations. An extra thank you to Judith Pike, winner of the 50/50 envelope draw, who kindly donated the prize back to the funds.

After all that, there was a healthy £500 to pass on to the Golden Hour Appeal.



Well done Jean and Roy and thank you once again for all your efforts and for hosting this very worthwhile and enjoyable event.

# Bakewell Festival of Bird Art

This annual event in the Agricultural Business Centre at Bakewell incorporates the National Bird Carving Championships. Local people are represented with both carved birds and photographs in a display by members of Retford & District Photographic Society.

This year's event will be on **September 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>**, opening 11- 5 on Saturday and 10 - 4 on Sunday.

This is a great day out with a difference. Bakewell is a pretty place with nice shops and plenty of places to try the famous pudding once you have spent time marvelling at the skill of the carvers.



Last year even the novice classes had some wonderful examples of an unusual craft. By the time carvers have reached the 'Advanced' class, they have to make everything but the glass eyes for their birds. Each year some new item appears to take your breath away. How do they do it? How do they make the bird seem to be in flight? How on earth do they get it there in one piece? All questions which come to mind while looking on in the belief that if there were a loud noise, half the exhibits would fly away.

The judges include an ornithologist for the natural classes, where the bird must be the right size and colours for the species. There are also interpretive classes and a miniature class, and a decoy class in which the bird is turned over in the river and must right itself.

Judging occurs on the Saturday and then the rosettes are displayed with the winning entries. The craft reveals its American origins with the 'Blue Ribband' in the form of a blue, rather than red, rosette being awarded for first place. The second placed entry receives a red rosette.

There are demonstrations of wildfowl carving, painting, and stick making during the event and plenty of skilled carvers from across the country on hand to talk to anyone who feels this could be the hobby for them.

For those who already carve, there are stalls selling wood of all suitable types, and a wide range of tools, equipment and paints.

The event is open to everyone. Admission is £2.50, Seniors £1.50 and under 16s free. Well behaved dogs on a lead are admitted.

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# Tour of Britain Coming Our Way

As reported last month, the Tour of Britain will be holding Stage 7 on **Saturday 8th September** entirely within Nottinghamshire. This is the penultimate stage of this year's event.



The route has been published and shows riders travelling from Cauntton to Norwell and via Ossington through Moorhouse and up through Laxton from the junction at the bottom, turning right at The Bar at the top of the hill towards Egmontton. They will then pass through Tuxford, East Markham and Askham on their way towards the finish in Mansfield.

There will be rolling road closures which will be put in place around 15-20 minutes before the lead rider is expected. Timings have been calculated based on speeds of between 38kmph and 46kmph which indicate that the riders should reach Ossington between 12.44 and 13.11pm. This gives an estimated arrival time at Laxton, Main Street of 12.52 - 13.21pm

This is the longest stage of this year's race, which begins in West Bridgford, just a short distance away from the Trent Bridge Cricket Ground. The scheduled start time is 10.30 / 10.45am. Riders will cover a total of 134 miles / 215.6 kilometres on this stage. They will pass through the finish before making a short circuit around Mansfield, ending in the sprint for the line which is estimated to be around 15.23 with slower riders continuing to arrive for an hour after that.

This is the second time Mansfield has hosted a stage, having hosted a stage start in 2017. This is also the sixth longest leg of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain since its return 14 years ago.

Following the media attention given to the decorations people arranged for the event last year, and particularly the Notts farmer who drew out a bicycle in sheep feed so that the sheep lined up to give a great shot from the air, there is a national competition for what is being termed 'Land Art' this year.

Details, including the estimated timetable and route, are on the web and can be easily found by Googling 'Tour of Britain Stage 7'.



## Group Oil Order

Already we are looking forward to the autumn and the need to ensure we have enough oil to see us through into the colder weather. Unfortunately the price has gone up so we can't expect to achieve the same low prices as we have for the last couple of orders.

We now also have the spectre of the new GDPR requirements striking fear into the heart of anyone daring to keep on a computer even names and addresses of others for anything but personal use, to say nothing of passing them on. As a result the old oil group list was destroyed after order in July. A new one has been created containing **only the names and details of the people who responded in July**. If you would like to join the group or to go back on the list if you forgot to respond in July, please get in touch when you read this and provide the necessary details to order for you at some future date.

The details I hold are name, address, email and telephone numbers and any special instructions regarding delivery to your premises such as locks on tanks etc. and particularly if you are the contact for orders for relatives or friends who are unable to do it themselves.

**Please note that in supplying these details in connection with a request to order or to be contacted in future, you are giving permission to pass all of the above to the company chosen for the delivery each time you order with the group.**

I understand that the above satisfies the requirements to hold this information. In terms of a privacy policy, which organisations are required to produce, this is the only use to which your data is put, it is never sold or otherwise given out and it is held on a spreadsheet on a secure local server. You can ask for your details to be removed at any time. If you have any concerns, please contact me.

*Joy*

## Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
16/6/18	8	Evie (Neil)
23/6/18	53	ROLLOVER
30/6/18	50	Ian & Jackie
7/7/18	1	ROLLOVER
14/7/18	58	Laxton Rounders

If you would like to join, you can choose from the numbers 1, 11, 52, 53, 56, 57 & 59. You may take more than one number.

Please contact Ken Shep on 870605 / Mike Manning 870844.

Thank you.

*Michael Manning*

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## We can help with the rollout of Universal Credit

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Citizens Advice **Sherwood and Newark** is continuing to help those in **Ollerton and surrounding areas** get ready for Universal Credit which rolls out **September 2018**.

Universal Credit is a new benefit which helps people on a low income or not in work meet their living costs, combining 6 benefits, including Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credit, into one monthly payment. By 2022, Universal Credit is expected to affect **21000** households across Newark and Sherwood. To help people prepare Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark is highlighting differences to previous benefits.

Three key changes the charity wants people to be aware of are:

- Universal Credit payments are made in arrears once a month, rather than every week. The date you get paid will depend on when you make your claim.
- Payments will go straight into your bank account. This means you may need to set up standing orders for expenses, like rent, if it was paid directly to your landlord under the old benefits system.
- New Universal Credit applications, and any change in your circumstances, need to be made online.

**Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark** is expecting the bulk of queries on Universal Credit to focus on people who want to know how they make a claim, and if they are eligible to do so. They say:

“Last year, the government made a number of changes to Universal Credit to help people avoid financial difficulty while they wait for their first payment. This includes the removal of the seven waiting days before a claimant can apply for Universal Credit. It is the biggest-ever change to the benefit system, so it’s important people get support while they get used to it. We can help at every stage - from guiding someone through the online application form, to offering budgeting advice and helping people best manage their monthly payment.

If people have a question about Universal Credit they should get in touch with us at the earliest opportunity so unnecessary delays or complications with their claim can be avoided.”

Advice and support are online at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or visit **Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark’s Open Door Advice Sessions at:**  
**New Ollerton:** 5 Forest Court, Mon & Weds: 9:30am – 2:30pm  
**Newark:** Castle House, Gt North Road, Tue & Thu: 9:30am – 2:30pm  
**Telephone Advice Line:** 0344-411-1444 (Mon to Fri 10am to 4pm)

# Heavy Duty Tanalised Fencing & Gates

Free estimate or advice

- Agricultural
- Post & rail
- Tanalised post & panel
- Equestrian
- Picket
- Tanalised made to measure gates

**Tel Kenny 01777 870337,**  
**Mob 07723 036543**  
**Vicarage Cottage, Laxton**



## NGT PROPERTY SERVICES



## BUILDING, ROOFING & PLASTERING

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Call for a free quote with no obligation

**NGT PROPERTY SERVICES**  
**CAUNTON, NEWARK, NOTTS**

**Tel: 01636 636284**  
**Mobile: 07814 151600**  
**ngt007@gmail.com**



**BRANSBY HORSES**

— Rescue and Welfare —

Sandra Clarke collects stamps for Bransby Horses throughout the year. You can leave yours with Jean Hennell in Laxton or with Joy Allison in Egmonton and they will be passed to Sandra.

Thank you.

## LEE DOYLE

### Building Contractor

New Houses, Extensions,  
Groundworks, Roofing,  
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10 Elm Tree Rise  
Kneesall  
Newark  
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**01623 860377**

## The Dukeries Singers

The Choir have completed their Summer programme of concerts and looking forward to an Autumn return.

Unfortunately the Weston community had to cancel their planned concert which was a shame. Maybe one day ...



The Choir will have a summer break and meet up again on 29th August 2018 with all our Christmas music. We shall no doubt be full of enthusiasm meeting up with friends once again and making music together. Singing with a choir is such an enjoyable and uplifting activity.

The sun is blazing from a clear blue sky at the moment. I wonder if every one will return with impressive suntans?

We practise every Wednesday evening from 7-30pm until 9-15pm in the Concert Hall at the Dukeries Academy, Ollerton. This is best accessed via the Leisure Centre entrance and car park. More information on the Choir can be found on [thedukeriessingers.com](http://thedukeriessingers.com)

We are also on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

We already have some Christmas engagements. However, if you wish to book the choir for your anniversary, celebration or fundraising event, please contact Phil on 01623 822070

A happy late Summer to all.

*Jan*

## The Dukeries Woodturning Society

The Society meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month, 7pm - 10pm in the Jubilee Hall, Ollerton. We now have much more room and a more comfortable environment for members.

We arrange a monthly professional demonstrator and own our own lathe. We use a video system to project the demonstration in close up so that everyone can see in detail what is happening.

We charge £15 per year plus, £5 a month which includes tea/coffee and a biscuit. Guests are welcome to come and try the club before joining. In August we will welcome Tony Kitchen and Steve Wright will be on hand offering wood sales.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



# Egmanton Village Hall

[www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk) / 01777 871171

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

- ♦ Tuxford Young Farmers - Summer break, no bookings
- ♦ Yoga with Greg – Tuesdays at 7:30pm
- ♦ WI - Thurs 16th July
- ♦ Children's Dance Classes - Saturday mornings (Jill, 07790 601877)
- ♦ **Computer Problems?** - Call 01777 871171.

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.

## Egmanton Craft & Produce Show

This show is held annually on the first Saturday of September and includes classes for fruit and vegetables, craft, bakes and preserves. There are classes for the children too. This year it will be on 1st September.

Your first entry is free as are all children's entries. Schedules are now available from Elizabeth Banks, 872633, if you would like to plan what you could enter. Everyone is welcome to enter.

## Maplebeck Village Hall Events

[www.maplebeck.org.uk](http://www.maplebeck.org.uk) / 01636 636692 / 636185

### Regular Activities

Yoga	Tues 9.45am and Fri 9.30am	
Fitness	To be announced shortly	
Walkers	Weds	10.00am
Kurling (without the ice!)	2nd Weds monthly	7.30pm
Book Club	Tues	7.30pm

### Upcoming special events

Tues 31st July	'Brooklyn'	7.30pm, Film
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## 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  
Linda & Max McNaught 01777 870127, as required  
David & Linda, Dovecote Inn 01777 871586, as required  
Jeanette Geldard 07956 959135, daytime in Kneesall,  
evenings / weekends  
Anne-Marie & Geoff Rose 07961 933290 / 07957 991002, as required

### Police

PC Gary Sipson 07525 226575 or 101 x 800 7673  
Email : [gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

PCSO 4741 Keith Crowhurst 07889 702823 or 101 x 8007671  
Email : [keith.crowhurst4741@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:keith.crowhurst4741@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

Web, showing other contacts: [www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

Danger to life or crime in progress	999
Otherwise police switchboard	101
Crimestoppers (anonymous crime reports)	0800 555111

### Medical

Tuxford Medical Centre	01777 870203
Sutton-on-Trent Surgery	01636 821023
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](mailto:robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk) 01636 612 837  
County Councillor: [cllr.mike.pringle@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mike.pringle@nottscc.gov.uk) 0115 977 5661

Parish Council website: [www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk)



# EGFEST

Sat 11th Aug 2-8pm  
Egmanton Village Hall

NON-STOP LIVE PERFORMANCES

Bring chairs, rugs & gazebos  
Please DO NOT BRING ALCOHOL  
Festival Bar Provided

Adults £5  
Under 16's Free  
Pay at Gate

Games & Stalls  
Hot Food  
Ice Cream  
Bar  
Bouncy Castle

Moorhouse Church presents -

## A Summer Sunday Lunch

at The Old England, Sutton-on-Trent, NG23 6QA  
on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August – 12.30pm for 1.00pm

Pimms on the Patio

Tomato and Herb Soup or Melon

Poached Salmon or Oven-roasted Chicken Fillet  
(pre order with booking)

Selection of Salads

Dessert Buffet and Coffee or Tea

Also includes a glass of wine, or a soft drink.  
and a Table Quiz

Tickets £25.00 Simon /Anna

07952 486944 / 01636 822777