

Open Field

50p

December 2019



*Laxton Village Hall Ready to Serve Teas to the WI
13th November 9th 2019*

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



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Mrs J Bartlett & Mrs J Cooke
Mr & Mrs S Clarke
Mrs B Noble & Mrs M Beckitt

24th November
1st & 8th December
15th & 22nd December
29th December & 5th January

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Open Field

www.openfield.org.uk

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

Cover Photo: Joy Allison

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**Contributions for the next edition TO BE WITH THE
EDITOR BY NOON ON 12th DECEMBER PLEASE. EARLIER
PREFERRED. You can send at any time.**

Letter From Revd. Zoe

Dear friends

As I write this letter, I have just returned from a National Conference on journeying from 'Stranger' to 'Friend'. This raised all interesting questions about what we mean by stranger or friend with lots of different answers and further questions arose and enriched our understanding. When I say the word stranger or friend, what does it mean to you? What makes a friend, a friend?

In our churches, as part of the Holy Habits 'Fellowship' and 'Eating Together' we explored the journey from host/guests to friends. At the beginning of August a Daily Express headline read 'Starved of friendship.....one million pensioners face an entire Summer eating every meal alone'. I thank God for the Friendship Clubs in our local context for bringing people together for 'face to face' conversations over tea/coffee and biscuits which sometimes include bingo and other social activities. As we approach Christmas, we give thanks for all family homes and organisations including churches which reach out and provide a Christmas dinner for those who would spend the day alone and if the opportunity is given, would chose otherwise.

C S Lewis, in his writings, speaks about us living in a world starved for true friendship. This is encapsulated in a world which seeks the perfect profile and success, when friends can be seen as a means to an end and on Facebook, for instance, we can unlike and 'unfriend' people. Friendship in this sense has become a commodity and not a gift.

Let us ponder for a moment and look beyond the commercial Christmas, to family gatherings and organisations bringing people together – being together, face to face conversations, eating together, sharing lives and all that is so life-giving and then to ponder beyond even this to a God who we celebrate at Christmas who loved the world so much that God made his home amongst, the invisible God became visible in his Son and grew up and showed humanity what true friendship is all about – friendship which is available for all people. God calls each person by name, knows each person implicitly, better than we know ourselves and offers friendship which lasts for all eternity. God's greatest desire is that humanity will have friendship with God for all eternity. God is not fickle, does not bear grudges and does not seek our friendship for

what God can get out of us – God seeks our friendship because God loves us. God will never de-friend you although people might de-friend God and in these instances, God waits patiently and at the right time, if we are willing, will restore this friendship so we can begin again. If you don't know about this amazing God I am talking about, please 'follow the star' to one of our churches in our communities and hear the Christmas story for yourself and discover the difference the person behind the story makes to our lives and the world at large. Our services are in this magazine and posted on our noticeboards, websites and social media. Nobody need ever be lost in a crowd because we are all found together in Christ.

Wishing you all a peace-filled, joy-filled and hope-filled Christmas

Revd Zoe

Thank You from Joy & Dik

We would like to thank everyone who asked after us and offered help during the recent difficulties in Egmonton. Thankfully we did not need help, and our thoughts were very much with those who did.

Group Advent Service

Laxton Church

Sunday December 1st

10.30am

Taken by Lay Reader Janice Hannington

**Blessing and lighting of
the first candle on the
advent wreaths**

Everyone Welcome



Church Flowers and Brasses

Unfortunately the rota of people able and willing to undertake cleaning the brasses and providing flowers for the church (not the big arrangements) has shrunk still further as some of those whose names appear are no longer able to do it themselves.

It would be a big help if some new names could be added so that those who volunteer are called on less often. You don't need to be a master flower arranger - just handy with a polishing cloth and able to get up to the church every couple of months.

If you would be able to help out with this simple but important task, Brenda would be very pleased to hear from you on **870541**.

Thank you in anticipation.

Open Field Subscriptions



Subscriptions for your 2020 magazines are now due. Please pay the £4 to your distributor when they call or post your payment in an envelope marked with your name through their door or Jean Hennell's at Corner Farm.

There has been no price rise for a some years and the PCC doesn't want to change the rate this year. The invoiced cost of the magazines shows the true cost is now almost £1 per copy. You will see the cover price change to £1 from January. This is due to increase in the cost of paper in particular and

also our use of colour for the cover for some years now.

We are very grateful for the continued support of our advertisers without which the full cost of the publication would have to be passed on to the readers.

There will be a change at the end of 2020. There have been 12 editions a year for many years, with the January one following hot on the heels of the December one. Next December there will be a slightly later closing date towards the end of November and a single December / January edition. This will reduce printing costs and help maintain the price as well as making life easier for the production and distribution team without greatly affecting when news appears.

Many thanks to everyone for your support. We hope you will continue to enjoy and contribute to your magazine next year.

Happy Christmas from all the 'Open Field' team.

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Plough Sunday Service

12th January 2020

Laxton Church

10.30am

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which the plough and
the churn will be
brought into church and
blessed.**



Things to Do this Month

- ☆ Take your cards for the village delivery round to the church by 4pm on Dec. 15th with a donation
- ☆ Pay your Open Field subs for 2020 (£4)
- ☆ Consider whether you could help with church brasses and flowers
- ☆ Send in your suggestions for something suitably celebratory to officially open the Village Hall

December

Fri 6th

Quiz Night Laxton VH

Sun 15th

Join the Festivities at Hall Farm, Kirton, 1.30pm

VH = Village Hall VC = Visitor Centre

Christmas Eve - 3pm - the Bishop will be leading a Family carol service at Wellow which will be informal and very accessible for all the families in Wellow and beyond! This is in keeping the Bishop's particular focus on 'Young Life' this year as he has encouraged churches to reach out and engage with children aged 0 - 11yrs and their families and to especially encourage those who don't normally come to church! The Bishop will be stopping after the service to share in the refreshments.



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.

Rotary Club 'Bras for Africa' Collection



The Rotary Club of Sherwood Forest's collection of lightly used bras and new pants for Africa continues.

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Please note both boxes will be emptied daily. The church is open during daylight hours daily.

Starts Sunday 1st December, Closing date:

4.00pm Sunday, 15th December

Village deliveries will take place the following week



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ON

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History Group Craft Fayre

It was great to be able to hold the 2019 Craft Fayre back in Laxton. It was also pleasing to see a good turn out from the village and friends after the week's torrential rain and flooding nearby. Many thanks to everyone who made the effort.

One couple called by chance on their way between Halam and a planned visit to the Holocaust Centre. They enjoyed a browse round the stalls and stopped for something to eat and a chat with various local people. They were heard to say what a nice village it seemed to be and how friendly people were. What a good impression to make.



There was the usual tempting array of stalls and games. The cake stall was groaning under the



supply of treats for sale. Both young Emilys had stalls selling their hand made crafts and Linda was with us once again with her lovely paintings. We had a new stall holder this year with her crafts, knits and cards and she must have done well as she asked to be invited back next year.



Needless to say our bakers and cooks had done us proud with cakes and quiche as well as our popular soup and cobs to fuel our



visitors. Our kitchen volunteers had a busy day and had the chance to test out the new water heater for the drinks. It was particularly good this year that the new furniture had arrived for the foyer area and so people were able to sit there for their refreshments rather than us having to squeeze them down between the stalls. Much more comfortable and safer for all. It was also nice to enjoy the warmth of



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the new heating system and effective insulation - very cosy.

Thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes. There was an amazing collection of 24 different items.

The bonus on the day was meeting Charlie Gauntley. He first spoke to John Chambers and was introduced to Jean Hennell. He apparently has a collection of talks that he gives. This was eagerly picked up on by Jean, who had just been let down by our speaker for the November LHG meeting. Before he left, Charlie had been booked and we are looking forward to meeting him again.

Many thanks to every one who came, helped, gave donations or supported the event in any way. We made a total of £470. For History Group Funds, which will be very handy as the cost of speakers is rising.

The Hennell Girls



Congratulations to Amanda and Emily. Emily received 2 awards at the Tuxford Young Farmers Harvest Supper and, not to be outclassed by her daughter, Amanda won 2 trophies at the Vintage Tractor Show. Well done to both of you from all the family.





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Coffee Morning

12th December, 10.30am - 11.30am

The next coffee morning will take place on Thursday 12th December at Janet Cooke's house in Timothy Road.



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The Hospital at Wellow Hall

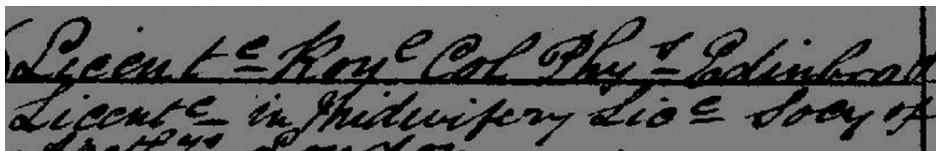
Thomas Bagshaw 1782-1851.

The Bagshaws first appeared in Laxton about 1770, John Bagshaw marrying there in 1773. On checking through records of my ancestors recently, I noticed that Thomas Bagshaw, who was born 7.11.1782 and buried in 20.8.1851, was missing from the Laxton census in 1851. Eventually he was found to be a patient in a hospital, in Wellow!

Thomas, 59, a farmer from Laxton, was being cared for, along with three other patients, by a nurse called Hannah Priest. He died later that year.

There seem to be few records about a hospital in Wellow but it appears it was called Wellow District Hospital and set up about 1840, in part of Wellow Hall. In 1841 Charlotte Buck was a hospital nurse in Wellow.

- In 1851 Hannah Priest was 'nurse to the hospital.' In 1861 she was said to be 'A nurse.'
- Wellow Hall was owned by Mr W.S. Ward, fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.
- There was a dispensary, run by William Wright, Dispenser of Medicines, living in the Hall.
- The patients were often young agricultural workers in need of surgery, often from far afield.
- In 1871 James Bartlett, living in Wellow, was said to be



William S Ward died in 1877.

The hospital seems to have lasted for some 30 odd years.

These are just clues, only one of which directly connects the Hall and Hospital. There are references to a leg amputation carried out there in 1842 with the patient in a 'Mesmeric state'. This appears to have been part of a controversy at the time and two references describe what is reported to have happened:

<https://www.rsm.ac.uk/media/1828/the-mesmerist-exhibition-booklet.pdf> see p 14 onward, and

<http://www.wellow.me/wellow%20hall.htm>

PTO

Perhaps William Bagshaw's descendants have some records. From Wellow Hall Hospital to Wellow House School. Some 150 years!

John Bagshaw's son, Thomas, was in hospital there in 1851; now in 2019, his 6th great granddaughters go to school there and Thomas' descendants still live in Laxton.

MWS

Laxton's Historic Open Field Farming System and Sale of the Laxton Estate

Sorry to say but there has still been no additional information to either the Parish Council or the Visitor Centre Trust to pass on from The Crown or Carter Jonas since the last report in the magazine.

The previously suggested date of the end of the year for completion does not look too hopeful at the moment.

Michael Manning

Village Hall Refurbishment Update

We are eagerly awaiting the Quiz night on 6/12/19 in the new Hall and so far we have had a huge response from people wishing to field a team!! If you haven't let me know yet we might have to use the new foyer as well!!

At the last Committee meeting it was agreed that the Official Opening would be held on SATURDAY 8/2/20 as this is around the anniversary of the refurbishment work commencing.



The junction of Weston Rd. Egmonton with the Old Great North Road during the floods.

A small sub committee has been formed to look at what form the celebrations will take. If you have any suggestions please let a Committee member know.

Best wishes and a Merry Christmas to you all.

Michael Manning

Tuxford Young Farmers



We have had a busy time since my last report.

A visit from police dogs and their handlers started our month and they did demonstrations of how dogs are trained to catch people by the use of a padded arm glove, and another one sniffed a piece of material that had been treated to smell like drugs. The following two weeks were spent making table decorations for our Harvest Supper evening on the 19th October.



The 19th arrived and around 80 people enjoyed a delicious meal at Dunstall Barn, Sutton on Trent. We send a huge thank you to them for all their hard work. We held a raffle and auction. Thanks to everyone who helped us raise £1,248 for next year's charity.

After dining we had our presentations and we thank Andrew Banks for doing the presentations. This is the end of

the Young Farmers' year and it gave us great pleasure to hand a cheque for £2,500 to our charity Forget-me-Nots in Tuxford. Thanks to all who supported us over the year, making it possible to raise this wonderful amount of money.

Asthma UK is our charity for the coming year.

The week after we went bowling in Newark. The 30th found us carving pumpkins that were donated by Alex for Halloween and our first November meeting was spent at a bonfire in Worksop.

Tuxford Young Farmers meet on Wednesdays 7-30pm at Hall Farm, Weston why not come and join us.

Emily

Please Keep Dogs Secure

After a number of incidents with loose dogs recently, we would like to ask everyone to be sure that they walk their dogs on a lead in Laxton and ensure that they can't escape from gardens when they are let out.

Thank you.

SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

1st Dec *Advent Sunday*

10.30am Laxton Advent Wreath Service

4pm Wellow Advent Carols

8th Dec *Advent 2*

10.30am Laxton HC

4pm Egmonton Advent Carols with 'The Society of Our Lady of Egmonton'

Weds 11th Dec 6pm Kneesall, Carol Service with Kneesall School

15th Dec *Advent 3*

9am Egmonton **HC**

4pm Laxton Christingle

4pm Wellow Carol Service with Wellow House School

22nd Dec *Advent 4*

10.30am Kirton Family of Churches **HC**

24th Dec *Christmas Eve*

3pm Wellow crib with Bishop Paul

6pm Egmonton Carols/crib

7pm Moorhouse carols followed by HC

25th Dec *Christmas morning*

10.30am St Paulinus New Ollerton **HC**

11.30pm St Giles Ollerton Village, Midnight Mass

29th Dec *1st Sunday of Christmas*

10.30am Wellow Family of Churches HC

Revd Zoe can be reached at the Vicarage on **(01623) 862818** or
email: [**revzoe65@gmail.com**](mailto:revzoe65@gmail.com)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2019

Dec 1st Christmas card collection opens

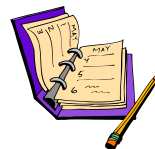
Dec 5th Court Leet

Dec. 6th Quiz Night

Dec 11th WI

Dec 12th Coffee Morning

Dec 15th Christmas card collection closes



Forward Planning

Alternate months, 4th Tuesday Parish Council

2021

Feb 2nd Village Hall Opening Event

Copy Date for January: 12th December.

Please note that the deadline is early. We print before Christmas and need your contributions in good time please. We cannot guarantee to publish anything received later. We appreciate receiving items as early as possible.

Thank you.

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President Brenda kept the business to a minimum at our November meeting so that we had plenty of time to tackle the hands on Christmas crafts fellow member Elizabeth Banks had brought for us to do.

Members had been busy knitting for the Christmas

Appeal and Brenda thanked them for their efforts. We already have a supply of wool for next year and anyone interested in taking some of it to knit into useful items for people in need can see Janet to get some.

Our accounts have been processed and Brenda thanked our Treasurer, Sally, for her hard work. We appointed the independent financial examiner for next year and heard she likes to do ours because they are so well kept. Well done, Sally.

We have been invited to join East Markham WI at the November meeting when author Stephen Booth will be speaking. Brenda also took names for people interested in joining our team for the Village Hall Quiz. Sadly we have been unlucky in getting all the tickets that we hoped for for a county rag wreath making event, and only four members will be able to attend.

Laxton church will be hosting the County WI Christmas Carol Concert on the 2nd of December. Members volunteered to bake mince pies and shortbread to be served afterwards.

Elizabeth came with a groaning table of supplies and a selection of options so that each of us could make a card and a cracker. The hall was full of tables, set out in a 'U' shape so we each had space and Elizabeth could get round easily with materials and advice.

In truth Elizabeth had already done a lot of the work for the card by cutting out an interesting frame with foldable gates





behind which we fixed a photograph we had brought. Only mounting on a card blank and a little additional decoration was needed to make an attractive card. For some of us what was needed was a little more practice in colouring the frame. It was all too easy to get that wrong.

We have often made crackers in the run-up to previous Christmases, but they always provide the same challenges. They seem such simple things, and they are but they always seem to need more than the one pair of hands with which each of us is blessed. Despite our struggles with holding things together, tying things up, getting things in the right order, putting fillings in before tying up the cracker, and fixing attractive decorations, everyone ended up with a pleasing result.



Many thanks to Elizabeth for all the hard work



she had put into preparing for the evening which made it was possible for us to achieve quite a lot in a short time. Thanks also for her efforts to steer us in the right direction on the night. It was an enjoyable and productive evening

where we also had plenty of time to chat.

Our visitor, Betty Edwards, was asked to judge the competition for a handmade Christmas decoration, and there was a quite a variety to choose from. She selected the candle arrangement made by Lesley as the winner followed by Sally's angel and Mavis's cross stitch decorations.

Our December meeting is our AGM and we follow this with a supper. Please remember to come with an appetite. All members and visitors are welcome. At 7:30 pm in Laxton Village Hall on 11th December.



Rotary Club of Sherwood Forest



Our Master Stone Carver speaker from Lincoln Cathedral was very well received by the 32 people who attended, enjoying a good meal as well. He spoke enthusiastically for an hour and the general consensus was he could have spoken for another two and a good many would still have been listening.

On Saturday 9th October we had our 39th Annual Proms Concert with the Dukeries Academy Band, soloists Susan Kilner and Jonathan Price, the Dukeries Academy Choir, the Edwinstowe Handbell Ringers, Community Voices Choir and the Dukeries Community Band who rounded off an excellent evening with rousing audience participation In You'll Never Walk Alone, Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No 1, accompanied by much flag waving. This event is always a popular night out and as next year will be our 40th anniversary it's one for your new 2020 diary. And all for £6!

Our members would also like to thank the communities of Ollerton (Tesco) and Newark (Waitrose) who supported us on Poppy Day collections and their generous donations of support for the British Legion Appeal.

Now for forthcoming events. Our speaker for November 27th had to postpone to March so we now have a speaker highlighting his Life in the Theatre.

On 6th December our Rotary will be assisting with the Ollerton Carols near the Hop Pole.

On December 18th you have the opportunity to join us and celebrate Christmas with a Christmas dinner, a Christmas themed chat and then a little carol singing. Quite a few visitors have joined us throughout the year and it would be nice to see you all again. You will be very welcome to join us on this evening, our meal and entertainment is £12.00 so just book yourself in on **07711 802683**.



Our major collection remaining for this year takes place over three days at Tesco Ollerton, for which we are very grateful to Tesco.

On Friday 20th, Saturday 21st and Sunday 23rd December our members will be asking for your generous support. Santa will be popping in for



several visits if you are lucky enough to see him and sweets will be available (with your permission) for the younger ones. As usual there will be festive music and some members in costume. EVERY PENNY of your support is ploughed back into the Ollerton and District community so please pop round and say hello.

Early Diary Date. A good many of us still do not have a Will set up or it is out of date. We have invited local solicitors Jones and Co to be our speaker on January 29th and they will advise, no obligation - just information, on what we should all have in place.

We wish all the readers of Open Field the very best of wishes for the coming Christmas season and we hope to see you at some of our forthcoming events.

Rotary Spreading Christmas Cheer

As an alternative, or in addition to, 'Bras for Africa', we are organising a collection centre for the Ollerton Foodbank at South Forest Leisure where we have our weekly meetings.



If you feel able to support this collection up to Christmas please visit South Forest reception or leave donations at School House, Laxton.

Below is a list of much needed items. Thank you.

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cereals | Dry pasta, rice & pasta sauces |
| Tinned soup & stew | Tinned meat & fish (in spring water) |
| Tinned Fruit | Tinned beans and Vegetables |
| Condiments & Spices | Olive Oil Sprays |
| Broth & Stock Cubes | Natural Fruit Juices |
| Tea, Coffee & UHT milk | Biscuits |
| Laundry Liquid & powder | Washing up liquid |
| Toiletries | Sanitary products |
| Nappies, Baby Wipes | Baby Food |

And of course before Christmas, selection boxes for the children.

Please spread the word - any questions please ask.

Thanks

Jeff Naylor

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The Biscuit Tin

On the night before Christmas, as we tucked up in bed,
My two little cousins named Stuart and Ed,
They kissed us goodnight and quietly said,
“When we wake in the morning, can we come in your bed?”
And my mother, she smiled and nodded her head,
“As long as your mum doesn’t want you instead?”
Down the stairs we went to sit by the fire
Until we heard bells from the distant church spire
Chiming out ten in the chilly moonlight
When my uncle stood up and wished us “Goodnight!”
For he knew in the morning, as sure as could be,
That his cows needed milking, would be looking for he,
Whatever the weather, whenever the dawn,
To them just the same, even on Christmas morn.

In the chill of the morning, before the first light,
Two boys came tiptoeing, as they’d asked if they might,
They didn’t say much but the glow on their faces
Said all that was needed, as they clutched pillow cases
Crammed full with presents of all shapes and sizes,
Each one containing who knows what surprises.
They could stand no delaying so on went the light
And the bed was soon holding far more than it might,
My parents and me, and two boys quite wriggly
Meant that, before long, we all were quite giggly!
And the giggles became laughter that grew by the minute
As each present was opened and we saw what was in it.
Our giggles and chatter soon brought to the door
My aunt, in her night gown, and our bed took one more!

There were presents and paper and tape everywhere
When we all heard the sound of a foot on the stair
And there was my uncle, with the scent of fresh air
And a trayful of tea cups for us all to share.
And the boys cried out “Biscuits!” producing a tin -
But oh, dear, dear – we could not get in!
Each of us tried, but try as we might,
The lid of that tin was fastened real tight!
My uncle, he said “Let me have a go -
“I’ve done this before, as you probably know!”
He took up the tin in his very strong arms
And he pulled and he tugged without any qualms.
The tin he held sideways as he tried hard to shift it -
When off came the lid and out fell the biscuits!

The boys were in heaven as they grabbed for their favourites -
Bourbons and fig rolls, custard creams and digestives,
Shortbreads and rich tea – but none fell on the floor
Though the bedcovers were scattered with fine crumbs galore.
It was too late to worry so what could we do -
But look for our favourites – well, wouldn't you?
I've heard of folks having tea and biscuits in bed -
But not quite so literally, it has to be said!

Jenni Dobson

December 2018 (About a Christmas maybe in 1959 or 1960).

Babes in The Wood at East Markham

The ever popular East Markham Players return in 2020, after many years of playing to packed houses. This year's fun filled frolics will be aided by the script for 'Babes in the Wood' and showcase the Players' irrepressible love for life. This is the ultimate in family entertainment, guaranteed to blow away the post-Christmas blues - and right on your local doorstep. You may also (just) recognise some familiar faces from the local community. The dates are:

- * Friday 31st Jan 7.30pm and Saturday 1st Feb 2pm and 7.30pm at East Markham Village Hall
- * Saturday 8th Feb 2.30pm and 7.30pm at Dunham-on-Trent Village Hall

Be sure to get your tickets soon from either Sally Mitchell Gallery in Tuxford or East Markham Post Office. They always sell quickly.

Festive Gathering at Kirton

Sunday, December 15th Hall Farm, Kirton

(home of Jonathan Price)

1.30pm, Entry £3 includes:

- ☆ **light lunch, mince-pies & mulled wine.**
- ☆ **carols & musical entertainment round the log fire**
- ☆ **raffle & lots of festive fun.**

To book please contact Jonathan - 01623 860249 or Georgina 07772 649281

Please join us. Everybody welcome !

Recent Bonus Ball Winners

| Date | No | Name |
|----------|----|---------------|
| 19/10/19 | 13 | Colin Cree |
| 26/10/19 | 32 | Kev & Sally |
| 2/11/19 | 40 | Sam & Kenny W |
| 9/11/19 | 31 | Mike Manning |
| 16/11/19 | 17 | Ivan & Chris |

We have various numbers available. Here is the up to date list of the 14 spare numbers: 1, 2, 7, 11, 24, 26, 28, 42, 46, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57, 59. Please contact Ken Shep on 870605 / Mike Manning 870844. Thank you.

Michael Manning

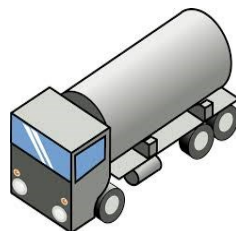
Group Oil Order

By the time you read this, the pre-Christmas order will have been placed

The next order will be in February if the winter and our needs follow the usual pattern. If you would like to order oil then, you need to provide your details or update what we hold about you and also specify a number of litres. Suppliers will not 'fill the tank'. If in doubt and you really do want it full to the top, you should overestimate slightly and they will charge you for what your tank takes.

You can ask to join the list at any time by providing mobile and land line numbers, email and full postal address plus any special instructions e.g. guard dogs, gates with locks, difficult access etc.

Please send orders to **oil@openfield.org.uk** from mid November.



Pilates with Mampa

Pilates with Mampa are now holding two classes in the Laxton Village Hall on Mondays at 18.30 and on Thursdays at 09.15. Places are available.

Please call if you are interested.

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Laxton History Group Trip to Oxford



Laxton's famous map by Mark Pierce, which dates from 1635, now owned by the Bodleian Library in Oxford, is normally kept in safe storage. Between July 2019 and March 2020, it is on public display in a major exhibition called 'Talking Maps'.

The History Group have developed a good relationship with Nick Millea, the person responsible for the map's care and co-curator of this exhibition. He is one of the four holders of a decorative stake made from one of the open field stakes which we have presented. In October we visited the exhibition instead of having a meeting at home. Nick joined some of us for lunch and met the group for a guided tour of the exhibition.

We travelled aboard a very smart minibus from Marshalls. Luckily, although we saw evidence of flooded fields en route and it rained virtually all the way there, it did not slow us down greatly and we arrived only shortly after our anticipated time of 11.30am. That gave everyone plenty of time for lunch and a look around before the



rendezvous at the Weston Library where the exhibition is staged.

Nick's short introduction covered the background to the exhibition, which has been 4 years in the making. People are invited to pitch to stage exhibitions in this space and the relevant committee decides who is to be granted the privilege. It requires someone from the Bodleian and an

outside academic to work together and Nick was fortunate to be able to join forces with Jerry Brotton, a fellow map enthusiast with very different interests, who conveniently lives nearby .

The display is staged in ten large, glass fronted cabinets. They thought long and hard about how to present maps in a cohesive and interesting way, and the theme of maps talking to the reader proved to be the key to bringing it all together. Quite how you narrow the choice down to less than 100 items in total from 1.5 million maps in store is something to puzzle over.

In addition to preparing the actual maps and arranging the loan of some items, the duo had to write the captions and the text to help the

public to understand the displays without the benefit of a guide. There was also the small matter of writing a book. Shortly before the due date this was revealed to be a detailed book and a shorter summary concentrating on just 50 maps! They also commissioned a number of videos from contributors who could add to the story of the maps. Nick had invited Stuart Rose to talk about the Laxton map and it was obvious that he was delighted with the result, which is staged near the map.



Our tour began with a look at a map of Oxford, but actually an Oxford which never existed. It showed a planners view of what could have been done with the city centre but which was never built. Accompanying this was a Civil War map which seems to have been designed to confuse invaders because while east and west are correct, north and south have been transposed.

This display also contains a map which depicts an extraordinary tale of roads from a social housing estate through an affluent area being blocked by spike-topped walls. When the council knocked the walls down the wealthy residents won a court case requiring them to be rebuilt and when a tank driver on a practice repeated the demolition, the military authorities were forced to rebuild. The final removal of the walls did not come until the 1950s.

The Laxton map occupies the next cabinet, mounted vertically and looking rather crinkled, which may be due to the way it has been mounted on its backing, and amplified by the lighting. It is truly an impressive sight. Also in the cabinet is a selection of the correspondence between the Bodleian Library and Mr Argles, Agent for Lord Manvers, negotiating the sale of the map to the Library.



The final item, and good for us to see, is the stake which we had presented to Nick.

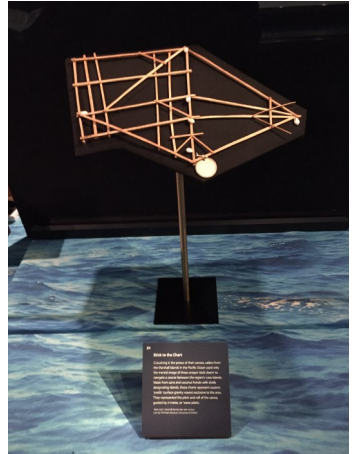
The remainder of the exhibition includes some impressive Islamic maps which have been digitally combined to provide a unique view of the known world in their time. Nick pointed out Cornwall and Scotland, but it was as well he did since it is unlikely we would have recognised them. There was originally a silver disc which incorporated these maps, but it was melted down. Working with the Spanish company which made the



digital composite, the curators arranged the recreation of the disc. This is certainly an item with a 'Wow' factor, which was added to by having to step out of the main room to see it.

A Marshall Islands stick chart was one of the more unusual items. A modern map giving his own unique take on maps and Britain today by Grayson Perry was one of the more unexpected.

The Gough Map of Britain is the oldest known single sheet map of the island, which some of us saw during the Bodleian's reopening exhibition following a 5 year refurbishment. This dates from around 1400, although it seems to have been made over a period of time. It is unusual in that it is oriented on its side with Cornwall pointing down.



Scotland was obviously not studied, but there is great detail in England and Wales.

Nick's team have just been given a big, three year, grant to examine this map. They have already looked at it using Raman spectroscopy and discovered that what now appear to be single colours are in fact a range of shades. Examining their

composition may enable them to be dated. The study has also revealed that this appears to be a copy since it bears pin pricks in the front which do not penetrate to the back and suggest it was marked through from an original.

Our time there ended soon after viewing this map and we had just time to visit the shop and café before our return trip. We bought a copy of the book accompanying the exhibition and which contains a chapter on the Laxton map. This will go into the History Group library and be available for members to borrow.

The Dukeries Singers

A Happy Christmas to you all. I am presuming, that unlike myself, you are well on with your preparations for the festive season. I do hope that in all the hustle and bustle, you manage to find some time to enjoy the peace, hope and joy of Christmas and



join us in celebrating with all the wonderful music special to this time of the year. I especially enjoy Carols sung outdoors "a cappella" very traditional I know but definitely with that "feel good factor." We have a busy programme for the run up to Christmas:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Thurs 28 th Nov | Carol Sing at Edwinstowe Lights' Switch On. |
| Sun 1 st Dec | Sherwood Pines. Approx. 11-30am_1-30pm |
| Sat 7 th Dec | Christmas Concert, Jubilee Hall, Ollerton |
| Sun 8 th Dec | Tuxford Lights switch on. Afternoon |
| Sat 14 th Dec | Carols and Christmas music, Alders Restaurant Ollerton |
| Fri 20 th Dec | Carols & Christmas music, Masonic Hall, Mansfield. |

Tickets for the concert at the Jubilee Hall in Ollerton may be ordered or purchased from Alison on **01623 863450** or any Choir member.

If you have sung before with a choir and you would like to sing again, January would be a most appropriate time to restart. Singing with a friendly group of like minded people is very uplifting and satisfying. We start back in rehearsal in mid January and practice every Wednesday evening from 7-30pm until 9-00pm in the Concert Hall Foyer at the Dukeries Academy Ollerton. This is best accessed via the Leisure Centre and car park.

We are taking bookings for 2020 and our secretary Pauline would be pleased to hear from you on **07951 609217**. You can find us on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube and on our website

www.thedukeriesingers.com

We wish you all a very happy and harmonious Christmas.

Jan

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Email: **thelaxtonmolecatcher@gmail.com**

Dukeries Woodturning Society

Unfortunately our Christmas Social on 14th December has had to be cancelled. Those who have paid for tickets will receive a full refund. This is very disappointing but can't be helped.

Please note that there is no meeting in December. We think members may be otherwise entertained on 25th December!

The first meeting of our new year will be on 22nd January at the Jubilee Hall in Ollerton at 7.30pm. This will be our AGM and social, so we hope to see everyone there ready to discuss the running of the club and to enjoy the refreshments and catch up. Visitors and guests are welcome and it is a good opportunity to meet each other and chat.

Please note that 2020 subs are due in January.

For more information please visit www.dukerieswoodturning.org.uk or call Gordon Fisher on **01623 464986** / Michael Manning on **01777 870844**

Events at Maplebeck Village Hall

www.maplebeckvillagehall.org

Tuesday 14th January 2020, 7.30 pm
£5 on the door

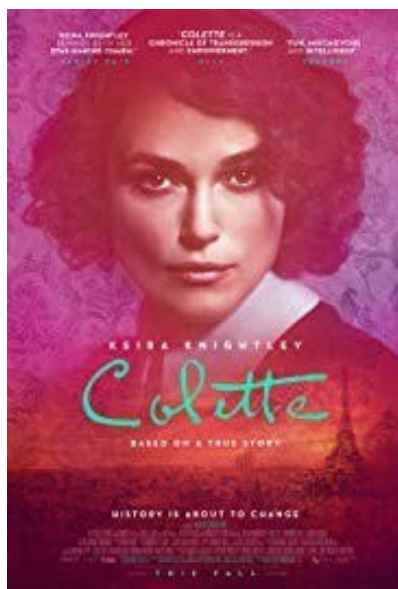
Film Screening of: **Colette** 15

This witty, Belle Époque-era biopic stars Keira Knightley and Dominic West as a literary couple whose relationship rewrote social and gender rules. Colette married young and wrote the Claudine series, which became a smash hit. It was published under her husband's name, whom she had to fight to claim her own literary rights.

Tickets from:

www.maplebeckvillagehall.org


or 01636 636421



Egmanton Village Hall

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk / 01777 871171

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

- ♦ **Yoga with Greg** – Tuesdays at 7:30pm
- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Thurs 19th
- ♦ **Zumba Class**  Tuesdays 5.45 - 6.45 **Call 07817 311627**
- ♦ **Children's Dance Classes** - Sat 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.

Advertising in 'Open Field'

A standard 1/6 page box: £30 p.a.(colour) - 12 issues,
£15 p.a.(B&W). Larger sizes pro rata, e.g. 1/2 page £45

Please contact advertising@openfield.org.uk or call **01777 871506** for details and info on web pages / links.

Maplebeck Village Hall Events

www.maplebeck.org.uk / 01636 636421

Regular Activities

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Yoga | Tues 9.45am and Fri 9.30am |
| Clubbercise | Thurs, 8.30pm |
| Walkers | Weds, from approx.10.00am |
| Kurling (without the ice!) | 2nd Weds monthly 7.30pm |
| Book Club | Tues, 7.30pm, 1 Jan, 25 Feb, 24 Mar, 28 Apr, 2 Jun, 7 Jul; |

Upcoming events and Films (all 7.30pm)

2020

Tuesday 14th January

Colette 15

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

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

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

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

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

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| | |
|---|--------------|
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| 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 | 01636 612 837 |
| County Councillor: cllr.mike.pringle@nottsc.gov.uk | 0115 977 5661 |

Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk



Moorhouse Church

Carol Service

7.00pm

Christmas Eve

**The service will be taken by
the Rev Zoe Burton**

Followed by tea and biscuits.

**Afterwards there will be a short service of
Holy Communion for those wishing to stay.**



**Laxton
Christingle
Service**



Sunday 15th December 4.00pm

Taken by Lay Reader Joan Wood

**All the children will receive a Christingle
Please come and join this family service and
then stay for refreshments.**

Everyone Welcome