

# Open Field

£1

December 2023 & January 2024



*Laxton Church, 2023*

The monthly publication of the  
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

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



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

**We believe all illustrations to be free to use. If anyone feels their image has been wrongly used, please get in touch.**

**Contributions for the next edition TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY NOON ON 16th January 2024 PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED. You can send at any time.**

# CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERIES,



Christmas is just around the corner. Not long to go.

If you want to save on postage or save your legs walking round the village, then we will be putting the Christmas card box out again in the church.

If you wish to have your cards delivered, just pop them into the box on top of the bookcase at the back of the church with a contribution to church funds in the metal box on the wall. Then they will be sorted and delivered for you.

The first day will be Sunday 3rd December and the box will remain there until Friday 15th December. They will then be sorted and delivered. Thank you

Remember, just post your cards into the box and make a donation to the church, from **3<sup>rd</sup> December - 15<sup>th</sup> December, for delivery soon after.**

Please note the advice below.

1. Deliveries are made in Laxton and Moorhouse only.
2. Please make sure each envelope has a **clear name and FULL address on the envelope.**
3. Remember, "To Sue" is unlikely to get to Sue and "Sue, Timothy Road," will not fare much better.
4. Please support the church this Christmas. The income from the donations is very valuable.

Thank you, *Brenda*

## Christmas Greetings from the PCC

On behalf of the Parochial Church council of Laxton and Moorhouse I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

*Brenda*

## Get Well Soon

We were pleased to hear that Mike Manning had received his long awaited call for surgery - and without too long to worry about it. We send him very best wishes for a swift and complete recovery, despite some early complications. We shall look forward to seeing him walking about around Laxton with Cath before too long.

His contribution to this issue were sent before his surgery!

## Thank You - Mike Manning

Cath Manning and family would like to say a big thank you to friends and neighbours in the village who have sent so many good wishes following Mick's open heart surgery on 6th November.

Mick is still in intensive following a few complications and setbacks but hopefully with the care and dedication of the staff on the unit he will soon be on the long road to recovery.

## Thank You - Janet Cooke

I would like to thank all my friends and neighbours for their kind good wishes, cards and presents for my 80th birthday at the beginning of November. I appreciated them all very much.

Thank you also to everyone who came to the party my family gave for me. I enjoyed seeing you all.

## Congratulations - Emily Hennell

# 18



Big congratulations to Emily Hennell, who celebrates her 18th birthday on December 21st. Emily has lived all her life in Laxton and for a couple of years was our correspondent for Tuxford Young Farmers.

We hope she has a memorable day.



# Renewal of Open Field Subscriptions - Good News!

To our great surprise, Rev. Tony Tucker, our printer for Open Field has shared the news that he can carry on printing. When his leasing contract ended he was offered the chance keep the printer and to take over looking after it himself. He gratefully accepted and so will continue to produce our magazine as before.

He will need to ensure that the operation does not make a loss and any surplus will be dedicated to meeting the running and maintenance costs of the service. Clearly at this stage he has no idea how this will work out and he will be reviewing the situation as he goes along.

For the present this has enabled us to reduce the amount of the proposed increase in subscription to just £1, **bringing it to £6 a year** rather than the £7.50 we had believed would be inevitable.

It would be greatly appreciated if everyone would make their payment for their 2024 magazines as soon as possible so that we can go forward with Tony with confidence in our numbers.

**The subscription for 2024 (February - Dec / Jan) will be £6.00**

Thank you to those who have already paid. Please let your distributor have your subscription in an envelope marked with your name **as soon as possible**. Alternatively you can drop it through your distributor's door or deliver direct to Jean Hennell at Blacksmith's Cottage, High Street.

Please contact Brenda Noble on **870541**, Jean Hennell on **870276** or Joy Allison on **871506** if you have any difficulties.

Thank you. Your cooperation is appreciated.



## Congratulations

Many congratulations to Lynda and Steve Moore on becoming grandparents. Here is Lynda having her first cuddles.

Max was born to Abbey and Ben Keattch on 12th October.

Very best wishes to them all.

## **DECEMBER CONGRATULATIONS**

*Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special event in December.*

*The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Brenda Noble, Emily Hennell (18), Ann F. and Jonathan and Jake.*

## **JANUARY CONGRATULATIONS**

*Congratulations to everyone celebrating in January.*

*The birthday roll of honour for this month is a very long one!:*

*Sue S, and our other Sue S,  
Margaret P, our other Margaret P  
and her twin Steff L, Mike J, Mary N,  
Mike Manning, Stuart Rose,  
Anne H, Jeff Naylor, Pat Naylor,  
Chris W, Jenni V.*

*If anyone would like their name added to the birthday and anniversary lists, especially for special ones, please let me, Jean or Joy know details ready for next year.*

*Brenda*



# October Community Coffee Morning

I would like to send a big thank you to everyone who attended the Community Coffee Morning in October despite the impact of Storm Babet, which resulted in exceptional rainfall in the early hours of the previous day and caused considerable disruption locally. We know this affected a number of homes in Egmont (and other villages), where a number of our friends and neighbours have relatives that were flooded.

It was great to see our regular supporters together with lots of first time visitors from both Laxton and further afield.

You will be pleased to learn that £372 was raised for the church. As with other charitable fundraisers, all event expenses and hall hire costs were covered by the general kitty.



That said, I must thank the bakers who generously donated the goodies, including Janet Cooke, Karen Sandford, Sarah Stringer, Lesley Booth, Joan Cottee and Mary Sullivan. Thanks too to Ann-Marie who lent a hand in the kitchen.

Our raffle was supervised by Janet Cooke and Brenda Noble - thank you.

This month a generous hamper was donated by Tesco, champers by the Combellack family and other individuals donated various other prizes for the raffle. Five mini hampers were sponsored by the 'Community Coffee Morning', paid for in part, by donations from Handicentre Southwell, Stuart Rose and Daphne Sandford.

**WELL DONE TEAM AND THANK YOU  
ALL ON BEHALF OF ST MICHAEL'S  
CHURCH!!!**

*Helen Sheard*



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## Poppy Cascade



*The poppy cascade installed in time for Remembrance*



Villagers will have seen the lovely cascade of poppies which appeared in the church yard at Laxton a couple of weeks before Remembrance. The knitted and crocheted poppies were the work of Janet Cooke and her sister-in law, Kath Shipley. Kath is the sister of Janet's late husband Frank, and a keen craftswoman. Janet also attached the poppies to the net drape to create the cascade. They really do look lovely and are a fitting tribute to those we lost in both wars. Many thanks to both of them for all their hard work.

They made red poppies to remember the fallen soldiers, purple poppies to commemorate the horses which served and fell in the wars and a single white one to represent Miss Willis, the schoolmistress who was Laxton's only civilian casualty of WW II.



This act of remembrance was a collaboration. The wooden frame on which it was mounted was made by Roy Haynes (left above) and painted by Eric Heath (right above). As mentioned last month, Roy had made the metal soldier and had also earlier repainted the church notice board. Thank you to both for their help.

If you go into the church, you will also see smaller versions of the cascades on the two windows nearest the two war memorial plaques. Thank you again Janet for all your hard work.

*Brenda*

## Thank You - Unsung Hero

A special thank you to Richard W. He has strimmed around the headstones and graves in the churchyard for a number of years and has worked especially hard this year to keep the churchyard looking tidy.

Dave Sheard says that Richard spends more time strimming than Dave himself does mowing. We can certainly see where he has been. Many thanks Richard.



# Thank You - Community Coffee Morning

On behalf of the Church Council I would like to say a huge thank you to the ladies of the Community Coffee Morning for kindly donating the proceeds of the October coffee morning to Laxton church funds.

Thank you to everyone who attended, those who gave raffle prizes, those who baked and not forgetting the ladies in the kitchen behind the scenes.

A total of £372 was donated and this will be spent on the general maintenance of the church. We have just had the fire equipment serviced but had to have some renewed. The organ has been tuned, and some notes had to be repaired. The boiler room has also flooded again so that's another job to do. One good thing is that we think we have stopped the rain coming in thanks to Lee, fingers crossed. I suppose we can expect all this with an old building such as our church.

Thanks again to everyone. It is very much appreciated and the money will be well spent.

*Brenda*



**LAXTON VILLAGE HALL**



## QUIZ NIGHT

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**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND GLASSES**

## Dogs in the Churchyard

If you have walked through the churchyard recently you will have seen that we are asking people to keep dogs on a lead there. People have been distressed to go to tend graves and discover that a dog has been there first. It is also unpleasant for the volunteers who maintain the churchyard to find dog poo in their equipment when they are working. If your dog is on a lead, it is easier for you manage where it goes and to pick up after it . Thank you.

## Storm Babet



The impact of Storm Babet locally was considerable, but at the time of writing, we have not heard of anyone in the parish whose house was flooded. If this is incorrect we apologise and wish you well in recovering from the damage caused.

Once again it was observed that water streamed down from the direction of West Field, along Town End and also down the main road from Ollerton. The direction of flow puts properties at the top of the village right in the firing line, but lessons have been learned from previous events and drive ways were barricaded to deflect the water along the road.

Mike Manning sent the photo above showing the remarkable spectacle of water gushing out of the ground on the corner opposite The Dovecote. We presume that something underground could not cope with the pressure of the storm water and gave way.

At the October meeting arrangements were made for the Craft Fayre. As History Group funds are in good shape at the moment, members decided that the money raised by the event would be shared between the Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance and Laxton Church.

The speaker at this meeting was Professor Paul Everson, speaking about 'A Different Interpretation of Laxton Castle'. Paul introduced himself as a field archaeologist and explained that his professorship is an honorary one.

He has developed a different view of Laxton Castle, and he acknowledges that this is not universally accepted. Our Honorary President, Professor John Beckett does not agree with him. He hoped his talk would be challenging and thought provoking.

He drew attention to references to the construction at Laxton using the word Hall and not castle. There is no reference to the castle in local Laxton names, e.g. no Castle Lane etc. In fact, the local names are Hall Lane and Hall Grounds.

From the Domesday Book onwards Laxton appears to be a single, large manor. In the 13th century King John spent money on a royal house here. A castle is not mentioned.

The word castle is not mentioned until the 1900s - a time when finding Norman motte and bailey castles was very fashionable.



Other factors he looked at were the distance of the construction from the church and its location relative to the village as well as its appearance, which does not look like a defensive mound. In his opinion it looks more like the site of a large manor house and a pleasure garden. He cited other UK examples of these.

The village layout from the 12th century onward was discussed. Prof Everson had hoped to stimulate discussion and he succeeded. The discussion which followed his talk ranged around whether Paul's view was valid.



Our 15th November meeting took the form of members bringing items relating to Laxton to share with each other and to discuss. In addition, Jean had arranged for her grandson, Jordan, and his parents Mel and Wayne to come with a selection of memorabilia from the war time.

The meeting began with the usual business, during which Jean finalised the arrangements for the Craft Fayre.

After a discussion, it was agreed that with the Group's funds looking healthy at the moment, we should look at hiring a bus to take us on at least one trip next year. We could consider subsidising some outside.

The Nottingham University Library had produced a magazine which included mention of Laxton in a section relating to manorial records. There were copies for those members who wanted them.

Professor John Beckett, is looking into organising an event to bring historians together to consider the evidence for the status of Laxton Castle following our speaker's proposition last month that it had only ever been a manor house. Members agreed that the Group could



host such an event, which would probably be in 2025 if it all comes together.

John Chambers then invited everyone to look at the photographs of the village and events brought in by Janet Cooke, the war medals brought by Brenda Chambers and the Voce family display and thanked them all for coming.







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# WI Bingo Night



What a great time we had at our Bingo Night on Friday 10th November. Forty four people sat down to play six games. A line and a full house were the winners. Good fun was had by everyone.

Thanks to our members who gave the raffle prizes, which were then made up into three hampers. Thanks also to the ladies for the refreshments.

Special thanks must also go to Dave for coming to be our caller for the evening, and for the extra Irish bingo we played. I think there were some people there who were not familiar with that version and we all had a laugh.



We made just over £200 which will help to pay for WI speakers and the Village Hall hire for the next year. I'm sure everyone enjoyed it and here's to the next one.



## Moorhouse Carol Service Christmas Eve

**Sunday 24th December  
7.00 pm**

**This will be conducted by  
Lay Reader, Heather Brown  
Everyone welcome**

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# **Laxton**

## **Carol Service**

**Sunday 17th December, 4.00pm**

**Readings, Poems and Carols**

**Followed by mince pies, tea and coffee**

If anyone would like  
to do a reading,  
please let Brenda  
know on 870541

**Come and join us**

**Everyone welcome**



**Plough Sunday**  
**with Holy**  
**Communion**  
**Laxton Church**

**Sunday, 7th, January, 10.30am**

**This is one of our traditional rural services. It will be led  
this year by Rev. Margaret Groves. The service includes  
the blessing of the plough and the churn.**

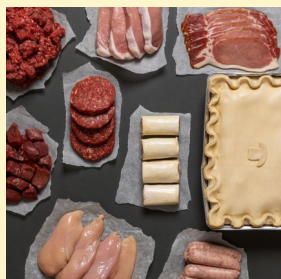
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## Court Day, 7th December 2023

The Jury which will have inspected the wheat field on 30th November was elected at the meeting of Laxton's Court Leet last December. The public are welcome to attend the Court Leet as observers. To make this more possible and comfortable, the venue moved to the Village Hall a couple of years ago.

During their inspection, the Jury examine where each farmer who has strips in the wheat field has ploughed. If this is found to be incorrect, the infringement is noted. A team also goes round to inspect the dykes and watercourses in the field and notes what it finds.

Over a lunch at The Dovecote, the Jury members gather to discuss the findings and to decide on appropriate fines. The results are written on a Presentment Paper by the field Foreman, who then passes it to the Steward of the Court Leet to read on Court Day.

After the reading, there is usually a discussion of anything which is not routine and everyone agrees the fines to be levied. This meeting will elect the Jury members for the 2024 inspection.

Laxton is the only remaining manorial court which retains the power to determine legal proceedings and levy fines in relation to an open field farming system. This, along with the working open field system, is what makes Laxton unique.

One other manorial court retained its powers when the Administration of Justice Act was revised in 1977, but those powers relate to the rounding up of stray sheep.

You have the opportunity to come along on Court Day and see how this ancient court works in the modern day. You need to be at the Village Hall for a 10.30am start.



## Community Coffee Mornings

The Community Coffee Mornings will be continuing as usual over the next couple of months. The December one will be held on Saturday 16th between 10am and 12 noon. The January one takes place on Saturday 20th, also 10 - 12.

Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat with friends and neighbours over a cuppa and a tasty home made cake.



# National Recognition for Tuxford Young Farmers Club

Last month we shared news of the nominations of local Young Farmers for the national awards to be presented in Birmingham in November. They had a fantastic evening, which was hosted by NFYFC President Nigel Owens MBE, celebrating the achievements of YFC members across the country.



Before the event began, Katie Gent with her able assistant Jessica Rose had been busy in the room where the event was to be staged, setting up floral arrangements on all the tables. They were very pretty and all Katie's planning and preparation worked out very well. They were thanked by some of the delegates and officially from the stage.

It is with great pleasure that we can report three successes for Nottinghamshire members which were announced on the night.

Local lass, Katie was nominated for the Heart of YFC Award. Everyone was thrilled when her name came out as runner-up. More fantastic news came when Tuxford YFC took the runner-up award in the Community Supporter of the Year Award. (*see picture on facing page*)

The third Nottinghamshire success was when Michael Wilkinson of Collingham won the Young Farmer of the Year Award. Michael's club, Collingham YFC, were there among the top five clubs in the country for the Club of the Year Award, but did not place in the top two.





Congratulations to all of them. The YFC movement is clearly alive and well in Nottinghamshire and we have every reason to be proud of these hard working and community minded young people.

Katie is not letting the grass grow under her feet. She has just taken over from Laxton's

Jessica Rose as Nottinghamshire County YFC Chairperson.

Congratulations to Jessica for such a productive and successful year and the very best of wishes to Katie for good luck and great success in her year in office.

Our local Young Farmers are not resting on their laurels. On 2nd December they will once again be holding their illuminated tractor run around relatively local areas. They will be joined by fellow Young Farmers from across the county driving tractors large and small and all brightly lit..



*The Nottinghamshire delegation in Birmingham*

The procession starts from Morton at 5pm on 2nd December. The route will be published on the YFC website and on social media nearer the time. Last year around 100 tractors took part and it was quite a sight. There should be a location reasonably near Laxton where you can go and see for yourself. Take some cash to throw into their collection box or donate on their site.

We hear that Stuart Rose will be helping Santa to lead the convoy. There is a good chance that by the time Santa has had a taste of the festivities, he will want to come and put in an appearance at the Laxton Lights Switch On the following day, so be sure to make a note in your diary and pop along to see him.

## DECEMBER SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

**HC** = Holy Communion   **EP** = Evening Prayer   **MP** = Morning Prayer  
**Es** = Evensong   **WfA** = Worship for All   **WS** = Word Service

### 3rd December

<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Laxton</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>tbc</b>
<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Wellow</b>	<b>EP</b>	Heather B

**10th December**                      No Services

### 17th December

<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Kirton</b>	<b>HC / Advent</b>	<b>tbc</b>
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Wellow</b>	<b>HC</b>	Rev. John Ford
<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Laxton</b>	Carols	

### 23rd December (Saturday)



<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Wellow</b>	Carols
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### 24th December (Christmas Eve)

<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Walesby</b>	<b>HC</b>	Rev. Vaughn
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Wellow</b>	<b>HC</b>	Rev. John Ford
<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Kirton</b>	<b>Christingle</b>	Rev. Alistair
<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Moorhouse</b>	<b>Carols</b>	<b>Heather B</b>

**25th December (Christmas Day)** - No Services

**31st December (New Year's Eve)** - No Services



# *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*

## **November**

Tues 28<sup>th</sup>

Parish Council

***Thurs 30<sup>th</sup>***

***Jury Day***



## **December**

Fri 1st

Quiz Night LVH

***Sat 2nd***

***YFC Illuminated Tractor Run***

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>

Laxton Christmas Lights Switch On (Dovey)

***Thurs 7<sup>th</sup>***

***Court Day***

***Weds 13<sup>th</sup>***

***WI***

***Sat 16<sup>th</sup>***

***Community Coffee Morning***

## **January**

Thurs 18<sup>th</sup>

Sports Field Committee Meeting

***Sat 20th***

***Community Coffee Morning***

***Tues 23rd***

***Parish Council Meeting***

## **Forward Planning:**

### **Regular Events:**

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

**Copy Date for February 2024 edition:  
12 noon, 16th JANUARY 2024**

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

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## Laxton WI



We held our November meeting on Wednesday 8th. We were pleased to welcome two visitors for the evening.



Our speaker and demonstrator was Victoria Henderson, who came to show us the art of paper quilling. She brought with her some beautiful samples of her work, including some framed pictures, birthday cards, etc. She told us how she started doing this craft in her

younger days before she started again later in life and then got hooked on it.

She demonstrated how to make the quills and how to position and fix them to make the design. It looked quite simple. Doesn't it always when a skilled person does something? Victoria then gave us some materials so that we could all have a go. Some found it easier than others and ended up with some lovely pictures, Sally's being judged the best.



In December we will be going out for our Christmas dinner instead of having a meeting. Also in December, we have a Murder Mystery evening at Southwell, and the Village Hall Quiz, which we have teams in. We also have invitations to a Burns lunch, Christmas carols, and a felting workshop as well as a tour of the Theatre Royal at Nottingham coming up.

## JANUARY SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

**HC** = Holy Communion **EP** = Evening Prayer **MP** = Morning Prayer  
**Es** = Evensong **WfA** = Worship for All **WS** = Word Service

### 7th January

10.30am	Laxton	HC / Plough Sunday	Rev. Margaret
4.00pm	Wellow	EP	Heather B

### 14th January

10.30am	Kirton	HC	tbc
---------	--------	----	-----

### 21st January

10.30am	Walesby	HC	Rev. Vaughn
10.30am	Wellow	HC	Rev. Margaret
4.00pm	Laxton	Carols	

## Thank You Everyone

Thank you to all our readers and contributors for everything you have sent us in the last year. Without you we would not have a magazine. New contributors are always welcome. We look forward to your 2024 news.

Thanks also to those who proof read in the hope that not too many mistakes remain by the time you read your copy.

Thanks to Jean, our editor for making sure we cover all the village news and also to Roy for taking her to collect the magazines from Claypole monthly.

Jean prepares them for our distributors to whom we also say a big thank you. They are the loyal team who make sure yours lands in your letter box. Thank you everyone.



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## News from the Museums of Tuxford

Christmas isn't necessarily about things. It is about being good to one another and showing kindness. Often spending time together can create positive memories as well as family traditions. For children it is the anticipation and excitement of presents.

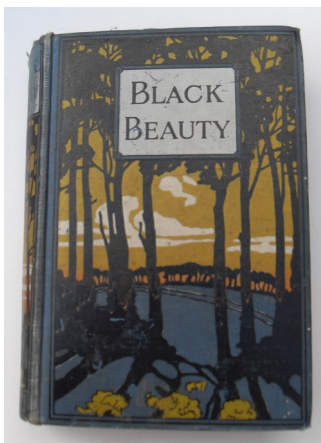
Little girls often had a pony on their Christmas list. If they couldn't have a pony then a pony book was often treasured. The Pullein-

Thompson sisters' books were some of the most popular, but everyone's favourite was a book written in 1877 by Anna Sewell: *Black Beauty* - the story of a horse's life, happy at first, then very sad but ending on a happy note. I wonder how many people realise that it was written to highlight the plight of so many horses, and to encourage people to treat horses more kindly.

Some horses were much loved by their owners, but for many were just tools of the trade. It was said on average five horses a day died in harness on the London streets

Apart from hard work, poor feed, standing around in the cold and the rain, one of the cruellest things was the bearing rein. This forced the head and neck into a painful position for little more than appearance. All these are referred to in *Black Beauty*. The book had the effect of making the bearing rein gradually go out of fashion. The bearing rein can be seen at the Museum of the Horse.

The Walks of Life Museum has some lovely prams in their collection. Including the blue cane dolls pram intricately designed, and calling on skilled workers to produce them, weaving the cane and making the





turned beech handle.

The excitement of getting your first dolls pram, a gift from your affluent family can only be imagined. Later unwanted, the Museum's example was purchased from Retford sales room in 1993 by the Museum's founder, Dorothy Harrison, to add to her collection.

Traditions of treasured Christmas gifts continue. Do you remember your first Christmas annual? The Dandy first appeared in 1938 and has been published every year since. Children and adults still enjoy making gifts. Calendars remain a popular item. Due to the strength of the memory of who made them or the picture they are often kept for many years.



Examples from Dorothy's teaching days in Africa in 1967 are part of her collection. The museums would like to wish everyone peace and happy times in the festive period.

27th January to 4th February is National Storytelling Week. Both Museums would like your stories to be shared and bring the joy of storytelling to others.

We will be having a competition for the best stories. There will be three age groups:

- Children up to 11 years
- 11 to 16 years
- Adults

Send us a story you have written to share. This can be either fact or fiction. The Museum of the Horse would like horse-related stories, which will become part of their collection of stories of horses.

The Walks of Life Museum would welcome any story that will bring pleasure to others.

In both cases please send it to us by Monday 22nd January 2024. You can email it or post it to the museums.

On Saturday 27th January at 2 p.m. there will be a ghost story from the coal mines at the Walks of Life Museum.

The Museum of the Horse is open 10am to 4 pm and 10am to 2pm Saturdays. The Walks of Life Museum is closed for the winter.

Viewing on request **01777 872776** [dianehunt08@btinternet.com](mailto:dianehunt08@btinternet.com).

We are busy on the old farmhouse restoration and with university students working on displays for the spring. You can view both museums on their face book pages.



Ossington PCC invite you to

## The Carol Service

at

The Church of the Holy Rood,  
Ossington

6pm

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Join us for drinks and mince pies  
after the service

Once again we are  
donating our Christmas card  
costs to the local Air  
Ambulance, so we would like  
to wish all our friends in  
Laxton and  
surrounding area

A MERRY CHRISTMAS and  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

*Dave and Joyce Stone*

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# Autumn Art Exhibition

We received an invitation for readers to attend the opening of an exhibition in Tuxford too late for inclusion in the November edition. It was circulated by Michael Manning to his email list, but there is still a chance for anyone who would like to see the work of the artists concerned to visit Sally Mitchell's Gallery in Tuxford. Technically the exhibition finished on Saturday 25th November, however any unsold pieces will remain on show until Christmas and a number of new pieces will go up in place of those which have been sold.

## Autumn Exhibition

Our Autumn Exhibition at the end of November showcased original paintings by our internationally known artists. We are incredibly lucky that several of our artists live locally so their depictions of the countryside are heavily influenced by the beautiful North Nottinghamshire landscape. In celebration of this brilliant bunch, here is a little background on the gifted individuals living in our midst!

**Malcolm Coward** is recognised as one of England's leading



equestrian artists. He lives in Askham! He is inspired by the light and the colours of the Spanish sunshine and its ability to beautifully highlight every magnificent twitch of muscle in a horse. He recently scooped two awards from The Society of Equestrian Artists Annual including The Best in Show prize for 'Spanish Schooling'.

**John Trickett** is from Laneham.

After being a professional footballer, he has become one of the most famous dog portraitists in Britain. His paintings of black Labradors were once described by the Shooting Times as some of the finest in the world! John also relishes the opportunity to make studies of wildlife and his latest works feature a familiar countryside series of game birds.

**Paul Doyle, another dog portraitist**, lives just over the border in Lincolnshire. His work hangs on both sides of the Atlantic. He has the ability to capture the endearing personality of any breed of dog.

**Jonathan Walker** is from slightly further afield. His work is inspired by the Devonshire countryside, with a rather fantastical twist! He is fortunate enough to be privy to a secret world where animals adopt human sensibilities and he shares them with us in his paintings.

## Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

14/10/23	48	Sam (Dovey)
21/10/23	6	Janet Cooke
28/10/23	6	Janet Cooke
04/11/23	43	Edwin Swordy
11/11/23	32	Chantelle (Rounders)

Cath Manning has very kindly supplied the winning names and numbers this month. She asks those who win in the coming weeks to please be patient while Mike is in hospital. He was called in at very short notice to accept a cancellation for his long awaited surgery and did not have the time to arrange for anyone else to take over while he is incapacitated. Thank you. Your patience is much appreciated.

**Our usual message suggests anyone wanting a new number should call Mike. May we respectfully ask that if you want to make a change or take a new number, you drop a note in Mike's letter box and be patient to allow him time to be able to reply.**

**Thank you.**

**The 3 numbers available are: 51, 52 & 53.** All proceeds go to supporting the Laxton Sport and Recreation Field facilities.

## Markham Players' Panto 2024

One of the staples of the New Year, which underlines the Christmas celebrations, is the Muskham Players' Panto. This year they will be performing 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'.

The performances begin at Dunham Village Hall on Saturday 26th January 2024, when there will be a matinee at 2pm and an evening performance at 7.30 pm.

The set will be moved to the group's home venue, East Markham Village Hall. There will be three performances on the following weekend: Friday 2nd February at 7.30pm and on Saturday 3rd February at 2pm and 7.30 pm.

Tickets are available from 1st Dec from The Gallery at Tuxford. The cast and crew are looking forward to welcoming you at one of the venues for more of their familiar brand of fun and frolics.

# Dukeries Singers

Following the success of our summer concert , which was a hit with the audience, The Edwinstowe Dukeries Singers are practicing hard to make their next event an equally great evening for everyone.



**Our Christmas Concert is on Saturday 9th December at Ollerton Jubilee Hall at 7pm.**

Please call John Banbury on **01623 822472** or mobile **07759 086132** at any time for more information.

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# Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council,

## Minutes of the Meeting held on 12/7/2023

*These minutes have been reproduced from the Parish Council Web site and it has not been possible to reproduce the numbered table format.*

**Present:** Councillors: S. Hill (chair), M. Hennell, J. Hill, S. Rose, A Moorhouse, D. Sheard

**In attendance at parish council meeting** C. Wilson (Clerk)

Members of the public (x 2)

**Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence due to the change of date were received and accepted from Ms Creighton. Mrs Michael had also sent apologies for the same reason.

**Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.

**Dispensations:** None required.

**10 Minutes public speaking:** The condition of the roads in the parish was raised with concern being expressed, in particular regarding potholes and verges. The chair will take these concerns forward with Mr Pringle on the walk round. In response to the member of the public's concerns, he confirmed that the walk round will encompass Moorhouse and a 30 mph speed limit for the village. Councillors noted that concerns continue in relation to the condition of Bar Farmhouse with a particular focus on rubble and debris lying on the site, the removal of skylights and missing windows. It was confirmed to the public in attendance that the old bench in Moorhouse had been removed with the new bench being delivered next week.

**Thoresby Estate report (if any):** Ms Moorhouse presented a report on behalf of the Estate focusing on the following:

- a. Grass sales had been disappointing
- b. Tenants had been lined up for High Street and Ide, with both properties being registered land
- c. Renovations to Step Farm are underway and are being carried out to a high standard.

Councillors expressed the hope that Mr Pierrepont would be able to attend their meetings in future.

### **Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 9 May and 8**

**June 2023:** The minutes of the parish council meetings held on 9 May and 12 June 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair subject to the correction of the spelling of Mrs Creighton's name to include an 'i'.

### **Matters arising:**

LMPC/165/23 – Matters arising - The clerk had obtained confirmation



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that the replacement interpretation boards had been completed. There were no other matters arising which were not otherwise on the agenda.

**Reports from councillors:** Mrs Michael and Mr Pringle were not in attendance.

The chair reported that the next SNG meeting was later in July and invited councillors or the public to contact him if there were any issues for him to raise. Speeding traffic was discussed. The chair confirmed that this is reported as an issue regularly by all parishes. Councillors noted that the police offer to train volunteers to use a speed gun. There was discussion of how a speed gun might be sourced and the likelihood of any appetite amongst residents to train and use a speed gun. Councillors noted that it was possible to purchase a speed sign. The chair will make enquiries at the next SNG meeting.

**Property matters including sports field and Glebe Field matters (if any):** Councillors discussed their links with the sports field committee following Mr Manning's withdrawal from parish council affairs. The **decided** that Mr Sheard should be the parish council's representative on the Sports Field Committee.

The chair and Mr J Hill will attend to fencing around the Glebe Field tree.

**Planning matters:**

- a. Applications: None
- b. To note planning decisions by NSDC: None
- c. Compliance: No matters raised

**Defibrillator inspection report:** Mr J Hill is awaiting a new battery but otherwise no issues. The chair had received correspondence from DHSC regarding the registration of the defibrillator. The clerk confirmed that it is registered with EMAS.

**Property manager's report including monthly asset inspection report:** Mr Sheard reported that:

- a. Rights and responsibilities for the Glebe Field hedging, post and rail fence and removal of the gate required clarification. Access and boundary ownership would also benefit from clarification. The clerk will check the documentation
- b. The benches on the Laxton grass triangle apart from the one painted by a resident required some repair and re-painting. Mr Rose will look at the benches. The pinfold furniture had been painted.
- c. The noticeboard perspex would benefit from replacement
- d. The glass in the Moorhouse telephone kiosk would also benefit from replacement

The relocation of the defibrillator to the telephone kiosk had been considered previously and the decision taken that, as the pub had high footfall and therefore increased risk of a medical emergency, the

defibrillator should remain at the Visitor Centre.

It was **agreed** that, going forward, Mr Sheard should inspect the council's assets every six months, reporting to the March and November meetings.

**Archive of parish records – Update:** Councillors authorised the clerk to sign the archive storage agreement.

**Village environment and appearance, including Bar Farmhouse:**

- a. **Community network group:** No longer required as a standing item.
- b. **Bar Farmhouse:** Discussed at LMPC/188/23 (10 Minutes Public Speaking) above.
- c. **Parish roads and pavements, including Moorhouse village sign:** Discussed at LMPC/188/23 (10 Minutes Public Speaking) above.
- d. **Bench for Moorhouse:** Discussed at LMPC/188/23 (10 Minutes Public Speaking) above. Councillors will discuss the siting of the bench when delivered.
- e. **NottsBus On Demand:** No longer required as a standing item.
- f. **Flood resilience:** Councillors noted that Mr Sheard had:
  1. Inspected the resilience stores
  2. Contacted the NCC flood officer who is visiting the parish on 27 July 2023 for a walk round with Mr SheardThere was discussion of training for flood wardens to shut flooded roads.

Following discussion it was **decided** that Housing, Planning (including neighbourhood plan) and Facilities should be an agenda item for the September 2023 meeting.

**Finance**

- a. **Financial position as at 30 June 2023:** Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 30 June 2023 (incorporating the 2022-23 budget figures). The clerk will add the expenditure deadline for the CIL levy to the accounts.
- b. **Accounts for payment:** Councillors unanimously approved ten payments totalling £1338.85. As it had not yet been possible to change signatories, councillors authorised Mr Manning to sign the cheque to the clerk.
- c. **Review fixed assets:** There was discussion of the Sports Pavilion ownership. The clerk will seek to establish the position from the records in her possession.

**Service faults:** None reported

**Correspondence:** None

**5 minutes public speaking time:** Nothing raised

**Agenda items for next meeting:** See above.

**Date of next meeting:** 7.30 pm Tuesday 28



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## Group Oil Order



Watching the price of oil has been something of a roller coaster in recent times, and never more so than since the last order. Boilerjuice's graph of their average price for 1000 litres across England, which we use as our guide has been interesting. The usual November order was being collated as Open Field went to print

People use more over the festive season when they are at home for more of the time and the weather is often colder, so the next order is liable to be in January. As always, every effort will be made to try to place the order when the price is low.

It really helps to have orders to hand if there is either a dip in price or signs of an imminent rise. When you receive a message calling for final orders, you can increase your order if you need to, but I will only allow a short, possibly **very** short, time to respond so that I can act quickly to secure the best price at the time for everyone.

Anyone whose order can be placed by email, either by themselves or by a friend or relative with authority to speak for them, is very welcome to join. Please contact me on my personal email if you have it. NB I do not publish it because of the volume of spam that generates. [oil@openfield.org.uk](mailto:oil@openfield.org.uk) is a general address you can use if you don't have mine.

The group currently covers an area of roughly 5 miles radius from Laxton, but still includes a former resident now living 20 miles away.

## Parish and Church Notices

*The following come from a collection taken from a variety of magazines.*

- \* New Study Of Obesity Looks For Larger Test Group
- \* Next weekend's Fasting & Prayer Conference in Whitby includes all meals.
- \* Fifth Sindy is Lent.
- \* Sunday morning sermon: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.'  
Sunday evening sermon: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- \* Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.





# Milton Mausoleum

Hello Friends

This year has been a busy one beginning with our Sunday Lunch at the West Retford Hotel when we were able to meet in the courtyard beforehand in glorious sunshine.

In May we could not resist taking up the challenge of organising a special event at East Markham Village Hall. The Eurovision Song Contest came to England and we invited some Ukrainian families, who have settled in the Retford area, to join us for the evening. We provided a buffet, games and music which helped to create a special evening for our Ukrainian guests. The local village communities were very generous and help us to create a Grand Prize Draw.

In August we were Putting on the Ritz, a concert featuring an outstanding performance by the hugely talented Lucy Campbell. Her repertoire provided a variety of songs; something for everyone. Her standing ovations were truly deserved. We served wine and canapes on the lawn at the interval.

A special 'first time' event for the Friends was the Open Gardens Day suggested by the owners of Lound Hall Estate to make a contribution to our funds. This event exceeded our expectations in that over 450 people attended on the day. We really enjoyed working with the family to provide an interesting day for everyone.

At the time you read this we will have held our 3rd Christmas Gifts and Craft Fayre on 11th November, brought back by popular demand with a return of popular stallholders and some new ones added this year.

Our final event of the year is the hugely popular Carols by Candlelight on Sat. 2nd Dec. It was already fully booked by the end of October and is a great way to welcome the festive season.

We thank you all very much for your generosity and support for our events during this year and as it's nearly that time of year we would like to wish all our friends and supporters a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Milton Mausoleum, The Avenue, Milton NG22 0PW

**[milton.mausoleum@outlook.com](mailto:milton.mausoleum@outlook.com)**

Milton Mausoleum is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust



**It Pays to Be  
Careful ...**

On 17th November Action Fraud were made aware of a group of six males offering to clean guttering in the Southwell area for £25.

Once they started the work, they increased the price to £650 as they stated the roof needed repairing. Luckily the householder did not give them any money as a family member arrived and asked them to leave. They were in a white panel van.

Please be aware when buying from doorstep callers and only agree for work to be completed by known companies.

## **Imaginative Answers to Science Questions**

Q: Name the four seasons

A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q: How is dew formed?

A: The sun shines down on leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: What causes the tides in the oceans

A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

Q: What happens to your body as you age?

A: When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized? (e.g., abdomen.)

A: The body is consisted into three parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A, E, I, O, and U.

# **Egmanton Village Hall**

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- ♦ **Pilates** - Thursdays from 5:30pm - 6.30pm with Holly Rye.  
Contact **07415436001** Email **holly-rye@hotmail.co.uk**
- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ♦ **Coffee Morning:** Second Saturdays 10 - 12. 9th December and 13th January. All welcome

## **Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council**

A reminder about the pot hole reporting contact details are:  
**[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/potholes/  
report-a-pothole](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/potholes/report-a-pothole)**

**Or ring Customer Services on 0300 500 8080**

## **Laxton Defibrillator**

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

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

*Michael*

## **Laxton Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw**

We now only have 3 of the 59 numbers available for anyone who would like an additional one or a new member. All proceeds go to supporting the Laxton Sports and Recreation Field.

The available numbers are: 51, 52 and 53.

*Michael*

Please contact Michael about Bonus Ball by dropping a note into his house for the present, while he convalesces.

# Useful Contact Details

## Defibrillator Contacts:

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

## Police

Sgt 2949 Christian Hurley, Sherwood Neighbourhood Policing Team,  
Ollerton Police Station

PC Gary Sipson 07525 226575 or 101 x 800 7673

Email : [gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

PC2548 Deborah Bakin supported by  
PCSO 8524 Richard Dunn at Southwell

07595 074292

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

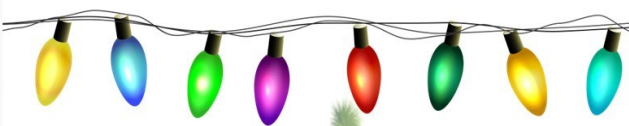
Danger to life or crime in progress	999
Otherwise police switchboard	101
Crimestoppers (anonymous crime reports)	0800 555111

## 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

**Cardiac Arrest? Say "Alexa Activate Emergency CPR" to an Alexa device**

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@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mike.pringle@nottsc.gov.uk) 0115 977 5661  
Parish Council website: [www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk)



# **Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council**

*Present*

**The 3rd Annual Christmas Light Switch-on**

**Sunday 3rd December 2023**

**@The Dovecote Inn, Laxton, NG220SX**

**Events start @ 5 pm**

**Songs and music from**

**Kneesall Primary School Choir**

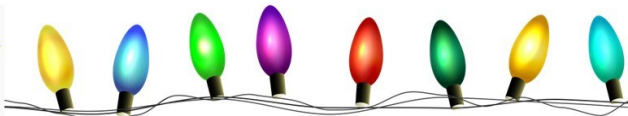
**Dukeries Community Band**

**Maxine Gardner**

**Complimentary mince pies, mulled wine & hot drinks  
and in the Dovey.**

**Hot meat cobs, drinks and live entertainment**

**With a collection for church funds**



This advert has been sponsored by Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council, to help support the work of village & voluntary organisations and to help support & develop local business & economic activity.