

# Open Field

£1

February 2020



## Official Opening Saturday 8th February

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*Laxton Village Hall, January 2020*

The monthly publication of the  
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse  
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**Coffee Morning Hosting Rota**

February 13<sup>th</sup>  
March 12<sup>th</sup>  
April 9<sup>th</sup>

Joyce Stone  
Jean Hennell  
Diane Wood

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

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

## Letter From Revd. Zoe

Dear friends

As I write this letter, the twelve days of Christmas have drawn to a close. The Christmas lights have been switched off but during the 'switch on' - several people commented upon their beauty, which included the new outside star on St Paulinus Church and how it had been a hopeful sign to them. If we look to the natural starlit nights, they are not switched on and off and have simply been spectacular to me, a beautiful sight to behold – of course, this is subjective as the saying goes "beauty is in the eye of the beholder". But all this got me thinking afresh about beauty and what we mean by the word 'beauty'?

Physical beauty for many may readily come to mind. The beauty industry including fashion and designer commodities are big business. Beauty is often associated with outward appearance.

But there is another beauty which captures and beautifies the heart. This beauty does not fade away. Beauty in this sense encapsulates characteristics such as: warmth, acceptance, forgiveness and security. The spiritual wardrobe offers a totally different sort of fashion clothing – the Bible invites us to cloth ourselves in 7 spiritual clothes: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness and love. Inner beauty takes longer to acquire. Inner beauty is part of our make up as God's image bearers. Beauty in this sense is more to do with who we are and whose we are – the one we know as God and the Bible tells us has made everything beautiful in its time.

Growing in the likeness of God and our inner beauty means we become more Christ-like as we live our lives in ways which radiate and sparkle with light – light which speaks up for the voiceless, speaks the Truth, confronts wrongdoing, seeks the way of love, the way of peace.... The most beautiful people I know in life exhibit extraordinary beautiful and are fearless in the face of injustice and conflict yet gentle, caring and have extraordinary compassion, understanding and joy in the face of adversity.

Perhaps we are invited to see beauty not as something we have or have not but something that we can all acquire as we become our

true selves. True beauty lifts us beyond ourselves and enlightens us. The invitation is for us all to discover true beauty but it is our choice whether or not we wish to grow in it.

Blessings  
Rev Zoe

## From the Registers - Confirmations

Congratulations to Jack and Ella Hoyland of Egmonton who were confirmed at Southwell Minster on Saturday 23rd November by the Bishop of Southwell. They were prepared by the Rev. Anna Alls and presented to the Bishop by Lay Reader Heather Brown.

After the service all candidates received their first communion. Jack and Ella were both baptised in Laxton church and are therefore in our registers.



## Get Well Soon

We were sorry to hear that both Mark and Rosemary spent time in hospital in the last month. Both are home and we hope they are recovering well. We send very best wishes.

We are pleased to hear that Brenda continues to recover and wish her a speedy return to good health.

Brenda has been well enough to produce several contributions for this month's magazine, so we will start with her personal 'Thank you'.



## Congratulations - Sapphire Wedding



Congratulations to Colin and Dorothy Cree of Step Farm, Laxton, who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Wednesday 18th December.

Col and Dorothy were married at St Matthew's Church, Boughton, on 18th December 1954 and the wedding was attended by many family and friends from Laxton.

## Thank you from Brenda

I would just like to say a huge 'Thank you' to everyone who came to visit me, brought flowers and cards and enquired after me during my recent and unexpected stay in hospital.

Thank you also for the card that everyone signed at the Christingle service. That was a lovely thought, which cheered me up when I came home.

I am now slowly recovering and hope to be back in the swing of things shortly.

*Brenda*

## Thank you to Janet



I think we must say a big 'Thank You' to Janet Cooke who, as you may be aware, has retired from selling poppies around the village in aid of the Earl Haig Poppy Appeal for the British Legion.

We were trying to remember when she started, but it must be at least 25 years, so I think she deserves a big 'THANK

YOU'.

We must also thank Rachel Hennell for offering to take over the task.

## Thank you - Coffee Mornings

Thank you to everyone who has supported the monthly coffee mornings over the past year. To those who have hosted them and to those who have attended them.

We must also thank Jean for organising them and keeping the rota going. Please note that there is a new rota on the inside of the front cover of the magazine. If anyone else would like to host one sometime, please get in touch with Jean. You only need to provide a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

The money raised over the past year has been used to purchase two new folding tables for the church, so once again, thank you on behalf of the PCC.

Please note that the hosting rota for the next three months will be on the inside front cover from now on.

*Brenda*

## Mother's Union

Our annual dinner on January 27th was a lovely meal at The Dovecote. In February we will be meeting at Janet's house in Timothy Road. Speaker details to be confirmed. Please contact Janet for further information. Everyone welcome.

## Open Field Subscriptions

It is the start of the new year and your Open Field subs are due again. I would just like to say a big thank you to all the team connected to the magazine. Firstly to Joy who I know spends an awful lot of time collating and producing it, then Jean who edits it as well as proof reading along with Dik before it goes to the printers. One of them then collects it from Claypole.

Thank you also to everyone who contributes articles and to all the advertisers. Without these there would be no magazine.

After printing Jean then distributes it to the people who deliver it to your door.

Thank you once again to everyone who purchases the Open Field, and we hope you enjoy it.



# Things to Do this Month

- ☆ Get your tickets for the WI Fashion Show
- ☆ Consider whether you could help with church brasses and flowers

## February

- Sat 8<sup>th</sup>** Join in the big party at the Village Hall. See your invitation for full details.
- ☆ Morris dancing from Rattlejag at **10.30am** outside the hall;
  - ☆ SteelGen steel band at **1.30pm** and after
  - ☆ Tuxford Primary School Choir & Majorettes **2pm** .
  - ☆ FREE running buffet all day catered by the WI
  - ☆ Closes 3.30pm
- Weds 12<sup>th</sup>** Learn about the History and Heritage of the Newark and Nottinghamshire Agricultural Society, 7.30pm, **VH**
- Thurs 13<sup>th</sup>** Go along to the Coffee Morning at Farms Cottage, 10.30am
- Weds 19<sup>th</sup>** Enjoy an evening of '70s nostalgia with the History Group, 7.30pm **VH**
- Tue 25<sup>th</sup>** Don't forget to make your pancakes! It is Shrove Tuesday

**VH = Village Hall   VC = Visitor Centre**

## Thank you - Christmas Cards

Once again a big thank you to everyone for supporting the annual Christmas card delivery around the village. A large number of cards were dropped off in the box in church along with donations which totalled £149.50 for church funds. Many thanks to Pat, Jeff and Janet for making the deliveries.

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# **Laxton Village Hall**

will be officially opened on

## **Saturday 8th February**

by Mr. Hugh Matheson and Robert Jenrick MP  
at a big village party

- ☆ Free running buffet all day,
- ☆ 10.30am Morris dancing outside
- ☆ 11.30am official opening ceremony
- ☆ 1.30pm and later 'SteelGen', steel band
- ☆ 2pm Tuxford Primary School Choir & Majorettes
- ☆ Displays from village organisations in the hall

All friends of Laxton are invited.  
Villagers will receive a flyer with full details.



### **Tuxford Young Farmers**



We finished 2019 with an evening of festive games on the 17th of December, and our Christmas meal at The Dovecote Laxton. The theme this year was Christmas pyjamas and the winners of best pyjamas were Will and Iona. We ended the evening with a general knowledge quiz.

2020 started with an outing to Doncaster Dome ice skating rink. I am pleased to report that there were no accidents and everyone returned home in one piece!

On the 15th January our senior members will be taking part in the county quiz.

Our meetings are at Hall Farm, Weston on Wednesdays at 7-30 and we are always happy to see new faces who want to see what we do. Please come and join us.

*Emily*



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# Laxton Village Hall Refurbishment

## A Success for the Villages of Laxton and Moorhouse



to



In 2015 the Village Hall Committee set out to renovate the hall, little did they know what they were letting themselves in for, or the time and effort it would take!

The villagers of Laxton and Moorhouse were consulted about what they wanted from the hall and the answers rolled in thick and fast. We want it to be welcoming, warm, damp proof and with no unpleasant smell! We would like a modern kitchen and decent toilets. New activities could then be introduced, such as rural cinema, keep fit classes, youth activities. We would like to hold our parties and special celebrations in pleasant surroundings.

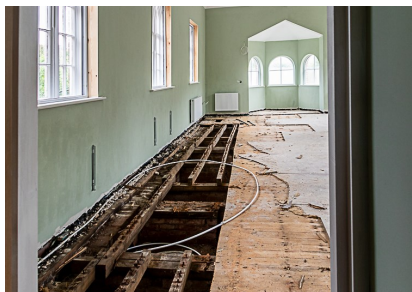
Under the keen leadership of Jeanette Geldard, who deserves our whole-hearted thanks for the work she did, the Village Hall Committee determined to achieve a dream refurbishment. Jeanette secured a magnificent grant from the Lottery of £204,000. It was all within our grasp!

However, the first set back occurred when it was found that no one quite knew when and by whom the hall was passed over to the villagers. There appeared to be no documentary evidence of either the transfer, or the ownership, of the land and the building. It eventually transpired that the hall was passed to the villagers in 1952 by the Local Education Authority, who had received it from Lord Manvers.

Whilst all the necessary searches were taking place, the Committee were busy transforming themselves into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, a necessary safeguard in view of their responsibilities and the amount of money involved. As part of the Lottery's requirements we found we needed a plethora of policies and a business plan. All of this took hours of work and ate into our grant, because of solicitors, surveyors, architects and business advisors' fees. These folks, unlike the Trustees, don't work for nothing!

Time was passing, the hall had to be closed for preliminary work. Egmonton kindly allowed Laxton the use of their hall. The Lottery refused permission for us to start construction work until every legal detail was finalised. Whilst we waited the price of building materials and labour rose to record levels. This impasse went on for over two years. Then due to other commitments, Jeanette could no longer continue as a Trustee. We were grateful for all she had done for us, but now we had to stand on our own two feet.

Our first task had to be to cut the budget. Suddenly I knew what politicians feel like in times of austerity! Finally, however in February 2019, four years after the initial inception, the building work began. Unfortunately, the builders soon found the hall was in a worse condition than anticipated; rotten joists under the floor boards, (hence the smell), the ceiling was in seriously poor repair and some brickwork needed major attention.



But what fun when the builders started knocking down the ceiling, removing walls and taking up the floor! The old ventilation shaft was revealed, which some villagers thought might have been the inside of the bell tower, but actually the bell hung at the back of the hall, not in the middle. One of the causes of the damp and the pungent smell was that all the ventilation bricks had been covered up causing damp and mould to spread. The beams were still in reasonable condition. Brick arches were found under the wall to the north of the building, causing much speculation about what they were. We were all amazed at the thickness of insulation necessary, but it certainly works.



A block of insulation, side on

In the meantime the bills came rolling in and we had to account for every penny. We had to apply to draw money down from the Lottery, providing invoices, reports and photographic evidence of need. We had to make cash predictions, and show cash flow figures each month. It was our responsibility to supervise the building, choose the kitchen fittings and the decor. All of this when we had had to cut the budget by nearly £100, 000 due to initial delays and rising costs. We





remained determined to try to fulfil the requirements of the villagers.

The Trustees were surprised to find that they were committed to

spend part of the budget on their own training, so some members of the original Village Hall Committee have now been trained to do what they have done for the past 30 years, but now in a completely different way. It was actually all good fun and we learned a lot.

The builders, plasterers, decorator, and joiners worked on the hall for six months and we think they fulfilled their brief. The hall is warm, free of damp, beautifully decorated and will have free WiFi, a super screen, projector and public address system. A great facility for the two villages.

My sincere thanks go to all of the Trustees and those villagers who have given freely of their time and effort to provide a beautifully refurbished hall. It has been a real team effort, everyone using their particular skills to work together.

Our hope is the old school bell will be in place for our official opening on February 8th and will ring out to announce the start of a big village party. The Rattlejack Morrismen will be dancing in the street from 10.30 am. Hugh Matheson and Robert Jenrick MP will officially open the hall at 11.30 am, there will be a free running buffet all day and a steel band playing in the afternoon. All villagers are welcome to the party, please drop in at any time, come more than once, and see YOUR hall completed.

*Joan Cottee*



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# Christingle Service



There was a last minute change of plan before the Christingle Service back in December. The boiler in the church gave up the fight with the water seeping into it following the weeks of heavy rain and went on strike.

Luckily there was a lovely warm Village Hall just up the road just ready and



waiting to welcome everyone. The word was spread and the hall was full for this popular family service. Even better, everyone arrived to the sound of Ella Hoyland playing her flute beautifully in welcome. A big thank you to Ella, who had practiced hard to perfect her playing. She also played at the end of the service.

The Christingles had been prepared by Janet and her family, so thank you very much to all of them. The children all helped with the service and went home with their individual Christingles.

Thank you also to Janet for baking the excellent mince pies and shortbread which were served after the service. She went home with empty tins and none for her tea. Thanks also to the ladies who served refreshments and to everyone who had hurried here from the Christmas celebration at Kirton earlier in the afternoon.





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## Coffee Morning

*13<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30am - 11.30am*

The next coffee morning will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at Farms Cottage, at the bottom of the village on the right.

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

Plenty of tea, cakes, and chatter.

See new hosting rota on inside front cover.





# Plough Sunday Service



Fortunately we were able to hold the Plough Sunday service in church. The plough might not have done the new floor in the Village Hall a lot of good.

This is one of our traditional

rural services and it is held every year. A single furrow plough dating from the days of horses working the land and a traditional milk churn are brought into church to be



blessed. Many thanks to Stuart for providing them once again.

Once again the service was well attended with a congregation of about 40 people. We were pleased to welcome friends from neighbouring churches to support this service once again. The service was taken by Lay

Reader Joan Wood. Many thanks to Roy Hennell, Mike Jackson, Ian Thorne and Jonathan Price for taking part in the service.

Tea, coffee and cheese scones were served after the service. Thanks once again to Janet for the baking and to Jean and Mavis for serving.



We understand that the questions posed by the Trustees of the Thoresby Estate are still being addressed by the Crown Estate through their agents, Carter Jonas. There has been no further news this month.





# Laxton History Group



Our January meeting seemed a long time after the November one since we don't meet in December. It was lovely to come into a nice cosy hall by comparison with memories of sitting through meetings wrapped up for a polar expedition!

John reported that Group income from nightly fees was being outstripped by the rising cost of speakers so it was agreed that from February the fee would rise to £3 per person. There is still no membership fee.

Roger has been in touch with Tuxford Primary School and he and Joan will be going there on February 24<sup>th</sup> to begin their month working towards the Michael Wood Award. The children will mount their display for us and we will make our presentations just over a month later on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Members are invited to attend and to note the date now.

Joan outlined the activities planned for the village party to celebrate the official opening of the Hall and out participation in it. All members are invited regardless of whether they live in Laxton.

John then introduced our speaker, David Skillen, whose topic was 'Forewarned is Forearmed' - the motto of the Royal Observer Corps, of which he was a member. The Corps goes back as far as the Elizabethans and the Armada, their emblem being an Elizabethan beacon lighter.

Then the only risk to the British Isles was attack from the sea, and warnings were spread by the lighting of beacons. The invention of aircraft meant both population and military needed warning of an entirely new threat.

The Corps members' ability to identify flying aircraft was its greatest strength and which cemented their reputation. They were disbelieved when they reported identification of the plane in which Rudolf Hess had landed in Britain following his mental breakdown. The powers that be took a lot of convincing, but once their unbelievable report was verified their skill was never questioned again.

The bases members used on duty varied from the extremely primitive to the somewhat less primitive, to the almost comfortable, but still cold. The common feature signs was a facility to make tea.

For many years they did not have their own uniform and for a long

period they were officially special constables. Despite this their value was recognised and they were awarded a Royal Charter.

The focus on aircraft recognition was amply demonstrated on the occasion of their Royal Garden party. The 150 members assembled with the Queen to a man looked to the skies rather than the Monarch when the Battle of Britain flight flew overhead in tribute. They returned and this time even Prince Phillip's eyes were turned to the heavens.



In the Second World War during the D Day landings sea-born officers travelled on the merchant ships involved to identify our aircraft and prevent our troops shooting them down. In the immediate aftermath of World War II members trained to observe evidence of nuclear attack. Thankfully their skills were never tested in action. The nearest bases to Laxton are at Farnsfield, Blyth and East Markham.

At the outbreak of the Falklands War nothing about Argentine aircraft were known. Two of the top modellers from the ROC were called upon to model the two most common aircraft they used, which they did in 4 days. The models were photographed and distributed in the Falklands to enable the troops to distinguish the enemy.

It is widely believed that the ROC was disbanded after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. David told us that legally it still exists, although in practice it would not be possible to reactivate it. The Royal warrant still exists and the service was simply stood down.

David believes that the fabled ability of his service to warn of enemy attack may have served as a deterrent, even to those who might have considered planning a nuclear attack. He conjectured whether such planners would think that if we were warned of an attack we would launch our own, and they themselves would suffer. Might this have been enough to prevent them trying?

On February 19th we look forward to hearing from a popular returning speaker, John Whitfield. This time he will be speaking about the 1970s. We welcome all visitors and friends. In March we have a special speaker, and will be joined by Norwell Parish History Society, so look out

## SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

**26<sup>th</sup> Jan   Epiphany 4**

**9am   Laxton HC**

**2nd Feb   The Presentation of Christ**

**9am   Kirton HC**

**4pm   Wellow EP**

**9th Feb   3rd Sunday before Lent**

**10.30am   Laxton HC**

**4pm   Egmonton Es**

**16th Feb   2nd Sunday before Lent**

**9am   Egmonton HC**

**10.30am   Wellow HC**

**23rd Feb   Sunday next before Lent**

**9am   Laxton MP**

**26th Feb   Ash Wednesday HC with Ashing, 7pm   Bilsthorpe &  
St Paulinus, New Ollerton**

**Tuesday 11th Feb – ‘Open Vestry Hour’ for Christening and  
wedding enquiries**

6.30pm – 7.30pm at St Paulinus Church Office, Church Circle, New  
Ollerton.

Christening enquiries, please ring Mrs Janice Hannington on  
**(01623) 836672**

All wedding enquiries, please contact Kate Banks, the Deanery  
Administrator on **(07562 222371**

**[kate.banks@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:kate.banks@southwell.anglican.org)**



# *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*

**2020**

***Feb 8<sup>th</sup> Village Hall Opening Party***

***Feb 12<sup>th</sup> WI***

***Feb 13<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning***

***Feb 19<sup>th</sup> History Group***

***Feb 24<sup>th</sup> Mothers' Union***

***Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday***



## ***Forward Planning***

***March 5<sup>th</sup> WI Fashion Show***

***March 20<sup>th</sup> Church Dance***

***Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Parish Council***

***May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> County Show***

***Alternate months, 4th Tuesday Parish Council***

**Copy Date for March: 16th February, mid day.**

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. We unlikely to be able to publish anything received late.

Thank you.

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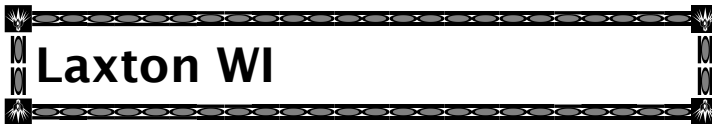
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Unfortunately our president Brenda was unable to be with us again at this meeting, but we were pleased to hear that she is making good progress with her recovery. Lesley took over in her absence and chaired the meeting.

Margaret gave us an update on the Fashion Show which takes place on 5th March in Laxton Village Hall, starting promptly at 7pm. Publicity material is ready and members took posters and tickets. If you would like to attend you can buy tickets from any W I member.

We need raffle prizes for the event and it was suggested that to make one or two nice, big prizes members should each bring items of food or toiletries which are suitable for inclusion in hampers. Lesley has the hampers ready to receive them. Other raffle prizes are still very welcome. Please bring everything next month. Models were recruited for the evening, as were volunteers to provide the catering.

The baking team will be busy once again as we are also catering for the opening event for the Village Hall. That event will be managed in three shifts with many members contributing food.

Regular events are coming around again. The Spring Council meeting in Nottingham will be held on 3rd April, and the County Show will be held on the weekend of 9th & 10th May. The subject for the group competition this time is "The Roaring 20s". Two crafts are required in the exhibit for judging by visitors to the show. The individual competition this year is for 1920s headgear. Leslie suggested she could get patterns for crocheted close hats.

Lesley introduced our speaker for the evening, Judith Hedley, whose subject was "Tea with Mr Darcy". This evening's talk hinged around Jane Austen's references to food in the period when she was writing and referred to Mr Darcy. A drawing thought to show what a real Mr Darcy might have looked like in the 1790s has a pale face with powdered hair. He would not have had a suntan. Only manual labourers have spent long enough in the open air to get suntanned.

He was clearly a wealthy man with his £10,000 pa income, equivalent to £600,000 pa today. Jane describes him as tactless and ill mannered, the latter arising from his proud nature.

Jane Austen was born in 1775 into a family of eight. The only contemporary picture of her, drawn by one of her sisters, makes her look slightly cross. This image was "improved" by the Victorians and subsequently used on a £10 note.

During Jane's early years, the family were virtually self-sufficient in food, although later, living in Bath, where two of Jane's novels are set they had to shop for food in the market. Jane wrote frequently to her sister Cassandra and in her letters made many mentions to food and drink. Strangely her novels seldom refer to either food or servants.

Jane talks of not fancying sweet food in 1813, at the age of 38 and Judith wondered if this could be an early indication of the illness from which she died in 1817. She was involved in running the household and had the key to the tea and coffee which was locked away because it was so expensive .

The major meal of the day, and the one which occupied the servants for the entire day, was dinner. Breakfast was to be a more continental style affair and would often be prepared by the ladies of the house. Wealthier households breakfasted and dined later than those lower down the social scale. One of Judith's theories was that richer people could afford to dine later because they could afford to pay for the kitchen and the dining room to be lit and for the servants to work longer hours. Poor people had to eat whilst they had daylight, which in winter could mean having their dinner really early.

Judith told us that at this time weddings legally had to take place after 8 am and before noon, giving rise to the expression 'wedding breakfast'.

It was the norm to have two meals a day. As the more affluent begin to eat later in the evening, there was a need for another meal in the middle of the day. In Jane Austen's time lunch had just become more common and had been named.

Dinners were second only to dancing as a place to meet potential marriage partners. The first course was a huge spread of different dishes which were all on the table when the guests entered and would include both sweet and savoury food. A similar array of dishes would be brought in for the second course, possibly with a roast as the centrepiece. Dessert would be more likely to be fruit to cleanse the palate. They would not have cheese, which was for the servants.

It was a fascinating talk and Lesley thanked Judith very much for coming and sharing it with us.

Next month we look forward to a talk from Kay Giuliani from the Education Department of the Newark and Nottinghamshire Agricultural Society. She will be speaking about the heritage and history of the society and the show. **The competition will be for something relating to garden birds.** The meeting takes place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 12th February at 7.30pm and we are always pleased to see visitors or new members.

## Families Who Left—The Whites

The White Family lived in the parish in the C19, mainly at Copthorne Farm and in Moorhouse. At one stage they occupied three houses in the village as well as Copthorne.

William White, named after his grandfather, was born by 1852 to Francis and Mary White at Copthorne. Francis died early but William continued to live at Copthorne with his mother and step-father. By the time he was 18 he was working as a railway clerk, still living at home.

Over the next few years he continued his studies and eventually became a Medical Professor, General Practitioner, Doctor of Medicine & Master In Surgery of the University of Aberdeen.

He began his career in Hollingworth in Cheshshire but he did not forget Moorhouse. In 1881 William returned home to marry Sarah Harpham, born at Church Farm in 1851. Could they have been childhood sweethearts? They maintained contact with Moorhouse for over 40 years after moving away.



Susan Maddison

Over the years they had at least three domestic servants from home, Annie Dewick, Alice Bagshaw, a cook, and Susan Maddison. The Maddison family. Including Susan lived in Moorhouse for some ten years during the 1890s, where another son and two daughters were born. Susan returned home and married in Laxton in 1916.

By 1911 William and Sarah White had a daughter, a scholar, and three sons; two, William and Francis, were law students and one, Charles Francis, was a medical student.

MWS.

## Susan Maddison

Thanks to Brenda Chambers for providing the photo of Susan Maddison above. She reminds us that Susan married Harold Bagshaw, whose story was told in Laxton History Group's 'Village Folk' booklet. He was sadly killed by a blow from the Forshaw stallion he was leading when it was startled by a small dog at Cottam.



# **Supper Dance**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

**Laxton Village Hall, 7.30 pm**

**Tickets £8 from Jean (870276) or  
Brenda (870541)**

**Delicious supper included  
Please bring your own drink and  
glasses**

**All proceeds to Laxton Church**



## **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.

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# The Bennetts of Laxton

*Jenni Dobson's previous articles have occasionally made reference to discrepancies which have arisen between different recordings of the same information or individuals with the same name being difficult to identify positively to a generation or to a family. This series will draw attention to more of the challenges presented by family history research. In not every case can a definitive answer be given based on the available information and sometimes a wrong conclusion may result from incomplete or wrong information.*

*If Jenni feels she is able to give a conclusive answer she does so. She also says so if she cannot be sure or is going with the most likely candidate. She is always very pleased to hear from anyone with information which sheds more light on the stories she has researched for us.*

*Please note the reference table of the codes used appeared in the January 2020 edition of 'Open Field'.*

Besides the two George Bennetts whose story already appeared in Open Field and was summarised last time, the Laxton census for 1841 also lists another George Bennett, whom we'll call George G2/C, an agricultural labourer aged 30. He's with a person assumed to be his wife, Elizabeth, also aged 30, and three boys: John, 6 years; Thomas, 5 years and Joseph, aged 7 months. He also lived next door to a couple who may be his parents, Thomas and Ann Bennett, aged 60 and 50 respectively, though the census does not record whether they are man and wife. The conundrum is this – is George G2/C also related to George G3/C and George G4/C? Answering that would also reveal their relationships.

Given that in 1841 respondents were asked to give their ages rounded down to the nearest 5 years, and assuming that he complied with this instruction, George G2/C would have been born between 1807 and 1811, making him older than both of the others. The 1841 census is minimal in what it tells us. To find out more about where to look for the origins of George Bennett G2/C, we need to find him in the 1851, and in passing, to note that we are always dependent upon the truthfulness of people when answering the census questions.

In 1851 George G2/C gave his age as 40 years and birthplace as Laxton. Because relationships were now also recorded, we can see his wife Elizabeth was 38 and born at Sutton-on-Trent. Their children

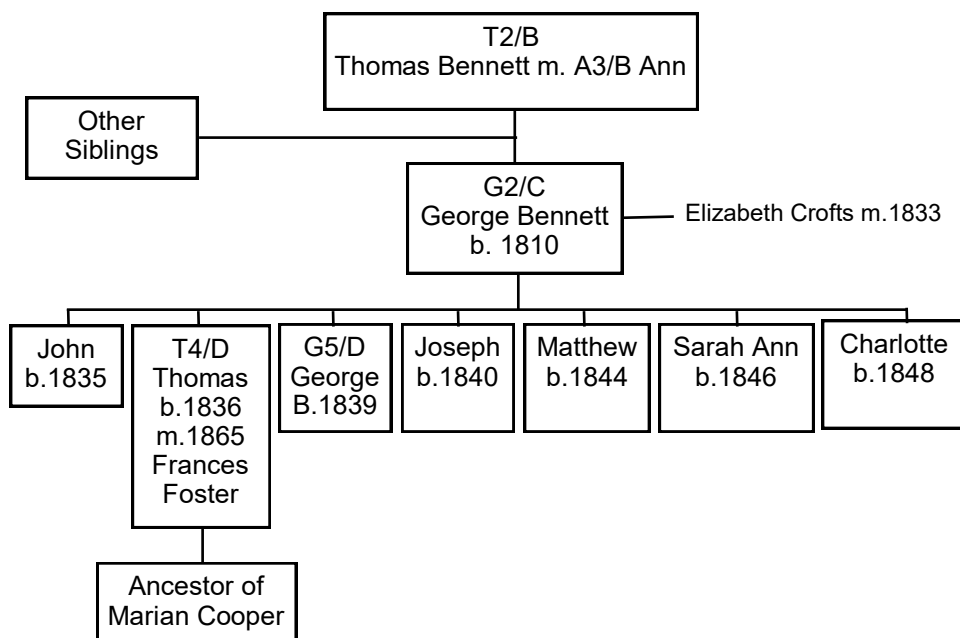


were: George, aged 12, born 'Lincolns, Normby' and whom we'll call George G5/D; Joseph, aged 10, a scholar; Matthew, aged 7, also scholar; Sarah Ann, aged 4 and Charlotte, aged 2, all four of them born at Laxton.

The eldest child, with them now, George G5/D, might in 1841 be found at Sutton-on-Trent, with his maternal grandmother, perhaps because his mother has a relatively young baby. However his age is considerably adrift of George G5/D, so for the same reason, he could likely be the 1 year old George living next door with his grandparents, but with the wrong surname. He's recorded as not born in the county where he now lives, which is like his elder brothers, if this theory is correct.

As an aside, we have also already met George G2/C and Elizabeth's youngest child, Charlotte, during my Hewerdine researches, because she married William Merrills, jnr, eldest son of William Merrills and Jane nee Hewerdine, on 27 Mar 1879, at Laxton.

I am aware that in Laxton and amongst Open Field readers living elsewhere, there are likely to be more descendants of this same George G2/C, such as the recently deceased Marian Cooper. I'd appreciate hearing from anyone interested and willing to contribute to this research, which as will become apparent, may not be as straightforward as previous explorations which I've conducted into the Weatherall family or the Hewerdines.



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# Dukeries Woodturning Society

The first meeting of our new year on 22nd January was our AGM and social. This evening gave everyone their chance to discuss the running of the club, to enjoy the refreshments and to catch up with everyone's news. It always seems a long winter break as we don't have December meeting.



January is the start of our new year and is the month when subs fall due. The cost is a very reasonable £15 per annum after which members pay £5 a night to attend. New members and first time visitors are welcomed free of charge, which gives an excellent opportunity for anyone who has made a resolution to come along to try at no risk before committing to joining. You get maximum

benefit from membership if you join early in the year.

Once a quarter we hold hands on evenings, when there are a number of lathes available to try your hand on with advice from more experienced members. There is also an opportunity to get your tools sharpened on these evenings.

If you need to buy wood or materials, we have regular stands at our meetings where you can buy them. We also take part in local events at venues such as Newark Showground and members are welcome to help there.

Visitors and guests are welcome at any meeting. We can be found at the Jubilee Hall in Ollerton at 7.30pm.

The programme of expert demonstrators until June is:

FEBRUARY 26th	Mick Hanbury
MARCH 25th	Richard Findley
APRIL 22nd	Steve Heeley
MAY 27th	Tony Kitchen
JUNE 24th	Sue Harker

For more information please visit [www.dukerieswoodturning.org.uk](http://www.dukerieswoodturning.org.uk) or call Gordon Fisher on **01623 464986** / Michael Manning on **01777 870844**

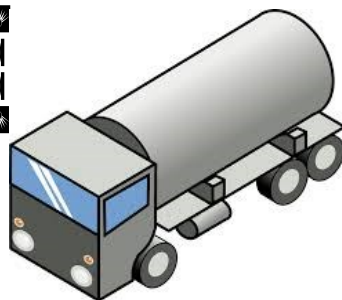
## Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
14/12/19	56	ROLLOVER
21/12/19	26	ROLLOVER
28/12/19	09	Roy Saddington
4/1/20	11	ROLLOVER
11/1/20	14	Anne Dutton

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



The pre-Christmas order achieved a surprisingly low price of 44.34p/litre at a time when the price was fairly volatile. By the time it appeared it had risen to 55p. 18 customers took the chance to fill up before the usual price rise in advance of Christmas.

At the time of writing the price is on a downward trend following a lessening of tensions in the Middle East and is now around 49p.

The next order will be in February, probably in the first couple of weeks. Please notify your order asap. If there seem to be people in need the order will be sooner than if nobody is, but with the price still being a little volatile, early orders will help us respond quickly if there is any indication it may rise.

If you would like to order oil, you should provide your details or update what we hold about you and also specify a number of litres. 500 litres is the minimum order. 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.

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# Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council:

## Minutes of the Meeting Held 26/11/19

*These minutes have yet to be approved by councillors.*

**Present:** Councillors:

S. Hill, R.Hennell, M.Hennell, J.Hill, S,Rose

In attendance at parish council meeting

C. Millward (Clerk)

M. Pringle (County councillor)

Member of the public (x1)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr Manning and Mr Godson.
2. **Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.
3. **Dispensations:** None required.
4. **10 Minutes public speaking:** The following were discussed:
  - a. An NSDC officer had visited and inspected Bar Farmhouse from the rear
  - b. The speed date strips had been installed but had now been removed. The clerk will request the data report.
  - c. Road conditions in the locality
  - d. A helicopter had recently landed in the football field
  - e. The irregular distribution of the Remembrance poppies around the village.
5. **Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 24 September 2019:** The minutes of the meetings held on 24 September 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.

The clerk apologised for missing the Open Field publication deadline that month. She confirmed that the minutes would be published on the website by that weekend.
6. **Matters arising:** All action points having been completed, being in hand or appearing elsewhere on the agenda, there were no matters arising.
7. **Reports from district and county councillors:** Councillor Pringle was in purdah. Mrs Michael was absent.
8. **Reports from councillors:** A councillor will let the clerk know what sand stocks are needed. The clerk will then contact councillor Pringle with the order.



The water flowing down Town End during the recent heavy rain was discussed. Councillor Pringle recommended that the clerk contact Ms Horton at NCC Highways direct.

Mr Hill had attended the SNG meeting on 24 October 2019. He reported that there had been a number of burglaries and encouraged residents to be vigilant. He will place a warning of the increase in rural thefts in the Open Field.

- 9. 2020 meeting dates:** Councillors **approved** the 2020 meeting schedule which then clerk will recirculate by email.

**10. Financial Matters:**

- a. **Financial position as at 31 October 2019:** Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 October 2019 (incorporating the 2019-20 budget figures).
- b. **Accounts for payment:** The council unanimously **approved** eight payments totalling £827.58. The clerk will contact the bank for a new cheque book, no new book having arrived in the post.
- c. **Appointment of internal auditor:** Councillors **agreed** that Halam parish clerk should be asked whether she would be prepared to undertake the role for a further year.
- d. **Review system of internal control:** Councillors discussed the operation of the system of internal control and **agreed** that it was adequate for the size and needs of the council and continued to operate effectively, subject to the appointment of an internal auditor which was in hand.
- e. **Consider need for interim internal audit:** The clerk advised councillors as to the on-going nature of the internal audit process. Councillors considered their financial affairs for the financial year to date. They **decided** that, given the thorough nature of the internal audit carried out by Halam parish clerk, an interim internal audit would be disproportionate and was not justified.
- f. **Village project reserve fund and strategy:** After discussion, councillors **decided** that a specific village project strategy and fund was not required, it being preferable for any projects funded by the council to be driven by the council and to be for the benefit of the whole village rather than individual groups. The possibility of the funds being used for a village event was discussed.

- 11. Property matters including sports field and Glebe Field rent request:** The clerk reported that the last rent received in

respect of Glebe Field was £68 in July 2017. A councillor will let her have the tenant's contact details. She will then submit a rent request.

**12. Planning matters:**

**a. Applications:**

b. **To note planning decisions by NSDC:** None.

c. **Compliance:** No issues raised.

**13. Village development including The Crown's long term strategy:**

No developments. The sale process is expected to be complex and lengthy.

**14. Village environment and appearance, including:**

a. **Adoption of Moorhouse telephone kiosk:** Councillors discussed the adoption and **decided** to adopt the kiosk for £1. The clerk will notify BT.

b. **Village Hall refurbishment project:** Village hall reopened. No longer required as an agenda item.

c. **Permissive access – Land surrounding cricket pitch:** No longer required as an agenda item.

d. **Fibre broadband for Moorhouse:** Nothing to report

e. **Speeding traffic:** See LMPC/106/19 above (10 minutes public speaking time).

**15. Service faults:** The clerk will report:

a. Streetlight no.6 outside village hall faulty

b. Overgrowing hedge outside Smithy Farm, High Street

**16. Correspondence:** All items of correspondence noted.

**17. Agenda items for next meeting:** As above

**18. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 28 January 2020 at Laxton Visitor Centre



Sandra Clarke collects stamps for Bransby Horses throughout the year. You can leave yours with Jean Hennell in Laxton or with Joy Allison in Egmont 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.

If you can donate anything, please drop off at School House, Laxton, next door to the Village Hall.

Thank you to all donors.

# The Dukeries Singers

"On a cold and frosty morning" Yes it's that time of year again. Winter on its way out, Spring on its way in, and resolutions optimistically made already abandoned. BUT, we have winter aconites in full flower, snowdrops nodding through the undergrowth and dwarf daffodils on a promise.



We returned to choir rehearsals in mid January with new pieces to learn and much catching up with friends to do. On resolutions, it would be a good time to sing with a choir. We have spaces for all vocal parts and if you have sung with a group before you already know what a fun and friendly time it can be. We are a friendly adult mixed choir and you would be very welcome.

We rehearse every Wednesday evening from 7-30pm until 9-00pm in the Concert Hall foyer at The Dukeries Academy, Ollerton and this is best accessed via the Leisure Centre entrance and car park.

We are taking bookings for 2020 and our Concert Secretary is Margaret on **01623 642464** or **07896 491314** She would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to book the choir for your celebration, fund raising, charity or any other event.

You can see us and hear us on Twitter, Facebook, You Tube and on line at [www.thedukeriesingers.com](http://www.thedukeriesingers.com)

A super early Spring to you all

*Jan*

## Events at Maplebeck Village Hall

[www.maplebeckvillagehall.org](http://www.maplebeckvillagehall.org)

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February, Film Screening of 'The Post' 12A 7.30pm  
£5 on the door**

Steven Spielberg directs Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks in this thrilling drama in which The Washington Post races to keep up with The New York Times to expose the massive cover up of government secrets that spanned three decades and four US Presidents, exposed in the "Pentagon Papers". Investigative journalism at its best in the age of "fake news".

**Thursday 27 Feb 7.30pm** The Storm Officer Theatre (drama)

**Tickets from: [www.maplebeckvillagehall.org](http://www.maplebeckvillagehall.org) or 01636 636421**

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# Are You Silver Bin Smart?

15% of the items in your general waste bin could be recycled. Remember recycling is easy and not as time-consuming as you may think. Follow these simple guidelines and help protect and sustain the environment.



Please remember:

- 🌸 Your recyclable material should be clean, dry, empty and loose.
- 🌸 Please do not put your recyclable items in plastic carrier bags.
- 🌸 All of these paper items can go in your silver bin: newspapers, envelopes, magazines & catalogues, junk mail.

## Cardboard:

- 🌸 Cardboard, cereal boxes, egg boxes and cardboard tubes are welcome.
- 🌸 Any cardboard contaminated by food, such as greasy pizza boxes, must go in general waste - not your silver bin.

## Tins & Cans:

- 🌸 Tins and cans, food tins, drink cans and aerosol cans can all be recycled
- 🌸 They should be rinsed first so that they do not contaminate the paper and cardboard items.

## Plastics:

Please take your lids off and put them in your general waste bin.

These can all be recycled:-

- 🌸 Drink bottles e.g. pop, squash & milk
- 🌸 Shower gel and shampoo bottles
- 🌸 Cleaning products bottles
- 🌸 Yoghurt pots and margarine tubs.

🌸 **If in doubt – leave it out.**



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[www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk](http://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 20th
- ◆ **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)

£15 p.a.(B&W). Larger sizes pro rata, e.g. 1/2 page £45

Please contact [advertising@openfield.org.uk](mailto:advertising@openfield.org.uk) or call **01777 871506** for details and info on web pages / links.

## Maplebeck Village Hall Events

[www.maplebeck.org.uk](http://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, 25 Feb, 24 Mar, 28 Apr, 2 Jun, 7 Jul;

### Upcoming events and Films (all 7.30pm)

<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>The Post</b>	12A	Film
<b>Thursday 27 Feb 7.30pm</b>	<b>The Storm Officer</b>	Theatre (drama)	

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

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

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

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

### Medical

Tuxford Medical Centre	01777 870203
Sutton-on-Trent Surgery	01636 821023
Ollerton Surgery - Middleton Lodge Practice	01623 703266
Newark Hospital	01636 681681
Bassetlaw Hospital	01909 500990
King's Mill Hospital	01623 622515

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

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



Plough Sunday at Laxton Church

# **Mothering Sunday**

**March 22nd**

**Laxton Church**

**10.30am**

**Service to be taken by Lay Reader  
Joan Wood**

**All welcome**