

# Open Field

£1

February 2023



*Ivan and Christine's Prize Winning Christmas Illuminations,  
Laxton, December 2022*

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 February 2023 PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED. You can send at any time.**

# Plough Sunday



We had a lovely service in church on Sunday 8th January when it was our traditional Plough Sunday service. It was great to see so many people in church, especially some younger ones and even babies. We wish it were like that at every Sunday service.

Thank you to Simon and Stuart for reading the lessons, to Jem for taking the plough to the altar and to Roy and Frankie for taking the churn. Thanks to Janet, Mavis and Jean for the tea and cakes.

Heather took the service and preached a very good sermon, as she always does. She spoke about farming today and how many farmers, especially around our small villages, mostly one man bands. It is not like the olden days and therefore they have to be, as you might say, multitasking to know how to plant, fertilise, spray and reap, while battling against very unsettled weather conditions, when we don't seem to have any seasons now.

It's like our beautiful Grade 1 listed old church which always needs something doing to it. It needs more people with different talents to keep it going. It would be great to see so many people attending services every Sunday, like it was on Plough Sunday - with someone to read the lessons, someone to help clean, to do the brasses, and some more people on the PCC to help make the decisions, to help with the paperwork and all the other jobs which need to be done.

As things are at the moment, all our churches are suffering. We have no vicar and it's very disheartening to see how things are going. At the moment we are struggling as we still have expenses, like maintenance, insurance, fuel and electricity to pay. We don't want our lovely old church to close after all these years.

*Brenda*

## **Sympathy - Hilda Parnham**

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Hilda May Parnham (née Noble) of Walesby. Hilda died on 2nd December 2022 at the age of 87. She leaves her children David, Susan, Carol, Neil and Maureen and her partner Tom.

Hilda was born at Moorhouse before coming to live at Twitchill Farm, Laxton, with her parents, Ted and Betsy Noble, and her brothers and sisters, Lesley, Ernest, Olive, George and Annie. The funeral took place at Ollerton crematorium on Friday, 6th January 2023

## **Sympathy - Trevor Warriner**

We were sorry to hear that Trevor Warriner had suddenly died on December 21st 2022 at the age of 66. He leaves his partner, Linda, and daughter Annie. He was the youngest of the Warriner family. He was born and brought up in Laxton, and after leaving school worked on some of the farms in Laxton before going to Brackenhurst.

Then he joined the army, which he loved, travelling to different countries. Trevor lived near Andover in Hampshire. His funeral will be held on 24th January 2023. Sympathy goes to his brothers and sisters: Jean, Barry, Gordon, Daphne, Stephanie and Robin.

## **Sympathy - Eileen Spray**

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Edith Eileen Spray, known as Eileen, on 24th December at the age of 97. Eileen was the wife of the late Ron Spray and they lived at Wellow. She was a regular attender at St Swithin's Church, Wellow, and at services in Laxton with her family here and her friends from Wellow.

Eileen leaves her son Paul and Julia and her daughter Sylvia and Stuart who live in Laxton. Sympathy also goes to Eileen's grandchildren and partners Lucy and Ian, Rebecca and Ian, and Jessica and Jack and her great grandchildren Jacob, Molly and Ralph.

Her funeral will be held at Wellow Church at 1pm on Thursday 9th February.



## Birth Congratulations



Many congratulations to proud parents Andy and Thea Columbine of Timothy Road, Laxton on the birth of their baby boy.

Reni, was born on 16th November 2022 weighing 6lb 8 oz.



## 1st Birthday Congratulations



Proud grandparents Thomas and Linda Malloy of Laxton would like to send big birthday wishes to their grandson

Sebastian Thomas Simms who will be 1 year old on 1st February.

Sebastian is the son of Linda and Thomas' daughter Abby and her fiancé Billy Simms.



## Get Well Wishes

We have heard that a lot of people were unwell over the festive Season. We hope they are all feeling much better now. Our thoughts are also with those awaiting hospital admission,

We have no names of people who are not well this month. But in case we have missed anyone, we send good wishes for a speedy recovery.

## **FEBRUARY CONGRATULATIONS**

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

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

*The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Eunice, Mavis, and Margaret O who all share a birthday, Dí J, Diane B, John G and Sebastian S.*

*We wish a happy anniversary to anyone celebrating this month, but we have no names to give.*

*If you are celebrating please accept best wishes and let us know so that we can congratulate you in the next edition.*

*If you know someone we have missed, please tell us.*



# Laxton Community Network

Would you be willing to give a little time to the community, either to individuals, groups or events?

I am trying to organise a network of like-minded people to improve the Laxton community.

I know that a lot of work is already done within the village, but it often falls to a few people. The aim of the network is to spread the current workload and even expand what we can do for each other.

This can only be achieved with your support, so please make the effort and give some time, no matter how small.

The picture below, is a simple way to show how this network can fit in with current groups or bodies within the village, please don't be alarmed if your group is missing, these are simply those I have come across.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, want to sign up or need some help.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Dave Sheard

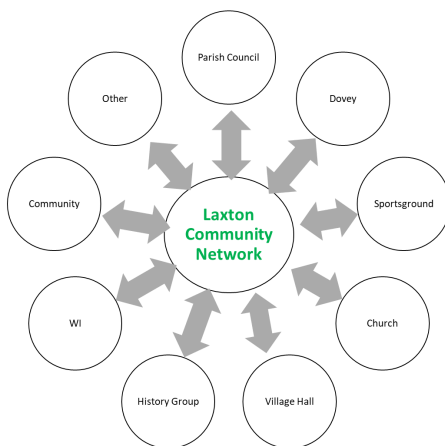
Orchard View, Cross Hill.

**[davesheard99@talktalk.net](mailto:davesheard99@talktalk.net)**

01777 232230

07941 625 761 ( Very poor mobile signal at home).

- Litter picking
- Fundraisers
- Christmas
- Village jobs
- Village projects
- Resilience
  - Bad weather:-
    - Hot/ Cold e.g. gritting
  - Transport
  - Shopping
  - Loneliness





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# Laxton Traditions - Court Day



We described the history and traditions of Court Day last month. This is the annual meeting of the Laxton Court Leet.

This year it was well attended by members of the public as well as the

farmers who had been part of the inspecting Jury. Most were also there to be sworn in to serve for the coming year.

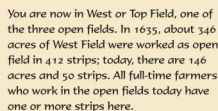
With the worst fears of the pandemic receding, the Jurors were again sworn in in fours after the Foreman of West (Top) Field, Johnny Godson, had sworn the longer oath on behalf of his colleagues. The swearing in takes the form of kissing a small bible brought by the Steward for the purpose. It is freshly covered in brown paper for each session, and the kisses were notably at longer range this year than has been the case in the past.

Once the formal business was over there was an opportunity to discuss general matters of broader interest to the farmers and others present.

It was noted that the interpretation boards, which we are showing in Open Field, are now in production. A few details need to be finalised before the revised booklet, aimed at introducing the village and its farming system to visitors, will also be able to be finalised. There are printed leaflets describing the walks around the village and the information in those and the booklet are being streamlined to avoid duplication.

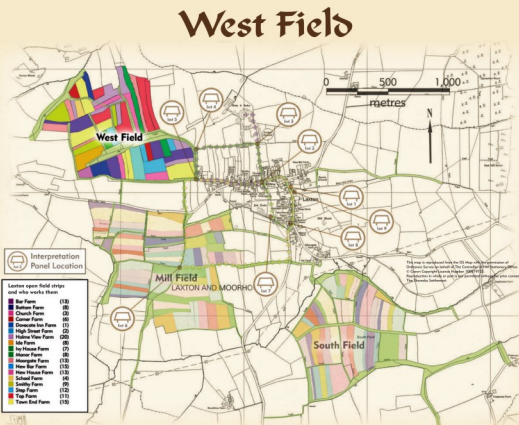
Now that Thoresby have taken the Estate back over it was deemed appropriate to revisit the rules which govern the farming of the open fields. This will be taken forward in the coming months.





West Field is almost divided in two by Radbeck Syke. A syke is an area of low-lying land which is too wet for much of the year to be cultivated. Instead, it is permanently under grass and provides a valuable hay crop which is sold by auction to Laxton farmers. There are 85 acres of syke in Laxton.

Under an open field system, rotation of crops is used to rest each field in turn. Here at Laxton, a simple three-course rotation is followed. In any year, one field is under a winter-sown wheat crop, the second has a spring-sown crop, such as barley, and the third field is fallow. The fallow field used to be grazed, so it could be manured by the sheep feeding on the weeds and grass. Now it is used to encourage groundnesting birds, and sheep grazing is restricted to certain parts of the open fields and sylvcs.



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Year	Winter-sown wheat	Spring-sown crop	Fallow
1	South Field	Mill Field	West Field
2	West Field	South Field	Mill Field
3	Mill Field	West Field	South Field

In the spring-sown field, farmers have a choice over what crop to grow on the strips that they work. This is the field where you may be able to see the differences between neighbouring strips, if you are here at the right time. Also look out for the wooden stakes indicating the boundaries between strips.

## PASTURE AND GRAZING

The need for animal feed was a vital part of the open field farming system. As the area of land being used for arable crops increased, there was less and less common and waste land left for grazing. But animals were essential for meat, milk and wool, for pulling ploughs and also for their manure to fertilise the fields.

Strict grazing rules were needed to make the best use of the land. Sowing and harvesting of crops were synchronised so that animals could be safely left in to graze on stubble and the fallow field. There were also rules for the use of the sykes, and how many animals a farmer could have on the commons.

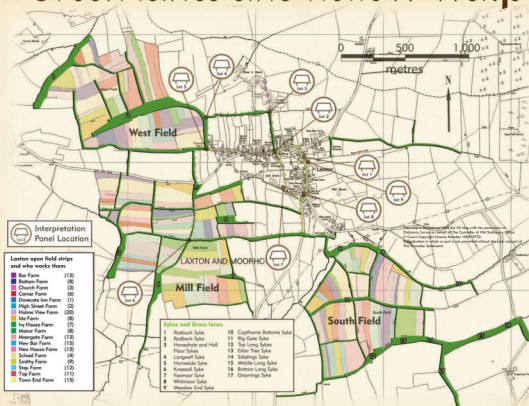


In open field farming, farmers would have to travel here and there to get to their scattered strips of land, often taking equipment such as a plough team with them. Animals also needed to be driven to different fields, to graze on the fallow field and stubble after harvest. So a network of tracks has developed, to provide access for taking animals and farm machinery to and from the fields. In places, they have been worn down deep into the soft clays by heavy traffic over the centuries, producing a sunken track called a hollow way.

Land was too valuable to be left unproductive, and so the number of tracks was kept to a minimum. The sykes (damp land used primarily for grazing) were also used as part of the system of routes into the fields.

The need to get around the fields and the amount of time this took were major disadvantages of open field farming. In other places, where the farmland was enclosed into compact blocks of land for each farm, the owners would often build new farmsteads on their block and so they didn't even have to travel from the village each day. There was also no need to set aside land to provide access routes for other people.

## Green lanes and hollow ways



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You are standing where two ways from West Field reach the village. Hurdles and a gate would once have closed such tracks at the edge of the village. Livestock that was grazing on the fallow field, or on the stubble after harvest, had to be removed before winter. They could be held up at the gate until each animal, identified by its mark, had been identified by its owner. Stray or unbranded animals were taken to the pinfold in the centre of the village.

The number of animals in earlier times could be considerable: one estimate suggests there were 3,000 head of cattle, horses, sheep and pigs at Laxton early in the 17th century. Many of these animals would have grazed on the commons, which are no longer part of the open field system. Each farmer was allowed to graze a certain number and could only keep their breeding stock over winter.

Please stay on the paths, especially in the fields. Laxton farmers don't mind visitors, but the land and its crops are their livelihood.

# Laxton History Group



We felt it had been a long time since we had got together and as we know people don't want to come out on cold January evenings, we decided to have an impromptu afternoon cuppa and cake gathering at Hall Farm, Weston on 18th January. This was very well supported- - at least judging by Jean's list. More news next month.

Our meetings resume from our winter break in February. Jean has arranged a film night to take advantage of the dark nights. On February 15th she has booked a film called 'Our Right of Way'. Everyone is welcome, as always. If there is time we might show the other Laxton film which we didn't show last year.

Jean has almost finished the year's programme as we write, so hopefully this will be announced at the meeting.

There is no annual membership fee. Just come along and pay your £3 at the door. Attending once in the year between AGMs makes you a member automatically.

It doesn't matter where you live. We are always pleased to see anyone who would like to come along.

## CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERIES

Thank you to everyone who kindly left their Christmas cards in church with donations for church funds.

**The total raised was £182**, which was much appreciated as there are always jobs to be done on the church. At the moment the roof has decided to spring a leak...

We are grateful to Roy and Jean, Janet, Helen S and George N for delivering them for us.

Thank you once again.

*Brenda*



# Laxton Traditions - Plough Sunday

We were contacted towards the end of 2022 by a gentleman by the name of Ross Parish, who is researching rural traditions across the country. He was very interested in Laxton and attended both Jury Day and Court Day. He had been keen to attend the Lammas service, but was prevented by an uncooperative car. Brenda sent him some information and he hopes to write us a piece about Lammas in the future.

He had prepared a general piece on the celebration of Plough Sunday and has sent us the following, for which we thank him.

## Plough Sunday - the background to a Laxton tradition



"Despite attuning to the needs of the present day, old customs and rites are not forgotten and are practised. On Plough Sunday the plough is still brought into Holy Trinity Church to be blessed."

*Nottinghamshire Village Book Plough Sunday at Tithby (1989)*

One of the first traditions in the Laxton calendar is the observation of Plough Sunday.

In this brief article I aim to introduce the readers to the custom and its history.

Although the quote above about Plough Sunday has the feel of an ancient tradition it is in fact no older than the Victorian period. In Nottinghamshire, the earliest records appear only to date from the early 20th century.

Plough Sunday does have links to an older mediaeval tradition which is Plough Monday, the last day before the beginning of the agricultural year when the plough would be brought out of storage in the church. In some communities the church would keep a votive light called a 'plough light' and there are records of monies being left in mediaeval Wills to pay for them.

On the first Monday after the Epiphany, it would be removed from the church and incorporated in a range of activities; from door to door begging, plough plays and straw bear processions. The tradition was largely recorded unsurprisingly to the east of England; where more land was under the plough. It is possible that the plough was blessed on the

day but there is a lack of clear evidence and it would seem that Plough Sunday's rise in prominence was a direct attempt to reduce the impact of the antisocial aspects of Plough Monday. Interestingly, there is a record of a Plough Play in Life at Laxton c.1880-1903: The Childhood Memories of Edith Hickson.

Nationally despite what the Royal Agricultural society called an 'old Saxon feast' the custom really only appears to take root soon after the second world war with early adopters being as far afield as Heddenham, Norfolk and Springfield near Dorchester, Dorset. Although few of these established lasted beyond the 1950s

In Nottinghamshire the earliest reference of Plough Sunday appears to be at Newark upon Trent where some of the original Plough Monday traditions appear transposed with a procession of not only a plough but a milk churn, as at Laxton, to make it a celebration of all aspects of agriculture; attended by the Mayor, town officials, dignitaries and members of the Young Farmers Club. Blessings have also occurred at Cropwell Bishop, East Stoke, South Muskham, Tithby, Bleasby, East Markham since 1946, East Thorpe since the 1950s and in the 1960s and 70s in Cropwell Butler. However not all of these have survived. In some cases the Plough Sunday tradition has amalgamated with a revived Plough Monday one; where after the blessing, dancing and plough plays are performed such as at Morton in Southwell.

The consequence of the increased adoption of the Plough Sunday has seen the Church of England book of liturgy, Common Worship: Time and Seasons include suggestions of a prayer for 'blessing the plough' and passages of agricultural themed Scripture. And whilst Laxton's observation of Plough Sunday may not be its most unique of customs it is certainly one which honours the village's unique association with its arable heritage.

*Ross Parish*

## House Decorating Competition

The House Decorating Competition winner was announced at the Dovey Christmas village Quiz on Christmas Eve.

There were many excellent designs but the judges decided that the winning entries were:

1st place- Ivan and Chris Rayner

2nd place-Neil and Debbie Randall

Thanks to everyone who took part and A Happy New Year to all.

*Michael*



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## **Christmas Lights Switch On**

It seems a while ago now since the Christmas lights "switch on" on the 4th of December and it was another successful event.

The Kneesall School Choir and the Dukeries Community Band were excellent and despite the awful weather it was a great turnout. Thanks to all the brave members of the community who came along to give their support.

Thanks to Sam and Sophie who put in a considerable amount of work to arrange it all helped by Mark and Jem from the Parish Council.

Thanks also the Thoresby Estate who provided a small grant from the Lady Roselle Trust to support the event and enable us to donate to the Dukeries Community Band and Kneesall School Choir.

The house decorating competition which was again organised by Sam and Sophie was judged on the 20th of December and the result announced at the Dovecote Quiz on Christmas Eve. First place went to Ivan and Chris for a fantastic display and their huge commitment and second place went to Neil and Debbie Randall for their brilliant illuminated Merry Christmas message to everybody who drove past.

Best wishes

*Michael*





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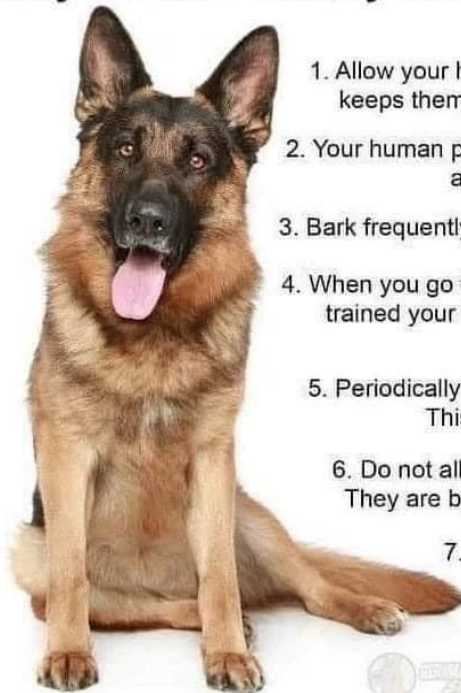
## Coffee Mornings

Coffee Mornings remain  
suspended for the time  
being.

We will let you know when  
we plan to start again. The  
rota on the inside hostesses  
restart to remind hostesses  
of when their turn is  
coming round.

# HOW TO WALK A HUMAN A Dogs Guide

**Humans need exercise. If they don't get it  
they become "chubby". It's up to you to save them.**



1. Allow your human to tether themselves to you. This keeps them from wondering off or running away.
2. Your human probably needs breaks. Be considerate and stop and sniff often.
3. Bark frequently. Humans have a short attention span.
4. When you go to the bathroom, walk away. If you have trained your human correctly, they will pick it up.  
Good aerobics.
5. Periodically drag your human as fast as you can.  
This is called interval training.
6. Do not allow your human to shorten the walk.  
They are being lazy. Sit in protest if you must.
7. Once you are home, allow your human to remove their tether, then lick their face many times. This is positive reinforcement for a job well done.



Thanks to Mike Manning for sending in this item.

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# Open Field Subscriptions



Thank you to everyone who has paid their subscriptions for the year 2023. Any unpaid to date are now overdue. Please put your £5 subs in an envelope with your own name and address on it and put it through your distributor's door or drop it into Jean's letter box at Blacksmith's Cottage, High Street asap. Thank you.

The price remains the same as last year, at **£5** for the year, which is less than half the true price of printing. We send our sincere thanks to our advertisers whose continuing support makes this possible. New advertisers are welcome at any time.

Thank you as always to all our contributors for your articles, photos, to Jean and Roy who often collect the printed magazines and sort them for distribution and to our dedicated team of distributors. Volunteers to help with any of the associated tasks are very welcome, as are new contributors. Just get in touch.

Thank you.

**ActionFraud**  
**ALERT**

## Scam Alert

We have had quite a few phone calls from residents in Southwell, Farnsfield and other villages in the

last 2 weeks regarding a bogus Police Officer calling stating they have got a relative of theirs in custody and they need to go to the bank to send them money to get them released.

The last couple of calls have been from a male stating they are from Cambridge Police.

No Police Officer will ever ask you to go to your bank and send them money.

Fortunately the last call, to a 91 year old lady, came to nothing as she realised what was happening and warned them she was going to call the Police and he put the phone down.

Please remember if you are ever unsure who is calling you, just put the phone down, and **do not send money to people you do not know.**

# Egmanton Classes and Activities

## Yoga

Karen Baker ran a successful trial class in November and she will be running regular classes on Monday nights in future. The new time is 7.15pm. For information please contact, Mobile **07399 699380**, Email, [karenbaker@outlook.com](mailto:karenbaker@outlook.com)

## Pilates

Held every Thursday at 5:30pm. Classes are run by Holly Rye. For information please contact, Mobile **07415 436001**, Email, [holly-rye@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:holly-rye@hotmail.co.uk).

## Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 11th February, 10.00 - 12noon.

## Evening of Upbeat folk music from *Scratchy Beard*

**Quartet.** Friday May 5th at 7:30pm. Ticket information will be on our website soon.

All events are open to anyone wishing to attend. Details of them all appear on the web site and the address is in the usual item at the end of the magazine

## Wine Tasting Evening

**on the theme *A Trip Around the World.***

**Accompanying light supper.**

**To be held at Egmanton Village Hall on**

**Friday February 24th at 7:30pm.**

**Ticket price £19.50.**

**Ticket purchase information will be on our website soon.**

## Using Old Stamps - New End Date

The familiar stamps issued by Royal Mail are being replaced by bar coded equivalents . Royal Mail had widely advertised 31st January as the final date for using up your old stamps, but this has now been extended to **July 31st**. Non bar-coded stamps issued as Christmas specials or other pictorial commemorative stamps continue to be valid and need not be swapped.

'Eligible stamps', which must be swapped, are defined as the regular 1st and 2nd class stamps featuring the profile of the Queen and those similar style stamps that show any other value. Any commemorative pictorial stamps, such as those issued for previous Christmases or special events, remain valid for postage and do not need to be swapped out.

There is a form available which simply asks for your name and address plus the number of stamps you want to swap. This has to be completed in capital letters and placed in an envelope with the stamps you want to swap.

Self adhesive stamps must be stuck to their original paper backing or book and any which are not self adhesive need to be stuck to a **sheet of paper**. **The envelope should then be sent to 'Freepost SWAP OUT' by 31st July.**

The above instructions apply to a combined stamp value of under £200. For stamps of a combined value of over £200, see [royalmail.com/barcodedstamps](http://royalmail.com/barcodedstamps) for more information.

**Laxton History Group**

**Film Evening**

**Wednesday 15th February at 7.30pm in  
Laxton Village Hall**

**Refreshments provided.**

**£3 admission**

**Everyone welcome**



## FEBRUARY SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

### 5th February

10:30am	Laxton	<b>HC</b>	<b>Rev, Margaret</b>
4.00pm	Wellow	<b>EP</b>	Heather B

### 12 February

10:30am	Kirton	<b>HC</b>	Father James
4.00pm	Egmanton	<b>EP</b>	TBC

### 19th February

10.00am	Walesby	<b>HC</b>	Rev Vaughn Sweet
10:30am	Wellow	<b>HC</b>	Rev Margaret

### 2nd February (Ash Wednesday)

7.00pm	Bilsthorpe	<b>HC</b> with ashing	Rev Margaret
--------	------------	-----------------------	--------------

### 26th February

9.00am	Egmanton	<b>HC</b>	Father James
10:30am	Kirton	<b>HC</b>	Father James

### 5th March

10:30am	Laxton	<b>HC</b>	Rev Margaret
4.00pm	Wellow	<b>EP</b>	Heather B



# *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*

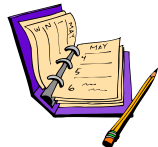
**2023**

**Weds 8th**

**WI**

**Weds 15th**

**History Group**



## **Forward Planning**

**Mon 31st July**

**New last date to use non bar coded stamps**

**Sat 30th Sept**

**Southwell Ploughing Match, South  
Muskham**

## **Regular Events:**

**Parish Council**

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

**Quiz Nights**

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

**Copy Date for MARCH 2023 edition:  
12 noon, 16th FEBRUARY 2023**

*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 were sorry we had to cancel our group WI Christmas Carol Concert which was to have been held in church on the 5th of December. The cancellation was due to the low number of members and friends able to attend. We had to decide if it was viable to carry on and it was very disappointing to have to decide it was not.

In December, we all enjoyed a lovely Christmas meal at The Olde Plough at Egmonton. As usual Sandra organised the evening for us. She works hard to make sure we have good trips and meals out, even if not very far away. We are grateful to her for organising it for us.



We started the New Year off with a craft night in January. It is always difficult getting speakers who are willing to come out at this time of year.

Sandra arranged a rock painting night. This is something which has become popular with all ages and certainly

appealed to our creative side. The 'rocks' were in fact large stones, so there was not a huge space to fill and everyone had a go. Another benefit is that you

can chat as you work, which we always enjoy, so it was an enjoyable evening which ended up with some lovely painted designs. Thanks again to Sandra for arranging this.

Our next meeting is on February 8th, when we have



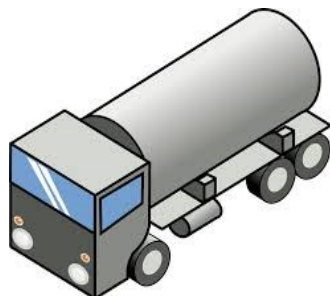
booked a speaker from the charity "When You Wish Upon a Star". This is a charity which tries to make children's dreams come true so it will be interesting to hear about how they help.

If anyone would like to join us, as a visitor, you'll be more than welcome, the charge is £4 to include tea and biscuits.



## Group Oil Order

The winter order will have gone in by the time you are reading this. Thank you to the people who sent in their orders early. It reduces the effort at the last minute and helps us respond more quickly if there seems to be an advantage in doing so.



While the price, as monitored by looking at the Boilerjuice 1000 litre average price for England, has come down, but sadly not significantly. The good news is that the price is about as low as it has been since early December, being around 82p at the time of writing.

There is occasionally a spring order depending entirely on demand at the time, but the next planned order is due in late July / August

Our group will continue while members feel we benefit them. To pay monthly you will need to deal direct with the supplier of your choice. Most now seem to be offering monthly payment plans to help people budget for these high bills.

Anyone whose order can be placed by email is very welcome to join. Please contact me on [oil@openfield.org.uk](mailto:oil@openfield.org.uk) We cover a radius of about 5 miles, but one member has remained with us since moving 20 miles away.

Joy





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## Sing for Spring!

With Spring just around the corner, we are preparing for all the exciting events that come as the weather improves. If a group you attend is having its own celebrations or event this Spring/Summer you can book Dukeries Singers at a very reasonable price.

We also welcome new members. Being part of our choir is not just about singing. We are very much a choir family who have fun and enjoy social events together.



Maureen is one of our newest members. This is what she had to say about joining The Dukeries Singers:

*"I've sung through most of my adult years on and off, sometimes with long gaps in between. I joined the Dukeries choir to experience once again the joy of singing."*

*I remember the first time I went to their rehearsal. I felt rather nervous like you do when you're the new person. I needn't have worried. Everyone was very welcoming and very laid back as a group. It also helped that there was tea / coffee and a biscuit before*

*we even started and it gave a chance for friendly introductions.*

*Joining The Dukeries Singers was a great opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Making music together is a wonderful experience. None of us are professionals. There are no divas in the choir. Just a group of people who enjoy singing and making music. I would encourage anyone to have a go."*

John our committee chair also has a strong belief that The Dukeries Singers has something to offer everyone. As a newly retired man he felt a need to keep busy. He quickly realised that many men feel the same but are less likely to go out and join groups. After joining the choir his business skills were quickly utilised when he was invited to chair the committee. This is what he has to say on the subject:

*"Men are much less likely than women to have a close friend or to share ideas and opportunities. When they do, they are often more focused and committed."*

*Men can be slower to try something new and prefer to wait until they see other men involved before stepping forward. Our choir has several men who have a good bond and stick together to help and support each other. They are determined to improve and get to be the best they can be"*

If you would like any further information, you can phone our bookings secretary Margaret **01623 642464** or **07896 491314** or email us at **[thedukeriessingers@gmail.com](mailto:thedukeriessingers@gmail.com)**.

## Recent Bonus Ball Winners

17/12/22	32	ROLLOVER
24/12/22	19	John and Carol
31/12/22	19	John and Carol
7/1/23	18	Helen Sheard
14/1/23	24	Ian and Rebecca

We have various numbers available. Here is the up to date list of the spare numbers: ,7,11,13,20,26,32,34,35,37,38,40,41,44,51,52,53,57, and 59. Please contact me on 870844. Thank you. *Michael Manning*

Thanks to Steve Digby, Editor of 'Idle Talk' for permission to use this quiz, set by his sister in law. Unfortunately as Steve has now given up as editor and nobody has come forward to replace him, this is the end of this series. We thank Steve for the many quizzes he has provided.

Could you write us a monthly quiz of some sort?

**Straightforward, cryptic, hidden or phonetic: what's the link**

### Quiz Questions (answers overleaf)

1. Which 1980s TV series starring Tim Healy and Jimmy Nail centred on British construction workers in Dusseldorf?
2. What was a hit for The Bay City Rollers in 1974?
3. What Ernest Hemingway novel was set in the First World War?
4. Which 1939 film based on a James Hilton novel gave Robert Donat a Best Actor Oscar?
5. Which song did Hilda Ogden sing in The Rovers on her final appearance?
6. How long is a piece of string?
7. Which dog breed, originating in China, has a blue tongue?
8. Which Raymond Chandler novel was the first to be made into a film? It starred Dick Powell as Philip Marlowe and Ward Bond as Moose Molloy.
9. What can precede law, pass and gum to make new words/phrases?
10. How did The Two Ronnies sign off at the end of their show?





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## **Quiz Answers:**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet                | 6. So long   |
| 2 Bye, Bye Baby                       | 7. Chow (Ciao)   |
| 3 A Farewell to Arms                  | 8. Farewell, My Lovely   |
| 4 Goodbye, Mr Chips                   | 9. By/bye  |
| 5 Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye | 10. So it's goodnight from me and it's goodnight from him - GOODNIGHT! |

11 They all mean 'Farewell'. Farewell Steve, and many thanks.

# Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council

## Draft Minutes of the Meeting 22/11/22

**Present:** Councillors: M. Manning (chair), S. Hill, R. Hennell, M.Hennell, J. Godson, J.Hill, S. Rose

### In attendance at parish council meeting

C. Wilson (Clerk), M. Pringle (County councillor), S. Michael (District councillor), Members of the public (x3)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mr Rose had been delayed. Otherwise, no absences.
2. **Declarations of interest:** The chair declared an interest as a member of the sports field committee in item 11 (Property matters – including sports field and Glebe Field).  
There were no other declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.
3. **Dispensations:** None required.
4. **10 Minutes public speaking:** An Egmonton resident was in attendance to share the outcome of their research into the NottsBus on demand pilot. Councillors **agreed** to bring forward item 13 (h) to after item 7 (Matters arising) for the benefit of the resident.  
A resident expressed concern that the 30 mph signs had all been moved to include all properties save for the road to Ollerton. The chair explained that this was in line with the work approved by NCC. The resident went on to refer to a lack of visibility entering the village from Egmonton because the sign is obscured by the hedge. Mr Pringle will take this up with Via/NCC.  
A resident expressed continuing frustration with the condition of the roads in the parish which councillors and Mr Pringle noted.  
A request was made by a member of the public for a public speaking opportunity at the end of future meetings. Councillors discussed the request and **agreed** to introduce an item at the end of their meetings allowing for 5 minutes public speaking.
5. **Thoresby Estate report (if any):** Councillors noted that no representative had been appointed and that communication was now with the office.

6. **Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 27 September 2022:** The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 27 September 2022 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.
7. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising which were not otherwise on the agenda.  
The meeting then moved to item 13 (h) as agreed under item a above (10 minutes public speaking).
8. **Reports from district and county councillors:** Mr Pringle reported on:

- a. The budget survey
- b. Devolution consultation
- c. Administrative changes at Via

Mrs Michael reported that:

1. The NSDC resident survey had revealed a demand for kerbside glass collection which is going to cabinet on 23 February 2023.
2. SNG had considered incidents in Winkburn and Knapthorpe. Residents were reminded to keep doors locked. Reports of the use of drones had also been discussed.

9. **Reports from councillors:** None.
10. **2023 meeting dates:** The dates circulated by the clerk were approved.
11. **Property matters including sports field and Glebe Field matters (if any):** Councillors noted that the new dog bin for the sports field had been delivered.
12. **Planning matters:**
  - a. **Applications:** None
  - b. **To note planning decisions by NSDC:** None
  - c. **Compliance:** No matters raised
13. **Defibrillator inspection report:** Mr J Hill confirmed that the defibrillator had been inspected and there were no issues.
14. **Village environment and appearance, including Bar Farmhouse:**
  - a. **Bar Farmhouse** Councillors expressed concern that the roof was still not complete. Mrs Michael will refer the matter back to NSDC enforcement.
  - b. **Crime in the parish and communication group:** The chair had received no expressions of interest.

- c. **Parish litter pick:** Mr J Hill will contact the landlord of the Dovecote to take the matter further.
- d. **Parish roads and pavements – County councillor’s inspection visit 26 August 2022:** Mr Pringle reported that, regrettably, there had been no progress on matters relating to the condition of the roads. He noted that Eel Lane is currently completely blocked even though the chair had reported the problem to NCC. Mr Pringle was meeting Jo Horton that week and would raise the matter with her.
- e. **Fly tipping:** Councillors noted that NSDC was responsible for removing fly tipping from common land but that there was no issue on common land in the parish at this time.
- f. **Bench for Moorhouse:** Mr S Hill apologized that he had not had the opportunity to take the matter of a replacement bench forward but would do so with a view to installation in spring 2023.
- g. **2022 Christmas celebrations – Planning arrangements:** Mr J Hill is collecting the trees later in the week with decorating them planned for Sunday 27 November 2022. The chair will check that the lights are working. He confirmed that he had applied to the Lady Rozelle fund for a grant.
- h. **NottsBus On Demand:** This matter was considered after item 7 (Matters arising). The visiting resident shared his findings referring to the following in particular:
  - 1. The general feeling at NCC is that the pilot service is going well
  - 2. Customer experience outside rural areas appears to be positive but there had been no apparent increase in regular users.
  - 3. The lack of crossover between zones was an issue
  - 4. The resident had spoken with Chris Ward at NCC bus services and there had been a meeting the preceding Friday, 18 November 2022 which had been constructive.
  - 5. The time restriction on booking a return bus was a limiting factor on bus use
  - 6. The freedom for residents to book buses to suit their immediate personal needs was resulting in inefficient allocation of vehicles, with duplication of buses the same



area leaving other places in the locality without a service.

Councillors discussed:

- i. The possibility of using more smaller vehicles, such as electric taxis, to increase coverage and provide a more responsive, nimble service
- ii. The fear felt by former passengers that they would be left stranded at a destination because all the services had been booked out.  
The chair will ask residents whether they would use the service if there was an additional stop which avoided the need to walk up the hill.

**15. Financial position as at 30 September 2022:**

- a. Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 30 September 2022 (incorporating the 2022-23 budget figures). The chair verified the stated balances against bank statements.
- b. Accounts for payment: Councillors unanimously approved twelve payments totalling £1,547.80 noting the increase in local government salaries and associated back pay.
- c. Change of banking provider: The clerk had contacted potential providers of free banking but their ID requirements posed logistical issues. She will explore further but councillors agreed that their options were limited.

- 16. Service faults:** The chair had reported lamppost number 18. There was discussion of whether to order more lamppost remembrance poppies. Councillors **decided** to discuss this and the possibility of purchasing a silent soldier for the Green at their July 2023 meeting.

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

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

**19. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 22 November 2022 in the Visitor Centre.



Sherwood  
& Newark

## Advice from Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark on dealing with damp, mould and condensation in a rented property

*“As the weather has turned colder, I’ve noticed mould and damp in our flat. It’s mainly in our bedroom, including some black mould on the carpet. I’ve been chasing our letting agency, who say they’ll speak to our landlord. I’m really worried about how this might affect our health. Our tenancy agreement isn’t up for eight months, what can I do?”*

It’s good that you’ve already raised the issue with your letting agency. Unfortunately, it isn’t always easy to work out the cause of mould or damp. This can make it difficult to work out if your landlord is responsible, unless there’s an obvious cause, like a leaking roof.

There are many causes of damp that properties can get. The most common are rising, penetrating, construction and condensation damp. On our website there is information that may help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do. Check your tenancy agreement too for mentions of repairs and damp, and reach out to Citizens Advice on anything you’re unsure about.

A landlord will have to act in relation to damp if it makes the property unsafe for someone to live in. This could be for example, if it is making the tenant or a member of their family ill. The landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, like if heaters are broken. If the damp has damaged items that the landlord is responsible for, such as carpets and window frames, they’ll likely have to cover the cost of repairs.

One of the most common causes of damp is condensation. To prevent this, it’s important to keep homes well-heated and well-ventilated, but for a lot of people this will be trickier to do given the colder weather and higher heating costs. You may be eligible for help to insulate and heat your home, and should visit our website to find out more.

On our website we also have advice on things that can make damp worse and may impact the landlord taking responsibility for repairs. These include drying clothes on heaters or blocking air vents.

If your landlord is responsible for the damp in your property but doesn’t act, there are steps you can take, such as reporting them to the local authority. If you’re in social housing you might also be able to use the landlord’s formal complaints procedure. There is more information about this on our website. If it reaches the point where you want to get out of a fixed term tenancy agreement early, do speak to an adviser first, as there might be better ways to approach the issue.

**<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/renting-privately/during-your-tenancy/dealing-withrepairs/>**



## Milton Mausoleum

Happy New Year to all our supporters and visitors!

In December we completed last year's events with our popular Carols by Candlelight. The room was full to capacity and the atmosphere was very festive. We were joined by The Soul

Divas, who sang a selection of Christmas songs. We all enjoyed the audience participation and the welcoming refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies.

Our first event for 2023 will be our Sunday Lunch at the West Retford Hotel on Sunday 30th April; 12.30pm for 1pm. The cost of the two-course meal is £20 per person and the menu is available on request. There will be a speaker, raffle and our first £100 Lottery Prize Draw of the year. Come along and enjoy lunch with your friends.

Our weekly Sunday openings at the Mausoleum from 2pm – 4pm begin on Sunday 7th May until the end of September. We are available to arrange tours for groups with advance booking for a small charge to cover refreshments. If this is something you would like to arrange for your group, please contact us.

We would like to hear from you on [milton.mausoleum@outlook.com](mailto:milton.mausoleum@outlook.com) or by phoning Jenny 01777 871706, Gillian 01777 248310 or Bobby 01777 870300.

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### In person

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### Website

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- ♦ **Pilates** - Every Thursday at 5:30pm with Holly Rye.  
Contact **07415436001** Email **holly-rye@hotmail.co.uk**
- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Thursday 16th in the Hall
- ♦ Coffee Morning Sat. 11th February 10 - 12. All welcome

*All events appear on the web site - see above*

## Bonus Balls Available

Below is the up to date list of spare numbers available in the weekly draw. If anyone would like a number or an additional one please let me know.

**1,7,11,13,20,26,32,34,35,37,38,40,41,44,51,52,53,57, and 59**

Best Wishes

*Michael*

## Laxton Defibrillator

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

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

*Michael Manning*

## 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**

## 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

Fire Safety Advice (Tuxford Fire Station)	01777 870381
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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)





Thanks to Dave Sheard for sending this lovely sunset shot of the Mill Stand. There is nothing like managing to get a good photo of a lovely sunset.

Thanks to Lynda Moore for another lovely photo. The special thing about this one is that it was taken on December 1st!

Does anyone else have any interesting, beautiful or unseasonal photos? Please let us have them.

