

Open Field

£1

February 2025



*Advent Wreaths with their First Candle Lit on Advent Sunday,
Laxton 1st December 2024*

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



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Churchwardens

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MOORHOUSE
KNEESALL
WELLOW
WELLOW

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Vacant

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Vacant

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Open Field

www.openfield.org.uk

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 PLEASE. Earlier preferred.** You can send in your contributions at any time.

Church News from our Churchwarden

Advent

On Sunday 1st December we celebrated Advent Sunday. This always falls on the first Sunday of December and is the beginning of the Christmas season, which means 'the coming'.

We make Advent wreaths and bring them into church. Each wreath has five candles on it, one for every week. There are three purple, one pink and the last one is white, which is lit on Christmas Day. Wreaths were brought from Walesby, Kirton and Laxton and then the Rev Alistair lit a candle on each. Thank you to those who took part and to those who made the wreaths.

Brenda

Christmas Cards

Thank you to everyone who put their Christmas cards in the church box along with donations for church funds. A total of £170.15 was raised, which was very much appreciated. Thank you to Janet and George for delivering them for us.



Brenda

Open Field Subscription Renewals

Thank you to the many people who have already paid their 2025 subscriptions. There are just a few still to come in, and we would be grateful if these could be paid as soon as possible so that we are sure how many to order.

We plan to continue to provide the magazine to subscribers at just £6 a year, in full colour. For the benefits this brings, we have had to accept that it is liable to be later than usual when the printing falls in a school holiday.

The subscription for 2025 (February - Dec / Jan) is £6.00

Please have your subscription in an envelope marked with your name and let your distributor have it as soon as possible. You can drop it through their door, deliver direct to Jean at Blacksmith's Cottage, High Street or to Joy Allison in Eganton.

Thank you. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Jean

Congratulations - Twins for Sarah

Many congratulations to Sarah Hill on the safe arrival of her twin boys just in time for this edition of Open Field.

They were born on 16th January and as yet have no names. We hope to bring that news next month.

They are both doing very well and weighed 6lb 8oz and 5lb 6 oz. when they were born.



Celebration of Life

We would like to mark the passing, just before Christmas, of John Ulrick (Heidi Keay's Dad), who now joins Dorothea again. Neither of them wanted to leave their beloved West Yorkshire but, in the end, they enjoyed living in Laxton, close to Heidi.

John was a keen photographer and Dorothea loved the countryside. Their legacy is the oak tree in the paddock at Twitchill Farmhouse which was grown from an acorn.



Special Birthday Wishes

Sorry I forgot to wish Mike J a very happy 80th birthday, which he celebrated in January. He did get a mention in the birthday list, but not for one that has a big "0" on the end. This was probably because the Open Field went to press early, and so a very happy belated 80th birthday from everyone and we hope you enjoyed your day

80

Brenda

Special Birthday Wishes

21

Congratulations to Angelina Sheard, who celebrated her 21st birthday in January, although the news has only just reached us. We hope her big day was a memorable one.

Angelina's twin siblings, Gabriella and Daniel, celebrated their joint birthday in January and we send them very best wishes.

Get Well Soon - Richard Grundy

We were pleased to get a message from Richard Grundy, saying that he is recovering from his 60 days in hospital. Obviously this will take some time. We wish him well and hope he is soon feeling much better.

Get Well Soon - Michael Manning

We were sorry to hear from Cath that Mike is not very well at the moment. He has wisely decided to hand over his responsibilities with various village organisations to concentrate on getting better.

We send thanks for all he has done in the past and offer our very best wishes for a speedy return to full health.

Get Well Soon - Geoff Rose

We are pleased to hear that Geoff Rose is recovering nicely from his accident. We hope he continues to get better and send best wishes for his recovery.

Get Well Soon - Michael Mawer

We were sorry to hear that Michael Mawer had been taken to hospital following a fall. As we went to print, the family were hoping he would be moved soon to Newark. We send very best wishes for his recovery.

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Carol Service

We were so sorry we had to cancel the Carol Service in December. Unfortunately we could not get a vicar as there were three other services in our Group on the same day. It was a shame as last year we had a lovely service, which everyone seemed to enjoy, even though it was a do-it-yourself effort. Now we have this shortage of priests and lay readers and it makes things difficult.

Brenda

Plough Sunday Service

This was another disappointment for us as we had to cancel our traditional Plough Sunday Service. This time it was because of the weather. Margaret, our priest, is from Bilsthorpe and did not feel it safe to travel or to expect other people to travel from away or to walk to church.



Once again we are sorry we had to make the decision, especially as it was one of our special services, but we had to think of people's safety.

Brenda

Coffee Morning Corner

2nd Saturdays Egmonton Village Hall 10 - 12 8th Feb

3rd Saturdays Laxton Village Hall, 10:30 - 12:30 15th Feb

4th Saturdays Ossington Hut, 11 - 1 22nd Feb

Village Hall News

Our Laxton Alive Projects are working well: -



“Chop and Chat” is

proving popular, it is so good to see everyone having a good time. December has been the busiest up to date, with 21 sitting down for a Christmas dinner, with



another 10 or so meals taken home. We have a new sticker on display on the way in, having been awarded a 5-star food hygiene rating by NSDC.



On January 6th, we had our fourth of the six funded sessions. Our first Christmas dinner of the year. A combination of bad weather and various ailments reduced the number to 10 in the hall, but we also delivered another 13 meals to others who couldn't make it. Thank you to everyone who braved the weather to come down and especially those that helped

deliver the take-aways. Can you please make sure that your plates are returned to the village hall? Quickly totting up the totals for 4 sessions so far, we have produced 80+ meals.

We have also started talking about what happens next, as a group. Please share your thoughts and ideas with us.

Our next session is Monday 3rd February, 11:00 – 2 pm, please come and join us. Just contact Dave Sheard 07941625761 to book a place, or a takeaway meal. Just so we can cater for the right number.



The “Pilates” class is being supported well, and is now being run by Rachel, our experienced fitness teacher. Rachel is asking for 4-week block bookings upfront to keep things manageable, priced at £24. Please contact Helen Sheard - number below, there are a few spaces left. Laxton Village Hall, Thursday evenings 18.30 to 19.30.

Do you have any ideas on other sessions we can run at the village hall? Please let us know. There is potential for more funding from NSDC for community grants. It is great to see the hall being used as it was intended, but there is still plenty of space for other events.

Other news, our next village quiz is approaching Friday 7th March, we have put the price up to £10 per head, please see the separate ad for more details. I still think that this is still great value for

Coffee Morning Info

Why not come to our monthly Coffee Mornings in the Hall? Tea, coffee and cake - no charge, just donations. All help and donations gladly received. All proceeds in support of village groups, societies, amenities and occasionally supporter nominated charities. 2025 dates elsewhere in the magazine.

For further information

Please call Helen Sheard **07905 161392**

Laxton Christmas Lights Switch On



Laxton and Moorhouse Parish Council would like to say a big thank you to everyone that attended the village Christmas light switch on in December.

It was great to see so many people celebrating the start of Christmas together.

The lights and Christmas tree looked

fantastic. Thank you to Thoresby Estate for providing the tree. We hope everyone enjoyed seeing the lights as they drove through the village



each evening.

Everyone enjoyed the refreshments and had a fun time listening to and singing along with The Dukeries

Band. Thank you to all the musicians for creating such a festive atmosphere for the evening.

We look forward to seeing you all again for Christmas 2025.



FEBRUARY CONGRATULATIONS

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

The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Eunice Saxilby, Mavis Beckitt, and Margaret O who all share a birthday, Di Jackson, Diane Beckitt, John G, Sebastian S and Eloise H.

We wish you all a wonderful day and a happy and healthy year to come.

There are no anniversaries on our list for this month, but we are pleased to send congratulations to anyone celebrating.

Brenda



Court Day at Laxton 2024

Laxton Court Day took place, as usual on the first Thursday in December. This comes exactly one week after Jury Day, when the field Jury goes around the field which is newly sown with wheat.

Laxton is unique in having a functioning Manorial Court or Court Leet, which can legally determine legal proceedings and levy fines within its remit of managing the Open Fields.



In 1976 the government looked at the many such courts which were still on the statute books of the land to function as they had in the past. The intention was to delete them all from the statute books and tidy things up.

The Laxton Court has a Steward, appointed by the Lord of the Manor, to ensure the proceedings are carried out properly. For a very long time the Steward has been a solicitor from Tallents of Newark.

The Steward in post at the time of the change of plans received and read the draft changes and realised that Laxton's court leet would lose its powers. He wrote to point out that this power remained essential to the functioning of the court he was involved with. As a result the legal draft Act was rewritten and when the Administration of Justice



Act (1977) came into force, Laxton was specifically mentioned as continuing to have its powers.

There was another survivor, the Estray Court of Denbigh, which had powers relating to rounding up of stray sheep and allowing their owners to claim them. The claimants pay a fine and are able to recover their sheep. The two courts are similar historically but function for very different purposes and Laxton is unique not just for the functioning three field system, but the existence of the Court to manage it.

The court opens with the Bailiff, Robert Haigh, reading the traditional form of words, now adapted to refer to His Majesty the King, to open proceedings. The Manor suit roll is read - effectively a list of people with property in the estate - and for those not present an essoign of 2p is paid. This name comes from the Old French word essognier, to excuse, so it is not officially a fine. Traditionally the Bailiff would have gone round to collect the money from those who were absent, but these days Robert brings a bag of 2p pieces. On average around 12p is collected.

The people who have been asked to form the Jury for the following year are called forward in turn to take a formal oath to serve after the Foreman of the following year's wheat field has taken a more detailed oath on behalf of them all.

The Foreman of the field, known as 'the wheat field', which has just been brought back from fallow and drilled with wheat presents the findings of the Jury. On this occasion West (Top) Field had been examined and the Foreman, Johnny Godson should have taken this oath. Sadly he died before the Court session and the current Steward, Alistair Millar paid tribute to him and his service, calling for everyone to stand for a minute's silence. Steven Noble was elected unopposed as the new Foreman, succeeding Johnny who in turn had succeeded Steven's father.

The transgressions in the field were recorded and the recommended fines agreed. The Foremen of the other two fields were invited to bring up any issues relating to their fields. This is a relatively new innovation.

When the business was concluded, Robert read the formal closing statement and the meeting opened for general business. Gregor Pierrepont was present representing the Thoresby Estate and he spoke about current activities in the village and plans for future work, including ideas for the creation of a new Visitor Centre adjacent to the Village Hall. This is currently at the early stages of planning.



Keith's was a fascinating presentation, looking into many aspects of the river. It is 185 miles long and one of the fastest flowing in the country. The old names for the river (the Celtic Trisantona and the Anglo Saxon Tréenta) both translate as 'Trespasser' – a

reference to its regular floods .

The Trent rises on Bidulph Moor in Staffordshire in a spring which has never dried up in the 400+ years that records have been kept.

Along much of the river's length there are ruined buildings constructed by different Holy Orders. Canals also feature. Josiah Wedgwood persuaded Brindley to choose the route for his Great Salt Canal so that it also connected Stoke and the Potteries.

The network gave access by river or canal from the Humber to the Mersey ports. The Trent itself was navigable as far as Shardlow, although bridge building restricted access to Nottingham for some time.

The connection to the Potteries brought not only trade, but pollution. Trentham Hall, built by the Dukes of Sutherland, fell victim to this and was demolished barely 50 years after it was built because the terrible smell was unacceptable.

Flowing through the rich coal field areas, the Trent provided a convenient means of getting coal to the emerging power stations. Keith had counted 13 power stations on the banks. Ratcliffe on Trent had been the 12th worst source of pollution in Europe, but has recently closed. Only three power stations remain. Cottam has been closed but is being looked at for alternative power sources because of the capacity remaining in its distribution system.

At Burton on Trent the river supports the brewing industry.

The Romans venerated the river because it created defensible positions against the rebellious tribes of the north. It provided a natural barrier to travel between north and south. Pre 1750 only four bridges had been built. There are now 95. Trent Bridge was built in 1800 and when the old, low bridge at the same point was demolished it restored the navigability of the river. The first bridge at Newark was Saxon.

The geology of the river is interesting. It originally started near the Severn, but moved due to the Ice Ages. The ice did not retreat uniformly and left

lakes as well as creating the different rock layers over which the river flows. Keith told us that the Trent is a 'river in old age', characterised by flooding frequently. Younger rivers flow over more gravels and carve their own channels as they go. Glacial action made the Trent valley U-shaped, allowing the river to meander and flood.

The Trent takes water from eight counties and is joined along its length by five other rivers. The water coming from the Derwent and Soar doubles the Trent's rate of flow in five miles. Sometimes the flow is too great for some boats and they have to tie up until it falls and they can travel again.

The bridge at Gainsborough was the first box girder bridge built in this country.

The waters of the Trent join the Humber at Blacktoft Sands, a muddy promontory cared for by the RSPB as a bird sanctuary.

Following this meeting, the Group took the regular winter break, but there was a general consensus that a social get together as in some previous years, was welcome in January. This was arranged at The Birds Nest Coffee Lounge at Hall Farm, Weston on 15th January.

January Social

We do not hold a meeting in the Village Hall in January - a practice which dates back to the days before the Hall's refurbishment when we sat there in coats in freezing temperatures. Even when the heating was working, it struggled to overcome the chill which had gripped the building over the festive break. Members were reluctant to tear themselves away from their warm firesides and brave the elements for a less than comfortable evening.

More recently we have got into the habit of holding a social get together at Hall Farm's Birds Nest Coffee Lounge in January to simply get together and have a chat.

This year it was a last minute decision, but Jean, true to form, had it all organised in a morning. A big thank you to her.

It was lovely to get everyone together over a cuppa and the Birds Nest's usual tempting selection of cakes. It was a very pleasant afternoon and enabled people who had not seen each other for a while to exchange news.

We will now be all ready for our very special **19th February** meeting when our speaker will be **John Millin, son of the D-Day Piper**, who will be telling us about his father. All villagers are most welcome to come along, but please let Helen or Jean know if you plan to do so to ensure we are prepared with chairs and refreshments.

We hope this will also be an opportunity to welcome villagers who are not regular members as well as interested people from surrounding villages. In lieu of a fee, we will be making a donation to Forces Charities.

Coffee Morning News

Laxton and Moorhouse Community Coffee Morning, once again welcomed villagers, friends and family, to their December 'get together' on Saturday 14th. Attendees were in festive spirit with delicious seasonal treats, mulled wine and hot beverages on offer.

The regular team (Karen S, Lesley B, Margaret P, Sarah S, Anne-Marie R, Richard W, Dave S & Helen S) would like to extend thanks, to everyone who supports these events. The coffee morning is primarily about bringing the community together. Some of our 'regulars' are from Kneesall, Kirton, Egmonton, Tuxford and further afield. Everyone is assured of a warm welcome. All we ask is that you make a donation, if you can, of whatever you can afford.

This has enabled the village to raise the following sums for charity and village amenities in 2024: £200 Tuxford Young Farmers Group, £150 Marie Currie, £630 Village Hall, £110 each to Dementia UK, Alzheimer's Society & Tuxford Forget-me-not Dementia group, £175 Laxton church (Community Tidy up) and £24 for spring bulbs for the village green.

If you would like to lend your support to the organising group or have a suggestion as to events in 2025, please do get in touch with any of us. It has been suggested that our February meet up on the 15th should be in aid of local animal charities on this occasion.

Helen S

News from the Museums of Tuxford

Valentine's Day approaches. We have been reflecting on the past and the year ahead, exploring objects at the Walks of Life Museum including books. Gems such as this quote from Wilcox on Love: *"Love is the centre and circumference the impulse which directs the world"*.





Love takes many forms from the love of people and places to hobbies and experiences. Many objects that are given as gifts create wonderful memories. It is often difficult to part with things. However you can pass on objects, creating happiness for others for them to enjoy using and treasuring.

The Museum of the Horse is holding an on-line timed auction, the date for which is now Sunday 9th March. This will raise money for the museum as well as make space. There are duplicate items from the museum stores but many non horse related items too.

Entries are invited but need to be in by the 20th February. Items will be available to view on-line from 1st March. Viewing in person will be held in the museum's new conference room on Friday 7th March between 10am to 4 pm and on Saturday 8th from 10am to 12 noon. Online details can be found on thesale-room.com

The on-line timed auction Sunday 9th March will run from 5pm with lots ending at 30 second intervals from 5pm onwards. To leave a bid, please contact curator@museumofthehorse.co.uk tel **01777 838234**

At the Walks of Life we are busy making poppies for nets around the town for V.E day. You are invited to join us to knit on Tuesday February 18th between 11am and 3pm in the cabin.

Work continues on the old house thanks to the help of conservation officer Jason providing training opportunities alongside our volunteers.

Look for things that make you smile, like meeting friends.

Please note a correction of the date for the Dosco reunion. This is to be held on Wednesday 26th March not the 27th

Walks of Life contact Diane
01777 872776
dianehunt08@btinternet.com
for opening times



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Laxton & Moorhouse Community Coffee Morning dates

All are welcome for coffee and cakes

Laxton Village Hall 10:30am - 12:30
(3rd Saturday in the month)

15th February 2025

August

15th March

20th September

19th April

18th October

17th May

~~November~~ (History

21st June

Group Craft Fayre)

19th July

13th or 20th December



QUIZ



Laxton Village Hall's Spring Quiz Night

Date: Friday 7th March 2025

Time: 7 pm for **7:30 start**

Cost: **£10** per head, including a Hot Supper. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Questions: Back by popular demand **"The Cottee Quizmasters"**

Contact me, or any village hall trustees to reserve a place (ideally teams of 8) or to donate a raffle prize. We look forward to seeing you. **Dave Sheard 07941 625761**

**Don't forget, all profits go towards the upkeep of your
fabulous village hall !**

FEBRUARY SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

FEBRUARY 2025

19th January

10:00am Walesby **HC** Rev Vaughan

10:30 am Wellow **HC** Rev Margaret

2nd February

10:30am Laxton **HC** **Rev Margaret**

4.00pm Wellow **EP** Heather B

February 9

10:30am Kirton **HC** Rev Alistair

February 16

10.00am Walesby **HC** Rev Vaughan

10:30am Wellow **HC** Rev Margaret

February 23

No services

March 2

10:30am Laxton **HC** **Rev Margaret**

March 5 (Wednesday) Ash Wednesday

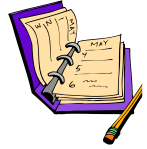
March 30 (Sunday) Mothering Sunday



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Mon 2 nd	Chop & Chat
Weds 11th	WI
Sat 15th	Coffee Morning
Weds 19th	History Group Special Meeting



Forward Planning:

March 2025

Fri 7th	Quiz Night
Sun 9th	Community Litter Pick
Sun 30th	Mothering Sunday
Tues 25th	Parish Council

May

Mon 26th	Wellow Maypole Celebrations
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Regular Events:

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

**Copy Date for MARCH 2025 edition:
12 noon, 16th FEBRUARY 2024**

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



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Laxton WI

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INSPIRING WOMEN

Instead of our usual meeting in December we all met at The Dovecote Inn for a Christmas meal, which everyone enjoyed. Thanks to Sam and his staff for looking after us and special thanks to Sandra for organising everything.

Three of our members enjoyed a Christmas afternoon tea at The Hostess restaurant at Sookholme followed by entertainment. In January there will be a Burns lunch, also at Sookholme, this will be followed by Scottish entertainment.



Lesley and Joan have both entered the Canada Cup competition. In February there is a visit to the new planetarium at Sutton in Ashfield, which should be interesting. Unfortunately, the weather was against us for our January meeting, which we decided to cancel because it was such a cold night.

Our speaker for our January meeting was coming to give us a presentation and talk on R.O.B the recycling company at Boughton. He will now come to our February 12th meeting instead.

Dukeries Singers



LEARN – SING- ENJOY.

Chairman John Banbury said, 'Our choir is more than just a place to sing; It's a family where friendships are formed, and memories are made'. Whether you're an experienced singer or someone who loves music, we welcome you with open arms, no auditions, no pressure, just a warm and supportive environment where you can express yourself and grow. Why not leave

the kids with hubby at home and join us, singing is good for your well-being and makes you happy.

Recent new members settled in quickly, some have already joined our committee helping to shape the future and sharing new ideas.

A new year, a new beginning. Now that our hectic Christmas program is behind us, I am excited about the future of The Dukeries Singers. Our Musical Director Mr. John Pope has been with us for 6 months and is already making a difference. We are looking forward to our new Spring/Summer program which will include hits from the musicals and lots more.

There is no better time to join us than at the beginning of a new season of music which we can all learn together, so come along and be a 'Fly on the wall' to discover if joining the choir appeals to you, or call John Banbury **07759-086132** or email john@aswood.co.uk; we meet every Wednesday at 7 pm at The Methodist Church, Forest Road, New Ollerton, NG22 9QS.

Emily Hennell , below) was able to fulfil a



dream in January when she rode out with the Grove & Rufford Hunt from Corner Farm in Laxton.

This was a first as her father, Mark, hosted the hunt for the first time.

Milton Mausoleum

THE FRIENDS OF MILTON
MAUSOLEUM 2025

We would like to wish all our members, supporters and visitors a happy, healthy and joyful 2025.

Last year was an extremely busy and successful one and we are preparing our programme of events for this year. Our first event is our welcoming 3 – course Friends Sunday Lunch at the West Retford Hotel, Retford. This year the date and time is

SUNDAY 27TH APRIL 12.30 for 1pm

We will have a RAFFLE and the first draw of our 100 LOTTERY.

A chance for friends to meet up, enjoy a delicious lunch and share plans for the coming year.

For further details and to reserve your place please contact Gill on 01777 811358 or Jenny on 01777 811219



Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council Community Litter Pick

LITTER-PICKING IS
sweeping

Please come and join us for a community litter pick

Where:- Sunday 9th March 2025.

When:- 10.30 hrs meet.

Where:- Outside the Visitor Centre / Dovey carpark. NG220SX.

What do I wear:- Please dress appropriately for being outdoors.

What do I bring:- Bring your own, if you have it, some equipment will be provided.

Contact:- Your Parish Councillors for more details.



Christmas Cards!

Come in and view our huge range of Countryside, Dog, Equestrian and Sporting Christmas Cards.

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Group Oil Order

The daily price published by Boilerjuice for the average price of 1000 litres of oil in England has been on a rollercoaster since we paid 53.10p/litre in November.

Predictably the very cold snap and snow had people reaching for their phones to order oil and the price shot up in response. On 18th January the price was 67.25p/litre.

The next order was planned for towards the end of January but not having had a clamour from members to order, I am hoping to hold back for a while, hope things warm up a little and that the price correspondingly falls. Members will very likely have received an email requesting their requirements from the next order by the time you receive this.

You are welcome to join the ordering group at any time provided that you can be contacted by email. Everyone orders as much as they want if they need oil at the time of an order. There is no obligation to order and nothing stopping members ordering with any supplier at any time.

Please use my personal email if you have it or oil@openfield.org.uk if you don't.

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Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

Date	Bonus Ball No.	Winner
23/11/224	56	Clive Corah
30/11/24	17	Ivan & Chris
7/12/24	18	Dave & Helen S
14/12/24	03	Jen Swordy
21/12/24	08	Evie
28/12/24	55	Angela Jackson
4/1/25	28	Lesley & Stephen
11/1/25	57	Gina

There is a change to the Weekly Bonus Ball. Helen and Dave Sheard have taken over the running as Mick Manning is taking a well-earned rest.

On behalf of the Committee, the residents of Laxton and all of the Sports Field users, past, present and future, we would like to thank Mick for his hard work and dedication in running the sports field.

There are six numbers free (32, 34, 37, 51, 52, 53) if anyone would like to join or indeed, if anyone would like an additional number. All proceeds help support the Sports Field and facilities. A weekly prize of £25 is up for grabs. The winning number is the bonus ball number in the Saturday Lotto draw. If a free number is drawn out the prize rolls over then to following week.

Ossington Coffee Mornings and Luncheon Club

Ossington Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 22nd February between 11am and 1pm. Our luncheon club resumes on Monday 17th February at 12.45pm. Please book with Mary Brown (01636 821029 / marybrown3@hotmail.co.uk) if you would like a delicious home cooked meal in the company of other local residents.

Everyone welcome at both events.

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A Different Light Up at New Year



Janet Cooke was fortunate enough to spend New Year's Eve on board a cruise ship off Funchal, Madeira.

There is a tremendous firework display at midnight and Janet has kindly shared these photos she took at the time.

We hope you enjoy them.



Minutes of Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council Meeting held on 24/09/2024

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

In attendance at parish council meeting

C. Wilson (Clerk), M. Pringle (county councillor)

Members of the public (x9)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mrs Michael's apologies were noted.
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:** Councillors were asked how the parish council would support Moorhouse residents who will be disproportionately adversely affected by the solar farm development if approved. Councillors confirmed that the parish council is engaging with JPAG and appreciates that a number of residents are opposed to the farm. The clerk confirmed that it is a standing agenda item which the councillors must consider on behalf of all their electors.

Members of the public referred to the following matters in particular:

1. The existing solar farm at Egmanton is not an issue because it is small. In contrast, the Great North Road (GNR) proposal is vast in size.
2. The cumulative effect of losing good agricultural land to energy production and associated implications for food security and farming output.
3. The ecological considerations, including:
 - a. Increased flood risks, which is a concern to NCC
 - b. The impact on wildlife of the loss of so much open space
 - c. The risk of creating a microclimate bringing heat and wind issues
4. The health risks for residents arising out of the loss of rural outlooks to a view of glass panels
5. The implications for house prices
6. Residents do not oppose solar panels but believe they should be placed on roofs not good quality agricultural land
7. The impact on Moorhouse will be significantly higher than on Laxton, with footpaths and bridleways badly affected and the village surrounded by panels which will be visible from all properties
8. Moorhouse will be affected by construction and traffic noise.

Councillors noted all the concerns which they would consider at item 11

c on the agenda.

In relation to item 11 a ii on the agenda (Planning application 24/01463/CPRIOR – Change of use – Church Farm), councillors also noted concerns at any associated risk of impeded water flow creating a flood risk.

5. **Thoresby Estate report (if any):** No report.
6. **Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 23 July 2024:**
The minutes of the parish council meetings held on 23 July 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair subject to the amendment of LMPC/102/24 to refer to “out of date” instead of “pit of date.
7. **Matters arising:** LMPC/107/24 – Agenda items for the next meeting – The clerk reported that Oliver Scott of NSDC planning was able to attend a meeting. She will invite him to the November meeting. There were no other matters arising.
8. **Reports from district and county councillors:** Mrs Michael was absent.
In his report, Mr Pringle referred to the following in particular:
 - i. Issues continue to arise in relation to road surfaces
 - ii. The closure of day care facilities in North Nottinghamshire

An update will follow the forthcoming full council meeting. **Reports from councillors:** It was reported that the new gate and fence on the Moorhouse side of Croftway were not aligned with the boundary. Photographs will be sent to the clerk who will report the issue to NCC. It was also reported that grass is still covering the stretch of pavement between Bottom Farm, Main Street to Moorgate Farm on Moorhouse Road. The clerk will remind NCC.

9. **Property matters including sports field, lease and pavilion and Glebe Field matters (if any):** Mr S Hill and Mr Rose had obtained keys to the pavilion and had undertaken an inspection. Their inspection report referred to the following in particular:
 - i. The pavilion is well constructed, in very good condition and is looked after
 - ii. Ideally, clearing up around the outside woodwork would be of benefit
 - iii. Retreatment of the wood nearer the ground would also be desirable
 - iv. Both the above were not out of ordinary but were just usual maintenance
 - v. A generator is used to provide electricity
 - vi. The outside tap would benefit from some lagging
 - vii. The sports field looks fantastic

Councillors commended the committee on the standard to which the site has been maintained and thanked the members for their hard work on this community asset. The clerk will contact the committee formally to pass on the council's thanks.

Sports field and pavilion condition report to be an agenda item for the

November 2024 meeting.

Councillors discussed the Thoresby Estate's request that the parish council pay its legal fees attendant on the variation of the lease to provide for subletting. They expressed concern at the budgetary implications of a contribution of £750 (excluding VAT) which represents over a sixth of the council's annual income. After further discussion, they **agreed** that the clerk should contact the Estate to explore the possibility of a smaller contribution.

It was noted that there is a temporary fence around Glebe Field.

Councillors commended the tenant on the work they do to look after the field. The clerk will contact the tenants formally to pass on the council's thanks.

¹10.Planning matters:

¹¹a.Applications:

i. **24/01472/FUL | Change of Use of Farmyard to Residential; Conversion and Alteration of Farm Buildings to Form 2 Dwellings; Demolition and Partial Demolition of Modern Farm Buildings; and Associated External Infrastructure Works:**

Councillors discussed the application and unanimously **agreed** that, subject to appropriate management of any increased flooding or traffic, they had no objections to the proposal.

ii. **24/01463/CPRIOR | Application to determine if Prior approval required for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to 4 Dwellinghouses and for Associated Building Operations:** Councillors considered the exceptions to Class Q permitted development permissions and **agreed** that, in this instance, the technical issues were better determined by NSDC.

b.**To note planning decisions by NSDC: 24/01228/AGR - Proposed agricultural barn - Ide Farm, Moorhouse Road, Laxton, Newark On Trent, NG22 0TB –** Noted that prior approval was required and had been granted.

c.**Great North Road Solar Park – Update and consider contribution to planning consultant report to be commissioned by the local Joint Parish Council Action Group (JPAG):** Councillors discussed developments and JPAG's request at length. Discussion focused on the following in particular:

i. Compliance issues in relation to precept expenditure

ii. Councillors' obligation to avoid pre-judgment

iii. The two aspects of the JPAG request for a contribution, which were whether this should be agreed in principle and the proposed apportionment of the consultant's fees between the parish councils

iv. The disproportionate effect on a part of the parish, Moorhouse, in circumstances where another part, Laxton, has special protections
Conscious of their obligation not to pre-judge the issue, councillors broadly favoured obtaining a consultant's report if affordable.

However, in relation to JPAG's current proposal they were

concerned at the lack of information, detail and clarity, of assurance that the proposed £12,000 expenditure would not increase depending on developments, of provision for contributing councils to have input into the instructions, apparent absence of any quality assurance process in relation to the consultants invited to quote or provision for contributing councils to veto proposed retainer instructions or content and the unexplained deadline of the end of October 2024.

The clerk will contact JPAG seeking clarification and assurances in relation to the concerns raised.

The clerk will prepare a forward budget to enable councillors to consider the financial feasibility of a contribution to JPAG. Councillors will arrange a special meeting to discuss the JPAG proposal once they receive the information, clarification and assurances from JPAG. Standing orders were suspended to allow members of the public to speak under this item. Councillors noted representations that the proposed farm will cover 11 square miles and be the biggest in the country.

d.Compliance: No matters raised.

11.Defibrillator:

a.Inspection report: Mr J Hill reported that there were no issues.

b.Replacement defibrillator and funding: Councillors considered the offer of DHSC match funding and unanimously **agreed** that the offer should be accepted.

c.Provision of first aid kit: Councillors noted the availability of free community first aid training. They **decided** to consider the matter in more detail at the November 2024 meeting.

12.Parish benches – Inspection report: Mr Sheard reported that:

a. The benches had all been painted

b. He had undertaken some repairs but some additional repairs were required

c. The condition of the pinfold bench is deteriorating and it would be prudent to begin to plan financially for its replacement.

Mr Sheard and Mr Rose will liaise with regard to completing the outstanding repairs. Councillors **approved** expenditure on the necessary repair materials up to £50 excluding VAT.

Mr Sheard will also circulate his report.

Councillors thanked Mr Sheard for the work he had undertaken.

13. Flood resilience working party – Report and any associated decisions: Mr Sheard will follow up with colleague of Mr Marshall who is the principal officer at NCC flood risk management. The working party will then meet. He will also chase the Internal Drainage Board and record riparian ownership. Councillors will share their thoughts in relation to the NSDC flood resilience grant scheme of which the clerk had just been notified.

14. Christmas event 2024 – Parish council Christmas event group –

Consider and approve proposed plans for the event including risk assessment approval and expenditure: The Christmas event group had met. They reported that the Thoresby Estate will provide a tree and a supplier has been located who will provide further trees at cost.

Councillors discussed the funding for the event given other demands on reserves at this time. Having considered potential expenditure and amounts, councillors unanimously **authorised** the group to incur expenditure on the event up to a maximum of £200 excluding VAT.

15. Parish environment and appearance, including:

- a. Mowing of verges:** Mr Sheard reported that the church had not agreed to the use of its mower.
- b. Parish roads and pavements:** The clerk will report the condition of the footpath from the churchyard beside Twitchell Farm once she receives photos to share with NCC.
- c. Community tidy up:** Mr Sheard reported that the tidy up of the church and churchyard had taken place on 22 September 2024 in poor weather. The gate and railings at the church gate would be painted.
- d. WWI and WWII remembrance memorial on the Green:** Councillors considered the costings circulated by the clerk and expressed concern at the current extent of the demands on the council reserves.
- e. Parish environment enhancement in recognition of previous serving parish council members:** The chair will circulate a photo of the proposed location for the proposed bench. The clerk will then contact NCC with details of the location and bench design to establish whether any permission is required.

16. Financial matters:

- a. Financial position as at 31 August 2024:** Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 August 2024 (incorporating the 2024-25 budget figures) which the chair cross referred to the bank statements.
- b. Accounts for payment:** Councillors unanimously **approved** eight payments totalling £646.49. The clerk updated councillors with regard to the continuing issues with the bank concerning signatories and will continue to liaise with the bank.

17. **Service faults:** Lamp 22 is still not working.

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

19. **5 minutes public speaking time:** Omitted from the agenda in error.

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

21. **Date of next meeting:** 7.30 pm Tuesday 26 November 2024 at the

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Check if you can get a Winter Fuel Payment

If you've reached State Pension age and get certain benefits, you might be eligible for a Winter Fuel Payment. This is an annual one-off payment to help you pay for heating during the winter.

You'll get the payment if you or your partner get one of these benefits:

- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income Support
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit

You'll get £200 if you're aged under 80 or £300 if you're over 80 years old.

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If you were not eligible for the scheme last year but believe you may now be you can give us a call on the number below and we will be happy to check your eligibility.


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- ◆ **Egmanton WI** - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ◆ **Coffee Morning: December 14th Christmas event** 10 - 12 then on the second Saturday of the month. Next will be **February 8th**.
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Thanks to Heidi Key for sharing the photo of Laxton Church, top left and to Dave Sheard for the other photos on this page. If you have taken a good photo, why not share it with our readers?

