

Open Field

50p

January 2019



The Laxton Court Leet in Session, 6th December 2018

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



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13th & 20th January
27th January & 3rd January

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Open Field

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

CONTRIBUTIONS for the next edition TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY 16th JANUARY PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED.

Cover: The Court Leet in Session
Photograph by Dik Allison



Letter From Revd. Zoe

Dear friends

Happy New Year!!

I wonder, have any of you made any New Year's resolutions this year? Can you remember what you made last year? Did you keep your resolution?!

Over the years as I have chatted with people, I have discovered that their New Year's resolutions often revolve around us becoming 'better' people. They usually include these sort of things: getting into shape, becoming more active, eating healthier, reducing stress, being happier with ourselves and our lives, getting more quality sleep, having more time with our nearest and dearest, improving our concentration and mental skills, stop procrastinating (!), giving more to charity, doing more voluntary work, taking up new hobbies, travelling more.....the list goes on. Does any of this resonate with your resolutions?

Last year, my resolution was as follows: to become healthier – my healthier lifestyle would include more exercise and working hard at my wellbeing. I set some targets and goals which I hoped would be achievable: to aim for 10,000 steps a day or 70,000 steps a week, to drink at least 3 glasses of water per day, to eat healthier and more regular small portions; to strive for a good work/life balance. On the whole I felt that I achieved in 2018 most of what I set out to do – the hardest had been a good work/life balance which I found and continue to find challenging but on the whole, I achieved my steps and built this up to include some 'running' steps, I lost 2 and ½ stone in weight, drank loads of water, eat healthier and felt better for it.

My resolution this year is to keep going with this quest for maintaining my wellbeing and resilience. I think part of the process of keeping to our resolutions is setting small achievable goals and targets which builds us up and encourage us to keeping going.

The Bible has much to say about wellbeing and resilience. A word found frequently on Jesus' lip was the Hebrew word Shalom which in the Old Testament embraces the idea of well-being in its widest sense of the word: health expressed in terms of quality and fullness of life as well as wholeness (body, mind and spirit). How do you feel you are in terms of your wellbeing: body, mind and spirit?

Wellbeing understood in terms of shalom also includes contentedness, good relations between nations and right relationships with each other – this sense of wellbeing is far beyond the personal and has political and public dimensions. It extends to each person's need of health and to the need for a healthy community and a healthy environment.

Shalom is a gift of God and is experienced when God's will is being done and we are in harmony and at one with the purposes of the Creator. Health in this sense of the word stretches and finds its completeness beyond this world.

As a family of 12 churches, we will be exploring wellbeing and what it means to be 'Healthy People, Healthy Church, Healthy Communities'. Part of our exploration will involve using a resource called 'Holy Habits' which will encourage us to grow deeper in 10 Holy Habits: Eating together, Prayer, Fellowship, Gladness & Generosity, Breaking bread, Sharing resources, Serving, Biblical teaching, Worship & Making more disciples. I look forward to journeying with you over this coming year on our ongoing journey towards wholeness and wellbeing.

blessings

Rev Zoe

2019 Open Field Subs

Your subscription for your 2019 magazines is now due. The price remains at £4. Please have it ready in an envelope with your name on to either hand to your distributor or to drop through their door some time soon. A very happy New Year to you all.



Telephone Problems

I have not had a call from anyone in the village following last month's request to let me know if anyone is having continuing problems. Hopefully this means

the problems have been sorted.

Michael Manning

Thank You Ken

Since coming to live in Laxton 18 years ago we know its officially Christmas when we see Ken Shepherd's snowman appear above his door. It always makes me smile. Thank you Ken and a Happy Christmas to you.

Amanda



Village Hall Update

The Architect has come back to us with some new costings, which now fit into our budget. The Committee was due to meet at the beginning of December to discuss these costings and a report of this meeting will be in next month's magazine



The only sad note is that Jeanette has found she is unable to continue as a Committee member. She did an amazing job in securing the funding for the Hall. We should not forget or under estimate the work which Jeanette put into that huge piece of work and on behalf of the whole Committee and the people of Laxton we send many thanks to her.

Moving forward, now we have the costs reduced to what we can afford we should be able to progress the original idea of refurbishing our beautiful and historic Village Hall and make it into an excellent Community Asset and something we can be truly proud of.

I think that the Committee we have, working together will succeed.

Michael Manning

Advent Sunday Service



The service this year was led by the Revd. Anna Alls. Advent wreaths were presented by Kirton, Wellow, Kneesall, Egmonton, Laxton & Moorhouse. The first candle on every wreath was lit by the children. Jack, Ella, Eva and Eliza did the readings and Joanne (Wellow), Jonathan (Kirton), Mike (Laxton) and Simon

(Moorhouse) gave the Bible readings.

Thank you to everyone who took part. It was nice to see people from the other churches joining us to make it a lovely service. Thanks once again to Janet for providing the refreshments.



Laxton Jury Day



Maybe it was the interest generated by the Estate being put up for sale, but Jury Day has never been like this. Normally there is at most the trailer taking the men of the Jury round the fields and one vehicle, possibly carrying one or

two interested parties. This year there was a veritable convoy.

Everyone gathered at The Dovecote for a hot coffee before setting off. It was a relatively mild morning in Laxton on 29th November, but there seemed to be a microclimate on Mill Field where the wind was blowing strongly - "straight from the Urals" as one regular attender described it - and the temperature felt several degrees colder. The sky was heavily overcast and threatened to turn to rain, while the ground was already wet and sticky from the rain of recent days.

Two members of the Jury were dropped off at the first junction with Holmeside Syke and having knocked in their first stake on the corner, they proceeded round that end of Mill Field.

The trailer went a little further and most people got out to study the landscape, to begin marking more strip ends or to learn about what was going on. One young visitor, who described himself as an artist, was recording the event with his camera to study later.



Robert Haigh took 90 stakes to the field in the now familiar blue buckets, which make carrying them away from the vehicle much easier. They were soon diminishing, although it was surprising to find at least one of the stakes from three years ago when the field was last inspected.



Field Foreman Roy Hennell was making notes of misdemeanours to be discussed formally back at The Dovecote after lunch and some of these discoveries were debated as the work continued.



Those who had to walk to check all the boundaries did so, accompanied by some of the visitors who were probably unaware of just how far it was to the final area visited - Kneesall Syke, also known as Skitterpool. Here the threatened rain came in a nasty, windy squall which was none too pleasant as the various groups gathered for the final tasks and as can be seen from the rain drops on the lens in this image .

The various vehicles then collected the walkers and headed back to the pub for a well earned lunch. The 'Presentment Paper' to be taken to the Court Leet the following week would be based on the discussion to come.

Court Day

The Telegraph reporter whose story implied that you could spot tumbleweed blowing through Laxton past the silent Dovecote Inn could not have been more wrong on 6th December. By 10.30am the car park was full and the rooms buzzed with conversation. Most of those who had attended Jury Day had returned to play their part or to observe at Court Day.

It was good to see Liz Moore and Rebecca Creighton, two of the younger residents of the village, take their places. They were joined by Kylie Roberts from the Crown Estate land agents, Carter Jonas, others from the immediate community and a number of outside observers.

The Court was opened by Robert Haigh in his capacity as Bailiff. His traditional words are used every year, though he did remark that they needed to be modified in the light of a development to come.



The Steward of the court, Alistair Millar of Tallents Solicitors, Southwell, took over the proceedings, calling the Manor Suit Roll. This lists those summoned to attend the court and eligible to be called to serve on the Jury. In recent times this list has become shorter making the pool from which Robert could call jurors a matter of concern. Following a discussion about eligibility to be on the list last year, it was accepted that the rule 'anyone who puts smoke up a chimney in

Plough Sunday Service

13th January 2019

Laxton Church, 10.30am

With Rev Zoe Burton and Reader Heather Brown

Come and join us for one of our traditional rural services during which the plough and the churn will be brought into church and blessed.



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Laxton', long used to determine who can bid for the right to make hay from the sykes, could equally well be applied here. This has resulted in a number of extra people becoming eligible and Robert had made use of the greater opportunities to call different people to serve on the Jury for 2019's inspection of South Field.



Those who fail to answer to their name when the Suit Roll is called are charged ad essoign of 2p. At one time the Bailiff would have visited the absentees to collect their payment, but nowadays Robert brings a bag of 2ps to throw onto the table in payment.

The next task was the swearing in of the new Jury, and this was also a



notable occasion. With South Field coming in the rotation to be the wheat field, Ivan Rayner took the Foreman's oath for the first time, having succeeded his late father in law, Bill Haigh in this capacity.

The jurors were then sworn in in groups of three, each person kissing the freshly covered 1896 bible in their turn to accept their responsibilities. When this had concluded Prof. John Beckett, the well known historian, recognised expert on Laxton and Hon. President of Laxton History Group, drew attention to the fact that the swearing in of Liz Moore was the first time a woman had been called upon to serve on a Laxton Jury since the 17th century. Liz was given a round of applause, and it was her appointment which will require a wording change in the traditional wording to include women.

The presentment paper, prepared following the Jury's deliberations the previous week, was read out. There were a number of misdemeanours but none of the suggested fines was challenged and all stood.

The court then continued to discuss a number of issues arising from matters put in hand last year and newly come to hand before Robert stood to bring the proceedings to a close.

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Things to Do this Month

- Jan 9th** WI 7.30pm, **VH**
- Jan 10th** Coffee Morning
- Jan 15th** Film at Maplebeck, 7.30pm
- Jan 16th** History Group 7.30pm, **VH**
- Jan 22nd** Go to the public time at the Parish Council, **VC**
- Jan 30th** Rotary Meal and Speaker, **South Forest Leisure Centre** 7 for 7.15pm.

VH = Village Hall VC = Visitor Centre

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

The Estate Sale progresses and Expressions of Interest we assume are continuing to be submitted. We hear that the deadline for receipt of these is just before Christmas.

Interest that we know about has been shown by Nottingham Trent University (Brackenhurst) in partnership with Notts County Council and also by Thoresby Estate. NTU/NCC have met with The Crown tenants and Thoresby has been invited to take the opportunity to do the same.

Representatives of two parties assumed to be interested in bidding were present at both the Jury and Court days recently.

More news in next months magazine.

Michael Manning

Trip to Waddesdon Manor

The numbers for this trip were rather reduced due to the change of date and last minute illness, but the excitement for those who made it began even before they had left. Sitting in the coach, someone spotted a heron land on the ridge of Sally & Kevin's roof and sit there looking around for quite a while.

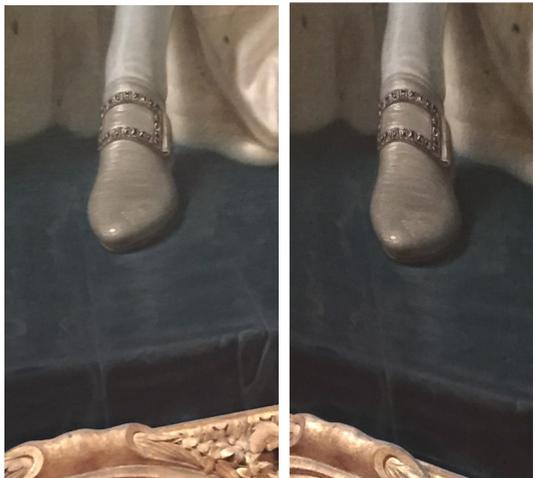


Jokes flew about it eyeing up Jean's recently cleaned pond, when the bird did exactly that and headed off for a fishy snack. Roy Haynes leapt off the bus and went to chase it away, but it had found a free meal and next day was spotted back there again.

We had an excellent run down to near Aylesbury despite a murky morning and we were the first coach into what turned out to be an event car park. The Christmas Fair clearly draws the crowds - 14,000 the day before someone was told - and we did well to be early. A shuttle bus delivered us to the gardens where we were greeted by two rows of wooden cabins all offering gift and food items to tempt.

We had, of course, arrived just in nice time for coffee before we were booked into the house. This was well managed and not at all over crowded. The decorations were beautiful with a number of magnificent large Christmas trees in different rooms and other attractive displays.

The dining room, which was on a more human scale than Welbeck and boasted a table where all diners could have spoke together, was decorated with silverware and intricate paper sculptures. Looking down on all this was a



painting of a gentleman. Not only did his eyes follow you around, but so did his left foot, which seemed to point toward you regardless of where you stood.

Next door was another room with a small table set out with crockery and above which was a striking modern chandelier made of broken white crockery and cutlery. This 2003 addition to the house was most effective. A staircase from there to the lower level was decorated with a Cinderella theme.

The tour took around 40 minutes at a leisurely pace and we then had the remainder of the day to enjoy the grounds and the various other buildings with their seasonal offerings. There was also an interesting aviary where endangered birds are bred. It was the most magnificent aviary any of us had ever seen.

As we left for home the crowds were flooding in for the lights which decorated the house and grounds once dark fell. Thanks to Jean for bearing with all the difficulties this trip presented her with and arranging yet another excellent day out.



Final Wednesday Speaker Evenings with Meal



The Rotary Club of Sherwood Forest, which meets in Edwinstowe, has an interesting and diverse selection of speakers. As we go to print the speaker for January is being finalised. If you are interested in attending this month, please give Jeff Naylor a call on 870601.

The cost is £11 for the two course meal and speaker.

If not this month, then some time soon in 2019 we hope to see you at South Forest Leisure Centre, Robin Hood Crossroads, Edwinstowe, NG21 9JF.

Jeff Naylor



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Village Hall Quiz Night

The Quiz Night held at Egmonton Village Hall on 7th December went ahead as planned with a slightly reduced number of attendees but it was still a fun evening again. Roberta's team "the Dirty Dozen" won a close battle; having led in the first half their lead was reduced but they still managed to win a fine race.



The catering team worked wonders again in the "strange to them kitchen" and a magnificent 24 prizes were provided by the Committee and supporters to round off the evening.

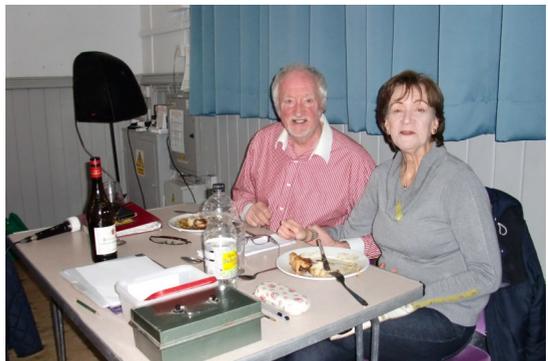
Very big thanks again to ALL who attended and continue to support the Hall, to all the Committee who worked

particularly hard (Pat, Rachel/Neil and Janet in the kitchen especially) Also thanks to the Committee and supporters for donating raffle prizes and the wonderful sweets.

The mushy peas were again produced "in house" on the Egmonton smart cooker rather than our "dodgy" one and again we haven't heard of any upset stomachs since so we must have done them properly!!!

Big big thanks to Cath for producing a fine set of 50 testing questions; there was only one question out of the 50 that nobody got!!

£514.84 was made for Village Hall funds.



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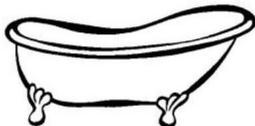
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Rotary 'Bras for Africa' Collection

As mentioned last month, the Rotary Club of Sherwood Forest are collecting underwear for women in Africa. They would like new or lightly used bras and new pants in adult sizes. Women who do not have a husband, father or brother, or whose family do not have enough money, to purchase necessary underwear often experience unwanted attention which can result in being socially excluded from a community resulting in restricted opportunities for work and education for their children.



Currently over 800,000 items have been supplied to four countries in Africa.



If you have anything to donate to this collection, please drop off at School House, Laxton, next to the Village Hall on High Street. This will be an on-going collection so please bear it in mind at any time.

Coffee Morning

10th January 10.30am - 11.30am

The next coffee morning will take place on Thursday 10th January at Janet Cooke's house at the top of Timothy Road.

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



Plenty of tea, cakes, and chatter.

Laxton History Group



Our November meeting, our 106th, brought 2018 to an end for the Group and also celebrated our 10th birthday.

We heard about the issues surrounding the sale of the Laxton estate and the importance of keeping copies of everything we find published for our own archives. We are also directing copies to the University archives where possible. It was an opportunity for members who are not tenants to see the published brochure.

Three members had attended a meeting of stakeholders at Brackenhurst recently and will soon attend the follow up. Members agreed that it was appropriate to attend such meetings in a neutral capacity, not voting or favouring any specific bidder.

There is soon to be a meeting for tenants to meet with Prof. Edward Peck from Nottingham Trent University and Cty Cllr Kay Cutts to discuss ideas for a joint NTU / NCC proposal. Thoresby is also believed to be preparing a bid.

Interest in the sale has also given rise to direct communication with Michael Wood, who has expressed himself pleased with the work we have undertaken in his name with local schools.

Roger updated us with details of the forthcoming round of the Michael Wood Award in 2019. This time we are due to work again with Kneesall school. Their Head Teacher, Sue Coupe is now also in charge of St Mary's Edwinstowe. We will work with Kneesall as before but will invite Edwinstowe to be involved when appropriate with a view to potentially working separately with them in future.

Dates are set for the 2019 event. The children will visit Laxton in 12th February, followed by a presentation by the children to parents and members on 5th April and our presentation of gifts and certificates on 7th June. Members are encouraged to note the dates and come along to meet the children and appreciate their work.

We enjoyed a report from Jean on the successful visit to Waddesdon Manor and learned that the 2019 programme is now prepared.

We then welcomed our speaker, Dick Lewis from Retford, who had offered to help out at short notice. Unfortunately a diary mix up had brought our planned speaker to the WI meeting the previous week and he could not come when we expected him. We were very grateful to Dick for filling in with his talk entitled 'The Writing on the Wall'.

The writing turned out to be in the form of a painting and the story began in the time of Pope Clement III who called the 4th Lateran Council in 1215. Top of his agenda was the ignorance of the clergy, their inability to preach effectively resulting in empty churches and the popularity of heretics with their exciting tales. Clement decided that recording the dreams people had of the afterlife offered an opportunity to preach in an attention-grabbing way.

Just one year later both the Dominican and Franciscan orders were developing huge collections of dream stories. Shortly after this William of Auvergne, a theologian in Paris, decided that the collections of stories should be read and used in preaching as warnings to the people.

The tiny church of St Peter & St Paul in Chaldon, near Caterham, Surrey, was very important in the 12th century. It stands on what was the route to Canterbury for pilgrims from the south. The pilgrims were fed and accommodated in the church, the only stone building around. It is here that the huge 17' x 11' painting is to be found. It was discovered painted over with lime wash and is believed to be unique in the UK.

In the flickering light of the candles, this was a powerful piece, which must have hit home to the pilgrims, especially reinforced by the preachers of the day while they rested there. The painting is presented in quadrants around a cross comprising a ladder between heaven and below divided by a layer representing clouds. Dick offered the amusing insight that angels only acquired wings when artists began to depict them because the ladder widely used to depict travel to heaven would have made them unnecessary!

Dick interpreted the images and their subtleties, all derived from the stories of the time. These included the harrowing of Hell, the Bridge of Testing which represented the widely held belief that a boundary is crossed after death, and the Infernal Cauldron which represents the concept of Purgatory. Others showed the Torments of Hell, the Weighing of Souls.

Closer to home we can see the murals of Phoebe Anna Traquair on the walls of St Peter's Church, Clayworth. These are magnificent works which have been restored, although the damp is again degrading them in parts. The elements of these works follow a very similar theme to those at Chaldon, providing a pictorial version of religious stories.

Our next meeting is on **16th** January 2019 at 7.30pm at Egmonton when we will welcome Prof. Richard Jones to speak about Manuring the Land in the Early 20th Century. We are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

30th December New Year's Eve
10.30am Family of Churches **HC**, Holy Trinity Kirton

6th January Epiphany
9am Kirton **HC**
4pm Wellow **Es**

13th January Epiphany 2
10.30am Laxton Plough Sunday.
4pm Egmanton **Es**

20th January Epiphany 3
9am Egmanton **HC**
10.30am Wellow **HC**

27th January Epiphany 4
9am Laxton **HC**
10.30am Kirton **HC**

Tuesday 8th January – 'Open Vestry Hour' for christening and wedding enquiries
6.30pm – 7.30pm at St Paulinus Church Office, Church Circle, New Ollerton.

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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2019

Jan 9th WI @ Egmonton VH

Jan 10th Coffee Morning

Jan 16th History Group @ Egmonton VH

Jan 22nd Parish Council

Jan 28th MU - meal out



Forward Planning

Alternate months, 4th Tuesday Parish Council

Sat / Sun May 11th & 12th Newark Show

Sat 28th Sept Southwell Ploughing Match

Copy Date for February: 16th January.

Please ensure we receive your contributions for the magazine by this date. We cannot guarantee to publish anything received later. We appreciate receiving items as early as possible. Thank you.

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The December meeting is always a combination of the AGM and a look forward to the activities planned for us by the county committee for the first few months of the year and members signed up enthusiastically for another bingo evening, where we have an enviable record of success.

The Spring Council Meeting will enjoy a chance to see Jonathan Mosley, a top flower arranger demonstrate in April at Nottingham. Unbelievably, the Canada Cup will be awarded for a humorous poem on the subject of GDPR.

It seems incredible that the Newark Show, May 11th and 12th, is already on the agenda, but we learned that the individual class is for lemon drizzle cake, which seems set for a record entry. The theme for the group entry is 'The Adventures of Alice'. Thinking caps will need to be put on! , This will again to be judged by the public.

In June comes the National AGM when Sally will be representing us and three other WIs in Bournemouth. We were reminded to vote for our preferred subject for the resolution being put forward for discussion there, but the general feeling was that none of them inspired us.

Everyone enjoyed the Group Carol Concert. Brenda told us that we will host it next year and we will need to think of a theme for the readings.

We heard we had fared well at the Village Hall Quiz, coming 3rd then we received our envelopes for our £42 membership due in January 2019. Almost half of this will be kept by our WI. Following all the news we listened to Brenda's annual report and Sally told us that our finances are in good order. We voted for our President from a list of our new committee. While we checked our phones to see if Theresa May had won her vote of confidence, Brenda Noble won her own, being re-elected President for a further year.

Once the business of the meeting was concluded, we shared a light supper of soup and rolls, followed by a wonderful selection of desserts made by committee members.

At our first meeting of the New Year on January 9th we will be entertained by Chris Abbott talking about 17 years living afloat. **The competition will be for 'something nautical'.**

Everyone is welcome, so if you have been thinking about coming along, we shall be very pleased to see you.

Tuxford Young Farmers



November has been just as busy as ever for the club and we started the month with the County Roadshow Meeting. This brings clubs together and we discuss what is happening within the clubs and what individuals can get out of Young Farmers Clubs.

On the 21st we had a visit from Jeff and Richard of a Martial Arts club and they gave us an interesting talk and demonstration of Karate. There were a few brave souls who took part in the demos.

Our next meeting took us to Freshgrow at Bilsthorpe for a talk from Friends of Ferguson. The chairman of the club told us about the history of the little grey tractor and its uses on the farms from war time up to the present day.

We joined Worksop Y F on Monday 5th December for an interclub evening at Laser Labyrinth Worksop. I was unable to attend this battle so as yet do not know who won. (watch this space).

We would like to wish all Open Fields readers and all our supporters A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Emily.

Two Christmas Morning International Football Matches

1 England v Italy

Towards the end of World War 2, Italian prisoners of war were brought to Tuxford Camp. The more trusty ones were later brought out to farms in the surrounding villages to help with harvest and other work; at first under guard but later on they were given bikes and came under their own steam. They even appeared in the evenings and at weekends.

Jo, a farmer's son in Italy, even lived with us for some time, doing the early morning milking. We all liked him and were disappointed when he had to leave because he refused to sign some sort of official document.

It was our custom in Moorhouse, after milking and other chores were

finished, for work to be relaxed for a few hours on Christmas morning and the village youngsters would gather to play football in Pullet Field.

This year it was to be an international. There were seven of us, two girls and five boys against seven Italians who had duly arrived on their bikes from Tuxford. Coats for goalposts, no real rules, no refs, the game went on until it was time for them to go back to camp for their Christmas dinner and we to ours. I don't really remember who won but I expect they did.



2 England v Germany

Eventually the Italians were repatriated and were replaced by German prisoners of war. The war being over, some of them were allowed out under light guard to help on the farms. It was usually the same ones and we got to know some of them quite well.

So come Christmas morning a football match was arranged. We were now eight including a soldier home on leave and the German side was augmented by the addition of the guard who had accompanied them on the truck.

Play went on and the Germans were winning 2 – 0. I was in defence. One of their side, Walter, on trying a hard shot at goal, lifted the ball, striking me full on the forehead. I was pole-axed, falling flat on my back, staring up at the sky. Then I looked back at Walter. He was coming towards me, concern in his eyes and then relief, as I sat up. I remember wondering 'Why have we been fighting all these years.' I suffered no hurt not even a headache.

Half time was called and we adjourned for mince pies. Then the game continued and we were allowed, I think, to score two goals, so the match ended all square. Honours even!

Then each to our Christmas dinners.

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The Dukeries Singers

Welcome to January and a New Year.

As I write, nasty grey clouds are scudding across a windy landscape, tempting one to put feet up and have a hot chocolate to hand!

No Chance!



We are in the midst of our busy Christmas engagements, having carolled at Edwinstowe and Tuxford so far to accompany the grand switch on of the festive lights. When we return to choir practise after the holiday period, the Christmas music will be packed away and a new programme of music will be rehearsed ready for our concerts throughout the year.

We are a mixed voice choir and sing in three or four parts. We would like more men to join us. Their voices in the lower vocal parts add so much depth and richness to our sound. If you have enjoyed singing before in a choir and would like to do so again, give us a try and see if it is for you.

Information about the choir can be found at:

thedukeriessingers.com

We are also on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

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

If you wish to book the Choir for your celebration, anniversary, fundraising or charity event, please contact our secretary Pauline on 07951609217 She would be delighted to hear from you.

Singing together is good for "mindfulness" It should really be on prescription!!

A very Happy and Harmonious year to all from The Dukeries Singers.

Jan

Recent Bonus Ball Winners

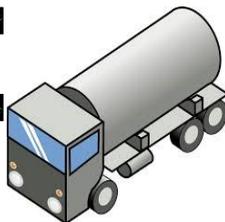
Date	No	Name
17/11/18	32	Kevin and Sally
24/11/18	10	Stuart Rose
1/12/18	57	ROLLOVER
8/12/18	17	Ivan and Chris

If you would like to join, you can choose from the numbers 1, 2, 11, 26, 28, 42, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57, 59. You may take more than one number. Please contact Ken Shep on 870605 / Mike Manning 870844. Thank you.

Michael Manning

Group Oil Order

The New Year Order will be placed in early February depending on demand. If people make it known when they are getting low, we can decide when best to do it. Of course we will keep an eye on the prices and hope to achieve a good price for the group.



If you know now that you want to order, please email or phone in what you need. Those on the list will receive a reminder.

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

If you want to order oil next time, which will be around the end of January, please send a note of the volume you need to oil@openfield.org.uk any time from early January. If you ordered last time please ensure you have notified any changes to your contact details e.g. phone or email. NB Once the order is placed no new names can be added.



BEDROOM FARCE

A comedy by Alan Ayckbourn

Trevor and Susannah, whose marriage is on the rocks, inflict their miseries on their nearest and dearest: three couples whose own relationships are tenuous at best. Taking place sequentially in the three beleaguered couples' bedrooms during one endless Saturday night of co-dependence and dysfunction, beds, tempers, and domestic order are ruffled, leading all the players to a hilariously touching epiphany.

This amateur production of "Bedroom Farce" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

**22nd to 26th January 2019 @ 7.30 p.m.
plus a Saturday Matinee at 2.30 p.m.**

The Robin Hood Theatre
Church Lane, Averham, Newark on Trent, NG23 5RB

Tickets £12.00 - Members £10.00
**Tickets available on line at: www.robinhoodtheatre.co.uk or
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If you are one of those people who have never bothered switching your energy supplier or tariff and would like to know if it is worth the effort, we would be happy to help you find out.

Maybe you have found yourself turning up the heating lately and you are dreading a big bill, or your energy supplier has increased your direct debit payments – Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark could help you get a better deal.

In the three years we have been offering energy appointments, we have helped people to:

- switch to better deals and save money (in some cases hundreds of pounds a year)
- set up affordable arrangements for arrears, or have them written off if they have been unfairly applied .
- sort out problems with energy suppliers and, where unresolved, take their case to the ombudsman
- gain a better understanding of smart meters

We have seen some alarming cases of people being made worse off by switching suppliers based on information given by doorstep or telephone sales people.

It is important to remember that if you are offered a smart meter by someone who is not your existing energy supplier, they will be switching your account over to them and that may not be the best decision for you. We can help you to assert your consumer rights.

Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark is a local advice charity and part of the national Citizens Advice network. Our service is independent, impartial, confidential and free – and we won't push you to do anything you don't want to do.

To arrange an energy appointment, give us a call on 01623 861769 or ask your adviser for a referral if you are attending one of our drop in sessions. Energy appointments are held at our offices in Ollerton or Castle House, Newark. If you find it difficult to get in to see us when we are open, we may be able to find other ways to help. For more information regarding you Energy, contact Carol Jennings (caroljennings@sn-ca.org.uk) - Telephone **01623 861769**

Anyone requiring advice or support can get help online at www.citizensadvice.org.uk or from Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark Open Door Advice Sessions held at:

New Ollerton: 5 Forest Court, New Ollerton, NG22 9PL

Monday & Wednesday: 9:30am – 2:30pm

Newark: Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY

Events at Maplebeck Village Hall

www.maplebeckvillagehall.org

Film: The Florida Project (15)

Tuesday 15th January 2019, 7.30pm, £5 on the door.

This is a sublime blast of modern life. Precocious six-year old Moonee is spending her summer with a rag-tag group of friends outside the candy-floss coloured motel where she lives with her young mother, Halley. Whilst Moonee makes the most of her childhood, Halley strives to make ends meet.

Contact 01636 636421

Derek@sayer.f9.co.uk



Race Night & Supper

Saturday 2nd February 2019

This popular evening will kick off with a hot supper followed by a series of recorded horse races shown on the big screen. There will be a fun-filled atmosphere, a chance to place bets (and win!), with an interval for dessert and then more races.

7.30pm. £10 to include food - book in advance with Jenny 01636 636692 or online at www.maplebeckvillagehall.org

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Dick Whittington: a Panto for Charity

It's show time for East Markham Players, who are staging productions of 'Dick Whittington' in the Village Halls at East Markham and Dunham on Trent. The Players have added a few unique twists to the traditional story which, once again, is promising to be an excellent show. The panto is written by Cheryl Barret, Directed by Kev Micklethwaite and Angela Allen, with choreography by Angela Allen

In the last 9 years, more than £8,000 has been raised for local charities by the Markham Players. This year the proceeds are going to Cedar House Hospice, Retford and Macmillan Nurses. Cedar House was built in 1994, in a peaceful location at the rear of Retford Hospital. A number of East Markham Players cast have very personal reasons for supporting this special charity, who also provided unconditional love and support to family members to help them achieve the best quality of life in their final weeks.

Every penny counts for Cedar House who rely on charitable donations to keep this invaluable service running.

With slapstick comedy, upbeat popular singalong music hits and lots of local talent this fun-filled family show, tickets sell quickly. Will the show wipe away the post-Christmas blues? Oh yes it will!!

We are looking forward to putting on really great productions at both venues this year with matinees and evening show times available to suit everyone, so we can raise as much money as possible and at the same time put smiles on lots of faces.

East Markham Village Hall performances take place on Friday 25th January at 7.30pm, and Saturday 26th January 2019 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

A fully licensed bar, teas, coffees, ice creams and a raffle will be available at all performances.

Tickets cost just £7.00 for Adults, Children £5.00 (under 16) a Family ticket will cost £20 for 2 adults and 2 children and can be purchased from Sally Mitchell's Gallery in Tuxford, by calling 01777 871227 or emailing tickets@markhamplayers.co.uk from 4th December.

Tickets would make a perfect stocking filler, sold out quickly last year, so make sure you grab them before they sell out.

More information online:

www.markhamplayers.co.uk or
www.facebook.com/markhamplayers

Markham Players Present

Dick Whittington



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Monday 24th December 2018 (inc)

re-opening 9:30am

@ OLLERTON - Tuesday 2nd January 2019

@ NEWARK- Wednesday 3rd January 2019

We wish you all a

Very Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

Sherwood Forest Trust Needs your Help

We have circulated a survey to as many people as we could to ask for their views on how we can help locally, but just in case we have missed anyone, we are asking you, through your local magazine, to contact us for a copy if you can think of ways we might be able to advise, facilitate or support you or a group you work with to achieve local community goals. We will be writing all of this into a BIG Lottery 'Reaching Communities' bid and hope to achieve funding to help in all your communities over a 3 year period.

We're a small local charity with big ambitions to help preserve and promote Sherwood Forest's landscape, history, nature, and the people, villages and places that make it special. Under the title of 'Sherwood Forest' we speak up for the nature, heritage and communities of the whole area bounded by Nottingham, Worksop, Mansfield and Laxton.

We aren't a campaign or political group nor a branch of a larger national charity. We carry out practical projects just in and around our fabulous Forest. From tree planting with schools to funding fun family events like the Major Oak Woodland Festival, our mission is to conserve, help and celebrate Robin Hood's legendary home.

We're drawing up our charity's plans for the next five years and we want to "keep it real" by concentrating on projects that local people really support. To request a copy of the survey please contact linda.hardy@sherwoodforesttrust.org.uk or

write to: The Sherwood Forest Trust, 5-6 Church Farm, Mansfield Road, Edwinstowe, NG21 9NJ

Egmanton Village Hall

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk / 01777 871171

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

- ◆ **Yoga with Greg** – Tuesdays at 7:30pm
- ◆ **Laxton WI** - Weds 9th, 7.30pm,
- ◆ **Laxton History Group** - Weds 16th, 7.30pm
- ◆ **Egmanton WI** - Thurs 21st January
- ◆ **Children's Dance Classes** - Saturday mornings
(Jill, 07790 601877)
- ◆ **Computer Problems?** - Call 01777 871171.
If your computer is misbehaving or you need help setting up a new one, please call. Donations to Egmanton Village Hall in lieu of fee.

Maplebeck Village Hall Events

www.maplebeck.org.uk / 01636 636421

Regular Activities

Yoga	Tues 9.45am and Fri 9.30am
Clubbercise	Thurs, 8.30pm
Walkers	Weds, from approx.10.00am
Kurling (without the ice!)	2nd Weds monthly 7.30pm
Book Club	(22 nd Jan, 26 th Feb, 26 th Mar, 30 th Apr, 4 th Jun, 9 th Jul. 3 rd . Sep.) 7.30pm

Upcoming events and Films (all 7.30pm)

2019

Tues 15th Jan The Florida Project

Useful Contact Details

Defibrillator Contacts:

Neil Randall 01777 871229 & 07710 398745, evenings and weekends
Pat Naylor 01777 870601, evenings
Jeff Naylor 01777 870601, as required
Mark Hennell 07812 908316, evenings
Stuart Rose 07939 228353, as required
Linda & Max McNaught 01777 870127, as required
David & Linda, Dovecote Inn 01777 871586, as required
Jeanette Geldard 07956 959135, daytime in Kneesall,
evenings / weekends
Anne-Marie & Geoff Rose 07961 933290 / 07957 991002, as required

Police

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

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

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

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

Fire Safety Advice (Tuxford Fire Station)	01777 870381
MP Mr Robert Jenrick: robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk	01636 612 837
County Councillor: cllr.mike.pringle@nottscc.gov.uk	0115 977 5661

Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk

Funds Raised in 2018

At this time of year we highlight the total raised by Laxton people for local organisations or while helping other causes close to their own hearts. The generosity of this small community is extraordinary. The total below is just the sum published in *Open Field* between January and December last year.

This year we are delighted to report that the total was an amazing

£6,879

Particular thanks must go to Pat Naylor and her helpers who raised over £1,300 and, while only about 20% of this remains in the village, it is widely supported by local people and it all goes to a very good cause.

This sum is a great credit to a small community in what, by Laxton standards, was a quiet year with no big fund raising events. It does not include the Gymkhana, which did not report its takings and the church was not able to hold its normal autumn dance.

The Bonus Ball draw, which raises funds for the Sports & Recreation Field, made a further **£1,200** this year through the regular contributions of the people who buy the numbers, which brings the village total to

£8,079

This has been another great year, so thank you to everyone who helped!

THANK YOU

