

Open Field

£1

July 2021



Green Winged Orchids in Laxton, June 2021

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



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Flowers and Brasses Rota - suspended until further notice

Mr & Mrs S Clarke

Mrs M Beckitt & Mrs B Noble

Mrs S Rose & Mrs R Creighton

Coffee Morning Hosting Rota - will be published when they are resumed

**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 JULY 2021 PLEASE. EARLIER
PREFERRED. You can send at any time.**

A Message from our Churchwarden, Brenda



We had our last service in church on June 13th, which was taken by the Rev. Alistair, and we even had a hymn at the end. He said 'Let's go out and have a sing. We'll join the birds as we can't sing inside yet because of lockdown rules'.

Our next service is on 11th July, again with the Rev. Alistair. This will be Holy Communion.

Looking ahead, on Sunday 1st August it will be our Lammas Day service. We are short of priests in August as it is the holiday season, so our service will be taken by one of our Lay Readers. This means we will not be able to have Communion and the service will have to be adapted accordingly, but by then hopefully we might be able to have some hymns. At this stage we don't know if our usual breakfast will be able to be held afterwards.

A new vicar has been appointed for Ollerton, New Ollerton and Boughton. He is due to take up his post soon. This will mean our group of 7 churches will have no overall vicar in charge of us, so we expect our new Rural dean will probably oversee us.

At our recent AGM Jeff Naylor decided to retire from the PCC, as with their property on the market, they might be leaving the village. He was thanked in his absence for all his help in the past. Jeff has kindly said he will continue to help in any way he can while still living in the village.

Church - HELP! Can YOU Spare an Hour?



Our church is classed as a Grade I listed building and is under a conservation order, as is the churchyard. It has stood for hundreds of years and has seen many generations of village people worship there.

We are now coming to a very difficult time in the life of our church and the same is true of many churches around us.

The big question is 'How long can we keep going?' At the moment we have Janet C, Mavis B and myself along with Simon H from Moorhouse trying to keep things going.

The maintenance of the church building is a huge undertaking. For example at the moment we are in the process of having the lightning conductor repaired and having protection installed to both clocks and all eight pinnacles. We are also having the clock repaired.

There are also a lot of little jobs that want doing. We are asking anyone feels they spare a few hours to help. It really would be most appreciated.

We have two weddings this year and we would like to have the church and churchyard looking nice. We also think we probably might be able to open again to visitors.



*The church tower under repair
March 2015*

Please get in touch with me if you think you could help in any way.

Thank you

Brenda

01777 870541

Get Well Wishes



We were sorry to hear that Ian Randall had been admitted to hospital. At the time of writing he is home and recovering. We send best wishes for a full recovery. We hope everyone is keeping well and those previously mentioned who are recovering continue to do so.

If anyone is unwell at this time we send very best wishes for a speedy return to health.

Special Birthday Congratulations

A little birdie tells us that Steve N will be celebrating one of those special birthdays with a '0' this month. We send many congratulations and best wishes for a memorable day.

When you have been born in the village you can't keep things like that quiet!



Congratulations and Thanks



Janet and Sandra visited June B last month in her new home in Southwell. They took flowers, cards and good wishes for her 88th birthday.

June asked them to pass on thanks to everyone for their cards and good wishes. She has settled very happily there and keeps in touch with friends from the village.

Picture taken in Laxton Village Hall pre restoration and pre Covid

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| .Courgettes | .Apples | | |
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JULY CONGRATULATIONS

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

The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Stephen N, Margaret N, Poppy N, Doreen H, Amanda H, Jack P, Sarah H, Andrew G, Roy Ha.

We wish a happy anniversary to Lee & Paula D, Ian & Rebecca C, Mick & Cath M, Steve & Lynda M and Roy & Ann Ha and anyone else celebrating this month.

If you are celebrating a special date, we send best wishes.

We would love to give a mention to everyone for their special day, so please let Jean or Brenda have details with dates in good time.





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Coffee Mornings

The Coffee Mornings remain
suspended for the time being.
We will let you know when we
can start again. The rota on the
inside cover will remind
hostesses so that we can start
as soon it is right to do so.



Pat's Plant Stall



Despite the dreadful start to the season everything is now progressing well with flowers blooming and kitchen garden crops growing, spreading, climbing and in some cases flowering.

There are still geranium, some bedding, shrubs, cauliflower and a few planted pots.

Books, cushions and a few pre loved items are also available.

Thank you to all the lovely customers who have supported the stall.

Pat



Sally captured this image at the Old Vicarage. She seems to have cracked the mystery, not the window.



If you have an interesting or unusual photo, why not send it in to share with readers?

A Young Man's Fancy - innit?

Warning

This month's witterings contain subject matter and language of an explicit and adult nature. If you are of a delicate constitution, you may wish to avoid it, or cover the budgie's cage while you read.



It's not easy being frog and toad foster parents, you know. The whole thing is fraught with worry and tension. Last year's donated frog spawn developed and behaved beautifully once the dreaded Great Diving Beetle foe was vanquished – but it was touch and go.

This year we greeted every new visitor of the frog fraternity who called to view the accommodation, and pointed out the advantages of picking our pond as the place to breed to all the passing toad entities.

The pond was looking good, the plants established and very appealing. Surely this was the year we would raise our own home-grown tadpoles. We knew that last year's batch would be too young to breed, but word must have got about by now.



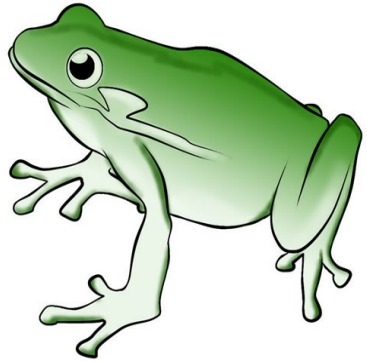
The months went by with various amphibian visitors. Some stayed a little while, others slipped away unobtrusively. Steve scooped up a small toad he found by the gate and delivered it personally, but the wretch gave the equivalent of a toad sniff and waddled off.

The newts, however, seemed to take a different view and by the Autumn months there were four regularly seen flitting gracefully though the fairy moss – we had hopes.

We toyed with the various means of incitement – perhaps music, low lights and the right ambience would tempt a breeding colony to form. Would they be film buffs and relish 'Spawn Free'? Classical aficionados yearning for recitals by Julian Lloyd Webfoot? Or rock freaks pining for 'A Little Help From My Friends' by Joe Croaker?

Lighting was a problem. Walter the pigeon has a habit of knocking things into the pond – it wasn't safe. With reluctance, we decided to let nature take its course and depend on the breeding cycle hormones which would bring it about.

Eventually a smallish frog began to become a regular feature – we had an inhabitant. In fact, it was his foot that was the feature. He lived crammed into a space behind the brick steps, which held all of him except one foot. This vibrated, gesticulated, kicked or merely waved about for whatever reason, and the question was frequently asked “How's the foot?” We called him Michael. The large toad who appeared from nowhere and sat lugubrious and motionless for several weeks was obviously in the wrong place at the wrong time.



The Winter was a cold and long-drawn out affair, and Spring seemed elusive. There were signs, however. The male newts began to sport fine wavy crests along their backs and an almost fluorescent band of colour on their sides. It was beautiful.

By this time there were four frogs, including the elusive Michael and a very smart chap with red marks on his back called ‘Red’ (no lack of imagination here). We were poised!

Then our friends Rosemary and Steve (the frog spawn donors) rang. Frogs and toads were going berserk at their place. They are the proud owners of a big pond with fish, a small pond without fish, and a huge stone trough, and the male toads and frogs had started singing about two days before. Every stretch of water they had was a heaving froth of sex-mad amphibians. The noise was deafening.

In our pond – nothing. Our four would-be Lotharios were lounging silently on the shelf at the end of the pond. We had four moochers, looking for all the world like bored adolescents hanging around a bus stop; you could almost see the back to front baseball caps. The weeks passed.

When a female frog joined the group our expectations rose, only to be dashed when one bold ‘Kevin’ climbed on her back and promptly fell asleep. Steve named the three observers ‘The Bachelors’. After a few

days of this frenzied indifference, the female muttered the frog equivalent of "For crying out loud!" and ambled off.

So none of our own frog spawn again this year. We swallowed our pride and rang Rosemary to ask if they had any to spare.



They are coming on quite well now, and most have tiny back legs and are feeding

well. Perhaps next year we will acquire frogs of a more, shall we say, 'enthusiastic' nature. Less of the Ron Glum and more of the Errol Flynn, would you say?

Lesley Booth

Public Meeting

Laxton Village Hall

Tuesday 13th July, 7.00pm

**Gregor Pierrepont from
The Trustees of
Thoresby
Settlement**

POSTPONED

**will present
The Trustees' view
for the future and
plans for preserving the
Open Field Farming System**

**Everyone welcome
Light refreshments will be served afterwards**

Parish Council Open Meeting Planned for 13th July 2021

Following the news on 14th June about the lifting of Covid restrictions being deferred for four weeks, the Parish Open Meeting arranged by the Parish Council for Gregor Pierrepont from The Trustees of Thoresby Settlement, Laxton's new Landlord to give a talk/presentation to the village, is unfortunately having to be deferred as well.

We will rearrange a new date, probably in early to middle August as soon as we have been able to fix a date with Gregor.

Best wishes

Michael Manning



Lynda Moore captured this view of contrails over Laxton and sent it with the caption 'Bet they aren't going to Portugal!' with apologies to anyone whose holiday plans have been upset by the restrictions.



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Allison in Egmanton will pass them
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Free to Good Home

We have heard from Brian and Jennifer, the new owners of Walnut Cottage in Toad Lane, that they are having work done there, which includes lifting about 50 x 18" pink paving slabs.

They would like them to go to someone who can use them rather than being scrapped. If you are interested it will be first come first served and you should assume you will need to collect yourself.

If you are interested, please contact Brian on **07971 460265** or Jennifer on **07772 847473**.

Brian and Jennifer have already asked to subscribe to 'Open Field', so we would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the village and we hope to meet them soon.

Mrs. E. Laughton of Laxton

The funeral took place on Tuesday of Mrs. Edith Laughton, widow of Mr. W. Laughton, of the Old Post Office, Laxton.

Mrs. Laughton, who was 81, was a native of Bingham. The funeral service at St. Michael's Church, Laxton, was conducted by the Rev. Richard Camenisch, and Miss Margaret Maddison was organist.

Family mourners were: Mrs. E. Dodd, Mr. and Mrs. A. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. E. Yates, sons-in-law and daughters; Mr. and Mrs. M. Taylor, Mrs. J. Cuckson, Margaret Dodd, Mr. and Mrs. D. Garton, Derek Laughton, grandchildren.

Friends present included Mrs. J. L. Randall, Mrs. O. Laughton, Mrs. J. Cooke and Mr. M. Bailey. Bearers were Mr. H. Hennell, Mr. R. Cree, Mr. J. Cooke and Mr. W. Rayner.

NA 15/7/67

From the Archives

The following clipping from the Newark Advertiser was sent in by Mike Manning, who had recently been given it.

To make it easier to read, it says:

Mrs E Laughton of Laxton

The funeral took place on Tuesday of Mrs Edith Laughton of The Old Post Office, Laxton.

Mrs Laughton, who was 81, was a native of Bingham. The funeral service at St. Michael's Church, Laxton was conducted by the Rev. Richard Camenisch, and Miss Margaret Maddison was organist.

Family mourners were: Mrs E Dodd. Mr & Mrs A Turner, Mr & Mrs R Yates, sons-in-law and daughters: Mr & Mrs M Taylor, Mrs J. Cuckson, Margaret Dodd, Mr & Mrs D Garton, Derek Laughton, grandchildren.

Friends present included Mrs J L Randall, Mrs O Laughton, Mrs J Cooke & Mr M Bailey. Bearers were Mr H Hennell, Mr R Cree, Mr J Cooke and Mr W Rayner



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Tuxford Young Farmers



Since our last report we have continued to do our Zoom meetings with fun quizzes and games until we were allowed to meet up in person on the 19th May when we had a club BBQ to celebrate us being able to get together again.

Since this we had to do a Zoom meeting on the 26th May as we hadn't got the right weather for rounders. We did a 'Guess the Member by the Baby Photo' event, which was a lot of fun to do.



The next meeting we had was on 2nd June and was a talk from our charity of the year 'Support Dogs'. Our speaker was a lady called Tess who came and gave us some interesting information. There are three programs which are part of their activities.

We learned about one for children with autism and how some have learnt to speak from having a support dog.

The second program was for people with epilepsy where one of the dogs can sense a person is going to have a seizure 48 minutes before it actually happens.

And finally the third program is for people with a disability where they train their own pet dog to do things such as take things out of the washing machine or take their socks off. These small things help people to be much more independent.

Next we had another Zoom meeting where we played a game of bingo. After this, on Sunday 13th we did a charity dog walk for 'Support Dogs'. We started at Hall Farm at Weston with bacon sandwiches before we set off on our walk. We had a few stops to allow the dogs to have a drink then looped back around to Hall Farm at the end to finish with a drink and some cake. We had a very good turn out of members and family of members and raised some money for the charity.

Emily H

CHURCH SERVICES FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

27th June Trinity 4

10.30am Kirton **WS** Janice

4th July Trinity 5

9.00am Kirton **HC** Alistair

4.00pm Wellow **EP** Janice

11th July Trinity 6

10.30am Laxton **HC** **Alistair**

18th July Trinity 7

9.00am Egmonton **HC** Alistair

10.30am Wellow **HC** Margaret

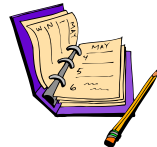
25th July Trinity 8

10.30am Kirton **WS** Janice

For any enquiries about baptisms, weddings etc, please contact
our churchwarden, Brenda, in the first instance (**870541**)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



2021

July

14th

WI - postponed due to current restrictions

27th

Parish Council

Forward Planning

Subject to the lifting of lockdown restrictions following the Government's roadmap and coming into effect on July 19th.

August

TBA

Public Meeting with Gregor Pierrepont,

This meeting is being rescheduled, date be announced

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 August: 12 noon, 16th July

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.

Stuart Rose

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Laxton WI



As I write this for 'Open Field' before it goes to press, we are half way through June and really still not any further forward towards being able to start our normal meetings yet. Let's hope things get back to normal soon.



If anyone would like a game of croquet at Southwell on Monday 9th August or Thursday 19th August, 6.30pm, please get in touch so that we can send for some tickets. Tickets, price £9.00, must be ordered by 13th July.

There is another outdoor activity for you: You can go to a picnic to meet other WI members on Sunday 25th July from 11.00am to 2.00pm. This will be held at Idle Valley Nature Reserve at

Retford. Members are invited to enjoy their picnics then have a walk round.

Kirton Coffee Morning

We are HOPING to have a Coffee Morning in July, COVID restrictions willing!!! Obviously, if we are unable to go ahead and the event has to be cancelled, we will post information in the village and on Kirton Community Page. You can also call **07772 649281** to check

Coffee Morning at 'Hopland Cottage', Kirton,
(Georgina's)

Saturday, July 24th, 10.30 am.

Entry £2.50 including Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks, cakes

Stalls with: Cakes - Bring and Buy - White Elephant -
Bric a Brac - Plants - Raffle.

Please join us - EVERYBODY WELCOME!

Proceeds to Holy Trinity Church, Kirton.



Progress at the 'Little School'

There is no missing the progress that has been made at the Little School in the last month.

In the style of the older Laxton properties, the width of the side facing the road reflects the old building, while the rest of the accommodation goes back further.

Milton Mausoleum, NG22 0PW

EVENTS FOR 2021

The seasonal opening of the Mausoleum continues and we are open every Sunday until 26th September 2021 from 2pm – 4pm. Government guidelines will be adhered to. This year's events are as follows:

Sun. 27th June, 2pm AGM Meeting in the Mausoleum

Everyone welcome. The Mausoleum will be open to visitors 2-4pm

Sun. 4th July - 2pm-5pm Put the Kettle On - an open afternoon with tea/coffee and cake – Raffle and guided tours. Please contact us to reserve your seat.

Sat. 4th Sept at 7pm Community Concert – an informal medley of music and song with wine and refreshments. Tickets £8

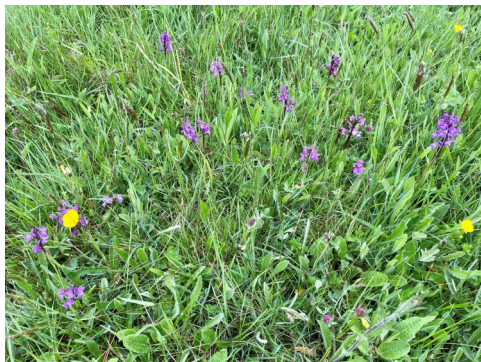
Sun. 26th Sept 2pm-4pm Last Sunday of the season

Sun. 31st Oct. 12 for 12.30pm, Two-course Sunday Lunch at West Retford Hotel. Retford. £18 Adult / £9 Child

Sat. 4th Dec. 2 -3pm Winter Music. Refreshments Raffle, Doors open 1.30pm, Please book your seat for this very popular event

Please contact Jenny (07791527569) or Gillian (01777 248310)

Green Winged Orchids in Laxton



Local people enjoy going to see the small cluster of green winged orchids which grow in South Field and bloom any time around the beginning of May.

The cluster is so small that they can usually be easily counted. Since the turn of the century the numbers have peaked at around 35 - 40 flower spikes. Local folklore has it that there are never many more and often fewer.

It was a rare sight then to see not only around 100 flowers in the original cluster, but a second cluster some 75m away with 8 blooms. The very wet spring must have suited them! Let's hope the second cluster becomes established.

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Laxton as a Surname



Some years ago I had a colleague at the University of Nottingham by the name of Bob Laxton. He was a scientist who brought his skills to bear on archaeological questions particularly tree ring dating.

Just occasionally it struck me as interesting that he had the surname 'Laxton'. Bob retired and subsequently died, and I never did get around to asking him about his name. Recently the link between places and people through names came up again.

I live in the parish of Chilwell, a single name settlement (west of Nottingham) so anyone called 'Chilwell' is likely to have origins locally stretching back to the 12th or even 13th centuries. So it was interesting to me to note that playing football for Chelsea FC and England is a young man named Ben Chilwell.

Where did he get that surname? The general view today is that a place name used as a family name is a reasonably good indicator of probable place of residence (or recent residence) in the 12th-13th centuries, but thereafter much more problematic. Since Chilwell is a single place name - there are no other examples - it seems likely that one of Ben's family lived in the village as long ago as the 12th or 13th centuries. Of course, we have no confirmatory evidence, and Chilwell is so rare that it does not even make it into a modern place names dictionary.

Then another example appeared on my horizon. On the first day of the 2021 cricket County Championship this year I noticed that Warwickshire had a bowler named Norwell.

As readers will know, Norwell is only a short distance from Laxton where Michael and Elizabeth Jones have been studying every aspect of the history of the village. I asked them about the Norwell family, and this was Michael's response:

The most notable family of Norwells I know occur extensively in the White Book [of Southwell] when at least four also held Norwell prebends but where we also have the evidence for their presence in and around Norwell and for holding land here and in neighbouring villages. Since they were clerics they should not have had direct legitimate descendants but they clearly also had lay relatives as well and a number of families of Norwells also flourished here and elsewhere. It would indeed be an interesting exercise to try to get as far back in the genealogies of modern Norwell.

Michael is not intending to start on his own suggestion just yet, but he does suggest a competition: 'Perhaps you could put together a fantasy XI of place-named sports personalities in an idle moment?

Meantime I wonder how widespread is the use of Laxton as a surname rather than purely as a place name? So I turned to an index of names and found it did not qualify. So it must be quite rare, a little like Chilwell. Does any reader happen to know of a 'Laxton' family with roots back into the Middle Ages?

John Beckett

Why Bees Swarm

Following last month's picture feature on the bee swarm in Timothy Road, a second, smaller swarm was seen - and heard - a few days later on the ground beside a trough outside the church.



Stuart Rose, who is our local collector of swarms provided the following information about why swarms happen.

In the spring lots of eggs produce a hive full of young bees. The better the foraging, the higher the numbers. The queen gives off a pheromone which worker bees detect. Overcrowding and a drop in pheromone level signal it is time to swarm. Disease or disturbance can also cause the bees to swarm.

The old queen lays some eggs which turn into males, which are drones. Their only role is to mate with an unfertilised queen.

The bees build some bigger, queen cells. The queen lays eggs in all the cells, and the eggs laid in the queen cells are no different. They turn into queens because they are fed on royal jelly. This is a rich substance which is exclusively fed to developing queens. If more than one queen bee larva matures, the first to hatch will usually kill any others.

The new queen will fly just once, to be mated in flight by a drone from the same hive. This enables her to keep laying eggs throughout her life.

When the old queen is happy that there is a well provided hive with a good stock of food and a new queen developing she will leave in a swarm with all the mature bees. As we showed last month, the swarm can be gathered up and encouraged into an empty hive to continue their lives there.

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Group Oil Order

The next group order is planned for the end of July - August depending on demand and the price of oil at the time. Please let me know if you are getting ready for more as that probably means others are as well. The price has been around 43p/litre for a long while.



It is also a good time to act if you have changed any of your contact details, especially if you have not ordered for a while. I pass your land line, mobile(s) and email address to the chosen supplier. If you have changed any of these recently, or indeed since you joined the group, please send details. If I can't contact you, you will not be reminded about the order and no supplier could get hold of you.

New residents in the villages are very welcome to join. Please contact me on oil@openfield.org.uk and let me have your full address, contact details (email and phone) and any special instructions regarding access.

The group currently has members in Laxton, Kneesall, Egmonton, Tuxford, Weston, Sutton on Trent and Carlton on Trent. Anyone in this area is welcome to join as long as they, or someone acting for them, can be contacted by email.

Joy

Current Covid Restrictions at 17th July

On 14th June, the delay Step 4 of the Roadmap for four weeks from 21 June to at least 19 July was announced. This resulted from Covid-19 infection rates and hospital admissions on the rise. The Government will review the data in two weeks to see if the risks have reduced.

From 21 June, there will be changes to the rules on:

weddings and civil partnership ceremonies and wedding receptions or civil partnership celebrations, commemorative events following a death such as a wake, stone setting or ash scattering, large events pilots, care home visits, domestic residential visits for children. Check the latest information if this affects you.

In Nottinghamshire, as elsewhere in England, there is a rise in Delta variant cases. The variant spreads more quickly, so it remains crucial to do what we can do to prevent the virus from spreading further.

Laxton History Group



The organisers of the Great Nottinghamshire Virtual Local History Fair were very pleased with the overall level of participation from groups and individuals and the feedback received.

As a Group we are taking a cautious approach to the prospect of resuming our meetings. The majority of our membership is older people and as things stand Covid restrictions prevent us considering an indoor meeting.

We would be interested to hear from members about their thoughts on when meetings should restart, but meanwhile we wish everyone well and we are keeping in touch with those who live outside the village.

Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
22/5/21	07	ROLLOVER
29/5/21	44	ROLLOVER
5/6/21	17	Ivan and Chris
12/6/21	50	Ian and Jackie

We have various numbers available. Here is the up to date list of the 14 spare numbers: **1,2,7,11,20,23,26,27,34,51,52,56,57,59.**

Please contact me on 870844. Thank you.

Michael Manning

COVID-19 Vaccinations

All adults, i.e. people aged 18 or over, are now invited to book their first Covid vaccination. If you have had your first, you should follow advice and book for your second when it is due. You can book your vaccination on **0115 883 4640** or at:

Web: <https://swiftqueue.co.uk/nottinghamc19vpatient.php>

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Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council, Draft Minutes of the Meeting 25/5/21

Present: Councillors:

M. Manning (chair), S. Hill, R. Hennell, M. Hennell, J.Hill, S,Rose

In attendance at parish council meeting

C. Millward (Clerk)

Election of Officers:

The following were elected:

- (a) Chair – Mr Manning (unanimous)
 - (b) Vice-Chair - Mr S Hill (unanimous)
 - (c) Accounts scrutineer –Mr S Hill (unanimous)
 - (d) Defibrillator inspection councillor - Mr J Hill (unanimous)
 - (e) Resilience store keyholder – Mr Roy Hennell (unanimous)
- Flood contact – Mr M Manning (unanimous)

Apologies for absence: Apologies were accepted from Mr M Hennell. Mr Godson was also absent. Councillors Michael and Pringle had not attended due to Covid 19 restrictions on numbers.

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 and sub-tenancy and associated legal services). There were no other declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.

Dispensations: None required.

10 Minutes public speaking: No public present. Nothing raised.

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 23 March

2021: The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2021 were agreed as a true record to be signed by the chair at a later date when face to face contact is possible.

Matters arising: No other matters arising which were not otherwise on the agenda.

Reports from district and county councillors: Mr Pringle's report had been noted at the preceding annual parish meeting.

The chair read Mrs Michael's written report.

Reports from councillors: It was noted that SNG meetings might resume once Covid 19 restrictions were lifted further.

Councillors noted that Laxton Visitor Centre trustees were meeting Mr G Pierrepont of the Thoresby Estate before his presentation to the parish council on 13 July 2021. They also noted that the Thoresby events manager had referred to the possibility of organising a heritage day to mark the new ownership. In this regard, councillors discussed the need for update signage, signage currently referring to the Crown Estate. Councillors will consider at their additional June 2021 meeting the matters to be raised with Mr Pierrepont, Covid 19 risk measures necessitating a swift meeting pending the planned easing of restrictions on 21 June 2021.

Financial Matters:

- a. **Financial position as at 30 April 2021:** Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 30 April 2021 (incorporating the 2021-22 budget figures).
- b. **Accounts for payment:** The council unanimously **approved** eight payments totalling £584.08.
- c. **2021 schedule of fixed assets:** The council unanimously **approved** the schedule valuing fixed assets at £26,990.
- d. **To agree the 2020/2021 annual accounts:** Agreed.
- e. **To certify exemption from limited assurance review under section 9 Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015:** Councillors **certified** that, as:
 - i. Both the council's annual gross income and expenditure for 2020/21 were less than £25000, and
 - ii. The council had been in existence since before 1 April 2014, and
 - iii. The external auditor had taken no step in relation to 2019/20 which precluded exemption and
 - iv. The court had made no declaration under section 28(3) of the Audit and Accountability Act 2014
the council was exempt from a limited assurance review and authorised the clerk and chair to sign the certificate of exemption.
- f. **To authorise the chair and the clerk to sign Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return:** The Annual Return was presented incorporating the completed internal

auditor's report. Councillors considered the contents together with the internal auditor's comments. They unanimously **authorised** the chair and clerk to sign Section 1 (Annual governance statement) which they will arrange, socially distantly, councillors' approval having been obtained.

- g. **To authorise the chair and the clerk to sign Section 2 (Accounting Statements) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return** Having considered the contents, schedule of fixed assets and variances, councillors unanimously **authorised** the chair and clerk to sign Section 2 (Accounting Statements)
- h. **Review system of internal control and internal audit system effectiveness:** Councillors discussed the operation of the system of internal control and **agreed** that it remained adequate and continued to operate effectively. Councillors also reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit system and **agreed** that, taking account of the straightforward nature of the council's transactions this year, it operated effectively on an annual basis.
- i. **Risk assessment 2021 – 22:** Councillors considered and **approved** the draft revised risk assessment for 2019-20 circulated by the clerk.
- j. **2021-22 insurance arrangements:** Included on the agenda in error
- k. **Use of reserves:** deferred to additional meeting in June 2021 when restrictions should have eased.
- 11. **Property matters including sports field and Glebe Field and sub tenancy and associated legal services:**
Councillors unanimously **authorised** the chair to sign the letter of retainer with Larken & Co in respect of the sub tenancy of Glebe Field. Councillors discussed the extent of the boundaries and possible restrictions on the use of the land including protection against the introduction of foreign species. They agreed to consider the restrictions required by email and in more detail at the additional meeting in June 2021, when lockdown restrictions should have eased
- 12. **Future of Newark livestock market:** Councillors **agreed** that the future of the market being beyond their control, the matter should be removed from the agenda pending any developments.
- 13. **Planning matters:**
 - i. **Applications: 21/01015/S73 | Application for variation of condition 02 to replace approved drawings attached to planning permission 21/00130/HOUSE; Conversion of attached outbuilding to residential**

accommodation | Hollybush Main Street Laxton

Councillors considered the application and unanimously **decided** that they had no objection to the proposal.

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

iii. **Planning Appeal - APP/B3030/D/21/3271674 – Vicarage Cottage, High Street, Laxton, NG22 0NX – Construction of first floor to outbuilding:** Councillors had nothing to add in relation to the appeal.

iv. **Compliance:** No matters raised.

14. **Defibrillator inspection report:** Mr M Hennell had reported that he had completed the inspection. There were no issues. The new pads had been delivered to the chair.

15. Village environment and appearance, including:

- i. **Adoption of Laxton telephone kiosk:** Following discussion, councillors **agreed** to proceed with the adoption and authorised the chair to sign the adoption agreement at a cost of £1. The clerk will arrange insurance on completion of the agreement.
- ii. **Relocation – 30 mph speed signs to village entries:** The clerk will press Mr Pringle for a progress update.
- iii. **Fibre broadband for Moorhouse:** The clerk will invite the NCC broadband officer to the September 2021 meeting.
- iv. **Speeding traffic including possible weight limit:** The clerk will chase the brickyard and Forestry Commission in relation to her correspondence requesting that their vehicles take an alternative route to that through the village.
- v. **Bar Farmhouse:** Mrs Michael had confirmed that steps were being taken preparatory to repair work by NSDC.
- vi. **Electricity for Christmas tree:** Councillors will consider the quote and alternative sites (including the pinfold and grass area outside the pub)/power sources (including the phone kiosk) for discussion at the additional June 2021 meeting when discussion without masks and social distancing should be possible.

16. **Service faults:** None.

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

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

19. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 23 June 2021

Councillors **agreed** that their regular meetings should move to Wednesdays with effect from the additional June 2021 meeting with the exception of the meeting to be attended by Mr Pierrepont on 13 July 2021.

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Village Notices

Mike Manning maintains a list of email addresses for villagers and other local people who want to receive up to date information.

If you are not already on the list and would like to be kept informed, please contact Mike at kneecott@googlemail.com

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

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Defibrillator Contacts:

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Pat Naylor 01777 870601, evenings
Jeff Naylor 01777 870601, as required
Mark Hennell 07812 908316, evenings
Stuart Rose 07939 228353, as required
Jeanette Geldard 07956 959135, daytime in Kneesall,
evenings / weekends
Anne-Marie & Geoff Rose 07961 933290 / 07957 991002, as required

Police

Sgt 2949 Christial 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

PC2548 Deborah Bakin supported by
PCSO 8524 Richard Dunn at Southwell 07595 074292

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

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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@nottsc.gov.uk 0115 977 5661

Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk

Barn Owls Nesting in Laxton



These barn owl chicks were photographed in a nest in Laxton recently. One is quite a bit bigger than its siblings which is quite common. It probably hatched out a week earlier than the others.

If the vole population is good, as it seems to be this year, then all three may well fledge (fly away). If food is scarce then the big one eats his brothers and sisters. A brilliant bit of Darwinism so that the survival of the species is ensured.

The adults only produce fertile eggs if the food supply is good, which means that there are plenty of bank voles about.

Laxton farming is ideal for owls as there are a lot of grass margins and sykes,

which the owls like to use for hunting.

There are quite a number of owl boxes in the Parish and so far three boxes have young owls in them. Barn owls, unlike tawny owls, can produce a second brood if food is plentiful.

Adrian Blackburn from Retford will be coming to put identification rings on their legs so that we can trace them in the future. If you do find a dead owl, please have a look at its leg to see if it has been ringed. The ring will have a number on it and it would help to make a careful note of this, or even better, take a photo and let me have a copy.

Barn owls are very vulnerable when hunting in daylight and we have had them taken by Buzzard and Peregrine. Barn owls normally only hunt in daylight when food is scarce. Last year they were seen in various locations in daylight and there was not a single successful nest in the Parish

I reared a young tawny owl when I was at school in Yorkshire. It had fallen out of a nest in a chimney pot and it wasn't possible to get it back to its parents. When Oswald was big enough to fly away I thought that I wouldn't see it again. However it used to come to my whistle in the morning for a feed. I made artificial mice by mixing meat with the bones and fur that one finds in regurgitated owl pellets. They won't survive on meat alone as they need bones and fur to aid their digestion.

Mike Jackson, Photo courtesy of Tim Keay