

Open Field

£1

July 2023



West Field, Laxton, 30th May 2023

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



Priest in Charge
Churchwardens

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P.C.C:

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Vacant

Mrs Brenda Noble 01777 870541
Mr Simon Hill 01636 822777

Vacant

Mr Ben Wells 01623 861309

Mrs Jean Crofts

Vacant

Deanery contact number

01636 650063

Parish Council: Clerk

Catherine Millward 01636 813387

Parish Councillors: Chairman

Mr Simon Hill

Vice Chair

Mr Jem Hill

Members

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Mr Dave Sheard, Mrs Anna Moorhouse
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Open Field

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

We believe all illustrations to be free to use. If anyone feels their image has been wrongly used, please get in touch.

Contributions for the next edition TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY NOON ON 16th July 2023 PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED. You can send at any time.

A Message From Our Churchwarden



Once again, Thank you to everyone for their support over the weekend of the Flower Festival.

Thanks to Janet and Jean for their efforts in keeping the flowers fresh afterwards.

Eventually they were past their best and I want to say a big thank you to Jean and Roy for clearing them away afterwards. This was much appreciated as I was unable to be there to help.

At the moment the total profit from this event stands at £875.00.

Thank you to everyone.

Brenda



Laxton Open Fields Interpretation Panels

The new boards are now in place and they look really great. Many thanks to Thoresby for producing them, the Visitor Centre Trust for organising their replacement and Linney's for the excellent artwork.

The link below is to a small album showing all 9 Interpretation Panels in situ.



<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ytBKxM9vWd8HCSBq8>

Best wishes

Michael

Lammas Day Service

6th August is the date of our Lammas Day Service, when, hopefully, we will be having a priest to take the service. This will mean we will be able to go back to our traditional service with Holy Communion, and we hope to have breakfast afterwards once again.

Everyone is welcome, but it would be helpful to have numbers for catering. More information on this next month.

Get Well Wishes

We send our very best wishes to George Noble, who has been seen out and about. We are so pleased to hear that he is now doing really well and wish him a continuing successful recovery.

We send best wishes for a speedy recovery to anyone who is unwell at the present time. Our thoughts are also with those awaiting hospital admission.

We are always pleased to share good wishes for anyone who is unwell, but we do need to know that they consent to their names being published please.

BIG Birthday Greetings

50



Congratulations to the best Mum in the world on her 50th Birthday.

Lots of love

Emily

And congratulations from the Open Field Team, who know 'Mum' as Amanda Hennell.

Church Garden Fête July 14th 2023

Thank you to Jean and Roy for offering their garden for the Church to hold a Garden Fête. They live at Blacksmith's Cottage on High Street, which is near the fork in the road. The start has been moved forward a little from the traditional time and it will begin at 6.00pm. Our last fête was in 2019, so it will be nice to get back to how things were before Covid.

We will be having the usual stalls including the cake stall, which is always really popular, with a great selection of home made treats. Those villagers who lived here before the pandemic will remember the Tombola - something of a speciality of Jean's, and the second hand books, plants and excellent great raffle.

The refreshments will be available in the form of scones and / or hot dogs with tea and coffee.

All our favourite games will be back: skittles, bowls, ladder, bean bag, and of course, 'pluck a duck'.

We will be most grateful for any offers of help with any of the many jobs which are essential to make the evening fun for everyone. Could you help with the games (full training given!) or with the setting up or packing away? Jean and Roy would be pleased to hear from you on 870276 whatever you could offer to do.

As I have said, it will be nice to get back to how things used to be. Our Garden Fête used to be the highlight of the year for us and the Vicarage lawn used to be full of people enjoying a lovely summer's evening catching up with friends. Of course we were not always blessed with the best of weather and on a few occasions everyone enjoyed an equally good evening trying to stay out of the rain under the barns at Crosshill Farm.

Whatever the weather, please come along and join us to raise some money for our lovely old church. There is a warm welcome for regulars from the past, and it will be good to share a Laxton tradition with the many new villagers who have come to make this their home since Covid brought everything to such a sudden halt.

As well as missing our Garden Fêtes, we are not having our two Supper Dances any more. These three events were our annual fund raisers for our church, which we haven't had since 2019 and Covid.

Brenda

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Church Garden Fête - Can You Help?

It is excellent news that Laxton's Garden Fête in aid of church funds will be happening again this year.



2019 in the Old Vicarage Garden

Jean and

Roy Hennell are hosting it in their garden. Regulars will find all the familiar games, hot dogs and delicious scones plus cakes on the cake stall all ready to buy to take home, or eat on the spot if they look too tasty to wait! There will be a raffle and a tombola and who knows what else.

If you have any surplus plants, books, bric a brac etc., Jean will be very pleased to have it for a stall. Prizes are also needed for the raffle and for the tombola, where you could win just about anything.

Please drop prizes in to Jean at Blacksmith's Cottage on High Street in advance. She would also appreciate offers to help set up, run the activities and to clear away afterwards. New villagers will be warmly welcomed to learn about one of Laxton's favourite fund raisers.

6.00pm is the starting time on Friday 14th July.

Publishing Full Names in Open Field

Thank you to the people who have given permission for us to use their full names in the magazine. Until we have a longer list you will still see a mixture of full names and first name plus initial. At least one family has expressed pleasure in seeing their names in full in future.

If you are happy for your name to be included in full in this publication and in the on-line version, please let Jean Hennell or Joy Allison know. We now have quite a long list of people we may name and we would like to be able to add you to it.

This will be the last time we circulate this general message, so if you want your name included in future, please let us know. Messages received for publication will use the name given unless the sender and those referred to are on the list.

Thank you

Jean & Joy

Seeking Your Ideas



In March 2023 the 'Laxton & Moorhouse Community Coffee Mornings' began being held on the third Saturday of each month. Our ethos has always been that the coffee morning should be first and foremost, a social event.

There is no charge for the refreshments, but we have put out a donation tin. The subsequent generosity of villagers, friends and family has been absolutely

astounding. From the outset it has been our intention that surplus funds should be used in support of and for the benefit of the village, its societies and charity. For this reason, we are seeking your ideas on how best to employ the surplus funds.

So far modest donations have been made to the village Coronation event (coins for the village children) and to a charity fund raiser hosted by the Laxton Ladies Rounders Team, in support of brain tumour charity Miles4Myles.

Other recipients have been suggested, but we remain keen to hear from a broad platform of opinions and ideas.

If you would like to be involved in the coordination of this event or have suggestions or ideas, please do contact us.

NB the date for the August Coffee Morning will be Saturday 19th. We are planning for it and hope to go ahead, but if we are unable to muster up enough bakers or people to eat the goodies because of holidays etc., we will call this one off and continue in September.

Please look out for the banner on the side of Mike Jackson's barn at Crosshill Farm. If you see it in the days before 19th, this will confirm that the Coffee Morning is definitely on and that we will be looking forward to welcoming you.

Thank you.

Helen Sheard

01777 232230

07905 161392

Facebook or WhatsApp

Laxton History Group Visit to Brodsworth Hall and Gardens nr Doncaster

On Wednesday 19th July, Laxton History Group members and friends will be going to Brodsworth Hall and Gardens, near Doncaster, for a visit. We are all travelling in our own cars and will meet at the entrance. We will get group discount subject to numbers of non English

Heritage members and we pay in one transaction. We are meeting there at 11am.

If you would like to join us, please contact Jean at Blacksmith's Cottage or call her on **870276**.



WI Fashion Show



Everyone seemed to enjoy the Fashion Show, which we had in May. It was a full house, with extra chairs having to be put out. As someone said 'It was cosy!' Thanks to everyone who came to support us.

I would like to thank Margaret Palmer for co-ordinating things with the SOS team. Thank you to all our models; to our members for giving the raffle

prizes and food etc; the ladies in the kitchen and those who sold the tickets. You always wonder if people will turn up, but they did.

On the evening we made a total of £440, which will go to pay for our monthly speakers and Village Hall rent. Thanks again to everyone.

Brenda

Wellow Maypole 100th Celebrations



2023 marked the 100th anniversary of the first recorded celebrations including the crowning of the May Queen. Undoubtedly it had been going on for a long time before that, but no records exist.

The weather decided to honour this special day with one of the best days possible. The sun shone - but not too hotly - there was no troublesome wind, and, most importantly of all, the rain stayed away.

The crowds certainly didn't stay away. In fact it was probably the

biggest crowd in recent memory. In honour of the milestone, East Midlands Today sent a cameraman and reporter, and BBC Radio Nottingham's Rob Rose was MC for the day, contributing live items to the radio station during the day.

Gay Wright, May Queen from 1951 and now in her 87th year, spoke to the crowd at the start. She said she still has a strong affinity for the village and its tradition. Maypole Day is a fixture in her personal calendar to go along and enjoy the festivities.

The event was officially opened by retiring May Queen, Ellie Wilson. She had lead a procession from the far end of the village to the green and after the opening, the band which had processed with her began the entertainment.

Ellie joined the children at the church for the official photos and preparation for their own procession to the green. The yard at the Red Lion was packed with members of the public enjoying the event, and being on slightly higher ground, they had a great view. It is a recent addition to the tradition to have



Ruby Doyle, granddaughter of George & Brenda Noble, was a hoop bearer

parents walking beside the processing children holding decorated poles so that the children are able to make their way safely through the throng.

Once in the ring on the green Wellow Jack and the Bogies began their mischief before the crowning of the new May Queen could take place. Ellie was joined on the flower-decked stage by her retinue and called for Charlotte Baugh, the May Queen elect to join her.

There is a traditional form of words spoken by the girls as first the retiring Queen crowns her successor and transfers the purple robe to her shoulders followed by the new May Queen crowning her predecessor with a crown of forget-me-nots so that she should not be forgotten by the village. The final formal act is the presentation of an engraved locket to the new May Queen before the retiring Queen leaves the stage. This year there was a small mishap as the locket fell off its chain, ending up inside the new Queen's dress, where she wisely decided to leave it while all eyes were on her! Later she was seen to have it safely clipped round her neck.



Charlotte then called for the dancing to begin. There were fewer dancers this year, the youngest of whom was 3 years old. They all did very well and produced a lovely, traditional spectacle. Some of the patterns created by the ribbons on the Maypole look very complicated, and Laxton's Sylvia Rose, who trains them, is to be congratulated on doing such a good job with the tiny tots especially.

After the dancing and a final group photo round the Maypole, Charlotte led the procession from the green to the Memorial Hall, where their well-deserved banquet was awaiting them. The entertainment continued in the ring and around the stalls and rides until the close at 5pm, with everyone

declaring these centenary celebrations a great success.

Look out for information next year if you have young children who would like to dance at the 2024 celebrations. More dancers would be welcome.

JULY CONGRATULATIONS

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

Happy birthday wishes go to: Stephen Noble, Margaret Noble, Poppy Noble, Doreen Hayes, Amanda Hennell (50), Jack Price, Sarah Hill, Andrew G, Roy Ha.

We wish a happy anniversary to Lee & Paula Doyle, Ian & Rebecca Creighton, Mick & Cath Manning, Steve & Lynda Moore and Roy & Ann Ha and anyone else celebrating this month.

If you are celebrating please accept best wishes. If you are aware that we have missed someone, please let us know so that we can congratulate them.



Laxton History Group



Our Chairman, John Chambers, warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting, including our speaker, John Whitfield for whom it was his sixth visit to us, but his first since the Village Hall was reopened.



John thanked Mary and Joan for creating our contribution to the Flower Festival in May. It had looked absolutely beautiful and had generated positive comments from visitors. Everyone agreed that the church looked beautiful and John thanked all responsible, including our members Janet and Lesley who had baked for visitors as well.

The idea has been put forward that there might be a time capsule buried in the village to mark the Coronation. Laxton History Group has been asked if we would like to see if there is interest, and if so, to arrange what is necessary.

The discussion suggested that we need to know what is involved in terms of costs and specifics of materials suitable for placing inside. Joan offered to research further and this will be brought to the next meeting for a decision.

Those who had been at Mansfield for the exhibition reported back, that it produced very few visitors to the reference section of the library where we were placed. We do not intend to take part again.

We had a good number of pens, originally bought for gifts to children undertaking the Michael Wood Award. Now they are surplus to requirements they were given away at Mansfield and to members on the night, recognising that they will dry up if simply kept.

Jean explained that Harlaxton Hall is now an American owned college and after she called to arrange a visit, she had never received the promised return phone call. She has now arranged for us to go instead to Brodsworth Hall and Gardens. This is just north of Doncaster and is owned by English Heritage. Our visit will take place in lieu of a meeting on Wednesday 19th July.

John then invited John Whitfield to give us his presentation on 'The Controversial Mountbattens'. It is no wonder that we have invited John so many times. He is an excellent speaker who manages to keep everyone engaged and interested for an hour without the aid of either notes or PowerPoint.

He gave a comprehensive picture of the life and career of Louis Mountbatten from his boyhood as the son of a German Prince, a grandson of Queen Victoria, to his untimely death at the hands of the IRA. He was clearly a man with equally strong positive and negative sides to his personality, but, as John put it, he was a great leader with an ability to come up smelling of roses no matter what disasters befell.

John also spoke of Louis's wife, Edwina, from her childhood. She lost her mother aged 14, endured a stepmother who had little time for her, and inherited a fortune from her grandfather aged 21. This included substantial properties.

John quoted from a book which discussed Edwina, and the picture it created of her as a young woman was scarcely complimentary. The impact of WWII on her was remarkable. She seemed suddenly to find a driving sense of purpose, and worked tirelessly with St John Ambulance / Red Cross, leading the combined organisation. She showed great bravery, intelligence and resourcefulness in going to find British prisoners of war in South East Asia after fighting ended, and brought them back home.

It was a compelling story which could only inspire members to discover more for themselves, and to invite John back again for another of his portfolio of talks.

Our next meeting will feature another speaker who has visited us more than once. She is Rosemary Gibson, who is a volunteer with the Grantham canal and will speak about it on Wednesday 21st June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There is no membership fee and everyone is welcome. The £3 entry fee includes a cuppa and a 'nice' biscuit afterwards. We look forward to seeing you.



Michael Duxsbury Tractor Road Run

The Michael Duxsbury Memorial Tractor Road Run is organised by Michael's family from Tuxford. It began in 2005 following Michael's death from bowel cancer. He was very keen on vintage tractors and the family decided that a vintage tractor event would be a suitable memorial to him as well as a very useful fund raiser for the cancer services at the hospital which treated him.

Tractors assemble in the farm yard and set off in convoy on an unknown route, which changes every year. There are all sorts of tractors - some decorated and some pulling a variety of trailers with friends and family of the driver. Laxton and Egmont families are usually very well represented, making spotting them driving past even more fun.

Each driver pays to enter and is encouraged to seek sponsorship. Buckets may be carried by some of the tractors for spectators to toss money into. The funds raised are donated to the cancer ward at Weston Park Hospital, Sheffield where Michael was treated, and over the years the event has raised £85,255. Last year's total was £2,505.

Because Laxton is so close to Tuxford, the convoy passes through some part of the village or estate virtually every year, either going out in the morning or returning later on. With an average turn out of over 100 tractors and local people taking part, it is a sight well worth seeing, so make a note to look out for them on **Sunday 2nd July**.

Laxton in Country Life Magazine



In its edition of 3rd May 2023, 'Country Life' once again carried an article about Laxton. The most recent prior to this was in about 2009.

The theme of the article is the circumstances of Laxton's survival and its return to the ownership of the Thoresby descendants of the Lords Manvers.

We managed to buy a copy for the History Group records from eBay and it will be kept with the Group's other press items.

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Reflecting on an Eventful Year

In the course of producing each month's magazine, we always refer to the equivalent edition in the previous year to check that the annually recurring events have been covered and to capture the birthdays and anniversaries for the new year.

It was striking looking at July 2022 to see extensive coverage of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It seems no time since the village was decorated with the Jubilee themed scarecrows. Then there was the beacon, the hog roast, the special Songs of Praise, the tug of war, the planting of the commemorative tree in the Glebe Field and the tea in the Village Hall.

Since then the village has marked a surprising number of other significant events. Obviously the most memorable of them have been the occasions connected with the death of Her Majesty and the processes of succession, leading to the Coronation of our new King, Charles III.

We now have a new oak tree, donated by Thoresby and planted near the road on land associated with Step Farm.

There is a new landmark in Ossington, also recorded last July. This is the impressive stone marker at the site of RAF Ossington, the wartime airfield which was the base for the Canadian airmen whose plane crashed in Laxton.

The same month also recorded the installation of the smart new name board at the church. Now we also have the long awaited replacement interpretation boards in the village and the fields.

In July last year we were scratching our heads to wonder where the rogue clothing bin at The Dovecote had come from. Who would have thought then that a huge fire would destroy the Savannah Rags business in Mansfield, which supplied and serviced the official bin.

In September we again welcomed the Tour of Britain, this time speeding through Moorhouse. In the swimming pool, Ruby Doyle and her friends undertook their swimming challenge to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care.

Probably the most noticeable and joyous series of events has been the Laxton baby boom. It is wonderful to end this reflection of an eventful year remembering all the happiness that has surrounded the arrival of more babies in the village than for many a year. 2022 / 23 will certainly be remembered.

News from the Museums of Tuxford

We have been reflecting on the history of leather craft and how it still influences our lives today. The ancient art of leather craft has been practiced for more than 7,000 years. Leather was used for chariot harnesses and couplings in Egypt.

The Museum of the Horse has been lucky to acquire a number of special and rare side saddle pieces to add to their collection. An exhibition of side saddles runs to the end of September with exhibits dating from 1780 to the 20th century comprising of 35 side saddles,



which are thought to be the most side saddles exhibited anywhere.

The saddles are all different and have special features, including a six Selle Fermier and a pillion saddle. A particularly rare piece is one with two folding heads which we haven't seen before. It was kindly purchased by a friend of the museum, who raised the funds to buy it to add to the collection.

Other rare pieces are an unusual tiny boot spur and a bare back rider's side saddle roller.

Complementary items on display are rare clothing, stirrups, spurs and whips. If you contact us before coming, there will be the possibility of a chance to sit on a side saddle. Advance notice is needed to ensure someone is available to help.

Monday to Friday 10am to 4 pm Saturday 10am to 2 pm.

Email sally@dogart.com or telephone **01777 838234**

The Walks of Life Museum

The late Dorothy Harrison's collection forms the basis of our collection and her fascination with hand carts was instigated by her curiosity about the story behind the cart and the lives of the trades people.

We have the Wyles Brothers' 'Leather for the People' hand cart. They were a major boot and shoe manufacturer. Some Tuxford residents remember Mr Smith the cobbler who lived in Cobbler's Cottage on Lincoln Road, and we have his simple tool box.

Recently we were privileged to receive a book on boot and shoe

making, tools of the trade and a photograph of Howard William Monk (right) who was born in 1879. A summary of his working life was provided by his granddaughter Barbara Parry.

The art of leather craft is still practiced today. We have several large pieces of leather. If anyone has skills in working with leather and would be interested in running a workshop here, please contact us.

Our monthly craft fairs are on the first Saturday of the month. We welcome people wanting to sell table top items plants etc.

On Saturday 9th September there will be a chance for voluntary groups to promote their work and possibly fundraise by having a free stall in our barn to celebrate International Charity Day.

We also have group visits by arrangement and visits from art and photography enthusiasts who want to capture something different.

The museum is open on Thursday and Saturday 11am to 4 pm
Enquiries dianehunt08@btinternet.com or call **01777 872776**.



Parish & Church Notices ...

- ◆ A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers' Union meeting. This will be followed by a bring and buy sale.
- ◆ Don't miss the Young Wives' Victorian Evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.
- ◆ We are delighted to announce that the youth group has raised almost £500 for drug abuse.
- ◆ Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'
- ◆ Any church member over 18 is welcome on our new lay ministry programme. It requires minimal training and time: just six weekly classes of about 200 hours each Tuesday night.
- ◆ The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, and a sweet, all in a covered dish.



JULY SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

HC = Holy Communion **EP** = Evening Prayer **MP** = Morning Prayer

Es = Evensong **WfA** = Worship for All **WS** = Word Service

25th June

No services

2nd July

10:30am Laxton

HC

Rev Margaret

4.00pm Wellow

EP

Heather B

9th July

9.00am Egmanton

HC

Father David

10:30am Kirton

HC

Father David

16th July

10:00am Walesby

HC

Rev Vaughn

10.30am Wellow

HC

Rev Margaret

23rd July

No Services

30th July

No Services

6th August


10:30am Laxton Lammas Day, **HC**

Rev Margaret

4.00pm Wellow

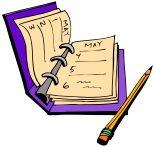
EP

Heather B



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July



Sun 2nd	Michael Ducksbury Memorial Vintage Tractor Road Run
Sat 8th	Ossington Garden Party 3pm
Weds 12th	WI
Fri 14th	Laxton Church Fête
Sat 15th	Coffee Morning
Weds 19th	History Group Outing to Brodsworth Hall
Tues 25th	Parish Council
Mon 31st July	Final date to use non bar coded stamps

Forward Planning:

Sat 19th Aug	Coffee Morning - provisional tbc
8th - 17th Sept	Heritage Open Days
14th Sept	Sports Field Meeting
Sat 30th Sept	Southwell Ploughing Match, South Muskham

Regular Events:

Parish Council	4th Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November
Quiz Nights	1st Friday of December & March tbc

**Copy Date for AUGUST 2023 edition:
12 noon, 16th JULY 2023**

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

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Holiday livery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fully insured |
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Laxton WI



June and July seem to be busy months for WI activities which have been organised by the County Federation.

By the time you read this, two members will have been to the June Watercolour Painting Workshop. Four members also took part in the County Quiz at Ollerton. Their comment was that the questions were a bit hard this year.

July sees an evening of Archery at Newark. There will be our County Lunch at the West Retford Hotel, where the meal will be followed by a talk about the Mayflower Pilgrims. Some of our members are also going to Southwell to have a go at croquet.

The AGM of our National Federation was held in Cardiff in May. The Resolution this year was 'Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife'. The report from our representative was read out and we heard that this was passed by a big majority.

This year we have the chance to try our hands at a new activity: Axe Throwing! This takes place in woods and it will be interesting to see how it goes. A gentler activity with wood will be another Willow Weaving course followed by a lunch and there will be another Watercolour Painting day, this time for beginners. For those who fancy a less demanding event, there will be an Afternoon Tea followed by a singer singing songs from the shows and also an evening of Whist.

At our June meeting, two members from the County Sports & Leisure Committee came and brought the equipment so that we could have a go at Kurling. (Not Curling with a C. It was not on ice.) We were split up into teams and everyone had a go. It was a laugh and enjoyed by everyone.

In August we traditionally go for an outing, as this is the one month of the year we do not have to have a meeting because it is a busy month in farming communities. Sandra is busy trying to organise something interesting for us to do this year. In September we are thinking of having another Bingo evening, as everyone enjoyed the last one.



Heritage Open Days

Every September thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore.

This year the Heritage Open Days 2023 events will take place over the period 8th-17th September. There is a web site:

www.heritageopendays.org.uk where events are listed and you can search by county. See listings for dates and to book.

Sites in the county within easy reach which are listed so far include:

- Lowdham signal box,
The Sidings, Lowdham, Nottinghamshire, NG14 7DU
- Mansfield Town Centre Heritage Walk
- A guided walk / talk around Newark's timber framed heritage
- Civil War Tour of Newark, including the Queen's Sconce
- Heritage Building Skills Demonstration and Participation
- The National Holocaust Centre & Museum, Laxton
- Unwrapping Newark Town Hall (250 years of history)
- Retford Masonic Hall

If you fancy going a little further afield, Prof. John Beckett is leading a walk round heritage Beeston.

There are other opportunities to take behind the scenes tours at:

- Manuscripts & Special Collections, University of Nottingham - the archives where the Manvers Collection, the records of the Pierrepont family and Lords of the Manor of Laxton, are stored
- Nottinghamshire Archives, County House, Nottingham
- Greens Windmill & Science Centre, Nottingham
- Newstead Abbey

or even to try a Photography Workshop with Neil Pledger at Bromley House Library, Nottingham (Tuesday 12/9/23)



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Recent Bonus Ball Winners

17/6/23	21	Anna & Alan Moorhouse
10/6/23	03	Jen & Edwin Swordy
3/6/23	17	Ivan & Chris Rayner
27/5/23	54	Simon & Anna Hill

Spare numbers will soon be taken up by Tuxford U16 Football Team. To buy yours, please act now. The up to date list of the spare numbers is: 7, 30, 34, 35, 37, 40, 41, 44, 51, 52, 53, and 59. Please contact me on 870844. Thank you.

Michael Manning

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Rounders Team Charity Event

On 26th May, Laxton Ladies Rounders Team hosted a roaringly successful quiz night at Laxton Village Hall in aid of the charity "Miles 4 Myles".

With over 60 people in attendance and 40 raffle prizes up for grabs, including a £100 private chef experience, vouchers for The Dovecote and for 'Chillipetals' in Tuxford amongst many others, it was sure to be a great night.

The evening consisted of a delicious supper and a quiz presented for free, by John Harknes. A truly fun night was had by all. The event raised over £700 for the charity set up in memory of Myles Harrison son-in-law of Anne-Marie Harriman (née Shepherd of Laxton).

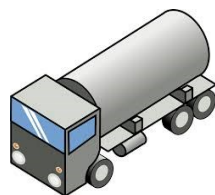
Miles4Myles

The charity assists young adults who have been diagnosed with a terminal brain tumour to help fulfil their dream bucket lists. The cheque will be presented at a date after this issue of Open Field goes to press.

Our thanks go to everyone who supported the event: to the 'Laxton Village Community coffee morning club' for paying for the village hall rental, to Karen Sandford and Sooz for cooking the wonderful meals, Joan Ware for her help in the kitchen on the night and to Linda Molloy, our indefatigable leader, and Helen Sheard for organising the event.

Group Oil Order

The price of oil is less than the last time we ordered. At the time of writing, the Boilerjuice average 1000l headline price is 56.75p/litre, about 54.0p ex VAT, compared with £1+ a few months ago.



The next order is due in **July / August**, and with this being holiday season, it would be useful if you could supply holiday contact details and arrange someone who could make sure your delivery can happen in your absence.

Please let me know if you will be needing an order **from early July onward**. Anyone whose order can be placed by email is very welcome to join. Please contact me on [**oil@openfield.org.uk**](mailto:oil@openfield.org.uk)

The group currently covers an area of roughly 5 miles radius from Laxton, but one former resident, now 20 miles away, is still involved!

Joy



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Everyone welcome

Local Open Gardens

The following gardens will be open in aid of the National Gardens Scheme in the coming months.

Sunday 2nd July:

Very local to Laxton and even more so to Moorhouse: 2 - 5 at Ossington House, NG23 6LD, jointly with Hopbine Farm House just opposite.

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th July:

Caunton Manor, Manor Road Caunton. 1 - 4pm, admission £6, teas, children free.

Saturday 29th July

Floral Media, Norwell Road, Caunton, NG23 6AQ, 10am - 4pm admission £4, children free, home made teas.

Nottinghamshire
welcomes the
Tour of Britain



The countdown is well underway for the return of the Tour of Britain to Nottinghamshire this autumn. The county will host the event on **Wednesday 6 September 2023**. This year's race we will host the finish of a cross-region shared stage.

It will be the fourth stage of this year's race and the fourth time in seven years that the sport's leading names will be able to be seen locally following the Tour of Britain in 2017 and 2018 and 2022.

We've booked a package holiday to Spain. It's our first time booking this sort of getaway, and a friend recently had a terrible experience when things went

wrong on a similar trip. What sort of help is available if something does go wrong?

Hopefully you'll have a lovely time but the Citizens Advice website has lots of information about what to do if something goes wrong with your package holiday and what compensation you may be eligible for.

Firstly, tell the company or travel agent you booked with as soon as possible. This way you're more likely to be able to get it sorted quicker. If you don't say anything until you get home, you might get less or no compensation at all.

If the holiday you went on turned out to be lower in value than the one you originally booked you can make a claim for 'loss of value'. For example if you paid for a deluxe room but only got a standard one, and it wasn't sorted out at the time you can claim back the difference in value.

You can also claim compensation for any extra money you have to spend while away, for example the hotel was a bus ride away from the beach rather than across the road as advertised. This is called claiming for 'out-of-pocket expenses'. If this does happen make sure you keep all your receipts for things like bus journeys.

If big parts of the trip you booked didn't happen or services weren't provided, for example a planned two-day excursion was cancelled and no alternative was organised, you can make a claim for 'loss of enjoyment'. You can also make this claim if something happens that causes you distress or disappointment, such as the pool was closed for the whole trip.

It's worth noting that there is no strict guidance on how much you can claim for loss of enjoyment but any claim you make must be reasonable. You can't get compensation if you simply didn't enjoy the holiday or if the problem was out of the holiday company's control - like bad weather.

Check the information you received when you made the booking to see what you're supposed to get. If you don't get the service you've been promised, you may be entitled to compensation for breach of contract. You might also be able to claim from your travel insurance – check if your policy covers this.

If you're still not sure what to do, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline **0808 223 1133** or talk to an adviser online through the Citizens Advice website.

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A Laxton Wedding

The following report appeared in the Retford, Gainsborough and Worksop Times relating to a wedding on 13th August 1926 between two very local people.



A PRETTY WEDDING took place at the Parish Church on Tuesday week. The bridegroom was Mr John Keyworth Beckett of Egmonton Hill Farm and the bride, Miss Lily Elizabeth Bennett, daughter of Mr William Bennett, District Councillor of Laxton.

The bride was dressed in ivory crepe de chine and georgette trimmed with beads and pearls and shoes and stockings to match. She wore a wreath and veil and carried a sheaf of lilies.

There were four bridesmaids – Miss Alice May Bennett and Miss Doris Marian Bennett (sisters of the bride) and two little cousins, Miss Edith Cocking and Miss Irene Cocking. The two sisters' dresses were mauve crepe de chine with veils and silver leaves. They wore silver shoes and carried bouquets of fern and sweet peas. The two younger bridesmaids were dressed in white silk and carried baskets of sweet peas.

Mr Ernest Bennett, brother of the bride was best man. The bride was given away by her father. The hymn "The voice that breathed o'er Eden" was sung as the bride entered the church and the organist played the "wedding march" during the signing of the register.

The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev S B Bleau) who also gave a short and appropriate address. The ringers gave a merry peal at the close of the service and at intervals during the day. There was a large gathering of friends to witness the ceremony.

A reception was held in the schoolroom immediately after the service, when the vicar proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom. Tea was served in the Parish Room at 4.30. In the evening a social gathering was held in the schoolroom, when the music was supplied by Mr Clark's band. The guests numbered upwards of 140. The honeymoon is being spent at Blackpool. There was quite a large number of beautiful and useful presents.

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building, the Dukes of Newcastle (local landowners) and
links to Clumber Park.

Watch this space for news of more events to come this
year.

The Mausoleum is in the care of CCT

Minutes of the Laxton Sports Recreation Field AGM, 25/5/23 (Draft)

Present:

Neil RANDALL, Chairman Michael MANNING, Secretary/Treasurer.
Helen SHEARD, Rounders Rep

Welcome and Apologies.

Neil welcomed all. Apologies were received from the football Reps, Ivan and Anne-Marie/ Liz as they were in a match.

2.Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the last AGM on 4th May 2022 were agreed as a true record.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 10th May 2022.

Arising - The new dog bin has been installed at the field entrance and signage put on the Pavilion

4. Chairmans report

Neil again thanked all members of the Committee for their help and support in his 9th year as Chairman and good attendance at meetings. He said he was pleased the arrangement with Rounders is working well and there had been no issues.

He again thanked Michael for his work as Secretary and Treasurer.

5. Secretary/Treasurers reports and issue of accounts.

Michael gave a short report about the year's activities adding to the Chairman's thanks to the Committee members for regular attending meetings and helping out throughout the year. Special thanks again to Neil who single-handedly mows and maintains the field in an excellent condition

Michael had previously issued the years accounts via e-mail for the period 1/4/22 to 31/3/23 showing a surplus of £457.25 and balance at year-end of £2453.01.

Regarding the Bonus ball draw, we have 18 unallocated numbers out

of the total of 59 but it does provide for more exciting Rollovers. However Rounders have said they wish to have a team number and several players would like their own. Helen will let us know. Regarding the remaining numbers see 7 below.

6. Pavilion update

The Pavilion is in good condition with no problems, and still looks well after 13 years. However Neil feels it is ready for a retreat again. Helen said that she had been given a couple of 5 ltr tins of stain and would donate them for the Pavilion.

Michael will look at finding someone to do it although Helen did offer for her and David to do it; we think we still have the sprayer.

One of the footballers, Mark, has agreed to emulsion the walls and ceilings; Michael will get 2 X 5ltrs of Magnolia.

The plaques for Ken Shepherd and Max McNaught look well in the Pavilion Foyer.

The mower is working well and requires little maintenance, thanks again to Neil who does ALL the mowing and it does look excellent. Ivan to bill us again for storage, all agreed to pay. Mower will be serviced at the end of mowing later this year.

7. Field Rental Charges

It was felt that as we still have a good working capital, there seemed to be no reason to increase the rental charges yet again. The Committee reiterated the wish to keep rental fees low to encourage users and “prop” up the finances with annual fund raising like the Bonus Ball

They will therefore remain as they have for the last few years at (£275 and £55). This was agreed unanimously. It was also agreed that we would continue to review the rental charges annually at the AGM.

Rounders now have two teams playing in their league and the question of charges was raised. However the Rounders group intend to purchase several Bonus Ball numbers, one for the team and the remainder for team members. It was later confirmed that they would have a total of 5 numbers.

Neil will discuss with the footballers about them taking some too.

Additionally we have been approached by the Manager of Tuxford U16 Football Club about playing their matches at Laxton. Neil, Michael and Gavin met with Richard the Manager to discuss how we



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could accommodate them. They only need to play matches here as they have their own training facility so a total of no more than 12-14 games a season. Both Gavin and Neil felt this could be managed well and we agreed an annual fee of £350.

Richard also agreed to take all the unallocated Bonus Balls, currently 13 with Rounders taking 5.

We suggested a short term trial for one season and if all are happy and it works well a longer arrangement should be considered. Michael will start a new WhatsApp group between the Football teams, himself and Neil.

Michael will also send Richard a WhatsApp outlining the reasonable conditions of playing at Laxton.

8. Election of Committee members

Neil suggested that if all members wish to re-stand for the next 12 months we should re-elect "en bloc"

Richard the Manager will be invited to attend as a regular user.

All were in favour.

9. AOB.

Neil continues to receive complements from the Newark Football league congratulating us on the excellent condition and facilities at the Field.

Following Michael's recent retirement from the PC, the Sports Committee no longer has a PC representative on it. Michael has spoken with the Clerk who will speak with Councillors at their next meeting about it.

10. Date of next meetings.

The next ordinary meeting will be on Thursday 14th September 2023 @ 7.30 and the next AGM will be on Thursday 24th May 2024 @ 7:30 pm in the Visitor Centre.

Any additional ordinary meetings can be arranged on an ad hoc basis.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

Michael Manning,
Secretary/Treasurer Laxton Sport and Recreation Field

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- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ♦ **Coffee Morning:** Second Saturdays 10 - 12. (8th July) All welcome
All events appear on the web site - see above

Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council

A reminder about the pot hole reporting contact details are:
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Laxton Defibrillator

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

Michael

Laxton Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

Following an approach from Tuxford U16 Football Team to hire our facilities they will, in addition to our hire charges, take any unallocated Bonus Balls that are available.

So if anyone would like to take a ball or an additional one, please let me know asap; the available numbers are

7, 30, 34, 35, 37, 40, 41, 44, 51, 52, 53, and 59.

Useful Contact Details

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 evenings / weekends
Anne-Marie & Geoff Rose 07961 933290 / 07957 991002, as required

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Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk

Laxton Garden Fête

6.00pm, Friday July 14th

Blacksmith's Cottage, High Street, Laxton

**Tombola, Raffle, Plants, Cakes,
Books, Skittles, Bowls, Bean Bags,
Scones, Hot Dogs, Tea & Coffee**

Everyone welcome

All proceeds to church funds



Lynda Moore's delightful bee photo



Dave Sheard's unusual robin silhouette