

# Open Field

£1

March 2024



*The First Lambs of 2024 at Town End Farm, Laxton*

The monthly publication of the  
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

[www.openfield.org.uk](http://www.openfield.org.uk)



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**Parish Councillors: Chairman** Mr Simon Hill 01636 822777

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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 March 2024 PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED. You can send at any time.**

## A Message from our Churchwarden

### Church News

It doesn't seem very long since it was Christmas and now we are coming up to Easter, another important part of our church life and a sign that spring is nearly here.

We do not have a lot of church news this month; only bad news. We now have a hole in the lower south side roof. This was caused by a cast iron drain pipe coming off from the top roof and sliding down to the bottom. It has gone through the roof and then tipped over onto the ground below.

We do not know what other damage has been caused at the top until it has been inspected. As we have a Grade I listed building, everything has to go back as it was, using the same materials.

*Brenda*



## Special Congratulations

Special congratulations to Stuart and Sandra Clarke, who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in March.

Best wishes to you both from all your friends.

*Brenda*

60

80

## Big Birthday Congratulations

Congratulations and many happy returns of the day to Jacqueline Smith who will be celebrating her 80th birthday in March.

## Sympathy - June Bartlett



We were very sorry to hear of the death of June Bartlett, formerly of Timothy Road, Laxton, on 26th January. June had moved to Southwell some years ago when she found managing at home too difficult on her own. She recently moved to a nursing home in Cambridge, near to her daughter, who has sent the following message about her mother and her relationship with Laxton and her friends here.

'It is with sadness that I share the news of June Bartlett's passing. She was not just a resident of Laxton for over 25 years; this village was her home, her sanctuary, and a place where she lived a life filled with love and belonging.

June first moved to Laxton with her husband David, and even after his passing, she chose to stay, finding comfort in the familiarity of the community. Laxton was a place where she felt cared for, surrounded by the warmth of friends and neighbours.

Her involvement in the church, the Mothers' Union, the Women's Institute, and the History Group were some of her connections to the community. Despite not having the ability to drive, she was never isolated. The support of the community ensured she remained an active participant in events and outings. In particular, Janet Cooke was there throughout.

Laxton became a true home to June and the care and companionship she received made her later years truly special.'

*Georgina*

## Big Birthday Congratulations

# 60

Congratulations and many happy returns of the day to Geoff Rose who will be celebrating his 60th birthday in March.



# Open Field Subscriptions and Printing

The saga of our printing continues. The more observant among you will have noticed that the February edition was printed in full colour. This was an unexpected benefit of the new printing arrangements, and at no more cost to us than we had budgeted for. How long this will be possible, we don't know, but please enjoy it while it lasts.

Thank you to everyone who has paid their subscriptions. If anyone still hasn't please do so asap so we can confirm our printing order.

# Community Coffee Morning First Anniversary

Dear villagers, neighbours, friends and family members.

Spring is nearly officially upon us, and the "Laxton & Moorhouse Community Coffee Morning" are thrilled to remind you that this month we celebrate our first birthday on Saturday March 16th 2024.

Our ethos has always been, that the coffee morning should be first and foremost, a social event. We do not charge for the refreshments. Instead, we ask only that a donation is made commensurate with what an individual feels they can afford.



The generosity of our community has been absolutely astounding.

There are people too numerous to individually name here, but my thanks go to both our regular and occasional bakers, to the ladies and gentlemen who make the event run smoothly each

month and to the various benefactors who have donated a myriad of raffle prizes. 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.

In May 2023 we made a modest donation to a charity quiz that was organised by 'Laxton Ladies Rounders Team'. This event raised over £600 for a cancer charity "Miles4Myles".



In June we paid for the commemorative coins gifted to the children of the parish as part of the Coronation celebrations.

In July, £200 was contributed to the village BBQ held at 'Hollybush', Main Street.







A modest donation was given to the hosts of the Laxton History Group 'summer afternoon tea' held at 'Orchard View', Cross Hill in August.

In September we held a MacMillan Coffee morning raising over £300 for the charity. In October we raised £372 for Laxton Church.



In November we made way for The History Group Christmas Fayre, but were back again in December.



As I write this article, we are looking forward to being co-hosts with 'Tuxford Young Farmers Club' on Saturday

February 17th, as they hold a bake sale in aid of The Children's Bereavement Centre in Newark and their own society. More news of this elsewhere in the magazine.



We are always open to new ideas and suggestions. Our accounts are also available to anyone who would wish to inspect them.

Finally, the makeup of a community is ever changing. Our parish has welcomed a number of 'new' villagers in recent years. Whether you have lived here all your life, for decades, or are a 'new arrival' such as myself; you are

guaranteed a warm welcome and delicious fayre at our monthly events. I hope you will consider joining us very soon.

*Helen Sheard*  
on behalf of the whole team.

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## **MARCH CONGRATULATIONS**

*Congratulations to everyone celebrating in March.*

*The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Stuart Clarke, Sandra Clarke, George Noble, Jacqueline Smith, Geoff Rose, Roy S, Janet G, Annie Marsh, Sally B, and Janette T.*

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

*We send congratulations to Stuart and Sandra Clarke, celebrating 60 years of marriage and to Wayne and Mel Voce who also celebrate their anniversary this month.*

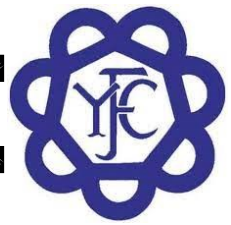
*If you would like a mention for your special day, however long you have been associated with Laxton or Moorhouse, we would be happy to do so.*

*To have your name added to the birthday and anniversary lists, especially for 'big' ones, please let Jean, Joy or me know details ready for the nearest magazine.*

*Brenda*



# Tuxford Young Farmers



Tuxford Young Farmers have had a great start to 2024. It got underway with an interesting talk from a lady from Veolia, the company which has the recycling contract for Nottinghamshire.

This was followed by a 'Curve' module run by one of our own members, Jessica Rose. This was in the form of team building exercises.



As a group we had an amazing visit to Tuxford fire station, where the crew were welcoming and gave an in depth tour around the station.

In mid February we had a visit from a lady named Sue, who came in to talk to us about the 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven Hedgehog Rescue charity. She runs this from her own back garden with the help of volunteers. She has been looking after



hedgehogs for thirteen years, and full time for the last five.

Her patients come from local places and as far afield as Chesterfield, Doncaster, Newark and Nottingham. She said that garden strimmers

are one of the most dangerous things for hedgehogs and she asks people to be careful when they are using them.



We joined forces with the Laxton Community Coffee Morning in Laxton Village Hall for our coffee morning and Bake Sale on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February.

There were tasty looking cakes on our stall in the hall and other equally irresistible tray bakes at the hatch made by the Coffee Morning ladies. Thank you to everyone who baked and to the Laxton Community Coffee Morning for supporting us. In total the event made £296.65 to be split between our funds and the Children's Bereavement Centre in Newark, our chosen charity.



The club had an excellent result in the county votes at the County Ball in January. Congratulations to our three members who won awards.

Chris Hill (L) took 3rd place in Mr YFC, Katie Gent (R) placed second in the Melissa Grace Hatton Award and Jessica Rose of Laxton (centre) took the title of Senior Member of the Year.

*Amelia*



## News from the Museums of Tuxford

Mothering Sunday is almost upon us. One definition of a mother is a selfless loving human who must sacrifice many of their wants and needs, putting those of their children first to equip them with the knowledge, skills and abilities to make it as a complete human being.

On Mothering Sunday those in service were given a rare day off and travelled back to visit their church and their mothers.

They gathered flowers along the way. The 'Walks of Life Museum' loves seeing the first flowers.



Snowdrops are pushing through, showing us spring is arriving. In Greek mythology the goddess Persephone was forced by her Uncle Hades to inhabit the underworld in autumn and winter. Upon returning to Earth each spring she brought snowdrops.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, ladies wore white drop shaped earrings known as eardrops. This brings to mind one of the most loved and famous mothers, Princess Diana. She was close to the people and one forgets that she came from a very regal family. The state coachman's uniform from her home, Althorpe, and the crested horse rugs that their carriage horses would have used can be seen at the Museum of the Horse.

The skill that goes into making such things is relevant today, often



originating for practical reasons. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century smocking originated in England as a practical method of expanding and contracting material

Originally a garment for labourers, smocking became a luxury fashion. Even today mothers dress their children in the finest smocked garments on special occasions. The Walks of Life Museum has prams and fine children's outfits. Learning skills from the past can improve our future.

From March we will start running traditional building skills days. They will include using the knowledge of traditional building skills such as lime plastering and repointing to preserving the history of the house at the museum; dealing with issues such as damp and improving the energy efficiency. Learn from the Conservation Officer and Building Preservation Trust (see Facebook page for dates and prices )

The Museum of the Horse 01777 838234; [sally@dogart.com](mailto:sally@dogart.com)

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

Walks of Life Museum 01777 872776; [dianehunt08@btinternet.com](mailto:dianehunt08@btinternet.com)

Open by appointment and for special events opening see our Facebook page



LAXTON VILLAGE HALL



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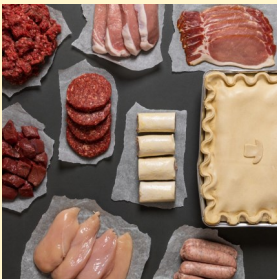
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# Southwell Minster in 2024



## **Southwell Minster celebrates 140 years of being a Cathedral.**

2024 is a big year for Southwell Minster. It has been a Cathedral for 140 years and is celebrating this with a special exhibition. The exhibition will explore the story of the Minster and how it became the Cathedral for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, from the pre-Minster foundations to the present day.

The Cathedral 140 Exhibition will explore 140 objects over 10 months, from February to November 2024. Each object will reveal a unique part of the story and the history of the Cathedral, Gardens and Palace.

The objects for February focused on the foundation story. The site where the minster stands today was once the site of an impressive Roman Villa and after that an Anglo-Saxon church.

Visitors can follow the object trail and explore the exhibition. There is something for everyone to do, including a Hunt The Letter game for children and an opportunity to spot a hidden creature in the minster. Everyone is welcome, entry is free.

## **Museum of the Moon**

After the success of last year's Gaia Earth installation, the Minster has announced that Luke Jerram's 'Museum of the Moon' will be coming to Southwell Minster from **12-22 October 2024**.

Measuring seven metres in diameter, the moon features detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface.

Over its lifetime, the Museum of the Moon will be presented in a number of different ways both indoors and outdoors travelling from place to place.

The installation is a fusion of lunar imagery, moonlight and surround sound composition created by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award winning composer Dan Jones. Each venue also programmes their own series of lunar inspired events beneath the moon.

Ticket details and a full programme of events will be available shortly.



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**Laxton History Group**



As we don't have meetings in either

December or January, it can seem rather a long time between opportunities to get together as a group. When Jean sent out word asking if members fancied a gathering

at Hall Farm, she got a bumper response.

Over 20 of us were there on January 17th for a very informal cuppa and a chat. It was great to see each other and thanks to Jean for organising it as well as to Lesley and her team at The Birds Nest for looking after us so well.

In February we will be hearing about Nottinghamshire Churches and on March 20th, Adrian Gray returns to tell us about 'Historical Highlights of Newark & Sherwood'. 7.30pm, Laxton Village Hall, all welcome.



## MARCH SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

### 3rd March

10.30am	Laxton	HC	Rev Margaret
4 pm	Wellow	EP	Heather B

### 10th March Mother's Day

10:30 am	Kirton	HC	Rev Alistair
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### 17th March

10.00 am	Walesby	HC	Rev Vaughan
10:30 am	Willow	HC	Rev Margaret.

### 24th March (Palm Sunday)

10.00 am	Walesby	HC	Rev Vaughan
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### 25th March (Monday) Stations of the Cross

7:30 pm	Kirton		Rev Alistair
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### 28th March (Maundy Thursday)


### 29th March (Good Friday)

### 31st March (Easter Sunday)

10:30 am	Kirton	HC	Rev Alistair
10:30 am	Wellow	HC	Rev Richard Ford.
10.00 am	Walesby	HC	Rev Vaughan
3.00 pm	Moorhouse		Heather B

### 7th April

10 30 am	Laxton	HC	Rev Margaret
4 pm	Wellow	EP	Heather B



# *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*

## **March**

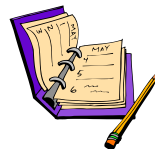
***Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Village Hall Quiz***

***Weds 13<sup>th</sup> WI***

***Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Community Coffee Morning 1st Anniversary***

***Weds 20<sup>th</sup> History Group***

***Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Parish Council***



## **Forward Planning:**

### **April**

***19<sup>th</sup> WI Bingo Night***

### **May**

***Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Village Hall 'Star Wars Day' event. Details later***

## **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 April 2024 edition:  
12 noon, 16th MARCH 2024**

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

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## Laxton WI

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INSPIRING WOMEN

At our February monthly meeting we welcomed Suzanne Plamping, one of our WI County trustees, who kindly stood in for our WI ACWW County representative who was not well.

The ACWW stands for Associated Country Women of the World. We as a WI send a donation to our County Federation every year, which then goes to the National Federation and then to the ACWW.

The WI nationally is affiliated to the ACWW, which was formed in 1933 and has been working to support women in rural communities. Their work has taken place in 82 different countries; helping with education, health and farming and they rely on funding to carry on. This gave us an insight into where the money goes and the work they do.

In March, we will be having a demonstration and then having a go at felting and in April, it will be our AGM, which I am sure will be followed by some food.

## News from 25 Years Ago

*An eagle-eyed reader noticed the following snippet in the Newark Advertiser's 'Times Gone By ...' section:*

An eagle-eyed milkman has been praised for helping to save the premises of a Newark coal yard from burning to the ground.

Co-op Milkman of the Year, Mr Kevin Pevler, 33, of Lincoln Road, raised the alarm after spotting the blaze while out on his round at 3.30am, and three crews fought it.



Another look at the new born lambs from the front page.

# Milton Mausoleum

Our first event this year will be a 3-course Sunday Lunch at the West Retford Hotel in Retford, together with a speaker and a superb raffle.

The price is £25 per person with a reduced price for children. This is a chance for friends to meet up, enjoy a delicious lunch and share plans for the coming year.

The date of the lunch is Sunday 28th April, 12.30 for 1pm, so, check your diaries and book your lunch with us. To book your place and choose your menu, please contact



contact [milton.mausoleum@outlook.com](mailto:milton.mausoleum@outlook.com) or

Gillian on **01777 811358** / Jenny on **01777 871706**

# Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

20/1/24	42	Tuxford U 16s
27/1/24	16	Janet Cooke
3/2/24	46	Lesley & Stephen Booth
10/2/24	34	Lucille Mawer

Thank you to Michael Manning for providing the information above. He is now able to do some of his usual jobs while still taking things easy during his recovery. Your patience is appreciated if you need to make any changes to your numbers. Just drop him a note and it will be dealt with when possible. Thank you.

**The 3 numbers available are: 51, 52 & 53. All proceeds go to**



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# Markham Players' Panto

Markham Players performed their pantomime to appreciative audiences once again in early February 2024. This year Greg Morrall was in the director's chair as well as on stage. His larger-than-life personality must have made rehearsals interesting, but, as the saying goes, it was alright on the night. In fact, it was more than alright as the cast responded to each other and the enthusiastic participation of the audience to give a tremendous performance.

On stage, John Mitchell had the unenviable task of trying to keep up with Greg (Botchitt) and his flexible approach to the script whilst playing the charming but dim witted Leggitt. With those two at large it was bound to have its moments of chaos.

Penelope Thornton took the lead this year as the beautiful Snow White. She was helped by her good friend Bertie, played by crowd favourite Mary Dainton. Mary's alter ego 'Mary the Post' even got a mention this year.

Harry, the faintly disguised huntsman, played by Bob Gale fell in love with Snow White. While the audience could see that he was going to be revealed as the hero of the hour and a prince into the bargain, the Wicked Queen (Claire Whittaker-Smith) was so wrapped up in herself she was oblivious.

On hearing that Snow White was the most beautiful in the land, she was so consumed with jealous rage that she ordered Harry to kill her. He left her with the seven dwarves. Inevitably they were about the seven tallest members of the cast, and they certainly dwarfed the princess.

Ma Bumble, mother of the dwarfs and East Markham's favourite dame,

Mark Thornton, appeared at the cottage. He attacked the role with relish and his delivery of his lines matched his facial expressions.

Eventually Harry was revealed as Prince Harry of Amereeca and he revived Snow White. Naturally things progressed quickly to the wedding and a rousing round of applause.





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## Being Shop Aware.

With the rise in popularity of online shopping, it's important to know both your rights and how to keep yourself safe when shopping on the Web. New research from Citizens Advice has found shoppers were seven times more likely to have an issue with an online purchase compared to those made in store. We are sharing our top tips for shopping online confidently.

### Delivery Problems

The seller must make sure you receive the item. Check the address you gave the seller and contact them to ask where your order is. If the seller claims they've delivered it, or don't know where it is, you can ask for a redelivery. You might be able to get a refund in some circumstances.

### Defective Goods

If something's gone wrong with an item you've bought, you might be entitled to a refund, repair or replacement. You'll have legal rights if the item you bought is:

- Broken or damaged (not satisfactory quality)
- Unusable (not fit for purpose)
- Not what was advertised or doesn't match the seller's description.

### 'What if I change my mind?'

- If you buy in store, you don't have a legal right to return goods if you've simply changed your mind. Many shops have their own policies and do allow this, but time limits can vary.
- If you buy online, you usually get a right to cancel, known as a cooling-off period, but there are exemptions including bespoke or personalized goods, and computer software where the seal is broken.

### Pay Safe

- Pay by card so you have another form of protection if there's a problem. You may be able to make a chargeback or a Section 75 claim to your card provider.
- Be cautious if you're asked to pay in an unusual way e.g. in iTunes vouchers, cryptocurrency or bank transfer. It could indicate a scam.

### Making a Return

- Get proof of your return - a receipt from a shop or proof of postage. If you pay for return postage, check the service you use covers the value of the goods.
- Using a service that includes tracking means you can prove when a trader received your return.

If you would like help with Consumer Advice, or any other issue, you can contact us using the details below.

### In Person

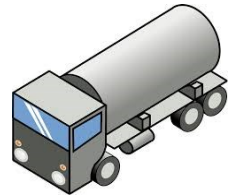
**Newark Office** Tues/Thurs 9.30 - 2.30, Castle House, NG24 1BY

**Ollerton Office** Mon/Weds 9.30 - 2.30, 5 Forest Court, NG22 9PL

We also have a number of **Outreaches** throughout the local area, which may be closer to home - to access the dates and times check online at our website or call us on the below number.

**Local office** on 01623 861769 (You may be offered a call back.)  
Website [www.sn-ca.org.uk](http://www.sn-ca.org.uk)

## Group Oil Order



Deciding the best time to order oil remains difficult as the price has been fluctuating continuously. The last order was driven by a number of members needing to fill up at the same time and, luckily, there had been a downward trend for a number of days. We were fortunate to hit a small price dip and to pay less than last time at 65.45p/litre ex VAT.

Boilerjuice's graph of their average price for 1000 litres across England, which we use as our guide, was showing the England average price as 68.36p/litre ex VAT on 7th February when our order was placed.

The next order will be later in the year, probably in July or August depending on how many of you get in touch indicating you need some and what the price is doing at the time. If we have a continuing cold snap, an extra order is possible if group members make it clear there is a need. Please get in touch if you think you will need one.

Anyone whose order can be placed by email, either by themselves or by a friend or relative with authority to speak for them, is very welcome to join. You don't have to live in Laxton or Moorhouse to join.

Please contact me on my personal email if you have it. NB I do not publish it because of the volume of spam that generates.

**[oil@openfield.org.uk](mailto:oil@openfield.org.uk)** is a general address you can use if you don't have mine.

Joy

The group currently covers an area of roughly 5 miles radius from Laxton, but still includes a former resident now living 20 miles away.



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# Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council, Minutes of the Meeting held on 23/1/24

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

## **In attendance at parish council meeting**

C. Wilson (Clerk), S. Michael (District councillor)  
Member of the public (x1)

1. **Apologies for absence:** There were no absences. Mr Pringle had sent apologies. Councillors were disappointed that there were no representatives from the solar park developer in attendance. They also noted the new date for the community information session, 31 January 2024.
2. **Declarations of interest:** Mr Sheard declared an interest in item 16 c (Finance – Accounts for payment). There were no other declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.
3. **Dispensations:** None required.
4. **10 Minutes public speaking:** The following were raised and discussed:
  - a. The condition of the roads. The chair encouraged all residents to report road issues individually as recommended by Mr Pringle.
  - b. Overgrowth obstructing the footpath outside Smithy Farm and the hedge on the left of Toad Lane at the corner as on exiting the village. The clerk will write a letter to the landowner requesting that it be cut.
  - c. Overgrowth on Moorhouse Road. The clerk will raise with Mr Pringle.
  - d. The condition of and rubbish at Bar Farmhouse. Mrs Michael reported that she had spoken with the conservation officer who was going to inspect the property. The clerk will contact the officer direct for an update.
5. **Thoresby Estate Report (if any): No report available.**

Councillors discussed the Court Leet suggestion that there be a village meeting to discuss village matters including flooding. However, the suggestion had been superseded by Village Centre developments, with an invitation to a meeting from the Village Centre to village hall representatives, the Thoresby estate and the chair. The chair referred to some apparent confusion in relation to his position, which was chair of the parish council not a village hall

representative. He will email Mr Pierrepont to request a meeting agenda.

Councillors identified the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting as an appropriate forum for the discussion of village matters including flooding. The clerk will invite Mr Pierrepont.

Councillors **agreed** that they would like to invite the NCC flood officer to the March 2024 meeting.

**6. Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 28 November**

**2023:** The minutes of the parish council meetings held on 28 November 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.

**7. Matters arising:**

*Item LMPC/316/23 – 10 minutes public speaking* – The clerk reported that no aquasacs are available.

*Item LMPC/320/23 – Reports from councillors* – The chair had spoken with Rob regarding glass collection in Moorhouse but it may not be viable because of the small number of properties. He is waiting to hear.

There were no other matters arising which were not otherwise on the agenda.

**8. Reports from councillors:** It was reported that:

- a. The verge by Toad Lane has been completely eroded
- b. The tarmac at the gate to Corner Farm was damaged.

The clerk will report both to NCC.

The chair reported on the Safer Neighbourhood Group meeting on 18 January 2024, referring to then following in particular:

1. The police no longer support with Neighbourhood watch but instead encourage residents to use Neighbourhood Alert which is a notification system. It remains possible to set up a group but there would be no police involvement.
2. Police priorities had been identified as:
  - i. Rural crime and education
  - ii. Speeding traffic
  - iii. Inconsiderate parking
3. Beat meetings had been held throughout the summer with the police making themselves available to meet the public. However, they are now looking at engaging with communities in a different way by attending existing events where residents will already be in attendance.
4. The next meeting is on 18 April 2024.

Mr Sheard reported that he is attending the meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Caroline Henry. In addition to her flooding report at LMPC/316/23 10 minutes public speaking, Mrs Michael reported that:

- a. Following the flooding on 6 January 2024, the government had restored all previous flood grant schemes including the farming recovery grant for land which is uninsurable
- b. NSDC is bringing back CCTV cameras at a cost of £500,000
- c. The cabinet meeting had approved a 7.7% rise in council house rents and a council tax increase.

9. **Property matters including sports field and Glebe Field matters (if any):** Mr Sheard reported that the Sports Field Committee meeting had been cancelled. There had however been discussion of a joint litter pick. Councillors **approved** the suggestion. Mr Sheard will organise the event on a date to be agreed.

The clerk reported that her search through the minutes in the NCC archive confirmed that parish council had received the grant funding and paid for the pavilion's construction. On this basis, the parish council would require insurance but a value would be required for the structure. The clerk will make enquiries. Mrs Moorhouse will obtain a copy of the lease from Thoresby which may contain relevant information.

Councillors noted that the Glebe Field hedge had been cut.

10. **Parish council matters:**
- a. **Aims and objectives:** Councillors discussed and shared ideas.
  - b. **Consider use of social media:** Councillors discussed the benefits of a social media platform to disseminate information but also the risks and need for robust safeguards. Mr Sheard, Mrs Creighton and Mr J Hill will form a working party to consider the options and report back at the March meeting.
  - c. **Report on Christmas event:** Councillors agreed that the event had gone well with lots of positive feedback having been received from residents. They regretted that the weather conditions had prevented the vicar and choir from attending. They will await the Young Farmers' invoice for the removal of the trees.
11. **D Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary – Discuss beacon:** After discussion, it was **agreed** that the chair would ask the Dovecote if a beacon could be lit in the pub field as in the past.
12. **Defibrillator inspection report:** Mr J Hill reported that, there were no issues. It was noted that the battery date is May 2024. The clerk reported that it had now become clear that the defibrillator model was being phased out. She will look at potential new models and funding.



12. **Village environment and appearance, including Bar Farmhouse:**
  - a. **Parish roads and pavements, including Moorhouse village sign:** The clerk will ask Mr Pringle to visit to look at the roads, pavements and drains. The planned for the location if any new litter bin was confirmed as by the dog bin at the sports ground entrance.
  - b. **Bench for Moorhouse:** The bench will be installed when weather conditions are better.
  - c. **Flood resilience:** Discussed at LMPC/5/24 (Thoresby Estate report) above. The clerk will ask for volunteers to put out flood signs using the website.
  - d. **Neighbourhood watch:** Discussed at LMPC/8/24 (Reports from Councillors) above
13. **Financial position as at 31 December 2023:** Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 December 2023 (incorporating the 2023-24 budget figures).
  - a. **2024 – 25 insurance arrangements:** Councillors unanimously **approved** the 2024-25 insurance arrangements subject to the above amendment.
  - b. **Accounts for payment:** Councillors unanimously **approved** eleven payments totalling £1240.34. Councillors noted the importance of submitting expenditure invoices in advance.
  - c. **To consider the financial information provided by the Clerk and NSDC's letter regarding 2024/25 precept estimates and to agree the precept for the year ending 31 March 2025:** Councillors considered the financial information provided by the clerk. They noted the level of reserves, recognising that these were at a level which provided scope for investment on the parish environment. Councillors unanimously **decided** to retain the precept at £4600.
14. **Service faults:** None reported
15. **Correspondence: NSDC – Anti-social Crime and Policing Act 2024 – Public Spaces Protection Orders:** Noted
16. **5 minutes public speaking time:** Nothing raised.
17. **Agenda items for next meeting:** See above
18. **Date of next meeting:** 7.30 pm Tuesday 26 March 2024 at Laxton Visitor Centre

## Egmanton Village Hall

[www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk) / 01777 871171

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

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- ◆ **Egmanton WI** - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ◆ **Coffee Morning: MARCH 9th** 10 - 12 then every second Saturday of the month. 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

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

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

We now only have 3 of the 59 numbers available for anyone who would like an additional one or a new member. All proceeds go to supporting the Laxton Sports and Recreation Field.

The available numbers are: 51, 52 and 53.

*Michael*

# Useful Contact Details

## Defibrillator Contacts:

Neil Randall 01777 871229 & 07710 398745, evenings and weekends  
Mark Hennell 07812 908316, evenings  
Stuart Rose 07939 228353, as required  
Jeanette Geldard 07956 959135, daytime in Kneesall,  
evenings / weekends  
Anne-Marie & Geoff Rose 07961 933290 / 07957 991002, as required

## Police

Sgt 2949 Christian Hurley, Sherwood Neighbourhood Policing Team,  
Ollerton Police Station

PC Gary Sipson 07525 226575 or 101 x 800 7673

Email : [gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

PC2548 Deborah Bakin supported by  
PCSO 8524 Richard Dunn at Southwell

07595 074292

Web, showing other contacts: [www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

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County Councillor: [cllr.mike.pringle@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mike.pringle@nottsc.gov.uk) 0115 977 5661  
Parish Council website: [www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk)

# Funny Pet Photos



Has Dave Sheard started something with this picture of their Labrador, Bobby, saying 'Cheese'? Dave says it is something Bobby has done from a puppy and he will do it more or less on demand if he is in the mood.

Have you got a photo of a pet doing something unexpected or unusual? We would love to see it if you have.

Dave has been out and about around Laxton with his camera and here are some of the results.

