

Open Field

50p

May 2017



*Ruby lighting a candle in Laxton Church on Mothering Sunday 2017
helped by Revd. Anna Alls*

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

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Churchwardens LAXTON
MOORHOUSE
KNEESALL
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WELLOW

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Magazine Advertising

Photography

Rev. Zoe Burton 01623 862818
Mrs Brenda Noble 01777 870541
Mr Simon Hill 01636 822777
Mr Ian Thorn
Mr Ben Wells 01623 861309
Mrs Jean Crofts

01636 650063
Catherine Millward 01636 813387
Mr Michael Manning
Mr David Brown
Mr Roy Hennell Mr Simon Hill
Mr Mark Hennell Mr Jem Hill
Mr John Godson
Mrs Jean Hennell 01777 870276

30th April
7th & 14th May
21st & 28th May
4th & 11th June

Mrs Joy Allison 01777 871506
Email: advertising@openfield.org.uk

Janet Cooke, David and Linda Brown, Beryl Venables, Derek Harris, Dik & Joy Allison

Open Field

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

Photographs of children appear in Open Field and on the web site with the consent of their parents / carers. Open Field appears on the Web in its entirety plus additional photos. If in doubt, photos are not used.

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY
16th MAY PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED.**

www.openfield.org.uk

Cover photo: Mothering Sunday
at Laxton

Photo by: Janet Cooke



Letter From Rev Zoe

Dear friends

As I write this letter, spring has made its presence known in a little heat wave and all the closed buds on my garden trees are opening up to reveal some of their inner beauty within. These little hopeful signs encourage me, warm my heart and lift my spirit. These little hopeful signs are a foretaste of what is yet to come and for me, they point to the Creator God who is making all things beautiful in their time.

Hope is a precious gift and without it, life becomes unbearable and pretty dire. I am reminded of hope in story that went like this: a family home once caught fire and the family escaped with only the clothes on their back. The family lived in the middle of nowhere with no help in the immediate vicinity. The father and son walked to a distant village to get supplies. As they returned home, they saw something which stayed with the son his entire life. Beside the charred remains of what had been the family home, his mum had laid out a lunch on a log. She had placed a tin filled with wild flowers on the log. The gifts on the log became symbols of hope in the midst of a tragedy. The mum didn't try to cover up the disaster with flowers but in the midst of that gloomy scene she placed a symbol of hope. For the family who had lost their home, there is hope of rebuilding their home or getting the supplies they need to carry on.

Hope gives the desire or longing for life to be better than it is at the moment. There are people in the world who hope to be freed from poverty or those living in a war zone to experience peace and justice; people who hope to get the grades needed to move onto the next stage of education, to pass driving tests, to get a job, to see our children grow up fit and healthy and be happy and so on.

In the Church calendar, we are still in the Easter season and as Christians we are reminded that Jesus' death, resurrection and glorious ascension became a gateway whereby he took his humanity into heaven opening the way for all humanity to experience a new way of life which goes beyond death and lasts for all eternity. But we don't have to wait until we die to experience this way of life, He invites us to join him in living his new way of life now – we are given a foretaste here on earth of what is yet to come. Jesus offers this as a gift but like any gift we have to choose to unwrap it to discover and encounter a way of Life which is meaningful and purposeful; a way of life which is full of potential and endless possibility and consequently, a way of life which offers a hopeful rather than hopeless future.

I wonder, what are you hoping for?

Many blessings,

Zoe

Welcome Home Margaret

We are pleased to hear that Margaret Maddison has come home. It is good to have you home and we hope you continue to keep well.

Get Well Wishes

We are pleased to hear that Sue Stockdale is recovering well from surgery and hope she is soon fully fit.

We are pleased to hear that Roy Hennell's recent operation was a success and hope to see him about and up to full speed again very soon.



Church Dance

Once again thanks to everyone for their help with the Church Dance. We are very grateful to everyone who gives food and raffle prizes and those who support us.

Numbers were a little down this time but we still raised £461 for church funds. Thank you to Jean, Rachel, Janet and Lesley for their help. Our next dance is Friday 17th November.

ROGATION SERVICE

Sunday, 21st May 2017

10.30am

Laxton Common

Everyone welcome

**Come along and join us in this, another of our
traditional services when the crops are blessed
In church if wet**

Pat's Plant Stall

The Stall is now up and running.

There are plenty of herbaceous plants, chrysanthemum, strawberries, mange tout and broad beans. As the weather warms up the numerous varieties of tomato, cucumber, courgette and summer flowers will appear.

The funds raised are going to several charities supported by the Inner Wheel Club of Sherwood Forest, but primarily to the less well known charity - Blood Bikes.

Advance Notice

The Club will be holding a talk with refreshments in the Village Hall on **Thursday 8 June, 6.45 for 7.00 pm**. A speaker from Blood Bikes will be there to explain what they do and how it is achieved.

Please come along and join us. Tickets are £5.00 which includes light refreshments.

Contact Pat on **01777 870601** for tickets.



Spring Concert in Church with Kneesall School Choir in

Laxton Church
on

Friday 19th May
at 7pm

Further notice next month and tickets for sale

Tickets £5 including refreshments
from Jean Hennell - phone 01777 870276 or
From Kneesall school

Mothers' Union

Our meeting in March was a service in church for Lady Day, taken by our lay reader, Joan Wood.

This was followed by a light supper at Anne and Keith Dutton's. Our next meeting will be on 24th April when our speaker will talk to us on the Police Convoys.

Our meeting on 22nd May will be our annual outing. This year we are visiting the Heritage Museum at Bilsthorpe. All are very welcome to either meeting. Please contact Janet Cooke if you are interested in attending.

Janet

Church Bells

For those of you who were wondering why the church bells were ringing on the afternoon of 4th April, this was a Quarter Peal, consisting of 1,260 changes of Plain Bob Minor, rung by the Chilton Mid Week Group of bell ringers. They were on a ringing holiday of the Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire area. They have visited numerous towers each day ringing and ending up with a Quarter Peal at each tower.

Janet Cooke

Thank You

You will have noticed the grass area up to the telephone box is now being cut. Neil did it with the new Sports Field mower but the ground is still a bit rough for it. However David at the Dovey has stepped in and volunteered to do it with his "ride on mower".

Many thanks David

New Village Signs



Although you may not get this in time, the new signs are to be installed on MONDAY 25th April. If you are about please come and have a look as we will be taking some pictures for the magazine.

There are four to be installed so there is bound to be one near you!!!!



Moorhouse Garden Fete

**Friday June 9th
6.30pm**

**Wilmington Farm
Moorhouse**

**Cake stall * Teas * Raffle
Games * Tombola**

Everyone welcome

All proceeds to Moorhouse church



Village Hall AGM

The Village Hall Committee will be holding the AGM in the hall on Monday 15 May.

The committee will meet at 7.30.

Anyone else is very welcome to attend the AGM at 8.00pm, just come straight in.

Attending provides an opportunity to ask questions, view the finances and hear about ongoing plans.



Laxton Garden Fete

Friday 23rd June

6.30pm

venue to be confirmed

Things to Do this Month

May 1 st	May Day Dawn, Laxton Castle, 5.15am followed by a Dawn Chorus walk of the 3 open fields
May 4 th	Local Elections
May 7 th	Great Notts History Fair, Mansfield
May 13 th 14 th	Notts County Show at Newark
May 15 th	Village Hall AGM VH
May 17 th	History Group - An Evening with Prof. John Beckett
May 19 th	Concert in Church
May 23 rd	Parish Council and APM VC
May 29 th	Wellow Maypole Celebrations, Wellow Green

VH = Village Hall VC = Visitor Centre

Coffee Morning

13th April 10.30am - 11.30am



The second of the new coffee mornings will take place at Janet Cooke's house in the top right hand corner of Timothy Road.



Why not come and join us? Everyone is welcome to this informal group. You don't have to commit to monthly attendance and are welcome to pop in to enjoy some friendly, cheerful company. Plenty of tea, cakes, and chatter.



HLF Project

We are pleased to report that the project is now completed and has been signed off by the Heritage Lottery Fund. We still came in very slightly below the original budget despite producing the three recent booklets as well as the original four which we promised to write and also holding a second launch event for them. The original underspend enabled us to ask for permission to buy the new public noticeboard and a projector, both of which we now have.

The first four booklets are no longer available in printed form. We do have some sets of the recent three if anyone needs more. All are available for free download from www.laxtonhistorygroup.org.uk.

Very many thanks to everyone who has supported this work in any way.

Michael Wood Award

The children of Class 3 at Kneesall School have been hard at work researching their own chosen topics for our joint project with them which is funded by Michael Wood's kind donation. They will be giving a presentation to History Group members and their families on Thursday 20th April at the school.

This year four Laxton children and a further three from Egmanton are in the class so we will know a good number of them by sight at least and it will be lovely to have a chance to see what they have discovered and to get to know them better.

Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair, Sunday 7th May 2017

We will once again have a stand at this event in Mansfield Library, which brings together many of the local history societies across the county with a number of other local organisations with historical connections. It is free and well worth a visit. Last year there were even live birds of prey on show!

We will be taking displays about both the HLF project and the children's work from the Michael Wood Award, so we should be very well represented. Please make a note of the date and come along to support us and enjoy the displays from the other organisations.

On May 17th we meet at 7.30pm in the Village Hall to enjoy an evening with our President, Prof. John Beckett. All welcome.

The Dovecote Inn at Laxton

Your Local Village Pub



Monday 1st May Steak Night 6.00pm - 9.00pm

Whole joints of beef from Doncasters' family butchers of Newark. Cut in the restaurant and cooked to your liking.
Price depends on size of steak

Friday 19th May Fish Gourmet Evening 7.00pm for 7.30pm

This is another very special gourmet evening. Using the freshest seafood from our fish monger 'Spencer's Seafood' we offer a 3 course gourmet menu with carefully selected wines with each course.
£29.95 per person including wine.

Spring Bank Holiday Family Fun in the Garden

Afternoon hog roast from 2.00pm. Bouncy Castle and Treasure Hunt (weather permitting). Bar open all day with normal restaurant opening times

Book now for all these events. For further information or to book a table, please call us on 01777 871586, visit the Website www.dovecoteinn.co.uk or find us on Facebook. All events can be booked and paid for on line using PayPal

**Look forward to seeing you all soon at your local pub,
The Dovecote Inn at Laxton**

THE DOVECOTE INN, LAXTON

Summer

Ball



FRIDAY 7TH JULY
DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

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Tractors on Sundays

Brenda Noble spotted the following in the Newark Advertiser's '100 years ago' section for 11 April 1917

A meeting of Newark War Agricultural Committee was held in the Royal Oak Hotel, Castlegate, when the question of ploughing on Sundays was raised. Mr Fisher said the whole crux of the question was, were they going to avert famine by working these tractors on a Sunday/ He said "no." These few days' extra ploughing would not do it. Mr Stretton was of the opinion that if people would put their shoulder to the wheel they could do the work on six days, and he would not be in favour of doing this work on Sundays. It was decided by unanimous vote that the tractor shall not work on Sundays.



**The Great Nottinghamshire
LOCAL HISTORY FAIR**

Mansfield Central Library
Sunday 7 May 2017 11am - 3pm
*A fabulous **FREE** day out for all the family*



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- Old films and photos of Nottinghamshire
- Craft demonstrations
- Free activities for children
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- Bookstalls
- Mining heritage.

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from White Post
Farm

Plus
Traditional Morris
dancing with
Rattlejag Morris

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Tuxford Young Farmers



These last few weeks have been very busy and we have been on a lot of amazing meetings. We went to Brackenhurst to 'Lambing Live.' It was great to see everything at Brackenhurst. They made us feel welcome and the students told us about lambing. Some people might not have experienced lambing because they are not from a farming community - but remember '**You don't have to be a Farmer to be a Young Farmer**'.

We have also had a fundraiser on 25th March raising funds for the club and our charity, Nottinghamshire Rural Support. We have done flower arranging for Mothers' Day and we have sorted things out for Newark show.

For anyone wondering, Newark show will be held on May 13th and 14th. If you didn't know, Young Farmers do stock judging and have different crafts to compete in. Some are cookery and some are getting inventive with wood and metal. Why not come along and see us there?

Kneesall Hay Barn Photos

I'm wondering if you are able to help me out. My name is Lindsey Crooks. I am taking over The Hay Barn Cafe in Kneesall and would really like to know more about the history of the building. If possible, I would like to collect and display in the café documents/photos/maps etc. of the barn at different stages throughout its life.

If you can help, please would you contact me at

L.crooks71@hotmail.co.uk or via Open Field. Thank you, *Lindsey*

QUIZ FUNDS - The proceeds of the Village Hall Quiz was accidentally left out of the article last month. The event raised £572.31 for the Hall.

May Day Dawn

The celebrations take place on May 1st every year. This falls nicely on Bank Holiday this year, and it is the traditional time for dancing and singing in the first sunrise of the summer. Rattlejag Morris team invite you to come and join them in celebrating one of our old



English customs in this very special place, on the top of rural Laxton's ancient motte and bailey mound (accessible from the lane opposite the church). Welcoming the dawn starts at about 5.20 am. The view across the fields is stunning and the sun has rarely failed to appear in the last 35 years and this will be Rattlejag's 15th anniversary dancing here, so well worth it!

So brave the morning - with sturdy clothing, a frost is not unknown - , join in the revels and you will be rewarded with breakfast: barbecued butties and beer or hot drinks after (for a small donation). If you want to make a bit more of the morning, Stuart Rose, will take you on a Dawn Chorus Walk across the fields. If anyone is unsure where to go, he leaves starting at the Dovecote Inn at 5.00 am to go to the castle to watch Rattlejag on the way.




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10th Anniversary at The Dovecote Inn



At 11.00am Tuesday May 15th 2007, David and I entered the Dovecote Inn. We were shown the cellar and “This is how you change a barrel”, shown the till - “You press this button here”, handed the keys and then waved goodbye to Betty and Lisa. 30 minutes later we unlocked the front door as the new licensees of

The Dovecote Inn.

My, Oh my, where did those 10 years go?

We probably picked the worst time in recent years to open our first pub, particularly as we had never done it before. But hey folks we did it, and despite the odds we are still here.



Shortly after we started trading came the worst recession in modern history. This coincided with the rapid decline in public houses, at the same time as the dramatic rise in coffee shops. The current average rate of pub

closures in the UK is 29 per week. The rate peaked in 2009 at a national average of 52 per week. The rate of closure is even higher in rural areas. Take a look around you here in North Notts, and consider how many pubs,



have closed in that 10 year period. Some have reopened and closed again and how many have consistently changed hands as landlords come and go at an alarming rate.



But Dave and I are still here, and hopefully will continue to be here for the next 10 years.

I could go on and on, but instead here are some

photos of our highlights over the years, which I hope you will appreciate and which will bring back some happy memories for you all.



We've had an absolute blast, and loved every



minute of it (well almost). Hope you have too. Thank you for your continued support and custom and your continued friendship.

Linda & David



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Lunch time school collection and drop off service from a number of local schools including, Tuxford, Walesby, Dunham Trent, Norwell, Kneesall and Wellow. This New childcare setting is brought to you by Laxton Kindergarten which is currently rated **OUTSTANDING** by Ofsted.

FREE Places available for eligible 2 Year Olds
FREE 15 Hours for all 3 - 5 year olds.
From Sept 2017 FREE 30 Hours for all eligible 3 - 5 year olds
Bookings now being taken please call:
07956 959135

New before and after school Club

Offering a wide range of activities for children aged 5 -11 years and a free drop off and collection service to a number of local schools

Before School 7 - 9am
After-school 3 - 6pm

Includes wholesome nutritious breakfast and afternoon tea (all meals are freshly prepared and cooked daily)

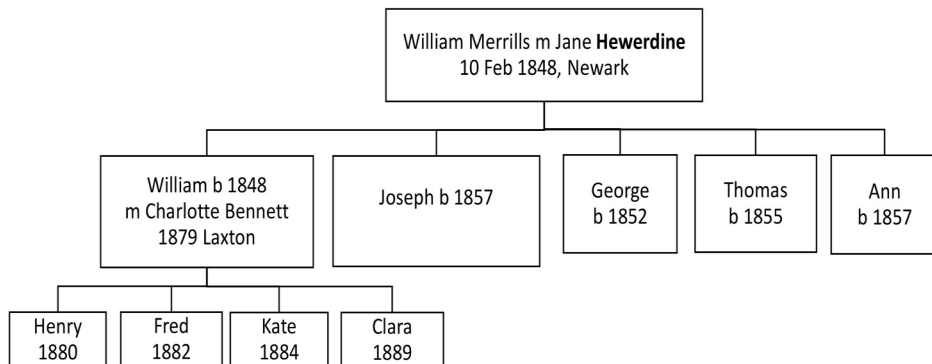
Action Packed School Holiday Clubs for children aged 5 - 11 years
Using the National Trust campaign - 50 things to do before you're 11 3/4 we aim to take children to explore the great outdoors, learning new skills and trying new things - Let us entertain the children for you

WHERE CHILDREN
MAKE MEMORIES..



The Hewerdines of Laxton

Jenni Dobson continues the story of the Hewerdines and the families they married into. In this second episode we look at William Merrills and Jane neé Hewerdine's eldest son, William, who remained living in Laxton for all his life. He was baptised on 26th November 1848 at Laxton and died on 18th November 1940.



When William married Charlotte Bennett at Laxton on 27th March 1879, he connected himself to an extensive north Notts family. Charlotte was the daughter of George and Elizabeth, baptised on 17th September 1848 at Laxton.

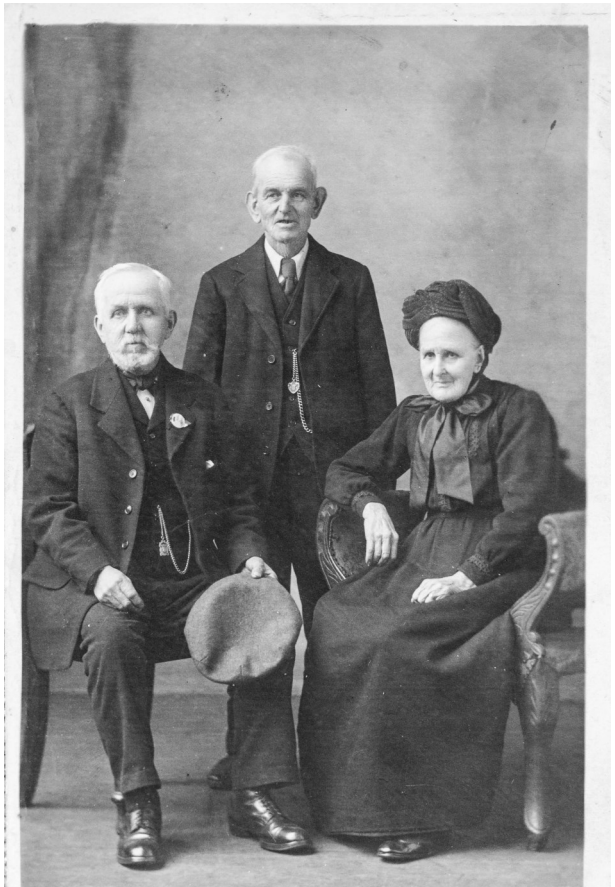
The 1851 census shows George Bennett, Charlotte's father, as an 'ag.lab.' living on Main St, Laxton with his wife Elizabeth, three sons and two daughters, of whom Charlotte was the youngest. George said he was born at Laxton. Ten years later, his household on 'West St', Laxton, with Charlotte the only child still living at home, also included his 85-year-old father Thomas, recorded as a pauper, born at Ossington.

By 1871 George Bennett was a farm bailiff at Ossington, whilst Charlotte can be found as a live-in laundry maid at Whitfield Hall, Northumberland working for the Blackett Ord family. George returned to Laxton where he was recorded in 1881 next to Joseph Merrills, parish clerk, and his household included William and Charlotte Merrills' first born, Harry.

George Bennett was still at Laxton in 1891 but there's a possible death for him in 1892, June Quarter, aged 82. Elizabeth Bennett may have died in 1896, December Quarter, aged 84. Both deaths are registered at Southwell district.

At the 1881 census, William Merrills was farming 97 acres at Breck Wong, employing one labourer. By 1891, William and Charlotte had Harry, aged 11; Fred, 9 yrs; Kate, 7 yrs and Clara, 2. They had three live-in servants, recorded only the 4th entry from the School House, though it's unclear in what order the enumerator recorded the properties and occupants.

In 1901, the three younger children were still with them and they're listed next but one to Frank Willis, who was then the school master. The 1911 census showed that the family farm house had 11 rooms, that the couple had been married for 32 years and all four children were still living. This is thought to be the present-day Crosshill Farm.



This photo from descendants of the Merrills family is captioned 'Bennett Family, Laxton'. Might this be Charlotte with William? Can anyone identify them?

Amongst the estate records examined by Laxton History Group's recent 20th century project are included surviving correspondence between William Merrills and the Estate, e.g. with Mr Harpham, the Valuer.

When Charlotte died, she was buried on 9th February 1932 at Laxton. When William died on 18th November 1940, aged about 92, his burial on 21st November stated 'of Westwood, Laxton'.

The National Probate Calendar (NPC) shows that probate was granted at Nottingham to James William Price, farmer, who appears to be the son of John Thomas Price, former publican at the Dove Cote Inn in 1911, and who was William's son-in-law. More about William & Charlotte's offspring later.

Next time: the story of William and Jane's second son, Joseph.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES MAY 2017

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

30th April

10.30am Kneesall - Family of Churches WfA
'NEW LIFE AND HOPE'

1st Sunday – 7th May – Easter 3

9am Kirton HC

10.30am Kneesall HC

2nd Sunday – 14th May – Easter 4

10.30am Laxton HC

4pm Egmanton Es

4pm Wellow HC

3rd Sunday – 21st May – Easter 5

9am Egmanton HC

10.30am Rogation Sunday on Laxton Common

Thursday 25th May – Ascension Day

7.30pm St Paulinus, New Ollerton HC

4th Sunday – 28th May – Easter 6

9am Moorhouse HC

10.30am Kirton HC

6pm Maypole Service, Wellow

Midweek said Holy Communion at St Giles, Ollerton Village,
10am on Wed 10th and 24th May and the church will then remain
open until 4pm

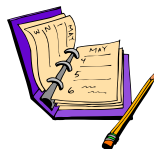
Tuesday 9th May – 'Open Vestry Hour' for baptism and wedding
enquiries 6.30pm – 7.30pm at St Paulinus Church Office. Church
Administrator, Eileen, on Monday and Friday mornings 10am –
12.30pm <tel:07983946930> or email: churchadmin1931@gmail.com



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2017

May 1st	May Day at Laxton Castle & Dawn Chorus Walk
May 7th	Great Notts History Fair, Mansfield
May 10th	WI
May 11th	Coffee Morning
May 13th 14th	Notts County Show at Newark
May 15th	Village Hall AGM
May 17th	History Group
May 19th	Concert in Church
May 22nd	MU trip
May 23rd	Parish Council and APM
May 29th	Wellow Maypole Celebrations



Forward Planning

June 8th	General Election
June 9th	Moorhouse Fête
June 23rd	Laxton Fête
June 24th	History Group Trip
July 1st	Gymkhana
July 16th	Strawberry Tea date to be confirmed
Sept 30th	Southwell Ploughing Match
Nov 17th	Church Dance
Dec 1st	Quiz Night

Copy Date for June: 16th May.

We cannot guarantee to include items received after this date.

Wagstaff Construction

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Laxton WI



Our April meeting heard about the launch of the year celebrations for the Federation's Centenary Year at the county Spring Council.

Angela Knowles, the original 'Calendar Girl', whose husband John's shock cancer diagnosis had caused light-hearted chats about a nude calendar to be turned into a reality, was the morning speaker. What the calendar and the story behind it became is the stuff of legends and they have now raised in excess of £4million for leukaemia research.

The second speaker of the day Jane Robinson, author of the WI history, 'A Force to be Reckoned With' proved to be equally good. She shared insights into her research for the book, delving into WI archives and meeting the archivists who maintain them.



Back home, we are thinking about the County Show, with a group entry and several members working on individual entries. Elizabeth Banks showed the Centenary card she had made, which amazed members with its skill and beautiful execution.

Brenda read out the list of events which we will be able to participate in for the Centenary as well as the usual variety of activities. Several members will be joining on the croquet evening at Southwell, which was great fun last year.

Once again we will be recording our special year in a photo book. The County Federation have taken a leaf out of our book and are preparing a photo book to commemorate the year including 5 photos and a short piece of text from each of the institutes in the county.

Our speaker was Kayleigh Black, who came accompanied by her assistance dog, Flash. He was trained by the charity 'Dogs for Good', formerly known as 'Dogs for the Disabled'. Kayleigh told her story, beginning when, as a teenager, she wanted the freedoms her friends were gaining. She looked into the possibilities of an assistance dog to help her, but was initially disappointed as the lower age for pairing with a dog was then 18. Luck was on Kayleigh's side as soon

Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
18/3/17	43	Edwin Swordy
25/3/17	28	Pat and Bert
1/4/17	14	Keith and Anne D
8/4/17	21	ROLLOVER
15/4/17	48	David (Dovey)

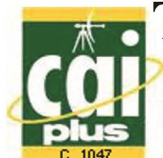
Thank you all for your continuing support for our Sports Field. The total number of balls is 59, the same as the National Lottery. There are numbers available. **If you would like to join, you can choose from the numbers 34, 52, 53, 56, 57 and 59. Anyone with a current ball is also invited to take another.**

To take a new ball please contact either Ken Shep on **870605** or myself on **870844**. Thank you.

Michael Manning

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afterwards the charity began placing dogs with younger people and soon after she became 16 she was one of two young people to be chosen to receive a dog.

Vicky, Labrador Retriever cross was brought to meet her and they got on famously. The charity decided they would make a good partnership and before long Kayleigh was at the Banbury Training Centre in Oxfordshire learning to work with

Vicky. Her advanced training taught her the tasks she would need to be able to do specifically for Kayleigh.

Kayleigh credited having Vicky to help her with a complete change in her self confidence and her life. 'People get fed up with being asked to help, but dogs don't' she said. 'They like to help and work for just their treats'. Having Vicky had enabled her to go to university and live in halls with other students and also to live independently after she graduated with help from her dog and a carer.

Flash, who joined Kayleigh when Vicky retired aged 12, proved the point by picking things up during the talk. He retrieved a dropped bottle top and passed his lead, but showed particular enthusiasm for clearing up the treats which fell out of Kayleigh's open bag!

After her retirement Vicky was allowed to remain living with Kayleigh and Flash. She is happy to let him do the work now. Life is not all work and the dogs get taken to the park daily for play and get time off. We heard that Flash can be frightened by unusual situations so Kayleigh chooses not to take him to the cinema and subject him to loud noise.

We learned the type of jobs her dogs help with; how effectively the disabled person doesn't have a working dog until a successor dog is found when a dog retires; how the charity gets its puppies and the staggering cost to the charity of £50,000 to train an assistance dog over its lifetime, all of which comes from public donations.

Kayleigh judged our competition for a picture or ornament of a dog which was won by Margaret Palmer with a lovely photo of her own dog, followed by Jacqui Carter's black and white drawing of a Scottie and Joy Allison's photo of a Sheltie.

At our May 10th meeting we will discuss the Resolutions for the National AGM in Liverpool with a supper and by . The meeting takes place at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.



The Midlands Enclosure Riots in 1607

Laxton is famous as the place where the open field farming system has survived, still managed by a legally constituted Court Leet. The open fields still contain strips separated by a double furrow and farmed by the farmer whose tenancy gives him the right to that strip.

This system was once common all over eastern England but elsewhere the strips were amalgamated and enclosed by fences and hedges. Whilst enclosures made many men rich there was often a high price to pay for the poorer members of the community. Some landowners imposed enclosures forcibly on the local community and in the process created great hardship. Many people were driven off the land and others, if they were lucky, became wage labourers for the land owners. Whole villages became depopulated and the buildings were torn down to make large sheep runs.

The Tudor authorities were extremely nervous about how the villagers who had lost their homes would react. In the sixteenth century, lack of income made you a pauper. If you lost your home as well, you became a vagrant, and vagrants were regarded (and treated) as criminals. Many landless people became vagrants and not surprisingly crime increased considerably in this period.

The village of Cotesbach in Leicestershire was at the centre of protests and this year, on 9th and 10th June, is staging a play about the events which took place and holding a series of talks on related subjects, in which Laxton will be represented to show how a community which escaped enforced enclosure has developed.

Thanks to Dr Len Holden, author of the play, for this short article about the events around Cotesbach in 1607. A fuller version is available to anyone interested.

In 1607 a series of riots broke out across Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire protesting about a wave of enclosures in those counties. Little is known about them due to the destruction of records but we do know they were led by a man called John Reynolds who was known as 'Captain Pouch' because of the leather bag that hung round his chest. He claimed that the bag contained permissions from King James I and God himself to throw down the enclosures which had caused many people to be turned from their homes and thrown off the land.



Peasants protesting against enclosure of land

The riots began in Warwickshire and moved north into the south part of Leicestershire and there in the tiny village of Cotesbach, near Lutterworth, a huge gathering took place on Trinity Sunday, 31st May. A village of less than 100 people witnessed a mass of 5,000 people coming together who, fuelled by drink and a sense of injustice, marched out to the recently enclosed fields and dug up the hedges and levelled the fences. Over a dozen villages in the three counties held similar meetings ending in the destruction of the enclosures.



Sir Anthony Mildmay

The peak of the riots occurred when a huge gathering at Newton near Kettering in Northamptonshire took place on 8th June. By this time the authorities had become organised and though many were sympathetic to the cause of the rioters it was felt that law and order had to be restored. Led by Sir Edward Montagu and Sir Anthony Mildmay a force of retainers and servants armed with weapons faced a small ragged army of rebels. A battle took place and 50 rioters were killed and

their leaders were arrested and taken to Northampton gaol after which they were put on trial.

At the trial the judge ordered 'Captain Pouch' to reveal the contents of his leather bag and much to the amusement of all revealed it be green mouldy cheese. Pouch and the other leaders were found guilty of riot and treason and were hanged drawn and quartered. Their body parts were distributed around Northampton and other Northamptonshire villages as a lesson to others.



Sir Edward Montagu

Authorities of the work of Shakespeare, who was alive at the time (he died in 1616), claim that he used these riots in his tragedy 'Coriolanus' which opens with a grain riot although set in ancient Rome.

The aftermath of the riots also put the land owners on trial at a Star Chamber court specially convened in London where they were accused of depopulating the land by means of enclosure and causing misery to their tenants. They were fined £20 each and told to take down the hedges. However, the damage was done and those villages and the land around them had changed forever. Twenty years later all those villages affected by the riots had been enclosed once again, but by new land owners.

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Milton Mausoleum

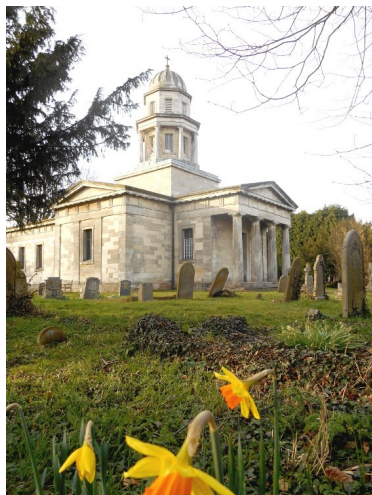
We live in an area that contains many remains of our country's history. Two thousand years ago, the Roman Empire occupied land at Littleborough. Nearer to our time the area of Sherwood Forest has contained some of our great aristocratic estates, Thoresby, Welbeck and Clumber. One part of the Clumber estate that is now under the care of The Churches Conservation Trust is the Mausoleum at Milton that was built by the 4th Duke of Newcastle as a memorial to his beloved wife, Georgiana.

It is a building that has been damaged by water penetration and vandalism over the years, but there are hopes that, in the near future, it will be useable as a community space.

For over ten years the Mausoleum has been opened a couple of times a month from May to September. This year we are continuing last year's change to open every Sunday, May to September, from 2 till 4pm. At this time volunteer stewards will be present to tell the story of the Duke, his wife and their family.

If you belong to an organised group who may wish to visit at another time contact our email address mausoleum1833@gamil.com

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Citizens Advice launches new money- saving project

Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark are looking forward to helping local people be better off with their new project funded by National Lottery, through the Big Lottery Fund. The new £10,000 project aims to save participating individuals or families at least £500 each in a year.

Lesley Barrick, Advice Services Manager, says, "Anyone who would like to take part in this project is welcome to get in touch with us directly. We are also trying to get the message out through local support organisations such as Sure Start, schools, or community groups so that we can reach as many people as possible."

All participants can expect an individual appointment during which they will be helped to carry out a review of their income and outgoings - to identify what gains can be made and how. Participants will be offered support to take action or make any changes, with follow-up help for those that need it.

Lesley explains, "We will look at each case individually to make sure the help we offer is achievable and realistic. We will look at household bills to see if people can get better deals, access to grants or potential income entitlement."

"Some people may have money worries and need help to manage outstanding debt. Others may come to us as a precaution to prevent problems from happening in future. Families might want to take advantage of the project to help them find money for a future event, or to get their children involved and practising any money management skills they have learned in school. We are excited to see the range of options we can find to help people to save money – and to find what tips people may want to share!"

Anyone interested in participating in Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark's Living Well for Less project can get more information at a drop-in advice session or **call 01623 861769** to request a call back. Drop-in advice sessions are from 9.30am until 2.30pm on Tuesday and Thursday at Keepers Cottage, Riverside Park, Newark, NG24 1BL or on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 5 Forest Court, Ollerton, NG22 9PL.

For telephone advice, call 0344 411 1444 (available 10 am until 4 pm).

Police Warning - Distraction Burglaries

Nottinghamshire Police have issued a warning following a series of distraction burglaries targeting homes across the county during the recent warm weather. Homeowners were targeted after being approached by rogue traders proposing home improvement works. While residents have been in conversation, an accomplice has entered the property through unlocked doors or windows to steal items. Chief Inspector Phil Davies from Nottinghamshire Police said: "It's only natural that people will be enjoying the recent fine weather - but it is so important that residents stay on their guard to avoid being targeted by would-be criminals. Even if you're out and about in the garden, always keep windows and doors locked to deter opportunist thieves and never purchase goods or services from anyone who calls unexpectedly at your home."

"We are also asking you to keep an eye out for vulnerable friends, family members and neighbours and warn them about these recent incidents to ensure they are doing all they can to protect themselves and their properties."

The latest series of distraction burglaries have taken place across the county. Each report mentions a man in a white Ford Transit van approaching residents to suggest works to fix guttering. Up to three men are believed to have been involved in these incidents.

Anyone with any information about these incidents or who witnesses anything suspicious in their area is asked to call Nottinghamshire Police on 101, quoting incident 442 of 9 April. If the crime is in progress or the offenders are still in the area, call 999 immediately. For more information about protecting yourself and your property from opportunist thieves, please visit

<http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/advice/prevention/distraction>

Scarecrow Festival at East Markham

On Saturday 20th May there will be a Scarecrow Festival in East Markham, with families displaying their entries in plain sight from the public roads. There will also be garage sales on at the same time - between 10am and 3pm.

The Village Hall will host a Tabletop Sale and refreshments. A map of the garage locations and voting slips for the scarecrows will both be available there. Everyone very welcome.

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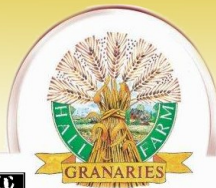
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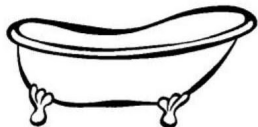
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Parish Council Minutes, 28th March 2017

Present: Councillors:

M. Manning (Chair), J. Hill, R. Hennell, M.Hennell, J.Godson, S.Hill

In attendance:

C. Millward (Clerk), Councillor Michael,
Members of the public (x3) (until 7.45 pm)

- 1 **Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Mr Brown (family reasons).
- 2 **Declarations of interest:** The chair declared an interest as member of the sports field committee in items 12 (Property matters) and 15 (Defibrillator). 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 members of the public raised issues they were experiencing arising out of the use of a property in Moorhouse for the operation of a plant hire business, including the delivery and storage of vehicles and fuel supply. As they understood the position, such use fell outside the existing permitted use and was causing significant disturbance together with noise from early morning until late at night and blocking access to other properties.
Councillors noted the matters raised and that the use of the property for such purposes was evidenced in the business's twitter account as shown in printouts of pages passed to them. The members of the public confirmed that they had raised the problem with NSDC by the residents but sought the councillors' support. Councillors discussed the matter and agreed that the clerk should also ask NSDC to investigate the use to which the premises are being put as soon as possible.
The members of the public left the meeting at 7.45 pm.
- 5 **Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 25 January 2017:** The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.
- 6 **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising. Councillors agreed that the meeting papers circulated in advance of the meeting should include an agenda and minutes for ease of reference.
- 7 **Reports from district and county councillors:** Mrs Michael reported that, as regards the condition of Old Bar Farmhouse, the property had been included on an NSDC list of properties to be examined with a view to being brought back into use.
She will let Mr Hill know the date of the next Safer Neighbourhood Group meeting which he will try to attend subject to his availability.
- 8 **Reports from Councillors:** Mr R Hennell reported that the kerbstones outside Corner Farm had been replaced.
- 9 **Retired clerk – Recognition arrangements:** Councillors were pleased that, following liaison between the clerk and NALC, Mr Shepherd's long

service to the parish council was being recognised by an invitation to the Queen's garden party in June 2017. They agreed that this was a fitting tribute.

- 10 Arrangements for 2017 Annual Parish Meeting:** To commence at 7.00 pm on 23 May 2017 with the parish council annual meeting to follow at 7.45 pm.
- 11 Financial Matters:**
 - a. **Financial position as at 28 February 2017:** Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 28 February 2017.
 - b. **2017-18 insurance arrangements:** Included on agenda in error – Not discussed.
 - c. **Accounts for payment:** The council unanimously approved three payments totalling £4247.73.
 - d. **Approve appointment of internal auditor:** Approaches to potential internal auditors within the village had been unsuccessful. Councillors agreed that they had no alternative but to appoint an internal auditor from NALC's list of potential auditors. They decided to appoint Belinda Boyer, subject to her agreement.
- 12 Property matters including sports field and:**
 - a. **Crown rent increase:** Councillors noted that there had been no rent review since 2013. After discussion, they decided to agree to the proposed increase to £350 with effect from 25 March 2017. The chair will locate the lease to establish the date it expires and the renewal procedure.
 - b. **Mowing arrangements:** The chair reported that the Sports Committee had purchased a mower which would remain in the committee's ownership.
- 13 Parish council website – Transparency fund:** The clerk reported on the availability of Government funding for parish council websites to enable parish councils to comply with the Transparency Code. Councillors noted that such funding would not be available indefinitely. The clerk explained that the funding would allow the council to have a bespoke website which would belong to the council alone and be administered by the clerk. She confirmed that she had liaised with Mr Brown and, with his assent, had made a funding application to secure the council's position. Councillors discussed the matter and decided that a fully funded website specifically designed for the council would be advantageous and that the grant application should be pursued.
- 14 Planning matters:**
 - a Applications: 17/00305/LBC | MINOR INTERNAL ALTERATIONS TO CONVERT THE FIRST FLOOR OF A DETACHED COACH HOUSE IN TO A HOME OFFICE WITH TOILET FACILITIES. | The Old Vicarage High Street Laxton Newark On Trent Nottinghamshire NG22 0NX - Councillors considered the application and unanimously decided that they had no objections to the proposal.

- b **To note planning decisions by NSDC:**
 - i. 16/02128/TWCA | Works to ash tree (x1) – 9 Timothy Road, Laxton Nottinghamshire: Approval noted
 - ii. 16/02198/FUL | Renovation of existing barn conversion to create a further letting bedroom and bathroom. | The Dovecote Inn Cross Hill Laxton NG22 0SX – Approval noted.
- c **To note appeal:** APP/B3030/W/16/3165580 – Planning ref 16/01582/FUL | Erection of dwelling | Land Adjacent Bar Farm The Bar Laxton – Noted. Outcome will be awaited.
- d **Compliance:** Nothing raised.
- 15 **Village development** including approach to the Crown regarding future plans: Councillors considered the contents of the draft letter to the Crown circulated by the clerk. They asked the clerk to include a reference to encouraging and supporting younger people with a connection to the village to secure the continuation of the open field system into the future. Otherwise, letter approved.
- 16 **Village environment and appearance**, including:
 - a Village Hall refurbishment project: No update available.
 - b Moorhouse “bumps”: NCC Highways response noted.
 - c New village signs, Laxton and Moorhouse: The chair reported that the four Laxton signs should be installed in April 2017. Mr S Hill will investigate the extent of support in Moorhouse for a fingerpost style sign in the village to report at the May 2017 meeting.
 - d Adoption of telephone kiosk: The clerk will apply to adopt the kiosk on Moorhouse Lane.
- 17 **Dog bins:** Councillors agreed that the annual emptying cost of £46 was justified and authorised the clerk to order a 25l green plastic bin with post and fittings. Location to be decided once delivered. To be delivered to the Dovecote (provided that Mr Brown does not object).
- 18 **Defibrillator update**, including ownership and risk management arrangements: Councillors confirmed that the council should be the owner of the defibrillator. They discussed risk management and decided that the defibrillator should be checked monthly and the check recorded. The clerk will ask Mr Brown if he would take responsibility for the check. The council’s risk management document to be amended to include the above arrangements.
- 19 **Service faults:** The clerk will report the pothole on Green Lane at bottom of Ingers Hill.
- 20 **Correspondence:** Item e – Minster Veterinary Centre – Free dog waste bags - The clerk will email the poster to the chair.
All other items of correspondence noted.
- 21 **10 Minutes public speaking time:** No public present
- 22 **Agenda items for next meeting:** As above plus 2017-18 meeting dates
- 23 **Date of next meeting:** 23 May 2017



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We are preparing for our Spring/Summer Concerts. We love to perform and know that our audiences like some familiar pieces. We also to offer new songs to expand our repertoire and appeal to a wider of audience.

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Our engagements are;

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Sat 10 June Farndon Church, Farndon with "The GentleMen 7-00pm

Sat 24 June Village Hall, Edwinstowe - Our Annual Summer Concert
7-00pm

Sat 8 July St. Chad's Church, Pleasley Vale, Concert

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Difficult typing, but I am crossing all fingers for the present lovely weather to continue. A happy late Spring to you all.

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Film: **Jindabyne** Cert.15

Date: Tuesday 9th May 7.30pm

This multi award-winning film is the follow-up to director Ray Lawrence's critically acclaimed "Lantana". In the Australian outback, a group of men on a fishing trip discover an Aboriginal girl's naked body in a river. They delay reporting their gruesome find until after the trip, but return home to find themselves in conflict with the police, their families and each other.

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

- ◆ Tuxford Young Farmers - No bookings in May
- ◆ Yoga with Greg – Tuesdays at 7:30pm
- ◆ WI - Thurs 18th
- ◆ Children's Dance Classes - Saturday mornings (Jill, 07790 601877)
- ◆ **Computer Problems?** - Call 01777 871171.

If your computer is misbehaving or you need help setting up a new one, please call. Donations to Egmanton Village Hall in lieu of fee.

KIRTON COFFEE MORNING

at

HOPLAND COTTAGE, RICE HILL, KIRTON
(Just off Egmanton Lane - home of Georgina Batty)

on

SATURDAY, MAY 13th - 10.30am

ENTRY £2 - includes coffee, tea, cake etc

STALLS - RAFFLE

Please note that the RAFFLE money will go into
Church Funds

All other proceeds will be donated to the EAST AFRICAN
FAMINE APPEAL. (Via Action Aid)

Please support us !

Enquiries 860249 or 861232

EVERYBODY WELCOME !

Maplebeck Village Hall Events

Regular Activities

Yoga*	Fridays	9.30am
Light Aerobics & Pilates	Mondays	1.00pm
Walkers	Wednesdays	10.00am
Ladies Running	Wednesdays	7.00pm
Kurling (without the ice!)	TBA	Early 2017
Book Club	Tuesdays	7.30pm
	2 nd May, 6 th June, 11 th July, 5 th Sept.	

Useful Contact Details

Defibrillator Contacts:

Neil Randall 01777 871229 & 07710 398745, evenings and weekends
Pat Naylor 01777 870601, evenings
Jeff Naylor 01777 870601, as required
Mark Hennell 07812 908316, evenings
Stuart Rose 07939 228353, as required
Alan & Stephanie Tunnard 07974 146967, as required
Linda & Max McNaught 01777 870127, as required
David & Linda, Dovecote Inn 01777 871586, as required
Jeanette Geldard 07956 959135, daytime in Kneesall,
evenings / weekends
Anne-Marie & Geoff Rose 07961 933290 / 07957 991002, as required

Police

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

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

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

Danger to life or crime in progress 999
Otherwise police switchboard 101
Crimestoppers (anonymous crime reports) 0800 555111

Medical

Tuxford Medical Centre 01777 870203
Sutton-on-Trent Surgery 01636 821023
Ollerton Surgery - Middleton Lodge Practice 01623 703266
Newark Hospital 01636 681681
Bassetlaw Hospital 01909 500990
King's Mill Hospital 01623 622515

Fire Safety Advice (Tuxford Fire Station) 01777 870381

Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk

Wellow Maypole Celebrations

The village of Wellow, just a few miles from Laxton, is one of the few to have a permanent maypole, and quite a maypole it is. Every year the village hosts a large celebration event on the late May Bank Holiday Monday.



This is a free event and well worth a visit. Car parking is marshalled to allow everyone who would like to enjoy the event to leave their cars safely. Inevitably as the central area is reserved for pedestrians and activities this means parking away from the green and walking there.

By 12 noon the attractions are open. There are displays, stalls, Morris dancing, bouncy castle, swings and Punch and Judy for the children as well

as entertainments on the roped off green where the main events occur later. The Memorial Hall to one side of the green serves refreshments, cakes and sandwiches all day - or until supplies run out.

Seats are provided so you are advised to find one before the main proceedings begin if you don't want to stand.

A recent addition is the Wellow Jack and his 'Bogies'. These are youngsters, mostly boys, who do not want to take part in the traditional Maypole dances, but who love bringing mischief and mayhem to the event.



The procession forms at St Swithun's Church and at 2.45pm the retiring May Queen leads the way to the green, followed by her retinue, the dancers and the newly elected May Queen.

The crowning of the new May Queen by the retiring Queen takes place on a flower decked stage. After the formalities, the May Queen asks to see the dancing.

