

Open Field

£1

May 2025



New Life in Laxton, April 2025

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



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Churchwardens

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Vacant

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Vacant

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Mr Jem Hill

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Open Field

www.openfield.org.uk

**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 MAY PLEASE. Earlier preferred.** You can send in
your contributions at any time.

A Message from our Churchwarden



Mothering Sunday

I would like to thank everyone who came to do it yourself mothering Sunday

service and to those who took part. Thank you to those who read the poems, the prayers and the Bible readings.

It was a lovely service, which I hope everyone enjoyed. Thanks to Margaret for playing the organ for us and I must thank Joy for designing and Dik for printing the lovely service sheets as well.

As usual, Janet had prepared the teas for us and also made a simnel cake to share, complete with the 11 marzipan balls representing the 11 disciples.

The word had got around for anyone to bring

flowers into church in memory of their mother or a family member. It was so lovely to see 20 vases of flowers arriving in church.

Thank you to everyone,

Brenda



Thank You



I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who was able to attend my surprise birthday party at the village hall and a bigger thank you for managing to keep it a secret!

I was so delighted (and shocked!) to see everyone and overwhelmed by your cards, gifts and birthday wishes. I also want to extend a special thank you to the WI who provided

such a lovely spread.

I still do not know how Keith (and the girls) pulled it all off, but I am glad he did and that I could share this special date with you all.

Jean Morton

Rogation Service

Laxton Church

Sunday 4th May

10.30am

to be taken by Rev. Alistair Littlewood

Followed by refreshments

**Everyone is welcome to come and join us
for another of our traditional services**

Village Hall News

Our Laxton Alive Projects are working well: -

“Chop & Chat” April 7th, the last lunch of the season, we all sat down to chicken & mushroom pie, mashed potatoes, broccoli, carrots and cabbage, with a choice of jam sponge and the last Christmas pudding with custard. Those bargain puds were still in date and were very popular.

We are having a break over the summer, with a plan to resume in October, but a number of alternative sessions are planned over the next few months. Look out for the adverts, and on Facebook

The **“Pilates”** class is being supported well, and is now being run by Rachel, our experienced fitness teacher. Rachel is asking for 4-week block bookings upfront to keep things manageable, priced at £24. Please contact Helen Sheard. There are a few spaces left. Laxton Village Hall, Thursday evenings 18:30 to 19:30.

Other news.

Laxton Village Hall has signed up as a good cause in the Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery. You can all sign up and support the village hall starting at £1 per week. You have a chance to win the lottery. For each ticket sold, our good cause gets 60p.

To find out more information, you can follow the QR code, or the link below. It's a great way to support your village hall.

https://www.newarkandsherwoodlottery.co.uk/referral/1499120727/192397949?utm_source=manual

We hope to hold a disco in September, so watch this space for more details.

Can you spare some time to help with the running of the Village Hall? We are looking for some additional folks to join us as trustees. The role is not too onerous, and of course “many hands, make light work”. Contact one of the trustees for more information.

Once again, thank you for your continued support, it helps us in our goal as trustees “Managing and maintaining Laxton Village Hall for the benefit of the community of Laxton, Nottinghamshire and the surrounding villages”.

Many thanks

Dave

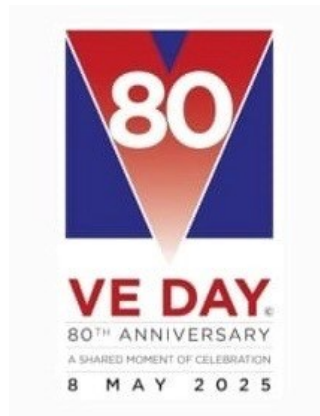




Laxton Chop & Chat



We will not be meeting on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May. Instead, **on Thursday 8th May**, in celebration of VE Day, we will be meeting in the Village hall from 11.30am for a cold buffet “fuddle”.



The luncheon group is taking a break over the summer. In its place we plan to ‘go out and about’ together locally for tea and cake, starting with a trip to Maxey’s Farm Shop & Café on Monday 2nd June.

We envisage using the ‘On Demand’ bus, so transportation is not an issue for those that do not drive.

If you wish to attend either or both events, please let Helen know on **07905 161392** or via WhatsApp or Facebook.

Thank you

Young Farmers' News



Laxton's Jessica Rose (left) has had an exciting time over the last twelve months as a Vice Chair of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. This saw her travelling all over the country and visiting interesting places such as the Houses of Parliament.

The results of the 2025 elections for the NYFC officer team have recently been announced, and Jessica will be continuing as one of the two Vice Chairs alongside the newly elected Chair, James

Nixey from Buckinghamshire and newly elected Alex McMenemy from County Durham. All three are shown above.

They will serve on the NYFC's Board of Management. NYFC represents more than 23,000 young people across England and Wales.

Congratulations to all of them and we wish Jessica another interesting and exciting year alongside all the hard work it entails.

Kirton Coffee Morning

June 7th, 10.30am.

'Hopland Cottage', Kirton (Georgina's)

Entry £3 - includes Coffee, Cake etc.

Raffle - Bring and Buy - Bric a Brac - Plants - Cocktails

Plenty of car-parking space

Please join us - Everybody Welcome

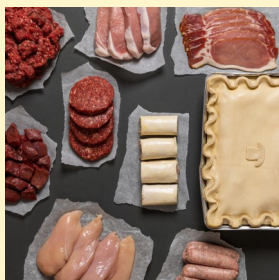
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— HORSES —

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for Bransby. You can also pass to Jean in Laxton or Joy in Egmonton.

Coffee Morning Corner

2nd Saturdays Egmonton Village Hall 10 - 12 May 10th

3rd Saturdays Laxton Village Hall, 10:00 - 12:00 May 17th

4th Saturdays Ossington Hut, 11 - 1 May 31st
NB date changed for BH Monday

See advert Kirton, Georgina's House 10.30 June 7th

The Ossington Luncheon Club will be on Monday 19th at 12.45pm. This will be the last one before the summer break.

Please book with Mary Brown (01636 821029) or
marybrown3@hotmail.co.uk

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MAY CONGRATULATIONS

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

The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Roger Cottee, David S, Lesley Booth, Alison Beckitt, Elizabeth Banks, Ian Morton, Lynnette Dinsdale, Pam Dutton and another David S

We don't know of any anniversaries in May, but maybe you know who is due congratulations.

We wish everyone celebrating a wonderful day and a happy and healthy year to come.

We are pleased to congratulate anyone celebrating a special event this month.



Brenda

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BRANSRY
— HORSES —

Sandra Clarke collects used stamps to help this horse rescue and welfare organisation at Saxilby. You can help by passing used stamps to her, to Jean in Laxton or Joy in Egmantton. Thank you.

Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council

Please come and join us for a free 1st Aid Course:-

Adult Basic Life Support

Who:- Adult residents of Laxton & Moorhouse

Where:- **Tuesday 20th May 2025.**

When:- **1900 hrs to 2130**

Where:- Laxton Village Hall.

Contact:- Your Parish Councillors for more details and to book a place.



Laxton & Moorhouse Community Coffee Morning dates

All are welcome for coffee and cakes

Laxton Village Hall 10:30am - 12:30
(3rd Saturday in the month)

17th May

20th September

21st June

18th October

19th July

~~November~~ (LHG Craft Fayre)

~~August~~

13th or 20th December

News from the Museums of Tuxford

At the Museum of the Horse former staff members from Dosco had a great meeting in the conference room, recalling old memories from when they worked together.

The recent auction sold items to Australia, Denmark, Holland, Spain, Germany and USA as well as England, Ireland and Scotland.

The planned Tea Dance scheduled for VE Day has been postponed as many events are happening on VE Day. It has been rearranged for 4 pm to 8pm on Thursday 5th June at the Museum of the Horse, upstairs in the new conference room.

In the past many dances were held there when it was the old Newcastle Arms hotel. If you can sing or play a musical instrument do come along and encourage others to join in. You don't have to dance, just enjoy the company, even if you are on your own. We will make sure you find a friendly face.

This event has been designed for the over fifties and those who enjoy stepping back in time To keep ticket prices low at £6.00, please bring your own refreshments. Tuxford Museums will provide soft drinks and cakes.

Tickets will be available from Sally Mitchells Gallery,
1 Market Place Tuxford NG22 ORN.

Tel: **01777 838234** Email: curator@themuseumofthehorse.co.uk

At the Walks of Life Museum, Dosco will have a permanent display which will be at the available for viewing from June 7th. They were a major contributor to Tuxford history.

EVENT: Saturday 7th June, 2 pm The museum is very grateful to Brian Horne who has been busy exploring some fascinating objects in our collection. He has been working on restoring and conserving everything from the shop till to musical items and more.

Join Brian and see his work find out what he has discovered on the repairing



journey. Free admission with refreshments.

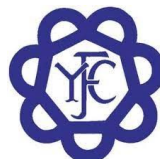
Many items complement the Bainbridge's of Lincoln hand cart. Bainbridge's stores originated in 1838. They later became John Lewis stores. We are seeking information on the store. If you shopped or worked there please get in touch. We love memories to add to the display story.



The museum is open Thursday and Saturday from 11am to 4 pm and other dates by arrangement.

Contact Diane **01777 872776** please leave a message.

Email: dianehunt08@btinternet.com



Another month done with Young Farmers and what a great start to spring it has been so far! To start off we had an inter club with Collingham. Isabell, Jess and Jess all talked about YFC travel and where it had taken them around the world. They also told us all about the different places we could potentially go to. They ended the meeting with a quiz based on capital cities and they encouraged us to plan our own trips!

A big thank you to Lisa and anyone else involved for helping us with our Mothers' Day flowers. They all looked amazing, and all our Mums must have loved them!

On 2nd of April the club held an Easter craft evening where all the members that attended got to play games and create lots of Easter crafts in anticipation of Easter.

The following week we went to Woodside Farm where we were shown around the farm and got to see all the ewes and their little lambs. Some of us got a chance to have a go at ringing them, giving them water or hay and, of course, we all got to hold one.

Thank you to all the members who went to the Spring Rally and competed and well done to the people who won an award!

Hope you will all have had a lovely Easter by the time you read this.

Amelia

Laxton History Group



We started the March meeting with the news that we have received a certificate from the Air Ambulance thanking us for the £500 raised at the Craft Fayre in November.

In February John Millin had been our speaker and he asked that his fee and any donations for copies of his book be sent to the British Normandy Memorial. Mary asked the Group's approval to send £50 in addition to the £55 given in donations and this was agreed.

Our speaker in March was Maggy Watkins, talking about Katherine Swynford, whose life is mostly remembered for her scandalous affair with John of Gaunt.

Daughter of a knight from Hainaut, Katherine came to England when Philippa of Hainaut married Edward III. She was orphaned young and brought up at the English royal court. She was taken into service later with Blanche of Lancaster, the first wife of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.

Aged about 12, she was married to Hugh Swynford, one of the Duke's knights. After the death of Blanche, Katherine became the lady-in-waiting of her daughters, and also took care of them.

After the death of Hugh Swynford in 1371, she became a member of the household of the Duke's new wife, Constance of Castile, and she was given her late husband's property in Lincolnshire: Coleby and Kettlethorpe Hall, which was prone to being flooded by the Fosse Dyke. There was a church there, which has now disappeared but stained glass from it is now in the church at Messingham.

John of Gaunt began an affair with Katherine which scandalised society. After Blanche's death in 1368, John did not marry Katherine, but made a marriage of convenience with Constance of Castille. She came to live in Britain while John found Katherine a position near him in France so they could continue their affair.

After the Peasant's Revolt, when John lost much property to the rebels, he asked for forgiveness and went back to Constance. He also signed a 'quit claim', giving up any claim to the property he had given Katherine.

Katherine and John of Gaunt had at least four children, who received the surname Beaufort after one of their father's French estates.

Despite the formal break, Katherine's relationship with John and the rest of his family remained good. In 1387, she was made a Lady of the Garter by King Richard II, a position shared with Constance. In the early 1390s, Katherine and John resumed their affair.

Constance died and after a 24 years affair, John unexpectedly married Katherine despite her having no title. In the same year, a papal bull was received, recognizing the marriage as valid, and all their children were legitimised. John died three years later and Katherine moved to Lincoln, where she remained until her death four years later.

Katherine has her tomb at Lincoln Cathedral, which is now much less grand than it was originally, although Maggy said her body lies beneath rather than in it.

Helen is thinking about destinations for our July outing and is asking for suggestions. We hope to decide soon.

We have both our AGM and a speaker in April, so we agreed that the meeting should start early. This meeting takes place on 16th April, and so will be reported in the June edition.

On May 21st we will be hearing about 'Lord Byron of Newstead Abbey' from Denis Hill.

Threads Through the Bible Exhibition at Southwell Minster - Ending 5 May 2025



This magnificent exhibition in Southwell Minster will still be there for a few more days after Open Field is received by subscribers. It is

incredible that one person created the whole display. There are 44 huge textile panels making up the three parts of the exhibition. The idea that the artist conceived the idea and managed to design and create the images is amazing. Each has various needlework techniques including applique and machine embroidery using a wide range of fabrics, which add to the story telling. Helpful panels by each work explain what is depicted. It is certainly something not to be missed.



KNEESALL MUSIC MARATHON



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5th & 6th July

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SUNDAY

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with Breakfast

Kneesall Knightingales

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6th July - Singalong hymns and breakfast, Kneesall Knightingales, Finale concert

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Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

Date	Bonus Ball No.	Winner
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22/3/2025	26	Anne -Marie H
29/03/2025	19	John & Carol
05/04/2025	18	Dave & Helen
12/04/2025	31	Mick M

Unfortunately, a big bonus ball supporter has moved on, and we now have 8 numbers available (**30, 35, 37, 40, 41, 42, 51 & 53**). If you would like to join or indeed, if anyone would like an additional number. All proceeds help support the Sports Field and facilities. A weekly prize of **£25** is up for grabs. The winning number is the bonus ball number in the Saturday Lotto draw. If a free number is drawn out then the prize rolls over to following week.

Thank you for your support,

Dave & Helen.

Ossington's V.E. Day Commemoration

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day on 8th May 1945, when the Allies formally accepted Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces.

To commemorate this momentous event, an afternoon dedicated to the history of RAF Ossington and its airfield is planned for **Saturday 10th May**. Held jointly with the Walks of Life museum of Tuxford, there will be a presentation in the Hut by Milan Petrovic, an enthusiastic and very knowledgeable local expert on the airfields of Nottinghamshire. He has a particular interest in Ossington so his talk should be enlightening. It will be followed by afternoon tea, with a 1940s slant!

Numbers are limited and places need to be pre-booked. If you would like to be present at this very special event, please contact Jean Johnson on **01636 821192 / jeajoh410@btinternet.com** to book your place.

We will be holding a waiting list as there is the potential to hold a second event if there is enough interest. If you would like to attend, please make contact even if you cannot come on 10th May.

MAY SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

27th April

No services

4th May

10.30 am	Laxton	Rogation Service	Rev Alistair
4.00 pm	Wellow	VE Celebration	Heather B

11th May

10:30 am	Kirton	HC	Rev Alistair
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18th May

10.00 am	Walesby	HC	Rev Canon Vaughan
10:30 am	Wellow	HC	tba

Sunday 4th May

There will also be VE celebrations at

Eakring at 9 am and Bilsthorpe at 10:30 am, both taken by Heather

1st June

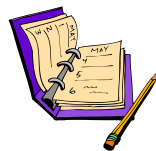
10:30 am	Laxton	HC	Rev Margaret.
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

Thurs 1st	May Day Event, Laxton Castle 5.20am
Thurs 8th	VE Day 'Fuddle" LVH
Sat 10th	Coffee Morning
Weds 14th	WI
Tues 20th	First Aid Training LVH
Weds 21st	History Group
Mon 26th	Wellow Maypole Celebrations
Tues 27th	Parish Council



Forward Planning:

June: Mon 2nd	Luncheon Group trip to Maxeys for tea & cake
July: Fri 18th	Garden Fête at Blacksmith's Farm
Sept: 12th - 14th	Laxton Harvest weekend
Sat 13th	Harvest Competition
Sat 27th	Southwell Ploughing Match (Farnsfield)

Regular Events:

Parish Council	4th Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November
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**Copy Date for JUNE 2025 edition:
12 noon, 16th MAY 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



On 4th April Laxton WI held one of their popular Bingo Nights, and it's important that you should meet Dave, our caller. He has the amazing ability to fearlessly sit alone at the front of a room full of people – mainly women – and hold them spellbound with his every word. From the giggles, outbursts of laughter and other strange noises that leak out of the room ('Quack! Quack!'), everyone had a good time.

The people who enjoy our Bingo Night share many characteristics. They come wanting to enjoy the evening, they like each other's company, and are prepared to 'join in'. They like the light refreshments and raffle that break up the evening. In all, a relaxed and companionable evening follows.

Certain strange manifestations of bingo must not be broadcast (if you don't know what Irish Bingo is, you will have to come along and find out – Dave will explain it all).

Keep your eyes peeled (and down) for the next date. Whether you are 'Kelly's Eye' (on your own) or one of a group of "Legs Eleven" (wolf whistle), there will be a warm welcome, good light refreshments, a raffle, fun, and Dave.

Our meeting next month will be on 14th May, when we will be trying out Seated Yoga. This is something new and should be of great interest to all of us who live busy and sometimes stressful lives. So come along and learn how to snatch a bit of peace out of the day. All are welcome.

More information is obtainable from Margaret Palmer or Brenda Noble.

Advertising in 'Open Field'

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Evening meals on request

If you are local and have no room for visitors to stay, we can accommodate them, or maybe if you are looking for a base to explore this interesting and beautiful area, we offer a quiet location in the centre of the village. There are all amenities, gift and coffee shops, museums and galleries, buses to Lincoln, Newark and Retford.

2 nights in our double room: £150 including full English breakfast or alternatives.

Phone Richard on 07836 699911

New Exhibition at Lakeside, Nottingham

Professor John Beckett has drawn our attention to the following event:

Country Lives: exploring the English countryside from 1800.

This is an exhibition convened at Lakeside, University of Nottingham, by the Department of Manuscripts and Dr Sarah Holland of the Department of History. It is open now and runs until 21st September.

This exhibition, which is in the Weston Gallery, does what it says on the tin and is very well worth visiting if you are in the vicinity. The main question is what have we done with the countryside over the past 200 years. It draws heavily on the resources of Manuscripts and Special Collections, and is free to access. If you want more information **0115 846 7777**.

New Season at Doddington Hall

An exciting new development for this year and on-going is the return of the **Sculpture Exhibition**. Previously this has been on alternate years, but the decision has been made to make it an annual event. This will be the first year when the exhibition will return after just 12 months. As usual there will be plenty of time to see it as it will run from **26th July to 7th September**, and again will include the 'Young Sculptor' Award.



Group Oil Order

The 1000 litre average price for oil in England published daily by Boilerjuice, has continued to go nicely downwards since we placed our February order, taking it lower than it has been for three years. In the event it was members running low which chose the timing of the order this time.

As it was more expensive than we hoped in February, but showed signs of going up, group members were given the option of ordering if they needed to, with the offer of a further order 4 - 6 weeks afterwards, depending on the price trend. Several opted to do this, hence running low now.

By the time of the order the price had gone down quite steeply then levelled off and had reached 54.55p inc. VAT (52p ex VAT). We purchased for **49.94p**. The summer order will be in late July / August depending on members' needs and the price trend.

Milton Mausoleum



Sunday May 4th 2-4pm: First Sunday opening of the Mausoleum when our volunteers will be available to show you around our historic building. Free entry. Open every Sunday from this date until September 28th. Group visits are welcome any day of the week, to be agreed beforehand. Please contact us for further details.

Saturday June 21st 7pm: Special Anniversary Black Tie Event: doors open 6.30pm. Tickets are selling well for this special concert featuring an international artist, Oliver Harris. A winner of various other prizes in the UK and abroad. He can give you Elton John, Roy Orbison and so much more popular and classic material. Please join us at the Mausoleum for a welcoming glass of wine and drinks and canapes on the lawn at the interval. There is limited seating so please book as early as possible. Classic Raffle & the second draw of our 100 Lottery. **Tickets £18.**

Saturday & Sunday 13th & 14th September: Heritage Weekend at the Mausoleum & West Markham Church.

Do you know much about your local or family history? Many interesting, historical and detailed archives will be on show. Maybe, you could add more? Do you have some interesting memorabilia that you would like to share? Free entry to this event. Third draw of our 100 Lottery. Refreshments available. Come along and share your knowledge. For more details, please contact us.

Sat. December 6th at 3pm Carols by Candlelight in the Mausoleum – our extremely popular start to the Christmas celebrations. Our entertainment is by The Four Players. There will be Mince Pies, Mulled Wine, and a Seasonal Raffle. The list is already filling up. Come along and join in the fun. Book your place as soon as possible as there is limited seating at this event and places are being reserved now!

All our events lists for 2025 are open NOW for your bookings, book early to avoid disappointment.

For all enquiries: please contact Gill **01777 811358** or Jenny **01777 811219** or email **milton.mausoleum@outlook.com** for bookings and any enquiries about the above events.

*The Milton Mausoleum is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust
Milton Mausoleum, The Avenue, Milton NG22 0PW*

Wellow Maypole Celebrations 2025



Spring has sprung meaning Wellow Maypole Celebrations are just around the corner!

This unique event at Wellow is among the best loved village events in Nottinghamshire.

The centre of Wellow is dominated by its 17m high painted maypole; the focus of

the day's events. The highlights are the crowning of the May Queen and the maypole dancing, with the children weaving patterns with the red, white and blue ribbons attached to the maypole on the village green.

This year the new May Queen will be Gaby Cooper. Her sister Lotte will be one of her Maids of Honour. Gaby has danced round the maypole each year since 2016, and over the years has learnt all the intricate traditional dances. Local children are taught the maypole dances by Sylvia Rose, a resident of Laxton and herself a former May Queen.

The children's procession goes from St Swithin's Church onto the Maypole Green. The girls, dressed in traditional pinafores with flowers in their hair, are accompanied by Wellow Jack and the Bogies, causing mischief.

Other attractions include live music (this year from local lad Ollie Hayes) and entertainment from Medieval Maniax, local Morris side Rattlejag, Punch & Judy, and Ollerton Town Drum Corps. We're pleased that BBC East Midlands TV weatherman and popular local, Rob Rose, will again be our Master of Ceremonies (listen out for the 'Dad jokes'!).



The Maypole Green is closed to traffic during the event and is full of stalls, games and amusements, including children's swing boats, as well as the ever popular Maypole raffle and tombola. The cake stall is a magnet for the early arrivals, so be sure to go along in good time!

Wellow Maypole Celebrations will take place on Bank Holiday

Monday 26th May. If you've never been, make time this year and come along to experience this traditional village festival. Fun for all the family from **12 noon to 5pm**, with free parking and souvenir programme to buy. We look forward to welcoming you!

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Dukeries Singers

What a fantastic time we had recently at our social event. It was wonderful to see everyone come together, not just as singers but also as friends.

Recently we had the privilege of attending a brilliant teaching musical workshop. Kate Bidwell, a music teacher from Grantham, shared the rehearsal with us and helped those who didn't fully understand how to read music and achieve good pitch. It was wonderful to see everyone so engaged and eager to improve. I don't doubt that we all walked away with new skills and a renewed passion for our craft.

Please mark your calendars for an enchanting musical experience as The Dukeries Singers prepare to dazzle audiences with their upcoming concerts on **7th June at The Jubilee Hall, Ollerton, and 15th June at The Village Hall, Edwinstowe**. These events promise to be a highlight of the summer.

The Dukeries Singers will present a selection of beloved songs from various musical shows. This is a golden opportunity for musical theatre enthusiasts and anyone who appreciates the magic of live choral music.

Adding to the excitement, the concerts will feature a special guest appearance by the exceptionally talented guitarist and singer **Ashley Argile**. Known for his soulful voice and masterful guitar skills, Ashley's performance is sure to be a highlight of the evening.

Refreshments will be included and tickets are priced at just **£10.00**, offering great value for an evening of top-notch musical performances. Given the popularity of The Dukeries Singers and the intimate settings of the venues, we highly recommend booking your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of music, community, and joy. We are incredibly excited about these events and look forward to sharing this special experience with you. Don't miss out - secure your tickets today and be part of a magical musical journey!

Event Details:

7th June: The Jubilee Hall, Ollerton

15th June: The Village Hall, Edwinstowe

Tickets: £10.00 (includes refreshments)

We always welcome new singers, especially those who want to return to singing, so please do not hesitate to contact John Banbury on mobile **07759 086132**.

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council 28/01/25

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

In attendance at parish council meeting

C. Wilson (Clerk); M. Pringle (County councillor)

Members of the public (x1)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mr Sheard's apologies were accepted. Mrs Michael was not in attendance.
2. **Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.
3. **Dispensations:** None required.
4. **10 Minutes public speaking:** Nothing raised.
5. **Thoresby Estate report (if any):** No report.
6. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26 November 2024:**
The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 26 November 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair
7. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
8. **Reports from district and county councillors:** Mrs Michael was absent.
In his report, Mr Pringle referred to the following in particular:
 - a. The local government re-organisation
 - b. NCC budget developments
 - c. NCC adult social care issues.
9. **Reports from councillors:** Mr S Hill reported that he had attended the Safer Neighbourhood Group meeting earlier in January. This had taken place at a new venue, Sutton Village Hall. Very little criminal activity had been reported by the police at the meeting, the main issues being speeding traffic in villages and petty crime.
Councillors considered Mr Sheard's written report (copy appended) referring to flooding, the 2025 litter pick, sports field, Glebe field, Christmas lights, lamppost poppies, speed limit at Moorhouse and potential parish council aims and objectives. Councillors felt that, taking account of the existing statutory and regulatory framework governing the parish council, meeting time should be preserved for the significant matters currently requiring consideration.
There were no other reports.
10. **Property matters including sports field, condition report and Glebe**

Field matters (if any): The Thoresby Charitable Trust's decision on the funding application was still awaited.

Mr Rose reported a query regarding the boundaries for which the licensee was responsible. The clerk will check the terms of the licence and let Mr Rose know. She will also report the hedge overgrowing the footpath alongside Glebe field.

The clerk will diarise the next sports field inspection for summer 2025.

11. **Planning matters:**

- a. **Applications:** None.
- b. **To note planning decisions by NSDC:** None.
- c. **Great North Road Solar Park – Update and consider contribution to planning consultant report to be commissioned by the local Joint Parish Council Action Group (JPAG):**

Councillors appreciated that Moorhouse residents had been very active in relation to the proposals and consultation, noting, in particular, their comprehensive objections submitted to GNR and open letter to the parish council.

They discussed the residents' petition asking the council for a contribution to the JPAG consultants' costs commensurate with the council's financial constraints taking account of:

1. The other councils which had agreed to contribute, including Weston, and the respective amounts each was being asked to pay
2. The survey results
3. The basis of the residents' objections
4. The extent and proximity to residential properties of the land affected in Moorhouse
5. Moorhouse's proximity to the open fields and conservation area and impact on Laxton's surrounding character.

Councillors unanimously **decided** that the parish council should contribute an amount to be determined later under item 13 on the agenda (Financial matters).

- d. **Compliance:** The clerk will chase NSDC regarding the fence at Croftways.

12. **Defibrillator:**

- a. **Inspection report:** Mr J Hill confirmed that the pad expiry dates were 18 May 2024 and 28 August 2025 respectively. Councillors **decided** that the clerk should order one pair to replace the expired set.
- b. **Replacement defibrillator and funding:** After discussion, councillors **decided** that the replacement defibrillator should be installed in the phone box. The clerk will research funding opportunities for a suitable device.

- c. **Provision of first aid kit:** The clerk will explore the availability of dates for a spring event

13. Flood resilience working party – Report and any associated decisions:

Councillors noted from Mr Sheard's report referred to at LMPC/9/25 (Reports from councillors) that NCC did not have capacity to provide support at this time and that he had contacted GNR regarding flooding and natural flood management

14. Christmas event 2024 – Parish council Christmas event group – Event report:

Councillors were grateful for the £200 donation from Thoresby Charitable Trust. All agreed that the event had gone well although the order of events could be tweaked going forward. All were pleased with the appearance of the trees. Mr Rose reported that the Village Hall Committee also felt that the event had been a success. The clerk will add the purchase of new Christmas lights to the September 2025 agenda.

15. Parish environment and appearance, including:

- a. **Parish roads and pavements:** Nothing discussed.
- b. **WWI and WWII remembrance memorial on the Green:**
Councillors noted from Mr Sheard's report referred to at LMPC/9/25 (Reports from councillors) that new lamp post poppies would be required for November 2025.
Mr Pringle suggested that the council approach ATTFE to ask if their students would make a community memorial as a project. The clerk will make a request.
- c. **Parish environment enhancement in recognition of previous serving parish council members:** Deferred

16. Financial matters:

- a. **Financial position as at 31 December 2024:** Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 December 2024 (incorporating the 2024-25 budget figures) which the chair cross referred to the bank statements. Councillors **agreed** that the CIL levy should be applied to the purchase of the Moorhouse bench which cost £484.96. They also asked the clerk to approach the Thoresby Charitable Trust for funding for a new defibrillator.
- b. **Approve clerk's salary:** Councillors had noted the NJC salary increases at the meeting on 28 November 2024 (RPC/151/25) and approved the implementation of the increase.
- c. **2025 – 26 insurance arrangements:** Councillors unanimously **approved** the 2025-26 insurance arrangements.
- d. **Accounts for payment:** Councillors unanimously **approved** twelve payments totalling £1,783.02. Councillors noted the amendments required by HSBC in relation to the change of

signatories mandate. The clerk will deposit the amended paperwork with the Newark branch.

e. **Appointment of internal auditor:** Councillors regretted that the Halam parish clerk was no longer undertaking this role for a further year. After discussion, it was **agreed** that Mr S Hill would approach a local resident with a financial background.

f. **To consider the financial information provided by the Clerk and NSDC's letter regarding 2025/26 precept estimates and to agree the precept for the year ending 31 March 2026:** Councillors considered the financial information provided by the clerk. Taking account of, in particular:

1. The absence of any increase in the precept for the past seven years and increase in costs in that time
2. The withdrawal of the referendum requirement applicable to precept increases in excess of 5%

councillors **decided** by a majority of 5:1 to increase the precept to £4,830.

Councillors reverted to the amount of the contribution to the cost of the JPAG consultant's services deferred at LMPC/11/25 (Planning matters – GNR solar park). They discussed at length the contents of J. Saunders's email sent 10 January 2025, the clerk's calculation of the council's anticipated financial position taking account of all prospective income and expenditure, the council's financial position, reserves and financial constraints. Following some confusion in relation to the basis of an initial vote, councillors voted 3:3 on the proposal that the council should, contribute the full amount requested by JPAG, £1,075, towards the cost of the consultant's support. The proposal was **carried** on the chair's casting vote in favour of the proposal. It was unanimously **agreed** that the:

- i. contribution should be funded temporarily from the election reserve which will be topped up incrementally each year until election year
 - ii. the council should make representations to Elements Green and NSDC incorporating Moorhouse residents' submissions already made.
17. **Service faults:** Mr Rose will provide the clerk with a photo of and what3words for a blocked mains pipe down the side of Ide Farm
18. **Correspondence:** All items of correspondence noted. The clerk will post details of NSDC's Crop Drop scheme received after circulation of the agenda on the Website and Facebook page.
19. **5 minutes public speaking time:** Nothing raised.
20. **Agenda items for next meeting:** See above.
21. **Date of next meeting:** 7.00 pm Tuesday 26 March 2025 at the Visitor Centre.

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Citizens Advice gives advice on Council Tax

With millions of households across the country dealing with a rise in bills this month it is important to make sure you are paying the correct amount of council tax.

You might be able to pay less council tax depending on your circumstances.

You might be able to get:

- discounts - for example, for a single person or an empty property
- Council Tax Reduction (CTR) if you have low income
- a different reduction if you can't get much CTR

Check if you can get a discount on your council tax

You might get a discount automatically on your council tax bill. If you're not sure whether you're already getting a discount, check your bill or contact the council. If you're not getting a discount, you might still be entitled to one. It depends who lives in the property.

Check if you can get a single person discount

If you're the only adult in your home, you'll get a 25% discount on your council tax bill.

When working out how many people live in a property, some people aren't counted - they're called 'disregarded people'. To find out more about who is classed as 'disregarded' you can check our website www.citizensadvice.org.uk or give us a call on **0300 5610330**.

If everyone who lives in the property is disregarded there's still a council tax bill, but it will have a 50% discount.

If everyone in your home is a student or severely mentally impaired, you won't pay any council tax.

If you're entitled to a discount because someone has moved out, tell the council. You're entitled to the discount from when the person moved out, even if you told the council later.

Check if you can apply for Council Tax Reduction

If you're on a low income you might be able to get your council tax reduced. If you get benefits or have other people living with you, this might affect how much your council tax is reduced by.

Your local council will ask you details about your income and your circumstances, so they can work out if you're entitled to Council Tax Reduction (CTR). They will then work out your new bill and tell you how

much council tax you need to pay.

If you have other people living with you who are aged 18 or over, you might all be responsible for paying council tax. Only one of you needs to apply for CTR.

If you're awarded CTR, you won't normally get an actual payment. The council will reduce the amount of council tax you have to pay.

Check which CTR rules apply

Which rules apply usually depends on whether you've reached State Pension age.

- If you're under State Pension age, the 'working age rules' apply.
- If you've reached State Pension age, it depends if you or your partner get certain benefits.

The working age rules still apply if you've reached State Pension age and you or your partner get:

- Universal Credit
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income Support

If you've reached State Pension age and don't get any of these benefits, the 'pension age rules' apply.

If the working age rules apply

Your local council can make its own rules about who's entitled to CTR and how much you'll get.

You'll need to check with your local council to find out if you're entitled to CTR. It's likely that you'll have to pay something towards your council tax bill.

If the pension age rules apply

Your local council will need to work out your income to see if you're entitled to CTR and how much CTR you might get. If you have a partner, the council will also include their income.

You'll also need to have less than £16,000 in savings and property - this is called 'capital'.

You can get CTR with more than £16,000 in savings and property if you get the guarantee part of Pension Credit.


These are just a few of the ways in which you may be eligible for a reduction in your council tax bill. For a full benefits check and information on if you may qualify for help with your council tax please give us a call on 0300 5610330 or visit our website www.ca-centralnotts.org.uk . We can inform you of our drop in session availability or arrange to call you back with further advice.

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- ♦ **Pilates** - Thursdays from 5:30pm - 6.30pm with Holly Rye.
Contact **07415436001** Email holly-rye@hotmail.co.uk
- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ♦ **Coffee Morning**: The second Saturday of the month from 10 - 12 .
Next will be **May 10th**. All welcome.

All events appear on the web site - see above

Reporting Potholes

A reminder about the pothole reporting contact details are:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/potholes/report-a-pothole



Or ring Customer Services on 0300 500 8080

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 Manning

Booking Laxton Village Hall

The Hall is available for anyone to book and bookings are taken through the web site. Please visit:

<https://www.laxtonvh.org.uk/>

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

PC2548 Deborah Bakin supported by
PCSO 8524 Richard Dunn at Southwell

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County Councillor: cllr.mike.pringle@nottsc.gov.uk 0115 977 5661
Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk

May Day Celebrations with Rattlejag Morris

1st May at c. 5.20 am

Laxton Castle Hill, Laxton, NG22 0NX
Entrance opposite the church

Bacon sandwiches and beer or hot drinks
available for a small contribution

Visit  for further information

May Day Celebrations at Laxton

The tradition of welcoming in the month of May in Laxton, established by Rattlejag Morris of Retford, continues again this year. The dancers include people with strong Laxton connections.

You need to be at the castle mound by 5.20am to see the sunrise and the dancing. The route goes up Hall lane, opposite the church entrance, and entry is free. There is a small charge for the refreshments from the BBQ and drinks stall.

Everyone is welcome - and be sure to wrap up warmly. It can be very nippy up there!



Thanks to Dave Sheard for this shot from Mill Field