

Open Field

£1

May 2026



*The fallen ash tree, which stood on Eel Lane, Mill Field, Laxton
at the corner of Robert Haigh's Field*

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



Priest in Charge		<u>Vacant</u>	
Churchwardens	LAXTON	Mrs Brenda Noble	01777 870541
	MOORHOUSE	Mr Simon Hill	01636 822777
	KNEESALL	<u>Vacant</u>	
	WELLOW	Mr Ben Wells	01623 861309
	WELLOW	<u>Mrs Jean Crofts</u>	
P.C.C:	Chairman	<u>Vacant</u>	
	Deanery contact number		01636 650063
Parish Council:	Clerk	Catherine Wilson	01636 813387
Parish Councillors:	Chairman	Mr Simon Hill	01636 822777
	Vice Chair	Mr Jem Hill	
	Members	Mr Mark Hennell, Mr Stuart Rose, Mrs Anna Moorhouse, <u>Mrs Rebecca Creighton,</u> <u>Mr Richard Allerton</u>	
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Photography by / Photos from Janet Cooke, Helen Sheard, Dave Sheard, Jessica Rose, Diane Hunt, John Banbury, Dik & Joy Allison

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

Christmas Tree Festival 2026



Hello everybody,

Just to say you can now put in your diaries the **Christmas Tree Festival** which will be in church on Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December 2026.

The **band concert** will be held the following week on Friday, the 11th of December.

Anyone who would like to put a tree in church is most welcome, but please let Marg Palmer or one of the committee know. More details will be circulated nearer the time, but we are happy to take names now or to explain what is involved to anyone who didn't provide a tree last time, but who would like to this year.

Jean.

Important Notice Regarding Open Field

Please, please we are still looking for someone to carry on the Magazine after June.

It doesn't have to look like we have been used to. You can do it your own way, using your own ideas how you make it as long as it still includes the adverts and Laxton and Moorhouse news.

It will be a shame to lose it after all these years. Anyone that is interested, please get in touch.

Thanks Jean.

A Plea for Help With the Church

Is there anyone out there who is willing to help with the church? We are going through a difficult period with Brenda not well.

Any help would be appreciated. Please contact Janet or Jean

Get Well Soon

Unfortunately we have quite a long list of people who have needed to have medical attention this month. Some have been waiting and others found themselves unexpectedly unwell. We send very best wishes to everyone affected this month. Those we know about are:

Brenda Noble, who is still in hospital,

Stuart and Sandra Clarke, who have both been in hospital and are thankfully now back home,

Daphne Sanford who is doing well,

Mary Haigh who is also doing well and hopes soon to be signed off after her surgery

And finally

Roger and Joan Cottee who are struggling to shrug off a virus which has hit them badly.

Speaking of viruses, over 75s and some others in special categories are now able to get their **spring Covid jabs**. If you have not had an invitation check the NHS app or ask your surgery.

Laxton WI Invite you to a

Fashion Show

Laxton Village Hall

Weds. 29th April

7pm for 7.30pm start

£6.00 inc. light refreshments

Contact Margaret 07826 429987

**If you have booked with Brenda, please confirm
with Margaret so her list is complete**

Laxton Spring Litter Pick

On Sunday morning, parish councillors Jem Hill, Rebecca Creighton and Stuart Rose were joined at 10am by a group of villagers to commence our springtime litter pick. Councillor Anna Moorhouse, and her team rendezvoused at Saywood Cottages.



Approximately two and a half hours later the bulging bags were deposited in the pinfold for collection later by NSDC.

Not only is it saddening that so much litter is thrown from vehicles, it is quite disturbing how many people probably drink and drive. There's definitely someone who drinks Stella, judging by the numerous cans on the verge on one side of Acre Edge Road. Whilst going in the opposite direction, the can of choice is Knights cider.

Thank you to Jem for organising the equipment and to everyone who helped. We covered the sports field, Bar Road, Moorhouse Road, Kneesall Rd down from the cross roads, Toad Lane and Acre Edge Road walking back from the Holocaust Centre.

A special thank you to passing cyclist Pete from Norwell Woodhouse who kindly cycled back to the village to fetch Heidi and me some more black bags that he duly delivered.



Helen S



Laxton Community Coffee Morning



Thank you to everyone who supported this April's memorial coffee morning in aid of Barnardo's. As we advertised, this is the charity that Karen would have nominated.

It was lovely to meet members of Karen's

choir and friends from Nottingham who made the trip. They made sure we were busy from 10am sharp.

A staggering £543 was donated on the day, with further late donations being handed in over the remainder of the weekend. These took the total to £718. A record sum for one of the village coffee morning events.

I would like to thank all those who donated cakes and raffle prizes, and all our helpers on the day. They work tirelessly to make sure all our guests are well cared for. The cup cakes and the array of prizes was a sight to behold. Thank you to everyone who generously purchased tickets.



Thanks also to Grace, our young visitor working towards the Community Service section of her bronze level Duke of Edinburgh's Award by helping us in the kitchen for our coffee mornings. Her help was certainly very welcome for such a busy event.

Helen



Chop & Chat

The hall was full once again for the monthly meeting of Chop & Chat. The regular veg peelers are now very well used to their tasks and a huge pile of veg was ready in no time. That left plenty of time to chat over a cup of coffee afterwards.



Dave was as busy as ever juggling different pans and dishes to produce a lovely roast chicken dinner complete with stuffing, roast and mashed potatoes and gravy as well as the veg. Thanks once again to him for his efforts. This time there was more than could actually be accommodated in the hostess dishes, but it wasn't a problem as the big dish of broccoli cheese (a popular new addition) was soon emptied as were the others by the time the 'take aways' had been prepared for those who were unwell or unable to join us.

To follow there was another of Dave's surprises. This time we all felt we had gone back to childhood when cornflake tart was served with custard. Yummy!

This meeting had been brought forward a week because Easter Monday fell on the due date, and as this is the season of Monday Bank Holidays, May's event has been changed for the same reason. Please note in your diaries that **the 'May' meeting will be held on 27th April.**

This is the last of the scheduled events before we let Dave have time off for the summer, but there is talk of Chop & Chat going 'On Tour' as last year. This was a well supported series of monthly get togethers at eating places round about. There will be a conversation about ideas at the 27th April lunch.

There is now a WhatsApp group for regular members, and any further information will be circulated. If you want to be kept informed, please speak to Jean Hennell or Helen Sheard to ensure your name is



included. It is an open group and everyone is welcome, including friends.

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Congratulations to everyone celebrating a special event this month. We wish you all a wonderful day and a happy and healthy year to come.

BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Jamie and Chloe Hennell anyone else celebrating an anniversary in May. No more have ben brought to the notice of the magazine team, so we cannot mention other names this month.

If you would like your special event recognised here, please let us know the details.



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Village Hall News



“Chop & Chat” has its own page, but just to note thanks from the Village Hall to Dave for catering for the get togethers again this winter. We hope to see things restarting in the Hall in September.

It is never too early to make a note of the date for the next Village Hall Quiz. This will be the 'Christmas' Quiz on Friday 27th November (the last Friday in November).

The “Pilates” class is run by Rachel, who asks for 4-week block bookings up front which cost £28 for the block or £8.50 for an individual session.

Please contact Helen Sheard if you are interested. It is held at Laxton Village Hall on Thursday evenings from 18:30 to 19:30. It is aimed at all levels, so beginners are very welcome. Get in touch if you are interested.

It's YOUR Hall for YOUR events

Laxton Village Hall can be hired to host any form of event. All details can be found on the Laxton Village Hall website www.laxtonvh.org.uk.

The Facilities tab shows what is available. The Bookings tab has the details of rates (which are discounted for village residents) as well as a booking calendar where you can check to see if the date / time you are interested in is currently free. There is a booking enquiry form for you to complete with the details of your event.

Other news

As ever, thank you all for your continued support. The Hall is a great asset to our community and we encourage you all to make use of it. Our goal as trustees of the Hall is *“Managing and maintaining Laxton Village Hall for the benefit of the community of Laxton, Nottinghamshire and the surrounding villages”*. We urge you all to make the most of it.

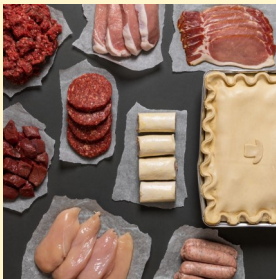
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Hydrogen Pipeline Plans

As if a massive solar farm on our doorsteps was not enough, plans have recently been publicised indicating the favoured route of a hydrogen pipeline, known as the H₂ East Pipeline, which is being put forward by Cadent, the gas pipeline people.

There was a recent consultation event in Egmanton Village Hall, where visitors were able to view the plans and were encouraged to comment.

The map, shown right here, was displayed. It is easier to view this on their web site (address below), but the blue line showing a swathe of land forming the possible route passes right through all three of the open fields of Laxton. On commenting to the environmental person present, it seemed to come as news to them that this was a medieval landscape of national, if not world, importance, and digging it up was unlikely to be an option, even if they did intend to cover in the pipeline.

They are obliged to consult with people such as Natural England, who we can assume will be making this point with more force than we can as individuals, but it is still worth looking at the proposals and having your say. Tuxford Town Council have discussed the proposals and are sending a consolidated response. They are keen to work with neighbouring villages to oppose the plans and to suggest that a different and less costly route, which was not exhibited, is better.

The route has been designed “to avoid the solar farms and difficult ground conditions on this side of the Trent”, while delivering a route to the sugar beet factory at Newark and the brickworks at Kirton. These two enterprises are identified as major customers, assuming both are still operating when the line is functional. The suggestion was that building it would begin in about 2031.

For more information see h2east.co.uk or

Email comments to humbemotts@h2east.co.uk

Mail: **Freepost H2 East HN** or

Call: **0800 188 4479** Mon - Fri, 9-5.30pm



News From The Museums of Tuxford

Now the spring weather has arrived we are very busy behind the scenes cleaning and preparing our displays.

The Museum of the Horse is getting ready for the Side Saddle show opening on the 21st June. Come along and find out about the world of side saddle both historic and modern.

You may be surprised at how important the freezer is in the role of conservation in the museum world. Although commercial freezers only became available in the 1940s, the Mesopotamian cultures found food lasted longer in cold conditions. They dug large pits and filled them with snow and ice from nearby mountains then insulated them with straw or sand. Slightly more up to date, there is an Ice House at Rufford, which would have been filled with ice from the lake. Evidence of this method of keeping food cold can be seen in the containers on the ice cream carts on display at the Walks of Life Museum.



Great destroyers of old items are moths and beetles that can cause a lot of damage. Great care has to be taken with new items coming into museums. All new things have a spell in the deep freeze. They are put in polyethylene bags and air has to be sucked out, enabling the cold to get close to moth larvae. The item has to be frozen for a few days, brought out and up to room temperature so anything that might still be alive can reactivate. Then back into the freezer for another couple of days. Whatever you do don't open the bag until the item has totally thawed!



The display will have many side saddle habits and unusual saddles. Hopefully we may have a suitable horse for people to feel what a side saddle feels like too .

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EVENTS

Saturday 2nd May 2 pm, Walks of Life. The story behind the objects. Our university students are sharing their journey of discovery of the origins, history and use of various objects. From the



nissen hut to African artefacts; motherhood and more everyday objects This is a free event with refreshments

Saturday 6th June 2 pm (WoL) D.D One man's journey from Trieste Italy to Tuxford. A survivor of being a prisoner of war in two countries, and enjoying life post WW11 in Tuxford. This



is a Free event with refreshments.

June 20th (MoH) major side saddle exhibition. One of the largest collections of side saddles in the world

Sunday 13th September (MoH) Society of Equestrian Artists exhibition

CONTACTS:

Museum of The Horse Monday-Friday 9.30 - 4 pm, Saturday closes 1.30pm

Contact: 01777 838234 or curator@museumofthehorse.co.uk

Walks of Life Thursday and Saturday 11am - 4 pm

Contact: 01777 872776 or dianehunt08@btinternet.com

Group visits on other days by arrangement

Also see our Facebook pages



Laxton & Moorhouse Community Coffee Morning

All are welcome for coffee and cakes

Laxton Village Hall 10:30am - 12:30

May 16th

**June 20th
September 19th
November 21st**

**July 25th
October 17th
December tbc**

A Walk Through Tuxford

In mid April popular local historian and speaker Adrian Gray led a guided walk around Tuxford, revealing details of some significant people and places in the village, not least the Dukes of Newcastle.

Starting from the Sun Inn car park, the route went to the lock up, which had been opened so that visitors could view the two cells, one for men and one for women. At one time there was a building behind this to house the fire engine.

The now closed Methodist Church opposite was noted and Adrian explained that it wasn't in the Methodist style, because it had been build by what is now the United Reformed Church and sold to the Methodists some 20 years later, with money still owing on the mortgage.

The road in front of where the building stands is wider than the rest of the street and was, at one time the horse market. This road, now Newcastle Street used to be called Egmonton Street. The Duke of Newcastle renamed it after himself. He also renamed a street after his friend, Lord Eldon. Interestingly Adrian stated that these gentlemen were particularly unpopular and known as the two most disliked men in the country.

The church offered a stopping point for coffee while Adrian explained some of the key features of the building. It at one time boasted two chantry chapels. Chantry Lane and the name on the gates to the pretty garden of the house at the corner recall on of them.



Inside Adrian pointed out the memorial to St Lawrence, a rare survival of the Reformation. This depicts his martyrdom by gridiron. Near the altar are some interesting wire sculptures depicting biblical themes and the chapel to the left had been opened so that the group could see the beautiful WWI carved reredos.

The group progressed down Lincoln Road noting former Read's Grammar School and the latest landmark - an enormous mural on the walls of the by-pass bridge. A walk across the field took the group to the Tronk - the beck running parallel with the road after which the road was once named. It is associated with the Holy Well which stood on the rise behind it and which fed the public baths created by walling off

part of the beck. Some of the stones from this can still be seen.

Also along this route, Adrian pointed out where the old gas works had stood, strangely positioned mid way between the railway which brought coal to power it and the town it was built to serve.

The village had three railway stations.

Tuxford Central stood anything but centrally on the road to Egmonton as part of the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway, and which was distinguished by going to neither Lancashire nor the East Coast!

The walk ended at the Fountain Inn, where we learned that it had also had extensive maltings and was one of eleven pubs in the village at one time.



Loss of a Landmark



We have endured a wet end to winter, followed by a windy spring. Very windy on occasions. Sadly a well loved Laxton landmark fell victim to one of the recent strong winds.

The ash tree which stood on Eel Lane in Mill Field at the

corner of Robert Haigh's field was found lying across the roadway, shattered from the impact. A quick response was needed to clear the roadway and allow both farm traffic and walkers access up this useful route from one end of the village to the other.



THIS MONTH'S SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCH

May

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

3rd May

9.30am Laxton **HC** Rev Alison Jones

Please note that this month's list is short because nobody has provided Laxton with the information about other village churches. If you usually go to one of the other services in the group, we suggest you contact them to confirm arrangements. At the time of writing there was no information about a Rogation service although this is under discussion.

Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

Date	Bonus Ball No.
14/03/26	59
21/03/26	46
29/03/26	ROLLOVER
04/04/26	52

There are currently 10 numbers spare. If anyone would like to invest £1 a week to try and win £25 please get in touch. The winning Bonus Ball (BB) is the number which matches the National Lottery Bonus Ball drawn on a Saturday. All money goes towards supporting the Sports and Recreation Field.

Helen Pick
High Street Farm



MAY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May

Sat 9 th	Nottinghamshire County Show
Weds 13th	WI
Weds 20th	History Group
Sat 18th	Coffee Morning
Mon 25th	Wellow Maypole Celebrations
Tues 26th	Parish Council



Forward Planning:

NOVEMBER

Fri 27th Village Hall Christmas Quiz

DECEMBER

Sat 5th & Sun 6th Christmas Tree Festival in church

Fri 11th Band Concert in church

Regular Events:

Parish Council 4th Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Please note meetings

Copy Date for June 2026 edition:
12 noon, **16th May 2026**

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 AGM and Changes

This last month was our AGM, and there have been some changes which will become gradually known to everyone.

Margaret Palmer has become our Secretary and has produced a comprehensive and exciting schedule for our meetings. There is now a year list and dates, so we hope people will be able to plan and foresee what they want to get involved in.

The presidency will be in the hands of Lesley Booth, and the committee will stay the same. The raffles and competitions have been reinstated to add interest and encourage everyone to join in.

First off at the end of April will be the Fashion Show. It promises to be a grand night when the elegance of the cat walk comes to Laxton. The clothes will be in a good range of sizes and, as always, excellent quality. Good fun and a bargain – what’s not to like? Refreshments and a raffle will be extra temptations to come along.

Our meeting on **13th May** also promises to be something different. The speaker is Graham Keal, who has 35 years of show business reporting under his belt. The talk is entitled ‘Oprah Winfrey touched my elbow’ and one can only wonder what other claim to fame we will hear. It sounds immensely entertaining.

News of our outings, parties and other treats will be advertised, so keep your eyes peeled and don’t miss a chance to enjoy yourself in good company.



Coffee Morning Corner



2nd Saturdays Egmonton Village Hall 10 - 12 **11th May**

3rd Saturdays Laxton Village Hall, 10:00 - 12:00 **16th May**

4th Saturdays Ossington Hut, 11 - 1 **23rd May**

The annual Ossington Garden Party will be held on **25th July**, between 3 and 5 pm



Laxton History Group, March



Laxton History Group celebrated its 150th meeting in March 2026. We have previously marked our 50th and 100th meetings with something a little bit different, and this time it was agreed to have a buffet supper before the business. Members excelled themselves, producing some tasty finger food and a couple of naughty but nice puds, all enjoyed to lively conversation before our speaker arrived and we got down to business.

Paul Mann came to speak on 'The Treachery of Prince John and the Siege of Nottingham'.

Prince John was the youngest of his father, Henry II's four sons and significantly younger than his brothers.

When Henry allocated lands to the older brothers, John received none, giving rise to his nickname of 'Lackland'. Being in the time before primogeniture determined the heir to the throne, the following years saw John and Richard vying for the role. Only when virtually on his death bed did Henry name Richard as his heir.

Richard was committed to joining the Third Crusade. John declined to join him. Richard gave him a huge amount of land, including Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and the income from the Royal Forest of Sherwood.

Richard made their half-brother, Geoffrey, the Archbishop of York. He was ordained at Southwell on 23/9/1189 ensuring he could produce no legitimate heir. Richard later banished John and Geoffrey. John's mother, Queen Eleanor, succeeded in getting John's banishment modified so he could return when the Chief Justiciar permitted it.

Richard and John's sister, Joan, was married to the King of Sicily. The relationship complicated matters after her husband died and efforts were made to get her son, Arthur, declared heir to the English throne.

In England, the Keeper of Lincoln Castle was fiercely loyal to John and declared him the heir. John was able to take castles belonging to Henry at Tickhill and Nottingham and to install his own Keepers.

John took advantage of the situation and Richard's continued absence, to declare himself the Supreme Governor of England and to set up his own court. Disagreements continued and eventually his supporters called Richard home. His return was complicated by his



need to avoid lands where he had made enemies. Eventually a storm at sea forced him to land, leading to his capture and imprisonment.

John took advantage of this, spreading word that Richard was dead. When Richard was freed following payment of a ransom, John was stripped of everything but his castles at Tickhill and

Nottingham, which held out in support of him.

Richard had a second coronation at Winchester to reinforce his authority and then returned Normandy where John joined him and begged for forgiveness. Richard forgave him in a face saving device and also gave him some castles and lands. He remained loyal for 5 years before Philip of Spain told Richard that John had again changed sides. They were still at odds when Richard died.

Two potential heirs existed – John, or his nephew Arthur and John was chosen. He was a bad king and lost lands while taxing people heavily. He seized Laxton castle in 1204 and in 1207 demanded a £100 payment not to burn it down.

Not long afterwards, on 18th October 1216, he died from dysentery at Newark Castle. He was buried at Worcester.

Kirton Coffee Morning

June 6th, 10.30am.

'Hopland Cottage', Kirton (Georgina's)

Entry £3 - includes Coffee, Cake etc.

**Raffle - Bring and Buy - Bric a Brac - Plants - Cocktails
(contributions to raffle & food table gratefully received)**

Please join us - Everybody Welcome

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Milton Mausoleum



Open Season 2026 from 3rd May – 27th September we are open from 2pm – 4pm every Sunday afternoon and our volunteers will be pleased to show you around our historical building. Groups are also welcome to visit with prior booking on any agreed day of the week. We would love to hear from you.

Sun. 7th June 2pm Friends Annual General Meeting All welcome.

Sat. 20th June 7pm Hog Roast and Summer Concert featuring the versatile Beauty and the Bass – Tickets £18 Book your places now!

Sat. 10th October Autumn Fayre at the Mausoleum from 10am – 4pm

This event is free entry, and we are keen to welcome you to another successful event at the Mausoleum. We have many stalls inside and outside for you to browse and begin your seasonal shopping? Hot and cold refreshments available.

Saturday 5th December 3pm Carols by Candlelight is our extremely popular event which is always booked to capacity. Please book your places early to avoid being disappointed as many were last year. Mulled Wine, Hot Chocolate and Raffle.

All events are bookable now so please look at your diaries and get in touch. It's never too early to book your place!

Are you interested in volunteering at the Milton Mausoleum? Please contact us on the details above. We can discuss ways that you can assist us with sharing knowledge of this historical building linked to the Dukes of Newcastle. We would love to share our resources with you. Thank you, we would love to hear from you.

The Milton Mausoleum is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust

Milton Mausoleum, The Avenue, Milton NG22 0PW



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Egmanton Fun Day

The village is holding a Family Fun Day in the Village Hall grounds. Entry is free.

Saturday June 20th, 1 - 5 pm

Sports and entertainment for children

Take part in skittles and other garden party games

Bar, teas, coffees and snacks; BBQ for cooking your own food or bring your own picnic

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Laxton History Group, April

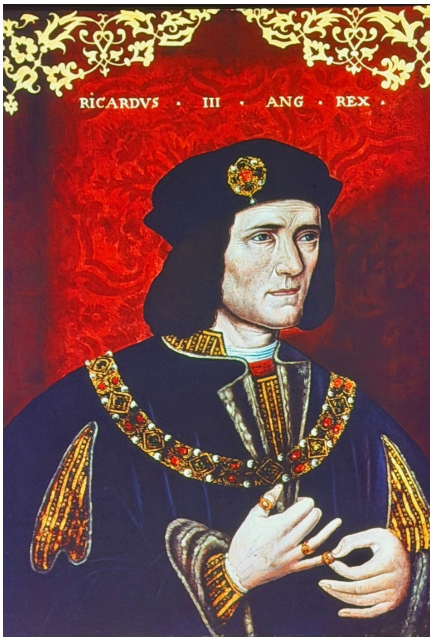


April saw our AGM, with the existing officers and steering group re-elected to serve for another year.

Helen proposed that our annual outing this year should be to Bomber Command at Lincoln. This was enthusiastically received and she is making contact to try to book us in for lunch on 15th July, our normal meeting date.

Our speaker was Jean Townsend, who had been unable to come earlier in the

year due to illness. She spoke about Richard III. She was keen to



present a picture of him as a 'man of his time', saying that in the 1400s children aged under 5 were not really treated as 'living' because infant mortality was so high. First sons would be documented, but Richard was a younger son and virtually no records exist about his early years. In fact, despite everything said about him, there are very few contemporary records from which to glean evidence.

Strangely Jean first had Richard painfully drawn to her attention when a book about him fell off a shelf and hit her on the head, landing open at a picture of his picture.

There seems to be good evidence for this actually being a portrait painted by someone who knew him. It was later altered to more closely resemble the

propaganda image created by his detractors, but modern techniques have revealed the original to closely resemble the model of Richard constructed using his remains, discovered 12 years ago.

He began training as a knight at the age of 9, two years late by the system of the day, and followed a punishing regime of study and physical activity. Jean said this could have caused his scoliosis.

Richard has been presented as an emblem of villainy, although Jean stated that no evidence exists to support the accusations. He was known to be 'an ordinary aristocrat' who was supremely loyal to his family, a deeply devout Roman Catholic and a builder of churches.

He died at Bosworth Field and his body was treated unprecedentedly shamefully. It was damaged after death and not respectfully buried. Victors traditionally respected the body of a vanquished leader and buried it appropriately. Propaganda was spread blackening Richard's name, including painting him as ugly and deformed, hence 'evil' in the thinking of the day and leading to also the changes to his portrait.

Jean quoted from a contemporary record written by a visiting Venetian diplomat, who described Richard as 'three fingers taller than himself with delicate arms and legs'. He makes no mention of his hunch back, but refers to his 'great heart.

Richard's skeleton reveals severe idiopathic scoliosis, which would have been an agonising condition to live with. His height, without the curve has been determined as 5'8". Experiments have been conducted with a volunteer with an equivalent degree of this condition and, dressed in similar clothing and armour, his deformity was not visible. This suggests it would not have been widely known.

Richard would have been well muscled, but did, indeed, have delicate arm and leg bones. Given the daily pain he would have endured, Jean concluded that he must have been very brave to fight in the field alongside his troops.

Jean provided much biographical information for Richard and his family, including periods away from home. After his marriage, he lived in Middleham in North Yorkshire, where he became a much-loved Lord. Jean suggested that had he been ambitious for the crown, he would have lived in London.

Richard is dogged by theories about the two little Princes in the Tower of London, and Jean ended with a discussion of such evidence as exists about them, which, in her opinion, does not support the idea that Richard killed them.

On 20th May we welcome Roger Blaney to speak about the Bishop's Palace at Southwell Minster. All welcome. 7pm start.

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



Group Oil Order

If you would like to continue to order with our group, now is the time to make sure that your details are up to date and on my list. As I am giving up producing Open Field after the next edition, and there is no sign of anyone wanting to take on the job, the email contact list is the only way you will get to hear about when an order is planned.

Our next routine order will be any time from the end of July to the end of August depending on prices and demand. I gauge demand by people contacting me and saying they could do with some in the next few weeks. Please don't leave it until you need it in a few days!

You are welcome to join the ordering group at any time provided that you can be contacted by email or have a friend or relative who will be your contact with me. I provide my personal email to all members, but I don't publish it because of the spam it generates.

The group is not limited to Laxton and Moorhouse. We have group members in Egmanton, Kneesall, Kirton and Tuxford and the companies we use are happy to take orders from them all.

At one time they liked the economy of customers living close together, but recently they seem to be delivering to an agenda of their own. If you have friends or relatives in the area who would like to join, please give them the contact details.

Everyone orders as much as they want, only when they need oil at the time of an order. There is no obligation to order and nothing stopping members ordering with any supplier between group orders.

The sum you request is ordered in your name and then it is up to you to deal with all further contact with the chosen supplier. I have no involvement in the financial transaction, aside from negotiating for customers to pay after delivery so that they only pay for what actually goes into their tanks.

NB Boilerjuice is now quoting the price excluding VAT. Previously VAT was included, which accounted for some of the difference over local companies. That no longer applies and we can make a direct comparison. I do not order with them, not only because we normally get a better price than their national 1000 litre average, but because every order must be entered with full details every time and our other suppliers work from my spreadsheet.

Please use my personal email if you have it. oil@openfield.org.uk is a general address you can use if you don't have mine.

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Dukeries Singers

A Night of Music, Community and Inspiration.



The Jubilee Hall was filled with warmth and anticipation on 28th March as audiences gathered to support the St George's Day Celebrations Fundraising Concert. The evening proved to be a vibrant celebration of local talent and a heartfelt reflection of community spirit at its very best.

Opening the night were The Dukeries Singers, who delivered a powerful and moving medley from *Les Misérables*. This stirring selection showcased the choir's strong sense of unity and their ever-growing popularity. Under the confident and assured direction of Musical Director Mr John Pope, and beautifully supported by accompanist Susan Bennett, the performance was both uplifting and emotionally resonant. The medley offered a tantalising preview of what audiences can expect from the choir's upcoming Summer Concerts, when The Dukeries Singers will return to **The Jubilee Hall at 2.30 pm on Saturday 6th June**, followed by a repeat performance at **Edwinstowe Village Hall on Saturday 13th June**. Both concerts will include afternoon tea.

The choir was followed by Inviters 59, whose foot-tapping selection of 1950s American classics included 'Blue Suede Shoes', 'Washing Machine Blues', and 'I'm Going to Jackson'. Their lively and energetic set provided the perfect transition to the evening's next performer.

Young violinist Sophia Markeviciute then captivated the audience with her heartfelt and expressive playing. Recently awarded first prizes at both the Selston and Worksop Music and Drama Festivals and now accepted into the prestigious Chetham's School of Music, Sophia's maturity and artistry shone well beyond her years.

The evening concluded with an unforgettable candlelit performance by internationally acclaimed pianist and composer Chris Miggells. Performing in near darkness, he painted vivid musical landscapes from the quiet woodland paths of Boughton Woods to the awe-inspiring vastness of the Grand Canyon. His piece 'Violet Eyes' invited moments of quiet introspection, while 'Aurora', inspired by the Northern Lights, left the audience in breathless admiration.

For information about joining The Dukeries Singers or attending upcoming concerts, please contact John Banbury on **07759 086132** or email john@asherwood.co.uk.

Egmanton Village Hall

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk / 01777 871171

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

- ♦ **Yoga** – with Karen Baker Mondays, 7pm - 8.15pm.
Email karenbaker321@outlook.com mobile **07399 669380**
- ♦ **Pilates** - Thursdays from 5:00pm - 6:00pm with Rachel. Contact Rachel for details on rs_fitness@hotmail.co.uk or phone **07776 341225**. **NB No class on 30th April**
- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ♦ **Coffee Morning**: The second Saturday of the month from 10 - 12 .
Next one will be **on May 9th** All welcome.

All events appear on the web site - see above

Reporting Potholes



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Laxton Defibrillator

The defibrillator in the Visitor Centre, is always accessible as neither the Visitor Centre door nor the cabinet housing is locked. Please do remember that the defibrillator must only be used once authorised by a call to 999.

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

PC2548 Deborah Bakin supported by
PCSO 8524 Richard Dunn at Southwell 07595 074292
Web, showing other contacts: www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

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Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk

Wellow Maypole Celebrations 2026



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 Rose Baugh, whose family have strong roots in Wellow. 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 to 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 from local lad Ollie Hayes and entertainment from 'Storm in a Teacup Circus', who will be performing unicycle stunts and conducting circus skills workshops when not performing. Rattlejag Morris, Punch & Judy, and Ollerton Town Drum Corps will also perform. Unfortunately BBC East Midlands TV weatherman and popular local, Rob Rose, has to take a year away from his Master of Ceremonies role, but he assures us one of his BBC East Midlands colleagues will be stepping in.

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 25th May. If you've never been, make time this year and experience this traditional village festival. Fun for all the family from **12 noon to 5pm**, with free parking and an invitation to buy a souvenir programme which helps fund the event next year. We look forward to welcoming you!