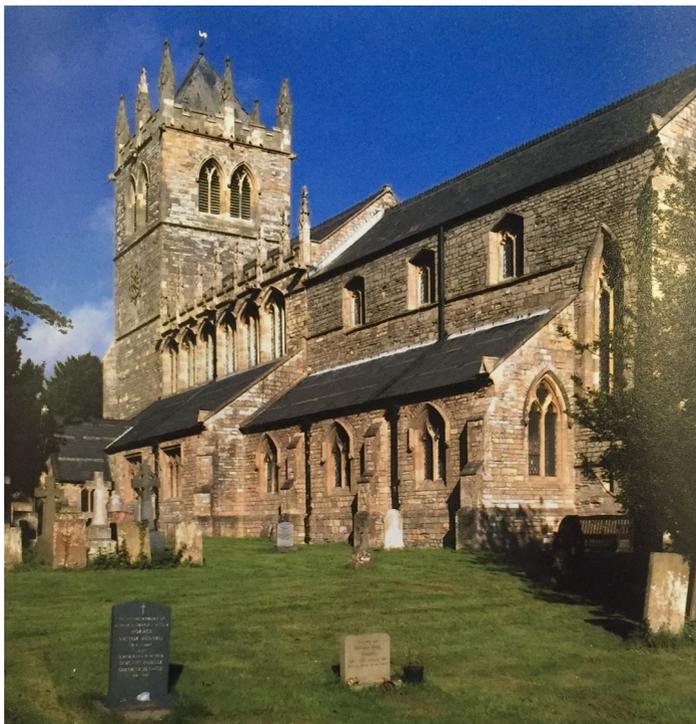


Open Field

50p

November 2017



*George Noble's winning photo from the Harvest Competition
Laxton 2017*

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

Priest in Charge
Churchwardens LAXTON
MOORHOUSE
KNEESALL
WELLOW
WELLOW

P.C.C: **Chairman**

Deanery contact number

Parish Council: Clerk
Parish Councillors: Chairman
Vice Chair
Members

Magazine Editor

Flowers and Brasses Rota

Mr & Mrs S Clarke
Mrs B Noble & Mrs M Beckitt
Mrs M Rose & Mrs S Rose
Mrs P Freer & Miss L Gadsby

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

29th October
5th & 12th November
19th & 26th November
3rd & 10th December

Mrs Joy Allison 01777 871506

Email: advertising@openfield.org.uk

George Noble, Janet Cooke, Bridget
Smedley, Diane Wood, 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.**

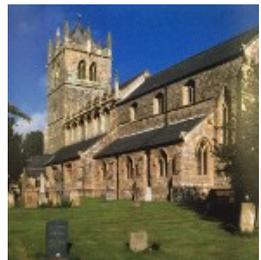
Photographs of children appear in Open Field and on the web site with the consent of their parents / carers. Open Field appears on the Web in its entirety plus additional photos. If in doubt, photos are not used.

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

www.openfield.org.uk

Cover photo: Laxton Church

Photo by: George Noble



Letter From Revd. Zoe

Dear friends

Remember, Remember

November is a month of remembering: 'remember, remember the 5th November...' but this isn't the only event we will remember. On the 11th November, we will be gathering at Spa Corner in New Ollerton on the 11th hour with an Act of Remembrance as we will gather again on the 12th November, Remembrance Sunday to remember all those brave men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice in all the wars and continue to do so in active service today.

In August, on the 72nd anniversary of the battle of the Kohima, we remembered servicemen and women who had given their lives during this battle. Near the end of October and beginning of November, around All Souls Day, we hosted three memorial services at St Paulinus: New Ollerton, Holy Trinity: Kirton and St Margaret's at Bilsthorpe when we remembered our loved ones who have died and on the 2nd December, St Paulinus will host the Co-op Funeral Care's 'Light a candle' service.

Each week in our churches we gather together for Holy Communion when we remember the last meal Jesus had with his disciples before he died: we remember what Jesus said and all that Jesus did for us, continues to do and will do in the future. At the beginning of December we move into a new season in the church called Advent – it is a time when we look backwards and forwards in history: backwards towards the 1st Christmas and remember the birth of Jesus and all that this meant for us but we also look forward to the time when Jesus will come again – this will be, as we say in the Lord's Prayer when God's Kingdom will have come on earth as it is in Heaven.

Remembering is important to us, isn't it? Our memories are important and nothing can take them away. Our memories anchor us, give us security and reassurance. I wonder, do you feel happier looking back and remembering the past and living for today, than planning, thinking and adjusting to face the future? The past, no matter how painful it may be, is known but the future is full of mystery and uncertainty and that makes us fearful as we are not in control. Perhaps as the nights pull in, we might like to use this time to sit and think as well as plan for our future. As you plan for the future, is God part of those plans? It might be worth considering the fact that Jesus' promises are utterly trustworthy – it is good to remember that

with Jesus, our past, present and our future are held in the safe hands - Jesus gives hope in a life beyond this existence, he gives peace in our deepest and darkest times of need and he gives strength and courage to face whatever life throws at us and what our futures may hold.

Many blessings

Rev Zoe

Sympathy: Nora Kent neé Maddison, formerly of Laxton

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Nora Kent, formerly of Ide Farm, Laxton and well known to everyone helping her sister, Margaret, at the shop, which their mother ran before them. Nora died on October 14th. We send deepest sympathy to Nora's daughter Jean, husband, Will, their daughters Lucy and Annabel and to Margaret.

Congratulations

On Saturday 23rd September at the Middleton Hotel York, the marriage took place between Stuart Wood and Gemma Shields. Stuart is the son of Richard and Diane Wood and grandson of Ken Shepherd. It was a beautiful setting for a perfect day and evening.

Lots of love and congratulations to you both as you begin your new life together.

Richard & Diane Wood

Stuart & Gemma with Grandad



Congratulations

Anniversaries

We send belated congratulations for big anniversaries during October to:

Mary and Michael Mawer, who celebrated 60 years of marriage on 12th October and to

Robert and Mary Haigh who celebrated 40 years of marriage on October 15th. With a party for family and friends at The Dovecote Inn.

We wish both couples many more happy years together.

Big Birthdays



Two ladies from Laxton have 'big' birthdays during November - coincidentally on consecutive days.

Many congratulations to **Margaret Rose** whose 90th birthday falls on 19th November. Margaret has lived in Laxton all her life.

Many congratulations also go to 'Open Field's hard working editor,

Jean Hennell, who celebrates her 70th on 20th November, and who has lived here all her married life.

We hope you both have a lovely time for your respective birthdays and enjoy being treated on your special days.



Sympathy: George Codd of Egmonton

We were all saddened to hear of the death of George Codd of Egmonton at the age of 92, a regular reader of 'Open Field' for many years. His funeral was held on 5th October at Fledborough Church attended by family and friends. Our sympathy goes to them all.



**Remembrance
Group Service
Egmanton Church
Sunday November 12th
10.30am**

Everyone Welcome



Laxton's Open Field Farming System

As mentioned in last month's *Open Field*, the full transcript of Sir John Starkey's letter, Ms Nimmo's reply and Sir John's subsequent reply are published in the magazine, beginning opposite.

Since the correspondence here, representatives of the Visitor Centre met with the CEO of the Sherwood Forest Trust who, following a Tourism meeting we attended in Newark, expressed a willingness to meet with us and offer some practical support. This was a very productive meeting with a number of ideas and suggestions from Patrick the CEO and a further meeting to explore these ideas is set for November. We have also heard that Robert Jenrick our MP is to meet with The Crown Estate in London this month and we await the results of that meeting too.

I have just been informed that Carter Jonas has arranged a meeting with all the agricultural / Open Field tenants on the Estate on Thursday 2/11/17.

The purpose of the meeting, to quote the letter; 'is for the Crown Estate to introduce Mr Iain Mills, the Senior Asset Manager, to provide an update on the current position in terms of it's proposals for the long term future of the Estate and to assure all The Crowns intention to protect the Open Field system, the long term agricultural social history, diverse ecological habitat and traditional village street scene of Laxton.'

Iain Mills is the gentleman who the Parish Council wrote to in May this year to ask for some clarity about this important subject, his reply was published in the magazine a couple of months ago.

Laxton Open Field Farming System

**From Sir John Starkey, Chairman of Trustees of Laxton Visitor Centre to
Alison Nimmo, CEO of the Crown Estate** **27/7/17**

Against a background of The Crown Estate as an exemplary landlord of the Laxton Estate both in terms of the maintenance and improvements to land and buildings as well as for the care and welfare its tenants, I find it hard to write in the strong terms expressed in this letter. But, as the future of Nottinghamshire's unique and famous Open Fields System appears to have arrived at a tipping point, write firmly I must.

I write as Chairman of Trustees of the Laxton Visitor Centre, an independent role that it has been my privilege to exercise since the Trust was created in 1986. The reason is because the Trustees have asked me to do so following a discussion at the Annual General Meeting held on 26th June. I have to say that in 30 years this was the most depressing AGM I have attended.

First this was because for yet another AGM there was no representative present from The Crown Estate agents, Carter Jonas, despite a year's notice of it. Therefore there was no means of communicating to The Crown Estate the Trustees' concerns over the future of the Open Fields System. These have been building up over the last ten years.

Second was the specific issue of Moorgate Farm. It was reported to the meeting that in March the Clerk to the Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council had written to the Crown Estate about it. A response from Senior Asset Manager Iain Mills of 9th June to that letter has subsequently been made available to me so I am now in a better position to articulate the Trustees' anxiety about the Crown Estate's intentions with regard to its Laxton Estate. When the Crown Estate has been so supportive of the Visitor centre over the years in a material way it is with some reluctance that I find myself voicing a fundamental criticism. This relates to an unresolved incompatibility between honouring the Crown Estate's "Undertaking given to Parliament" as quoted in Mills' letter of 9th June and the terms of "...The Crown Estate Act which requires us to maximise the financial return that we provide to the UK Treasury...". The decision to split the land from the farmhouse of Moorgate Farm illustrates precisely the impossibility of fulfilling both obligations simultaneously.

If the Crown Estate actually comprehended what is needed to perpetuate the existence of Nottinghamshire's unique Open Fields System it would have realised the fact that the system has been kept more or less intact thus far by the will and interest of farming families and people of the Parish of Laxton, the Estate tenants. A distracted landlord in the nineteenth century followed by an incredulous Ministry of Agriculture which had little idea what to do with the Estate gifted to it by HM Treasury except to change nothing, ensured that the

Village Hall Lottery Project News



Some of you will have seen yellow tripods outside the hall recently, a good sign that the first stages of the renovations has started. We are still a way off the building work commencing; we are expecting towards the end of the year for that. The annual winter Quiz is arranged for 1.12.17 so nothing will start before then at least!!!!

The groups we have set up to look at the work that needs to

be done (as below), met again during the middle of October and everyone is still very excited at the prospects for the new Hall. We are having to go through legal “huddles” at the moment, one of which is to change our status as a mere Charity to a “Charitable Incorporated Organisation”. We have to do this so that The Big Lottery will release the funding for the Hall and also to make the position of the Management Committee more secure.

It is a legal process so we have had to take on the services of a firm of solicitors but the Lottery do cover all these costs.

	Capital Team	Revenue Team	Finance Team	Health & Safety Team
Committee/ Professionals	Jeanette Geldard Michael Manning Carl Andrews (Architect) Roger Cottee Builder	Jeanette Geldard Helen Whitney Janet Cooke	Jeanette Geldard Sam Wortley Joan Cottee Keith Morton Accountant	Jeanette Geldard Sam Wortley Lesley Booth Pat Naylor

A quick reminder - last month all villagers in Laxton and Moorhouse should have received a flyer inviting you to an important event in November - the Village Hall Coffee Morning on SATURDAY 25th November between 11am and 1.30pm. It will be an opportunity to talk about the progress of the Hall and hopefully answer any questions

Please put the date in your diaries and come along.

We are getting a fabulous new Hall, watch this space!!!

Michael Manning

Open Fields System was kept alive by its farming tenants until handed on to The Crown Estate. Enter the concept of “commercial” return that trumps an unspecified “Undertaking” and the system that depends on a sufficient quorum of tenant farmers to operate it is terminally doomed. One has to be forgiven for concluding that The Crown Estate has calculated that by a process of attrition the number of willing tenants to continue with the system will soon reduce to an unsustainable number so that collapse becomes inevitable. Then real commercial opportunities could be exploited. I regret having to express such a cynical viewpoint but the depth of incomprehension exposed by the Moorgate Farm decision compels me.

The only way, in my opinion, to overcome this situation is to recognise the error and take immediate steps to correct it. The lease for the farmhouse will no doubt be An Assured Shorthold and for the land a Farm Business Tenancy. Notices to terminate should be given to both tenants so that within a reasonably short space of time the holding could be re-let as a unit. What is absolutely critical for Laxton is to retain and if possible build back up again the number of farmers resident in the Parish and available to keep the system alive. It is doubly important to have a methodology for doing so in the context of Brexit which threatens to reduce still further the funding to support agriculture. Farming tenants who have skills which provide an income outside farming may well become the norm for the Laxton of the future but they still need to be farmers first and foremost and resident in the village or the parish. So, farmhouses in the village need to be occupied by farmers and not commuters.

The Norman Coward report is referred to in Mills’ letter. Neither his analysis nor his Conclusions and Recommendations have been revealed as yet. Many people with an interest in Laxton, including myself, contributed time and suggestions for liberating the Open Fields System from the Crown Estate straightjacket so we are of course keen to know what it said and why it has not been implemented. With the Brexit negotiations now under way there is even more urgency to find a solution.

In the concluding paragraphs of his letter Mills mentions that the Crown Estate is hopeful of coming up with proposals for the future. I am sure the Trustees of the Visitor Centre would be willing to assist in any way to achieve a swift conclusion after nearly 10 years internal discussion. For my own part I made what I considered to be a pragmatic proposal to Norman Coward. I do not know whether it featured in his report but it would resolve the incompatibility referred to above. Unless that is achieved and the Laxton Estate reconstituted as a national treasure with independent Charitable Status able to source funding from private individuals, The National Heritage Memorial Fund, etc etc it will not have a future.

The Trustees and indeed all of us resident in Nottinghamshire would be most grateful if you could now give urgent priority to resolving the issue of

the future of the Laxton Estate and its unique Open Fields System as time is rapidly running out.

**From Alison Nimmo, CEO of the Crown Estate to Sir John Starkey,
Chairman of Trustees of Laxton Visitor Centre** **17/8/17**

Thank you for your letter of 27th July and please accept my apologies for the delay in getting back you but I have been on annual leave.

I am sorry to hear that you doubt The Crown Estate's commitment to establishing a sustainable long-term solution for the future of the Laxton Estate and the Open Fields System. I can assure you that we are every bit as committed as you and others locally to this goal. Indeed, my colleagues and I as well as our agents locally, put substantial effort and resources into the day-to-day management of the estate every year.

I understand your frustration at the lack of attendance at your AGM. We do of course always have a representative at the Court and Jury days but can also make sure a representative of Carter Jonas is available for next year's AGM, if that would be helpful. Our agents and The Crown Estate are also more than happy to engage with you and others interested in the estate in any way you see fit, by letter, email, telephone or in person. I have attached a schedule of contact details for the relevant people dealing with Laxton, both here and at Carter Jonas.

I am aware that you have seen Iain Mills' letter to the Parish Council so I will try not to go over the same ground, but we are acutely aware of the issues that are currently impacting on the UK agricultural sector and also more specifically on Laxton and its historic and unique open field farming system.

With regard to your concerns over the way we dealt with the re-letting of Moorgate Farm, it is not our policy to automatically separate the residential and agricultural elements of agricultural holdings either generally or specifically at Laxton. We will always consider this on a case by case basis. There are situations where we might consider it appropriate to separate; for example it is unlikely we would consider it appropriate upon the death or retirement of a farming tenant to require them or their family to leave the home so it could be re-let with the land; and there will be occasions where it is best to keep them together. In the case of Moorgate Farm we had the opportunity to let the land with or without residential accommodation but only one applicant expressed such a requirement. As a result of the tender we chose to select a tenant who didn't want the house but who offered the chance for us to obtain the best rent we can in all the circumstances. The individual in question was new to the estate as a tenant but was already farming some of the land so we felt would take a full and active role in the Court and the community. We are obviously not precluded from taking a different decision next time and as you are aware the terms of the AST mean that we of course retain the flexibility to do so should the question

arise again. That said, we do not consider it appropriate or necessary to terminate the current agreements and re-let the two together.

More broadly, here at The Crown Estate we understand the value of our nation's history, heritage and the environment and conduct our business accordingly. This is true whether we are regenerating the historic listed facades of Regent Street in London, maintaining areas of outstanding natural beauty on our Windsor Estate, or in our management of our holdings in Laxton. We are, as you point out, a commercial business, but we believe that it is possible to be a successful business and at the same time to ensure we put stewardship at the heart of our approach to management.

As such, in relation to the specific issues you raise, I would like to be clear that it is not a question of the Parliamentary Undertaking being in some way trumped by our obligations to generate a commercial return. We are keen to find ways of ensuring the two work together to produce the best outcome for Laxton, being mindful of the constraints that both impose on the other.

In terms of the future of the open field system we fully accept that the farming system and the unique way of life that exists at Laxton are very heavily dependent on the people that work and live there. It is that understanding and assumption that underpinned the Coward Report. It is the reason that so much consultation with the local community took place and indeed why you were asked, along with many others, to proffer your own views on the future of the Estate. I note, you say that you have not heard the conclusions of the Report and whilst the findings were presented to the Court Leet on 4 December 2008, it would appear from our notes that you were not able to attend that meeting. I have attached a summary of Norman's comments on the presentation to the Court.

The summary in paragraph 15 was, with hindsight, quite prescient and is probably still somewhat true other than we are now putting more time and effort into trying to find out whether the recommendations are actually achievable. I think that if you were to have a conversation with my Rural Director Ken Jones you would probably find yourselves in almost complete agreement about what is required to secure the future of the Estate.

I hope this covers the points you raise in your letter and I do believe that there is significant common ground between us and the other stakeholders at Laxton about how best to deal with the current concerns. It is now a high priority for us to deal with this matter as quickly, but more importantly as properly, as we can.

NORMAN COWARD PRESENTATION AT LAXTON COURT LEET DECEMBER, 2008

Objective of the study was to by to find a policy for the future of Laxton which would provide an improved financial performance for the Crown Estate, and for the tenants.

“FEET FIRST”

**MOBILE
CHIROPODY SERVICES**

**Sharon Foster
M.Inst.Ch.P.
HPC Registered No:
CH18101**

**Telephone
Mobile: 07946 587190
for a home visit**

R H Goatley Electrical

Domestic, Commercial & Agricultural

**Tel: 01623 860101
Mob: 07472 511694**



Rose Cottage,
Church Road,
Boughton, NG22 9JY

Stan The Sweep

*Local Professional Vacuum
Chimney Sweep*

*Solid Fuel, Oil and Gas, Aga,
Stove Bricks, Glass & Rope
supplied & fitted, Bird guards,
Chimney liners, Pots, Specialist
equipment for sweeping wood
burners & liners. Certificate
issued.*

*No Mess & fully insured
Contact Stan Hutchinson on:*

**07831 661304
01636 821466**

Stan@StanTheSweep.co.uk



Member of the
guild of master
sweeps



**Mark Brisendon
Heating Engineer**

**T: 01636 678036
M: 07734 450695**

Oil boiler service,
repair and installations

**MMB
OIL**



OFTEC registered

G.R. GRIMES & SONS

SOLID FUEL & GAS MERCHANTS



Competitive Prices

Ring for a Quote

Tel:

01777 228273

To do this, I had meetings with the farmer tenants and other interested parties - 33 meetings in total

I had heard of Laxton before I started this work - from my early days as an agricultural student and at the time of the change of ownership in 1981. However, I had not appreciated the full significance of its history. And I certainly had not appreciated how well the social history of Laxton is still preserved through the Open Field system and THE Court Leet I can think of no other examples of "living history" which are so well preserved in a form which has not been "gentrified" or "Disneyfied".

But this of course is the crux of a dilemma. The historic strip stricture in the Open Fields is a serious impediment to efficiency. The farmers must travel large distances in total to farm their strips in each of the 3 fields. And, when they arrive at the Open Field, the average size of their strips is small and often an irregular shape. The result is that farm machinery can only be used very inefficiently with many turns and corners. A secondary result is that the most to a significant extent the tenants are forced to maintain and use obsolete equipment. As a result, the rents which the tenants can reasonably afford are low. On the other hand, The Crown Estate is required by its legal statute to maximise the return on all its assets- their net income is paid to the Chancellor of the Exchequer/government, and reduces our taxes (and is especially therefore needed right now!).

5. Perhaps the biggest dilemma of all is that there is no means that I can see whereby those people who are very enthusiastic about the social structure, are paying for it - except the tenants themselves. That is quite wrong. But it is understandable because there is no mechanism at Laxton to extract money from serious professional historians - or the numerous people who are just interested in social history. And that is because there is not much to see. No beautiful country house with enhance fees at a single gateway, and a restaurant; no twee farm shop or children's farm; simply 18 tenants carrying on their normal business.

As a result of this dilemma - between the demands on The Crown Estate and the difficulty of farming commercially at Laxton because of the desire to maintain the historic structure - the tenants at Laxton have only survived thus far through four elements of subsidy.

- (a) Their own, generally tough, living standard
- (b) The Crown Estate's very low rents
- (c) The generous 2004 Countryside Stewardship Scheme.
- (d) On reaching retirement age their State Pension has been sufficient to pay the rent for the reasonably attractive house plus the land.

7. There are a few things which can be done to improve slightly the

Things to Do this Month

⇒ **Check details of road closures**

- Nov 4th** Craft Fayre, Why not pop in for your lunch? 11 - 2.30. **VH**
- Nov 8th** WI - Making Christmas Cards & Crackers, 7.30 **VH**
- Nov 9th** Coffee Morning
- Nov 15th** History Group, 7.30pm, 'Sarah Rose's Cottage - A Laxton Investigation', **VH**
- Nov 17th** Supper Dance, 7.30pm, **VH**
- Nov 18th** Rotary Proms Concert, Dukeries Academy
- Nov 25th** Village Hall Get Together, 11-1.30 **VH**
- Nov 29th** Meal and Speaker, RNIB Talking Books, South Forest Leisure Centre 7 for 7.15pm.
- Dec 1st** **Village Christmas Card Post begins**
- Dec 3rd** Maplebeck Childrens' Puppet Show

VH = Village Hall VC = Visitor Centre

Coffee Morning

9th November

10.30am - 11.30am

The next coffee morning will take place on Thursday 9th

November at Chapel House, at the top of Chapel Lane

Why not come and join us? Everyone is welcome to this informal group. You don't have to come every month and are welcome to pop in to enjoy some friendly, cheerful company.

Plenty of tea, cakes, and chatter.



situation for both landlord and tenant:

- Selecting incoming tenants very carefully so that he/she is a farmer or knowledgeable about farming; should have an existing non-farm business which can be carried on in (converted) Laxton farm buildings and should be willing to embrace fully the Court structure including jury service.
- Separating the house to relet it on a AST basis
- Reletting some land and strips to existing tenants on FBT basis (at least this can slightly increase the profit potential of those existing tenants who want to expand).
- Encouraging and supporting any tenant who does want to convert a building for non-farm activity,
- Etc.

8. However, I believe that none of these can substantially help either the tenants or The Crown Estate. From The Crown Estate's point of view, the changes can only be implemented very slowly; there will not be great scope for increasing rents in the future, and capital expenditure and maintenance both need to increase.

From the point of view of those who want the historic structure to continue (which includes most of the tenants) even these limited changes could be seen as damaging the historic social structure for the long-term future.

9. As a result I suspect that the returns to the Crown Estate here will gradually become negative; the lot of the tenants cannot be much improved and the very gradual erosion of the historic structure - which has actually been going on for 100 years or more - will continue.

10. This is a very gloomy diagnosis but there is certainly no crisis. The Crown Estate recognises its huge social responsibility at Laxton and they should certainly not seek to take any drastic action quickly; they don't need to and they have said they won't.

11. But the best future for the estate by far is in the hands of owners who do not have the commercial pressure which The Crown Estate has and which most private and institutional landlords have - and where the interests of the tenants would be represented. This is my advice to The Crown Estate. But it is actually also my advice to the tenants.

12. If you ask me what this actually means, the answer is not clear and we - The Crown Estate or I - have not researched it. But probably means setting up a trust which would be capable of raising funding from local agencies, history foundations and/or a wealthy private

Bed & Breakfast
Brecks Cottage

Green Lane, Moorhouse, Newark
Nottinghamshire NG23 6LZ
Telephone: 01636 822445
www.breckscottage.co.uk



WILKINS
ESTABLISHED 1895
CHIMNEY SWEEP

PROFESSIONAL CLEAN SERVICE

- Power Sweeping Technology
- Cages, Caps and Cowls Fitted
- CCTV Surveys
- Sweeping Certificates Issued
- Traditional Brush & Vacuum
- Nests Removed
- Fully Insured
- Police Checked

01636 616425



wilkinschimneysweep.co.uk/newark



Ivy Cottage B&B . Main Street . Laxton . Nottinghamshire
NG22 0NU . 01777 871254 . www.the-goathouse.co.uk

Dog Walking Services & Animal Care

- Dog Walking
- Pet Sitting
- Equestrian
- Holiday Cover
- Small Pets
- Anything To Suit Your Needs

Please Contact Lizzy
07944 630708

*For very reasonable rates
References can be supplied*



benefactor who has the history of Laxton at heart. The Crown Estate could never raise funding of this kind. The trust might buy or seek along lease from The Crown Estate and it would include representatives of the tenants as trustees. Its overhead costs for governance would be less than those of The Crown Estate.

13. This is not completely a pie-in-the-sky idea. There are precedents in specific and unusual estates in Scotland.

14. But nothing is going to happen quickly and without consultation Apart from any other consideration, It is crazy to seek investment like this when the country is in recession. And if it cannot be achieved sensibly and in a way which upholds the undertaking which The Crown Estate gave to parliament in 1981, it may never happen.

15. My message therefore is don't be concerned about what might happen; any outcome will be better for tenants and will take away the edgy dilemma which exists at present - and nothing will happen very quickly.

From Sir John Starkey, Chairman of Trustees of Laxton Visitor Centre to Alison Nimmo, CEO of the Crown Estate

23/8/17

I am hastening to respond to your full and considered reply to my Laxton letter as I too am about to be away on holiday for a few weeks.

Immediately, however I wanted to say how much I appreciated your positive stance and for providing me with a copy of Norman Coward's notes for his presentation to the Court Leet in 2008. I had not seen these before as I am not and never have been a member of the Court.

The other point for which I would like to thank you is the offer to have a further discussion with your Rural Director, Ken Jones. I would very much like to do that and if possible accompanied by a couple Visitor Centre Trustee colleagues. On my return mid- September, I shall, if I may, contact him to make arrangements.

In the meantime, I'm afraid that you have not persuaded me that the Moorgate Farm decision was anything other than a big mistake. It has sent out so many negative signals.

Anyway I look forward to discussing all this later and to helping, if at all possible to resolve the patent dilemma facing The Crown Estate in owning a historic agricultural estate which is in all probability a liability when to the world beyond it is a unique heritage asset and resource for post-Brexit policies based on a sustainable agriculture. The open field system is the only proven sustainable system in existence! Not that agriculture is likely to revert to anything remotely resembling it but as a research resource it has huge value ecologically.

More anon!

Laxton History Group



Retford's History Society had invited us to visit so in September we took up the offer and a group of members met in the town at 6pm for a guided tour of East Retford. We were met by Malcolm Dolby, who is an excellent and knowledgeable guide. He gave us a very interesting tour which began outside Amcott House, now the museum, where this bicycle was suspended in the entrance.



Adjacent to the museum is the only remaining local above ground air raid shelter, whilst diagonally opposite stands the Methodist Chapel re built in 1880 to accommodate 900.



Proceeding down Union Street we learnt about chicken hut makers, Marshalls Bottling Stores and the Alms Houses of 1820. Now at the crossroads we heard about the Revolution Woollen Mill which had provided employment for 600 people.

On Church Street we saw the first National Church School and the first dispensing surgery and health provision in the town. Tales relating to the Grammar School, embezzling solicitors, Canon Square being the old market place, Church railings removed to support the war effort and three timber framed properties still remaining in commercial use.

Clark's Dye Works were located in the car park off Church Street and The Vine Inn was built from bricks bearing the stamp G Ogle which can be clearly seen upon scrutiny.

In 1880-81 there was a serious flood in the town caused by the mills by the bridge (now part of the ring road), where tanning was carried out, paper was made and corn ground.

By 1766 the great north road wound it's way through and a





bottle neck was soon evident at the bottom of Bridgegate as traffic volume increased and carriages were largely responsible for the queues as they attempted manoeuvres into White Hart yard, then a coaching inn. The Georgian square was created and gentrified

what had been a slum. The bridge from which the Street gained its name was originally a more simple crossing which acts as a landmark between east and west Retford. Originally traffic and pedestrians crossed by the bridge and livestock through the shallows or red ford from which the town gets its name. Coincidentally there was an ink factory near by.

As we walked along Grove Street boot scrapers on the outside of some of the buildings were observed. It would appear that in 1817 it was noted that boot scrapers must not be free standing in future but be inset into the wall of the building as they were a trip hazard. An early example of health and safety perhaps.



After a fascinating tour we found ourselves back at the Methodist Chapel where we were treated to sandwiches and cakes and an opportunity to talk further to Malcolm. John Chambers thanked him for the factual and enlightening tour and the catering team for the refreshments.

We presented them with a set of our booklets on Laxton and have heard that they are being avidly devoured!

On 18th October we shall hear from Rosemary Gibson about 'Bess of Hardwick', which will be summarised in next month's magazine.

Our meeting on **November 15th**, our last of the year, will feature a talk by Mark Langrick, a descendant of Sarah Rose whose cottage used to stand on The bar near the entrance to the Sports Field. Mark is an architect by profession and has conducted an investigation into the cottage using photographs and visits to the site. He has also inherited some of Sarah's possessions which came out of the cottage. This is a meeting with a very local focus of interest and we welcome members and visitors alike at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Dovecote Inn at Laxton

Your Local Village Pub



Friday 10th November Game Season Gourmet Evening 5.30pm - 9pm
A celebration of local game produce brought to you by Sherwood Game of Kneesall. A delightful 3 course meal with wine to accompany each course.
£35 per person including wine.

Tuesday 21st November Pie Tuesday 5.30pm - 9pm
A choice of chef's lovely homemade pies, all served with a fine glass of cask beer or a glass of wine to suit.
£13 per person including drink

Monday 27th November Steak Night 6pm - 9pm
Whole joints of Aberdeen Angus beef from Doncasters' family butchers of Newark. 30 day dry aged on the bone, cut in the restaurant and cooked to your liking. Prices are size dependent

Wednesday 20th November Beer & Carols 7.45pm for 8.00pm
Join us for a festive evening with the Reverend Philip. Mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas Carols.
Free of charge, just turn up on the night for this lovely event.

Our lovely Festive Menu begins on December 1st
Book early to avoid disappointment.

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



SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER
NEW YEAR'S EVE

AT THE DOVECOTE INN, 7PM TILL LATE

Meals served from our à la carte menu
between 7pm - 8.45pm (booking required) followed by our

FREE PARTY NIGHT
“PAST & PRESENT
SOAP STARS AT THE DOVEY”

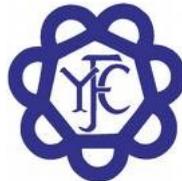
- Optional fancy dress • Disco in the marquee with “Sensation Roadshow”
- Free buffet • Late bar • No ticket required - Just turn up!

The Dovecote Inn, Cross Hill, Laxton NG22 0SX.
Tel: 01777 871586 Email: hello@thedovecoteinn.com

www.thedovecoteinnlaxton.co.uk



Tuxford Young Farmers



We are very pleased to welcome Ashleigh Eteo, aged 11 as the new Press Correspondent for Tuxford Young Farmers. Here is her first report:

At our AGM in September we all gathered at Egmanton Village Hall to establish our roles within the club for the forthcoming year. I am pleased to say my role is to write a column detailing our meetings each week.

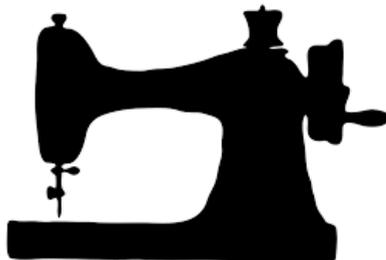
This week we met at Harvey's grandparents' farm in South Leverton. During our visit we looked at lots of machinery including some that dates back to the war. The machinery was stored in large barns which we were able to explore. Within the barns there were a couple of lorries and Harvey told us there are only two of these left in the world - amazing! There was also a variety of tanks, motorbikes and cranes. Some of the machinery is used on Highfield Farm and some of the machinery is being restored.

We all had a great time learning about how to use the machinery and learning about the history of the tanks.

Ashleigh, Tuxford YFC

Request from the Inner Wheel Club of Sherwood Forest

An initiative supported by several Inner Wheel clubs involves groups of women in several locations including Zambia and Malawi learning to sew and produce garments, bags and other useful commodities for sale. This allows them to earn a living and become self sufficient. In order to do this they need access to sewing machines.



If you or someone you know has a sewing machine in working order, that is no longer needed, I would be very happy to collect it and pass it on to National Police Aid Convoys (NPAC) who in turn will transport to the appropriate location. The machine can be manual or electric the only proviso being that the electric ones come with their cables.

Please contact me on 01777 870601

Pat Naylor

CHRISTMAS CARDS

SPECIAL DELIVERY SERVICE IN LAXTON

Save your legs or your petrol ! Santa's helpers will sort and deliver your Christmas cards around the village.



Please drop off your cards and donations for church **in church**. There will be a box at the back **on the book shelves for your cards**. Please put your donations for the church **in the metal money box on the wall behind the door**.

Please note both boxes will be emptied daily. The church is open during daylight hours daily.

Starts Friday 1st December. Closing date:

5.00pm Friday, 15th December

2018 Open Field Subscriptions

This year has passed in a flash and before we know it, it will be time to be collecting your subscriptions for 2018.

The last price rise, from £3 to £4 took place in 2011 after the magazine expanded from approximately 28 pages a month to the present average of 44 / 48. Once again the price is being held, so you will pay only £4 for all 12 issues if you pay by annual subscription.

Your distributor will be calling for the money from December onwards and it would be a great help if you could have it ready. Failing that, please put the money in an envelope *with your name on it* and pop it through their door.

Thank you for your continued support and to the many people who have contributed with stories, articles, activity reports and photographs in the last year. We are always pleased to hear from you and if you are not sure just how to put what you want to say, we are pleased to help you get it right. We look forward to hearing from you all again next year.

**CHURCH SERVICES FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES
NOVEMBER 2017**

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

Es = Evensong WfA = Worship for All

Sun 29th Oct - 20th Sunday after Trinity

No services in our villages

5th Nov

10.30am

10.30am

4pm

4pm

All Saints

Kneesall HC

Kirton Memorial Service - *see invitation below*

Wellow Es

Egmanton Es

12th Nov

10.30am

4pm

Remembrance Sunday

Egmanton Remembrance Service

Laxton Book of Common Prayer HC

19th Nov

9am

10.30am

2nd Sunday before Advent

Egmanton HC

Wellow HC

26th Nov

9am

10.30am

Christ the King

Moorhouse HC

Kirton HC

Tuesday 14th November – ‘Open Vestry Hour’ for baptism and wedding enquiries 6.30pm – 7.30pm at St Paulinus Church Office, Church Circle, New Ollerton.

Alternatively contact the Church Administrator, Eileen on Fridays at the Vicarage between 9am – 2pm **07983 946930** or email:

churchadmin1931@gmail.com

Revd Zoe’s number at the Vicarage: (01623) 862818.

On Sunday, November 5th, at 10.30am, there will be an 'All Souls' Service' at Kirton Church. You will be able to light a candle for your loved ones and join us afterwards for refreshments and a chat. We invite all those who have been bereaved, either recently or in the past. You will all receive a warm welcome - please join us!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2017

- Oct 30th*** ***MU***
Nov 4th ***History Group Craft Fayre***
Nov 8th ***WI***
Nov 9th ***Coffee Morning***
Nov 15th ***History Group***
Nov 17th Church Dance
Nov 21st Parish Council with pre-meeting at 7pm
Nov 25th ***Village Hall Get Together***
Nov 27th ***MU***



Forward Planning

- Dec 1st Quiz Night
Dec 1st ***Start date for village card postal service***
Dec 15th ***Closing date for village card postal service***
Dec 20th ***Carols at The Dovecote***

NB New entries appear in ***bold italics*** for the first month.

If you know the date of a meeting or an event, please pass it on so that others can take it into account when planning.

Copy Date for December: 16th November.

Please ensure we receive your contributions for the magazine by this date. We cannot guarantee to publish anything received later. It is always helpful to receive items as soon as they are to hand. Thank you.

Wagstaff Construction

Installation of Log Burning and Multi-Fuel Stoves

Twin Wall Chimney Systems
Flexible Flue Liners
Fireplace Design and Build
Pre Installation Surveys
Service and Maintenance



Tel: 01777 872707
Mob: 07816520826



Tuxford Lawnmower Centre^{Ltd}



Specialist in all types of Garden Machinery
Sales, Service, Spares & Repairs

01777 871983

Come & Visit our Showroom Today!

Ashvale, Tuxford. NG22 0ND

www.tuxfordlawnmowercentre.co.uk

info@tuxfordlawnmowercentre.co.uk

Do You Need a Mole Catcher?

Call Chris on 07780 714800

No mole



No fee

Email: thelaxtonmolecatcher@gmail.com

Laxton WI



Members have been busy since the last meeting. Firstly five ladies went to try Walking Netball at Retford Oaks Academy with Louise Key of England Netball coaching us. This is a slowed down version of the game, designed for anyone looking to exercise in a relaxed, supportive and friendly environment. It is something all ages and abilities can enjoy.

Lesley, Sandra, Margaret, Chris and Bridget were welcomed by Louise along with 16 members of various other Notts WIs.

After welcome drinks/biscuits we made our way to the huge sports hall. Warm up exercises took the form of a couple of netball based games which were great fun in themselves. It wasn't long before everyone was relaxed and laughing, with some participants showing their competitive side even at this stage!

Louise then let us choose which position we preferred to play within 2 competing teams. Laxton members were in the team sporting pink tabards. One of our group did take a couple of tumbles but no lasting harm was done and enthusiastic play continued.

One of the hardest things was remembering we weren't allowed to run! This could result in a free pass for the opposing team...We had a really great time, were surprised to find we could still "net the ball" after all these years.

Although we didn't win the tournament, we all had a great time and would welcome another opportunity to play walking netball. Members had enjoyed trips to the Autumn Council meeting with an Abba tribute band.



The Group meeting at East Markham had been enjoyable despite the disappointment of our entry failing to find favour with the judge. Lesley was thanked for preparing it as were the ladies who had helped with the raffle. There is still Apple Day at Southwell and the Group Carol Service on 5th December at East Markham to look forward to this year.

Continuing our bulb planting in the village, it was agreed we would buy a planting trough to place in front of the Village Hall and plants to put in it.

Our speaker, Ann Hickman Secretary of Retford Royal British Legion was welcomed to speak about their history and work.

Their poppy emblem is the second most recognised charity emblem in the country (she didn't say which one beats it) although it is most associated with remembrance rather than the Legion.



Britnell Tree Services



All Aspects of Tree Works

includes felling, crown reductions
crown thinning, crown lifting, pollarding

Gardening & Landscaping

Reliable & Trustworthy Fully Insured &
Qualified

All works carried out to BS3998

Call Will today for your free quote on
07821 342942 or 01636 702807 or
email

BritnellTreeServices@gmail.com

Tracy Wint Soft Furnishings

Having spent hundreds or even
thousands on your decor, why
settle for ready mades or only a
near match when it comes to
dressing your beautiful new home.

*The only limits
are your imagination*

A complete, fast, friendly and
personal service with quality
second to none... and at a price
that will undoubtedly surprise.

For your made to measure
curtains, blinds or other soft
furnishings simply call an expert.

Tracy Wint Soft Furnishings
Egmonton

01777 870235

tracywint@btinternet.com

EGMANTON PLANT HIRE LTD

For a full list of hire equipment
please see:

www.egmantonplanthire.co.uk

ANDREW BANKS

Phone/Fax: **01777 872316**

Mobile: **07971 627588**

VAT registered

See website for current price list

Hall Farm Wild Bird Supplies

www.seedtofeed.co.uk

Mon - Fri 7:30 - 17:00 Sat 8:00 - 13:00

Stocking a wide range of
Wild Bird Products & Accessories



Hall Farm seed mixes
Chicken Feed
Suet
Nigerseed
Peanuts
Feeders
& Much more...

all major credit cards accepted



Hall Farm
Wild Bird Supplies

The Grain Store
Wadnall Lane, Weston

01636 821232

Find us at NG23 6SY - behind The Great Wall Chinese

Sherwood Forest Rotary

Supporting the Local
Community

07711 802683

Meeting most Wednesdays
at South Forest Leisure
Robin Hood Crossroads,
Edwinstowe

Visitors always welcome

www.rotary.org/1220

The poppy was formally adopted as the emblem for remembrance in 1921, when the first Poppy Day was held. The first poppies were made by ladies in France and brought here to sell. It has gone from strength to strength and last year raised almost £47 million. The prefix 'Royal' was conferred in 1971.

The Legion's work divides into four

areas. Work with the bereaved includes not just the families of those killed in conflict but also service personnel killed in accidents etc. They offer trained counsellors for as long as needed, benefits advice, a member to accompany the bereaved family to the inquest etc. Their work with bereaved children is far-reaching, including help in providing equipment they need and group holidays to enable them to meet others who have experienced similar things. Lobbying for bereaved families recently secured the widow(er)s pension irrespective of a subsequent remarriage or partnership.

Helping injured service personnel is a big area of work from the point of arrival at hospital through discharge to retraining and equipment.

Recognising the importance of the mutual support provided by others in similar positions their Recovery Centres are located in garrison towns. There is a 'Battle Back Centre' where medical science is advanced through seeking to help and support injured personnel. The Legion works closely with Combat Stress on PTSD and with small charities in many areas.

Work with service leavers is important in helping people to adapt to civilian life. Having led a disciplined life being told what to do in all areas, it can be difficult to manage in the community including money matters and benefits. The Legion offers training, advice and support and tries to work with homeless ex-service people to break the cycle which keeps them out of work. They run web sites, a helpline and outreach services and help with drug and alcohol abuse.

Veterans are now classified as anyone who has 'taken the Queen's shilling' for seven days. this means a veteran can be as young as 18. Much work is undertaken supporting more mature veterans in combatting loneliness and providing holiday homes, including one which is open at Christmas.

The Legion run the Remembrance events all over the country and they have observed more people coming to them. They also work with schools and Ann was impressed with the knowledge demonstrated by even very small children.

Next month Elizabeth Banks will be running a session making cards and crackers. Members are asked to bring small and medium scissors, and embellishments they may have and something to take their efforts home in. The competition will be for the best efforts on the night. This month Ann judged the competition for an item of wartime memorabilia. The winner was Lesley, with Sally second and Sandra third.



Heavy Duty Tanalised Fencing & Gates

Free estimate or advice

- Agricultural
- Post & rail
- Tanalised post & panel
- Equestrian
- Picket
- Tanalised made to measure gates

Tel Kenny 01777 870337,
Mob 07723 036543
Vicarage Cottage, Laxton



NGT PROPERTY SERVICES



BUILDING, ROOFING & PLASTERING

- ◆ Extensions
- ◆ Renovations
- ◆ Rendering
- ◆ Damp Treatment
- ◆ Tiling
- ◆ Landscaping
- ◆ Flat Roofs
- ◆ Window Fitting
- ◆ Loft Conversions

Call for a free quote with no obligation

NGT PROPERTY SERVICES CAUNTON, NEWARK, NOTTS

Tel: 01636 636284
Mobile: 07814 151600
ngt007@gmail.com

KP Chauffeuring

LUXURY PRIVATE HIRE & PERSONAL
CHAUFFEURING SERVICES

PRIVATE & BUSINESS CUSTOMERS

LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL,
AIRPORT & CRUISE TRANSFERS

13 years experience

Contact Kevin Pevler on:
07802 581297 / 01777
872785

Email: kevin.pevler@mypostoffice.co.uk



LEE DOYLE

Building Contractor

New Houses, Extensions,
Groundworks, Roofing,
Damp-proofing & Dry Lining,
Paving & Patios, Minor Repairs.

10 Elm Tree Rise
Kneesall
Newark
Notts



Laxton Cricket Club

This month concludes Jo Godson's research on club meetings.

16/1/1925

The annual supper took place in the Parish Room on Friday, when upwards of thirty members sat down to an excellent supper of roast beef, leg of mutton, plum pudding etc. The Vicar (the Rev S B Bleau) proposed "success and prosperity of the Laxton Cricket Club" and congratulated the members on their success during the season of 1924. Mr Granville Cartledge ably responded on behalf of the club. The secretary (Mr Richard Clark) reported that eighteen matches were played last season, of which fifteen were won, two lost and one drawn. Mr Jack Cook had the highest batting average (14) and Mr Cartledge the best bowling average (3.84). Mr Saxelby, who takes a great interest in the club, presented a cricket ball to the member who made the greatest number of catches. This was won by Mr G Andrews. After supper friends were admitted and a most enjoyable night was spent in dancing, singing and games. The committee takes this opportunity of thanking very sincerely the supporters.

5/2/1926

A general meeting of the members of the Cricket Club was held in the schoolroom on Saturday, when Mr Willis presided. The secretary (Mr G Cartledge) presented the accounts for the past year. These showed a balance of £1 18s, due to the treasurer, Mr R Clarke. The following officers were appointed:- President the Rev S B Bleau; chairman of committee, Mr Willis; treasurer, Mr R Clark; secretary, Mr G Cartledge; captain, Mr G Andrews; vice-captain, Mr W Beckett; committee Messrs Price, Grundy, G Moody and F Moody. Mr Clark expressed a wish to retire from office but the matter was postponed. The meeting instructed the secretary to arrange matches for the coming season.

24/2/1939

The annual general meeting was held in the schoolroom on Thursday week. Mr George Hennell occupied the chair and the election of officers resulted: President, Mr F Merrills; vice-presidents; Rev W J N Thurston, Miss Cox, Miss Willis, Mr H D Argles and Mr R Clark; captain, Mr J Cook; vice-captain and treasurer, Mr D Newbold; hon. Secretary, Mr F Moody; committee, Messrs A Frecknall, K Frampton and A Lynn. The treasurer gave a statement of accounts, which showed a small balance in hand. The club will again compete in the Retford and District competitions and attractive friendly fixtures have also been arranged. The company voiced their appreciation of the support received in the village and a special vote of thanks was given to the retiring treasurer, Mr Geo. Hennell, for his many years' service to the club.



Laxton Visitor Centre

At the AGM in June it was suggested that we upgrade our Audio/Visual equipment, I contacted the original suppliers of our ancient system (Nottingham A/V) and asked for a Quote. It was for around £1500.

At a recent Newark and Sherwood Tourism Meeting David and I attended, I asked if any help towards part of the cost could be considered and after a couple of weeks they came back with an offer to fund the whole cost!!!!

The new system was installed at the end of September and is excellent. The multi media screen and player shows the video much clearer and when not playing, it has a rolling screen saver of photos and files about Laxton Open Fields. It is being programmed to display between 8am and 10.30 pm. We are also having some remedial decorating done following the removal of the old TV and shelf!! It should all be finished by the time you are reading this.

Many thanks to Newark and Sherwood for providing the funds for this Project.

Please do pop in to the Visitor Centre and have a look.



Rotary Club of Sherwood Forest

37th Annual Proms Concert

**Dukeries Academy, Ollerton
Saturday 18th November 7pm**

**£6 tickets from School House
or 01623 862363**

E. GILL & SONS^{LTD}
Funeral Directors

'Our family caring for your family'

The Gill family are proud to have provided care and advice to families in the Newark and District Area for 100 years

For peace of mind we offer the
E. Gill & Sons Funeral Pre-payment Plan
55 Albert Street, Newark, NG24 4BQ
01636 677461

DIGITAL AERIALS

Tuxford and District



Freeview

sky HD

All aerial and satellite work.
Extra points and distribution systems
Home cinema and surround sound
TV installation and wall mounting
Extra telephone/broadband points.
7-day service - same day before 10am
OAP Discount
All work fully guaranteed
Don't Delay - Call Today

Certification mark
digital 
Registered Installer
Reg. No. CR111911


freesat

NO VAT

NO CALL OUT

0800 3896625

07773 103635 01777 871177

digitalsignals@btinternet.com

DIGITAL SIGNAL SERVICES

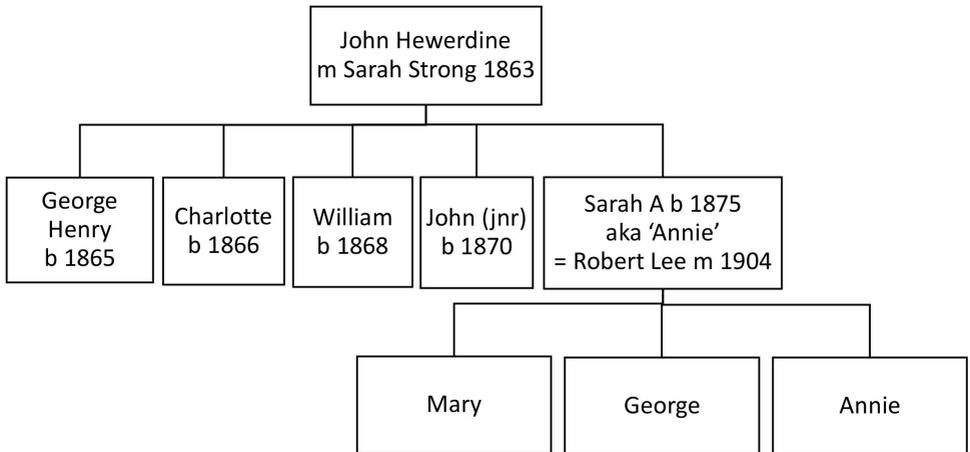
www.digital-signals.co.uk

The Hewerdines of Laxton: Sarah Annie, Youngest Child of John Hewerdine

In this episode Jenni Dobson completes the stories of John Hewerdine's five children.

Sarah Annie was the youngest daughter of John and Sarah Hewerdine and also first cousin to Jane Bailey. She was born in 1875 at Doddington, Lincs and married Robert, recorded only by his initial, R, Lee in the June quarter of 1904. The marriage was registered at East Retford.

Robert Lee was baptised on 15th January 1870 at Laxton. He was a younger son of George Lee and Mary Charlotte neé Twibell who were married on 17th April 1861 at Laxton.



Sarah Annie still lived with her parents, John and Sarah (neé Strong), as a 25 year old at the 1901 census, though recorded as 'Annie', before marrying into another Laxton family, the Lees, through Robert, the fourth son out of five.

Robert's paternal grandfather was William Lee, Laxton-born and farming 110 acres in 1851, presumably with the labour of his son, George, then aged 19. Interestingly his younger son, also William, aged 10, is described as a 'scholar' though this was before the 1870 Education Act - not all Laxton families thought education was a waste of time.

When George Lee married Mary Charlotte Twibell, he also linked to another well-established local family. She was the daughter of John, an innkeeper. In 1871 George farmed 143 acres with his family at Knapeney, one of the farms created in the 18th century from open fields

on the south-east side of the manor and which still stands as an independent farm today. Robert later gave his birthplace as Knapeney Farm.

By 1881 this family had moved to Greasbrough, Yorkshire, north-east of Sheffield. They lived at Holly Hall Wentworth Park – though ‘Wentworth’ has been crossed out – and George Lee was a shepherd. Eldest son John William was a butcher; George was a 17 year-old groom; Mathew probably assisted his father as no occupation was given nor was he entered as ‘handicapped’. Both Robert and Richard, aged 13 and 10 respectively, were scholars, though school leaving age was then 10 years.

The 1891 census recorded them at 24 Church Street Greasbrough, with 59 year-old George then shown as a butcher. Even though neighbouring entries revealed this was a mining area, Robert, the only son living with his parents, was an assistant furniture dealer. On 27th May 1899, Laxton records show the burial of George Lee ‘of Greasborough near Rotherham’ aged 67. Somewhat over a year later, Mary Charlotte Lee joined him, buried on 20th November 1900, aged 65. Clearly Laxton maintained a pull on its children even in death.

Maybe the furniture trade didn’t offer the best prospects for Robert, however, as in 1901, living alone at 1 Green St, Greasborough, he was employed as a ‘coal trammer’. Perhaps he was saving up to marry – because in 1904 Robert Lee and Sarah Annie Hewerdine were married. This marriage has not yet been traced either at Laxton or East Retford. By 1911, Robert was a shepherd at Clumber Lane End Farm, Worksop, (apparently still in existence in 2016 as a livery business). Annie’s mother, Sarah, lived with them, their son, George, aged 4, and two daughters, Mary, aged 6 and baby Annie, none of whose baptisms have yet been traced. Two farm servants also lived with them.

The Hewerdines, like the Weatheralls, have revealed just how widely family members embed themselves into a community, particularly by



Dovecote Dart Team

Following the article in last months O/F we have two new players for the team, Ian from The Reading Room and John, another of Ken Shepherds Grandsons

Both appear to be enjoying it and thankfully the Teams future is secure.

Michael Manning

Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark is warning residents to be on the lookout for rogue builders as the national charity reveals it has helped people with 40,000 problems related to home improvements in the last year.

As people have work done on their homes, **Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark** is revealing the top three most common building problems people report:

- 1. Complaints about the quality of the work carried out**
- 2. Building work being unsafe or faulty**
- 3. Disputes around the cost of the work**

People contacted Citizens Advice wanting to know how to resolve their home improvement problems and their rights around refunds and compensation.

Citizens Advice **Sherwood and Newark** is offering top tips on how to avoid problems when hiring someone to carry out work, and your rights if things do go wrong.

What to do when hiring a trader:

- **Get references or recommendations** - you can either get recommendations from people you know, or use a website that rates traders. If you can't get a recommendation, you should ask the person you hire for examples of work they have carried out in the past.
- **Find out if they are a member of a trade body** - trade bodies have codes of practice and can help resolve problems if things go wrong.
- **Get a written quote** - not an estimate, and be clear about what the quote covers. A quote is legally binding and the builder can't change it without a good reason. An estimate is just a guess at how much the work will cost, and so it could change. You can compare quotes from a number of contractors to make sure you're getting a fair price.
- **Get a written contract** - this should cover timing, payments, who will pay for materials and subcontractors, and what exactly is being done. If you can, you should pay in stages rather than upfront.

- **Keep copies of receipts** and your written contract as evidence, as well as photos of any problems which arise.
- **What to do when things go wrong:**
- **Ask the builders to fix the work** if the work is not up to scratch or is unfinished.
- **Ask for some money back.** Suggest a figure and explain why it is reasonable - for example, you may have to pay to have the work fixed.
- **Complain in writing** to the trader or their company, and check to see if they are a member of a trade association to see if they can help.
- **Look for an approved alternative dispute resolution (ADR) scheme** - this is an independent third party who can help you to reach a resolution. The trader should provide you with the name of a certified scheme.
- **Consider taking the builders to county court.** This is a last resort and you should be aware that you will need to pay fees.

If you've had a problem with building work, and you're not sure about your rights or what to do next, visit Citizens Advice **Sherwood and Newark** or call the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06.

Anyone requiring advice or support can get help online at www.citizensadvice.org.uk or

from Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark Open Door Advice Sessions held at:

New Ollerton: 5 Forest Court, NG22 9PL
Monday & Wednesday: 9:30am – 2:30pm

Newark: Castle House, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1BY
Tuesday & Thursday: 9:30am – 2:30pm

Advice Line: 0344-411-1444
(Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm)

Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
16/9/17	38	Dorothy Cree
23/9/17	57	ROLLOVER
30/9/17	20	Jock Jolly
7/10/17	21	Alan and Anna
14/10/17	42	Johnny Godson

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 1, 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



G.D. HALL LTD

(Independent Funeral Directors)

Newark Road
TUXFORD, Newark
Nottinghamshire
NG22 0NA

Tel. 01777 872929

13 Bridgeway
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6AE

Tel: 01777 701222

Email: info@gdhallfunerals.co.uk Web: www.gdhallfunerals.co.uk

Private chapel of rest

24 hour service

Golden Charter Pre-payment plans available

SAIF Approved

Personal Visits to your home

Mobile 0797 257 6020



Sandwich Shop & Café

3 Eldon Street, Tuxford

☎ 01777 872032

@ www.thecrustycobtuxford.co.uk

The Crusty Cob

Open from

7.45am – 3.30pm Monday – Friday

8.00am – 3.00pm Saturday

A wide selection of:

- ◆ Sandwiches ◆
- ◆ Panini's Flatbreads ◆
- ◆ Jacket Potatoes ◆
- ◆ Maloney's Pies & Sausage Rolls ◆
- ◆ Wraps ◆
- ◆ Teacakes and Scones ◆
- ◆ Cakes & Pastries ◆

And many more..... with the option to eat in or takeaway.

Please check out our reviews on & to get a real feel of the food and service we offer.

◆ **Buffets & Outside Catering available - please telephone or enquire within.**

◆ **Weekday Delivery Service available – please enquire for further information.**

**Fancy something different?
Why not try our “Pop up dining nights”**

Themed food evenings once a month in our “dressed up” café
BYO Beer & fixed menu - £20 / head
See our FB page/ contact us for more info.

Extensive parking available to the rear of the Sun Inn & in the Working Men's Club.



PRIME LOCAL LAMB

Michael Mawer



**Whole / 1/2 lamb
Ready for the freezer**



To order or for more information

please ring **Jem
07917 694579**

Stuart Rose

DESIGNER AND MAKER OF
ORNAMENTAL IRONWORK

SECURITY GRILLES, RAILINGS, SCROLLWORK &
GATES FOR HOME & BUSINESS
GENERAL BLACKSMITHING
IRONWORK REPAIRS & WELDING
BOTTOM FARM, LAXTON

TEL: 01777 871702, www.laxtonnotts.org.uk



KSR ACCOUNTANTS

KSR Accountants
The Old Buttermarket
Market Place
Tuxford
NG22 0L

01777 872078 / 07710
430593

Beeby Plumbing

All plumbing and heating enquiries
& 'call-outs', please call

Guy Beeby



07792 484876
01636 822103

C&G, NVQ Level 2, BPEC qualified,
fully insured.

- Domestic Plumbing •
- Emergency Call-Out •
- Bathroom Installations & Repairs •
- Outside Plumbing •
- Central Heating Installations & Repairs •
- Under Floor Heating • Leaks & Bursts •
- Oil Boiler/Tank Installations & Service •

.....from 'leaky' taps to full installations!

Advertising in 'Open Field'

A standard 1/6 page box £30 a
year in colour for 12 issues,
£15 a year in B&W .

Larger sizes pro rata e.g. 1/2
page £45

Please contact

advertising@openfield.org.uk

or call **01777 871506** for details
and info on web pages / links.

MUSIC
THEORY
AND
PIANO
ROYAL
SCHOOLS



**GRAHAM
LAUGHTON
B.A.**

PICTURE
FRAMING
SERVICE &
RESTORATION



Quality Paintings
Or Drawings
In any Media
01777 870588 or
Email:

grahamlaughton@btinternet.com

Minster Music in December

Southwell Minster will be hosting two public musical events in
December, both booking now.

The Messiah - Thursday 14th December, 7.30pm

Tickets from the Cathedral Shop, £8 - £15, u18 free but need a ticket.

A Christmas Celebration - Friday 22nd December, 7.30pm

In seasonal words and music

Southwell Festival Voices

Sacred and secular words and music for Christmas through the ages
Tickets £10 - £20 from the Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham / Cathedral
Shop, on line at **southwellmusicfestival.com** or **0115 989 5555**.

Parish Council

Our next meeting is on **TUESDAY 21/11/17** in the Visitor Centre and we are having a pre meeting at 7pm to discuss possible ideas for some brown 'Tourist' signs.

It is an open meeting and we would **like to hear your ideas, please come along.**

Donkey Update

Some readers might have noticed the return of the seaside donkeys. Newer residents may not be aware that the donkeys who work on the Lincolnshire beaches in summer go to spend the winter in regular homes in the countryside to rest and recuperate. This has been a long season and the donkeys will be ready for their rest.

THE MILTON MAUSOLEUM, THE AVENUE, MILTON NG22 0PW



Winter Music

at

The Mausoleum

We welcome you to come along and enjoy a seasonal event of music with Nick Parkes, an ensemble from the Dukeries Singers and carol singing

Saturday 2nd December 2017

2pm – 3pm (Doors open at 1.30pm)

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Christmas Cards on sale. Raffle

There is no charge for this event however any donations would be most welcome.

Please note that places must be reserved in advance

Contact: Gillian 01777 248310 or Jenny 0779 152 7569

Please dress warmly for this event

Milton Mausoleum is in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust



Flu Jabs

‘Flu is an unpleasant experience for anybody, but to those who are ‘at risk’, flu can be a major health concern. You might still feel 25 inside, but unfortunately your immune system is 65 years old.’

Free vaccinations are available for:

- anyone aged 65 and over,
- pregnant women,
- children and adults with an underlying health condition (such as long-term heart or respiratory disease),
- children and adults with weakened immune systems

If you are unsure if you are eligible check on:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/flu-influenza-vaccine.aspx>

or contact your surgery.

If you still have not had yours, please contact your surgery or speak to the nurse if you are going for any other reason.

The Dukeries Singers

No sun--no moon!, No morn--no noon

No dawn--no dusk-- no proper time of day.....November!

(from a longer poem by Thomas Hood.)

But on a much more cheerful note, the Choir has gained several new singers who came to see if they liked us, decided that they did and are now part of our friendly group. We welcome all potential new members. There are no auditions and no necessity to read music, just try us out for two or three weeks to see if you enjoy our music making.

We rehearse every Wednesday evening from 7-30pm until 9-15pm in the Concert Hall at the Dukeries Academy in Ollerton. The venue is best accessed by the Leisure Centre entrance and car park.

You can find us on **www.thedukeriessingers.com** We are also on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

Our run up to Christmas engagements are;

We hope to see you at one or more of our performances as we celebrate this very special time of year. We hope all your preparations run smoothly and harmoniously!!

Jan

Group Advent Service

Worship for All

Kneesall Church

Sunday December 3rd

10.30am

Blessing and lighting of the advent wreaths

Followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

Everyone Welcome



Final Wednesday Speaker Evenings with Meal

Each month we have an open meeting for any visitors who might be interested in an entertaining and/or informative talk, always on the last Wednesday. We begin with a sociable two course carvery meal followed by coffee or tea, prior to the presentation of about 45 minutes. Evenings usually conclude with a few questions for the speaker and the whole event is over in about two hours.

The November Speaker is coming from the RNIB. The Talking Books service is absolutely free, giving you access to over 25,000 fiction and non fiction books for adults and children.

Talking Books has been one of the most loved RNIB services for more than eight decades, and now offers more formats and titles than ever before. If you have a general interest, or a specific reason for finding out more, then please come and join us

Wednesday 29th November, South Forest Leisure Centre, Edwinstowe, 7pm for 7.15pm start. £11 including meal and speaker.

MEAL £11 at 7.15, or Speaker only at 8pm for £3. This is a no obligation opportunity to see your local Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of Sherwood Forest.

Please phone South Forest on 01623 823866 to book your meal.

Puppet Show for Children at Maplebeck

As part of their on-going programme of free entertainment for children, Maplebeck Village Hall have planned a puppet version of the ever popular 'The Wind in the Willows'. It is in early December, but here are the details to give you time to plan in into your diaries.



Sunday 3rd December starting at 6.00pm.

The Wind in the Willows

This exuberant, award-winning puppet company works its magic on a beautiful new adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's evergreen classic riverbank story: gleeful larks, messing about in boats, incorrigible Ratty, Mole, Badger and swaggering Toad. Poop! Poop!

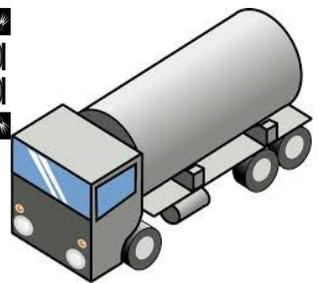
Suitable for 5+

Tickets are £6 and £8 (over 16) Contact 01636 636421 / 636185

www.maplebeck.org.uk Facebook: the village hall in maplebeck

Group Oil Order

The next order will be sent in soon and it helps to have requirements to hand when the price is right. If you would like to be part of this order, please send a note of the volume you need to oil@openfield.org.uk as soon as possible.



If you have ordered before please ensure you have notified any changes to your contact details e.g. phone or email.

If you would like to join the group, please provide mobile and land line numbers, email and full postal address plus any special instructions e.g. guard dogs, gates with locks, difficult access etc. NB once the order is placed no new names can be added.

Events at Maplebeck Village Hall

Thursday 2nd November at 7.30pm

Film Northanger Abbey PG

An Andrew Davies screenplay and a cast including Felicity Jones, Carey Mulligan and William Beck ensure that this adaptation of Jane Austen's novel is a triumph. A young woman's penchant for sensational Gothic novels feeds her imagination and leads to misunderstandings in matters of the heart.

Tickets £5 on the door Contact 01636636421 / 636185

Thursday 9th November at 7.30pm

Art LOOK by Trish Ferguson

An informal series of meetings to talk about art, artists and ideas, by LOOKing at some contemporary images.

Contact 01636 636421

DARLTON LAURELS

for the best

HEDGES

**NEW STOCK READY FOR PLANTING
BUY FROM GROWER**

AT KEEN CASH & CARRY PRICES

Tel: 01777 228058 or 07836717859

We also deliver and plant. Please ask for quote.

Egmanton Village Hall

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk / 01777 871171

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

- ◆ Tuxford Young Farmers - 14th, 21st
- ◆ Yoga with Greg – Tuesdays at 7:30pm
- ◆ WI - Thurs 16th November
- ◆ 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.

Maplebeck Village Hall Events

www.maplebeck.org.uk / 01636 636692 / 636185

Regular Activities

Yoga*	Tues 9.45am and Fris 9.30am
Walkers	Weds 10.00am
Ladies Running	Weds 7.00pm
Book Club	Tues 7.30pm <i>5th July, 5th Sept, 10th Oct., 14th Nov.</i>
Kurling (without the ice!)	2nd Weds monthly 7.30pm

Upcoming special events

Sat 28 th Oct	7.30pm	Village Venture Theatre	Team Viking
Thurs 2 nd Nov	7.30pm	Film	T.B.A.
Weds 8 th Nov	7.30pm	Kurling	
Thurs 9 th Nov	7.30pm	LOOK at Contemporary Art	
Sun 26 th Nov	3.00pm	Children's Film	T.B.A.
Sun 3 rd Dec	6.00pm	Children's Puppet Show	Wind in the Willows

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
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
MP Mr Robert Jenrick: robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk	01636 612 837
County Councillor: cllr.mike.pringle@nottscc.gov.uk	0115 977 5661

Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk

Laxton History Group

Craft Fayre

Laxton Village Hall

Saturday 4th November, 11.00 - 2.30

£1 admission inc. cup of tea

- ☆ Lots of crafts for those tricky Christmas presents
- ☆ Start your Christmas shopping at the stalls
- ☆ Home made soup & cobs
- ☆ Traditional cakes with your tea
- ☆ Cake stall for cakes of all sorts to take home
- ☆ Fun games for children

Everyone very welcome

Supper Dance

Friday 17th November

Laxton Village Hall, 7.30 pm

Tickets £7

from Jean, Brenda or Margaret

Supper included

Please bring your own drink and glasses

All proceeds to Laxton Church