

Open Field

£1

November 2023



*Tuxford Young Farmers After They Had Decorated Laxton Church
for Harvest, 13th September 2023*

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



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Open Field

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

We believe all illustrations to be free to use. If anyone feels their image has been wrongly used, please get in touch.

Contributions for the next edition TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY NOON ON 20th November 2023 PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED. You can send at any time.

Church Bells

What a lovely Harvest Festival celebration we had, with a church service and then the supper to round off the evening. The disappointment came on Saturday morning when someone put a remark on social media about the church bells ringing the previous evening.

Our Grade I listed church has stood there for hundreds of years and our oldest bells date back to the 1500s (see P38). The bells are only rung on special occasions, such as harvest or weddings and when other teams of ringers ask if they can come and ring. I would imagine that in the olden days, when we had three services each Sunday, they would have been rung more. They were also the messaging service of the day, ringing to spread news of special events in the community.

On Friday night, our team came from Lambley, Newark, Retford, Walesby, Weston and Ossington and we are very grateful to them for giving up their time voluntarily. It is a hobby which we all enjoy and we love to hear them rung. It is another tradition of village life.

Brenda

Congratulations

Many congratulations to two villagers celebrating big birthdays this month. **Janet Cooke will be 80** and **Ivan Rayner 70**. We hope you both enjoy your celebrations and wish you many more happy birthdays to come.

Congratulations to **Steve and Lynda Moore** of Laxton on their first grandson, Max, born to their daughter Abbey and husband Ben on 12th October, weighing 9lb 6oz. at the George Eliot Hospital near Leicester.

They would like to thank all friends in the village for their kind messages and gifts.

Happy Birthday Janet

Happy 80th birthday Janet. Hope you have a lovely day and thank you all for all you do for the church and the community. Best wishes from the PCC, W I and all your friends.

Special thanks, Janet, for all your help with the magazine, both with details for historical articles and for your regular photos from village events. Best wishes for a memorable day from Jean and Joy

Thank You

A big '**THANK YOU**' to Dave Sheard from everyone in the local community and those from further away who take advantage of the benches on our village green to have a rest or simply take in the view.



Dave has spruced up the benches with some wood preservative and they look so much more inviting. While he had his paint brush out he also smartened up the pinfold. Dave had been making a positive impact on the grass at the church since he took over mowing from George Noble a while ago. Thanks to Dave for helping make Laxton look its best.

Renewal of Open Field Subscriptions

Following the item in last month's magazine about the enforced rise in the subscription resulting from the need to find another printer, the PCC confirms that **the price will be £7.50 for 2024**. This falls due from January to cover the printing costs as they are incurred. It would be greatly appreciated if you could let your distributor have your subscription in an envelope marked with your name when your next edition is delivered. Alternatively you can drop it through their door if you know where they live or direct to Jean Hennell at Blacksmith's Cottage, High Street. Egmonton subscribers are welcome to deliver to Joy Allison at The Dovecote, Church View.

Please contact Brenda Noble on **870541**, Jean Hennell on **870276** or Joy Allison on **871506** if you have any difficulties.

Thank you

Error - Margaret Hutchins (Grundy)

Apologies to those who questioned the photo shown last month which described the two children shown as 'Margaret and her sister Rosemary'. In fact Rosemary described it as of Margaret and a friend. Being 10 years younger than her sister, Rosemary could not have featured on this photo.

The Village Hall to Celebrate the end of the Harvest Season with “Guys and Ghosts”



As you all know our church harvest festival supper is held in the village hall, but perhaps you don't realise that traditionally the end of harvest celebrations went on much longer in the past.

Halloween or “Holy Evening” marks the day in the Christian calendar before All Saints Day. It was celebrated in the past with feasts and prayers for Saints and for members of family and friends who had recently passed. It was a holy day of rejoicing and celebration, very important in the Christian calendar. It still remains a celebratory day, though in England it is mainly for children these days. On the Continent it is still a Christian celebration day.

In medieval times Christians went from house to house carrying hollowed out turnips to collect provisions or “soul cakes” from the rich, who would ask them to give prayers for their relatives. The tradition was carried over to America, where the turnips became pumpkins and soul cakes became candy. In turn the pumpkin tradition came back over here and the practice of carving funny faces on pumpkins began. Children, quite unconsciously of course, carry on the tradition with trick-or-treat.

We associate Bonfire night with Guy Fawkes, but actually the early Christians, and maybe even earlier folk, lit bonfires at that time of year to symbolise the end of the harvest season and the arrival of winter. Harvest, winter and the return of the sun in spring were of vital importance to the farming community. In Lerwick in Shetland ‘Up Helly Aa’ (Up Holy Day) is celebrated with bonfires still to mark the end of one year and to look forward to the next.

So, Halloween and Bonfire night are really an extension of our harvest festivities, marking the end of one season, the beginning of winter and

looking forward to the return of the sun in spring, a genuine holy time to be celebrated.

The Village Hall Trustees invite you to come to celebrate with us at our own end of harvest knees up **on November 4th**. We plan a children's Halloween picnic party from 4pm until 6pm, lots of fun and games and the chance to meet Winnie the Weird Witch of West Field. £2.50 per child.



Then to follow in the evening from 7pm until it finishes there will be an adult village community party, a ‘Stew and a Brew Supper’. Photos of Laxton in the past will be shown and tales will be told. There will be a bar, dancing and fun for all. £5 per person. Bring your friends and have some fun. For booking info please call Joan on **871137**. Tickets will be available from the pub and Trustees nearer the time.

NOVEMBER CONGRATULATIONS

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

*Happy birthday wishes go to:
Ivan Rayner (70), Jean Hennell,
Janet Cooke (80), Jackie C,
Frankie Hill, Lesley Tindall,
Martí Waterfield, Julia Banks,
Richard Banks, Heather Storton,
Dik Allison.*

*We wish a happy anniversary to anyone celebrating this month.
We don't have any names on our list.*

If you are celebrating please accept best wishes. If you are aware that we have missed someone, please let us know so that we can congratulate them.



MacMillan 8 Mile Walk & 8 Mile Swim



This is the second year that Ruby, granddaughter of George and Brenda Noble of Laxton and daughter of Lee and Paula Doyle, had joined with her friends for a big effort to support the annual MacMillan appeal.

Last year they undertook a swim and a walk of 7 miles. This year they increased the distance as Ruby was a bit older.

On August 23, Emily, Paula and Ruby set off from Kneesall to walk to The Birds Nest Coffee Lounge at Weston to complete their 8 mile sponsored walk in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support.

By this time they had already started their swim, by going to Retford Leisure Centre on a Tuesday night for several weeks to complete their mileage before 29th September.

They finished at 7:10 pm on Tuesday 26th September. They would like to thank Elliott at the Retford Leisure Centre for all his help.

They have been overwhelmed by the generosity of all their family and friends and the staff and customers at The Birds Nest Coffee Lounge.

At the time of writing, the total money raised from the walk and swim is **£2,430**. Thank you once again to everyone for giving to this worthy cause.

It is still not too late to drop off a donation with Brenda if you would like to support these community spirited young people.



Birds Nest MacMillan Coffee Day

On Friday 29th September the wonderful staff at Hall Farm Wild Bird Supplies held their annual fundraising



Macmillan Coffee Day Fund Raiser.

The day included selling raffle tickets for some great prizes (all donated by local businesses and customers),

Name the Patchwork Pig, Water and Wine stall and an amazing Chocolate Tombola stall that sold out very quickly!

The Hall Farm Knit and



Natter ladies had their own table selling some beautiful homemade items and all funds were donated to our Macmillan grand total.

An array of cakes and coffees were served throughout the day along with a hot roast buffet and salads for lunch with scrummy pudding pots for desserts. These were obviously very popular as many folk from Laxton and surrounding villages were seen there happily partaking.

We had some wonderful volunteers to help

Laxton Coffee Morning Supports Macmillan Fundraising

Following a nomination by a villager, Laxton & Moorhouse Community Coffee Morning were pleased to encourage support for Macmillan Cancer Support, at their Saturday 16th September event.

The total immediately afterwards included donations made when the collecting box, which came in the fund raising kit was circulated at the Garden Party held at Orchard View for the History Group and friends in August.



Thanks go to those who donated cakes and raffle prizes. These events would not be possible without an army of helpers. Thanks once more to our dedicated team: Lesley, Karen and Marg in the kitchen, Joan W (raffle), Joan C, Dave S and Richard W and Linda M.

Most importantly; thank you to everyone who attended the event including first time attendees and visiting relatives. It was indeed a busy weekend in Laxton as the village celebrated the harvest.

Thanks too to the individuals who made a special point of bringing me a donation along with their apologies for not being able to come to the coffee morning.

By the time all the donations and money from the event were added up, we had a raised wonderful total of **£301.40**. Every penny is being donated to MacMillan as sundry expenses were covered from existing coffee morning funds.

Helen

us out on the day, clearing and wiping tables, washing up, selling raffle tickets and sorting the stalls out.

The Weston Village Choir serenaded the day away in the marquee area which was thoroughly enjoyed by customers, volunteers and staff alike. A massive thank you to them all for giving up their time.

In total we have raised the fabulous sum of **£2,141.03 !!!!**

A massive thank you to everyone who came to support us, customers, suppliers, staff, friends and family.... we couldn't have done it without you all.

Memorial in the Churchyard

Nicely in time for Remembrance Day, 2023, a new 'Tommy' has appeared in Laxton churchyard.

It was made by Laxton's Roy Haynes, who was also involved in making the sign to which 'Tommy' is attached. Very many thanks to Roy for his hard work.

Work is on-going to create a cascade of poppies from the sign: red in memory of the soldiers who died, purple for the horses taken out of the village and white for Miss Willis, the village schoolmistress killed in the village bombing.



Baby Boom Birthdays

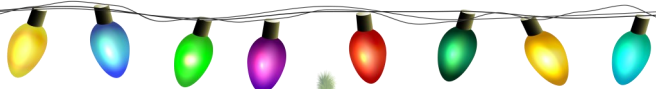
These are photos of two of the babies born during the local boom last year. The parents of the others have chosen not to send photos for us to include, but we all know who they are and we are delighted to wish them all happy first birthdays.



Ophelia



Reni



Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council Annual Christmas Light Switch-on

Sunday 3rd December 2023

Event starts @ 5pm

**Complimentary mince pies,
mulled wine and hot drinks**

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The Dovecote Inn, Laxton, NG220SX

A collection will be made for church funds at this event



LAXTON VILLAGE HALL



QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

PRICE £8.00 INCLUDING SUPPER

TO BOOK YOUR TEAM

CALL: 01777 871137

OR

EMAIL: info@laxtonvh.org.uk



PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND GLASSES

Group Remembrance Service

Sunday 12th November, 10.30am

Holy Trinity Church, Kirton

The service will be taken by Rev Alistair Littlewood

Wreaths will be laid

Everyone welcome

Castle Site Clear Up and Dog Ban

The area around the castle has been in need of some attention recently. With the erection of the new interpretation board and the reworking of the Visitor Guide and Walks leaflets, Thoresby have been to the site and cleared and tidied it.



There have been concerns about the cattle which graze in the field being upset by dogs if access is given again for people to visit the site. There is now a new notice, prominently displayed on the fence by the gate which says:

**‘DOGS ARE BANNED FROM THIS FIELD
This is due to the risk of disease and public safety’**

Laxton History Group



In October we welcomed Dr Richard A. Gaunt to talk about “The women in the lives of the Dukes of Newcastle” He pointed out that the aristocracy of the day had to marry politically and for money in order to preserve their wealth and status.

As a consequence, the 2nd Duke, in his will, curtailed the inheritance of the 3rd Duke, (leaving all he could to his grandson), since the 3rd Duke had dared to marry Anna Marie Stanhope in secret. The 3rd Duke died soon after coming into the title and the 4th Duke inherited everything.



The memorial to Georgiana and her twins in Milton Mausoleum

The 4th Duke was unfortunate enough to be caught up in the French Revolution and 3 years under house arrest in France made him xenophobic. When he returned home, he married Georgiana Elizabeth Mundy, an heiress daughter of a coal magnate. It was a successful marriage and produced 13 children. In 1822 however Georgiana died in childbirth. The 4th Duke erected Milton Mausoleum in

her memory. The 4th Duke had inherited his mother's dominant and controlling personality and after Georgiana's death Clumber became a cold and soulless household, his children being afraid of him.

The 4th Duke arranged for his eldest son, Lord Lincoln, to marry Lady Susan Hamilton, the spoilt only daughter of the Duke of Hamilton. Initially the 4th Duke approved of Susan as she quickly produced a male heir. The marriage provided 5 children, but proved to be unhappy due to Susan's promiscuity. The 4th Duke came to totally disapprove of Susan after she was discovered in a relationship with another of his sons. After the 4th Duke died, Lord Lincoln, now the 5th Duke of Newcastle divorced Susan. It was a major scandal at the time.



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Laxton Harvest Celebrations

Our harvest celebrations started on Friday evening with our usual Harvest Thanksgiving service in the church, which looked lovely once again. In the last few years we have had volunteers to help us decorate it in the traditional way, with the pillars being decorated with harvest grains and seed heads. This old tradition



goes back years and features on a very old post card of the church interior. Thanks to everyone who helped, including the Young Farmers who came and did so much to help.



We are very grateful to our Lay reader, Heather Brown, from Eakring for coming to take a service for us. It was the first service she had taken in four months.

There were over 50 people in church, which was good to see. It was nice to see some new faces and some regulars who had come



quite a distance to be with us again. We were also joined by our church friends from Kirton, Wellow, Walesby and Moorhouse.



Thanks to Graham for playing the organ, so we could sing some good old harvest hymns, and also to Stuart and Simon for reading the lessons for

us. We would also like to thank the six bell ringers who travelled quite a way to ring for us. As always they gave their time voluntarily.

After the service, everyone made their way up to the Village Hall to enjoy a cooked Harvest Supper. Thank you to Anna for cooking the supper for us, and to Margaret P for all her help in the



kitchen. We had a good system going, so soon

everyone got served. I'm sure everyone enjoyed their supper of steak pie, potatoes, carrots and peas. This was followed by a variety of sweets, provided by some good cooks. It was lovely to see everyone sitting down and hearing the chatter coming from the room.

The next part of our weekend celebrations was the harvest competition on Saturday afternoon.



Probably some of you have noticed this year we were early having our harvest celebrations. This was because we thought we would probably catch the best of the fruit and veg in September rather than in October. We usually have our Harvest celebrations over

the nearest weekend to 11th October, which is Laxton's feast day. This is another old tradition which we like to remember.

Not having had a competition since 2019, Jean and I had almost forgotten how to do it, but it all worked out well. There were also some different people taking part in the competition classes, but we were disappointed that we had only one child who submitted entries.

Altogether we had approximately 80 entries. In the years before covid we usually had over 100. In the years since then some of our regular competitors have moved away and newer villagers probably didn't know what it all entailed. Hopefully they came

along and saw that it is all good fun and will feel inspired to have a go next year, especially if we can get the schedule of classes into an earlier magazine. You don't have to live in the village to enter, so if any of our readers from nearby villages want to have a go, they will be very welcome.



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Thanks to Jean for all her help with this and to the judges for giving up their time to come and judge all the entries for us.



On Sunday afternoon our celebrations continued with our family service in church at 3 pm. We struggled again with a shortage of ministers, so I took the service myself. I put together some readings, poems and hymns, which I hope everyone enjoyed. Thank you to those people who offered to read. This

is why we call it the family service, so we can get the adults and children taking part.

After the service came the presentations of the prize cards for the competition entries. Then it was on to the auction. This is what we do with the produce from the competition to raise some funds for good causes. We were also grateful to be able to auction some items that people had just given to be sold.

Jean and I were looking for a volunteer and Jean asked Dave Sheard. Helen was nearby and he suggested she might be the better choice. I think Helen got rather press-ganged into it with Little Max, her helper and runner. They did a great job. Thanks to you both.

After a final tot up and paying out the competition winnings, we made just over £100. Thanks again to everyone for their support. Items were also left in a box at the back of church to be taken to the food bank at Ollerton.

At the end of the weekend, I think most of us were feeling a little tired to say the least, but satisfied that we had got back to how things used to be. It had been a successful weekend.

I must thank Jean and Janet for all their help and also everyone else who had contributed to the events of the weekend.

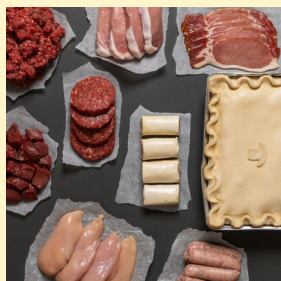
Thank you again *Brenda*.

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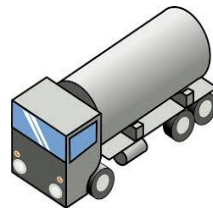
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Group Oil Order



Watching the price of oil is not for the faint hearted. Boilerjuice publish a graph of their average price for 1000 litres across England, which we use as our guide and recently it has looked like a design for a new theme park thrill ride!

It peaked on 24th September at 82.7p/litre inc VAT @5%. Since then it has dropped a little, standing at 77.37p on 8th October, although the new problems in the Middle East are liable to make this politically sensitive price rise again. This compares with the still expensive 56.8p inc VAT which we paid for our last order.

Unfortunately this is not an optional purchase for most of us and so the usual November order will be placed, price permitting, towards the end of the month. If there seems to be a reason to order a little earlier, it would help to have orders to hand so that we can act quickly. Please send in your requirements any time from 1st November.

We try not to order too early to ensure people have plenty in stock for Christmas and New Year and don't run the risk of paying punitively high prices for an emergency delivery if it turns cold. Around 10 years ago a new arrival in Egmonton was charged over £1.40 per litre when he ran out just before Christmas!

There is the inevitable seasonal rise as people place last minute orders, so late November seems to be as good a time as any to try to get the best price for the season. I have been praised for the judicious use of my crystal ball last time, but cannot guarantee to be as successful as it has been at times in the current climate.

It really helps to have orders to hand if there is either a dip in price or signs of an imminent rise. When you receive a message calling for final orders, you can increase your order if you need to, but I will only allow a short, possibly **very** short, time to respond so that I can act quickly to secure the best price at the time for everyone.

Anyone whose order can be placed by email, either by themselves or by a friend or relative with authority to speak for them, is very welcome to join. Please contact me on my personal email if you have it. NB I do not publish it because of the volume of spam that generates. oil@openfield.org.uk is a general address you can use if you don't have mine.

The group currently covers an area of roughly 5 miles radius from Laxton, but one former resident, now 20 miles away, is still involved!

National Recognition for Tuxford Young Farmers Club

Last month we carried an article about how 20 or so members of Tuxford Young Farmers Club had volunteered to come to our church to prepare it for Harvest, and what a terrific job they did of it. Their cover picture on this edition was chosen as the winner of the Harvest Competition in this category.



At about the time that article was being prepared, the news was announced that the club have been short listed among the top 5 clubs in the YFC National Achiever Awards.

Regular readers will remember that Jessica Rose of Laxton won the first National 'Heart of YFC' award after a public vote between the top five candidates in 2022.

The Awards recognise and celebrate the good work of YFC members across the country. Katie Gent prepared and submitted Tuxford's entry in for the 'Community Spirit' category. A total of 581 clubs had the opportunity to enter this competition for individual clubs. Tuxford, which is one of the smaller clubs, was chosen for the short list from which the winner will be announced at the Awards Night. For them to reach the top 5 is a terrific achievement. At present they have a lot of



young members within their fairly wide age range, and many of them came along for their evening at Laxton.

The Community Spirit Award recognises clubs that do the most for their communities. In her submission on behalf of the club, Katie spoke of their litter pick for the Coronation of His Majesty the King, Their potato growing scheme, the 'Bangers and Bingo Night', their annual Charity Tractor Run, the Christmas tree collection/recycling campaign and their charity Christmas Wreath Making event.

You will regularly see items about what the club are doing in these pages, and it is certain that they are a huge asset to this community. Once again they turned out to help with the preparations and aftermath of the Southwell Ploughing Match and Show.

The icing on the cake came shortly afterwards, when it was announced that Katie Gent herself, had been short listed for the top five for the public vote for the 'Heart of YFC Award, which Jessica won last year.



Katie grew up in Moorhouse and is a very active member of the Tuxford Club, supporting all the club and county activities. As we saw at Harvest, she is also a talented flower arranger and was responsible for the pedestal arrangements in church for Harvest as well as teaching and guiding the younger ones making the window displays.

The link on which to vote for Katie has been circulated widely locally, so hopefully everyone supported her.

Katie's talents will be put to good use at the Awards Night in Birmingham on 3rd November, where she will be responsible for the table flowers. Jessica, a self-confessed non flower arranger, has been drafted in as her assistant! We wish them all a great night and every success. We look forward to hearing how they got on in the next edition.



NOVEMBER SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

29th October

No services

5th November

10.30am	Laxton	HC	Rev Margaret
4.00pm	Wellow	EP	Heather B

12th November

10.30am	Kirton Group Remembrance Service	Rev Alistair
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19th November


10.00am	Walesby	HC	Rev Vaughn
10.30am	Wellow	HC	tbc

26th November

No services

3rd December

10.30am	Laxton	HC	tbc
4.00pm	Wellow	EP	Heather B



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

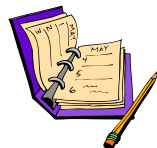
November

Sat 4th	<i>Guys & Ghosts, LVH</i>
Weds 8th	<i>WI</i>
Weds 15th	<i>History Group</i>
Sat 18th	<i>History Group Craft Fayre, LVH</i>
Sat 25th	<i>Wellow Winter Fair (Memorial Hall)</i>
Tues 28th	<i>Parish Council</i>

Forward Planning:

December

<i>Fri 1st</i>	<i>Quiz Night LVH</i>
<i>Sat 3rd</i>	<i>Laxton Christmas Lights Switch On (Dovey)</i>



January

<i>Thurs 18th</i>	<i>Sports Field Committee Meeting</i>
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Regular Events:

<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>4th Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November</i>
<i>Quiz Nights</i>	<i>1st Friday of December & March tbc</i>

**Copy Date for December 2023 / January 2024
edition: 12 noon, 20th NOVEMBER 2023**

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

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Laxton WI

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INSPIRING WOMEN

What a great evening we had at our October meeting when we were joined by six visitors for the evening.

The business part of the evening was dealt with. A team are going to Southwell to the Murder Mystery Evening and a team has been entered for the Village Hall Quiz in December.

We have also decided to hold another Bingo Evening on Friday 10th November. If anyone would like tickets, please call Brenda on **870541**.



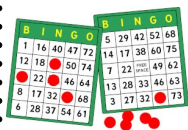
Our subject for the evening was Bhangra folk dancing demonstrated by Chitra Acharya. This is a traditional dance which comes from the district of the Punjab in India. It is celebrated at different festivals in the year, when they worship the

Goddesses. It's also represents harvest, but it is celebrated at different times of the year. Depending on which part of India, you are harvest happens at different times because the weather varies.

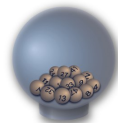
There were a lot of different types of moves in it, which also represent the ploughing sowing and reaping. Everyone joined in and had a good laugh, so it was a great night.

On November 8th our demonstrator for the evening will be Victoria, Henderson, who will show us how to do paper quilling. This will be on a Christmas theme and after her demonstration we will all be able to have a go.

At the end of the evening Chitra was presented with some flowers as a thank you from us all. Bridget was also given a plant to celebrate her big birthday, which she will, as always celebrate with her twin, and Janet was thanked for providing the tea and cakes afterwards.



Laxton WI



Bingo Night

Join us for an evening of fun

Friday, 10th November, 7 pm

Laxton Village Hall

Tickets £8 inc. tea and cakes

Raffle on the night

**For more information and to book your tickets,
please contact Brenda Noble on 01777 870541 or
Margaret Palmer on 07826 429987 brackets (evenings)**

Wellow Winter Fair, 25th November



Winter Fair

Saturday 25th November

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In the Memorial Hall on the Maypole Green on Saturday 25th November between 10am and 3pm, you will find lots of local craftspeople selling a wide range of unique gifts including candles, mugs, needle felt items, Body Shop merchandise, sea glass, bath bombs, decoupage... the list goes on! Come and support small and artisan businesses from the local area, try your luck in the maypole raffle, and enjoy a bowl of home-made soup and tea or coffee - and home-made cake too!

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Family History Enquiries

This month we heard from three people looking for information about local links. One asked about Leaphia Hills, who wrote for us some years ago. Still having contact details from that time, it was possible to put her friend from many years ago and now living in New Zealand in contact with her once the family had been asked for permission to do so. That was a satisfying moment.

Please contact Joy via the Open Field web site or on **871506** if you have any information about these enquiries.

Sue Gregory wrote from Somerset re The White Family

"My relative was one William White born in Laxton about 1809. He married Dinah Wilton born in Derbyshire in St. Werburghs church in Derby in 1843. On their marriage certificate he is 'a Civil Engineer'. His father, George White was a Tailor who I believe married Ann Kitchen from Laxton in September 1808. I have checked all the churchyard entries at the beautiful St. Michael the Archangel for a 'White' but have only found a grave for Phoebe White who is not my side of the family.

William and Dinah went subsequently to Newark where they took on a coaching inn in Castlegate which they ran together until his death and which she continued to run until her own. She was victualler there for over fifty years.

If anyone can add any thing to these facts I have so far I would be so very grateful. I wondered whether there are any White family members still living in the village or if anyone can remember anything at all."

Laura Adkins wrote from Solihull about Joseph Albert Favill:

"My great grandfather was George Favill, the Estate Woodman based at Saywood Cottages and mentioned in 'Village Folk, A Snapshot in Time: Laxton in Peace and War, 1900-1920'.

I am his great granddaughter via his son Joseph Albert Favill's illegitimate daughter Wilma Favill Mackay; my late mother... I visited Laxton in 2023, staying at the Dovecote Inn. I visited the church and Saywood Cottages, where the current owner was friendly and happy for me to take a photo.

If you know of any surviving descendants of George Favill still living in Laxton, or any Favill graves there I'd be most interested to hear, bearing in mind that Joseph's 'legitimate' family possibly never knew anything about my Mum."

Laura also wrote a piece about her search for information, which speaks of local people and a shortened version is reproduced here for interest:

"I began researching family history as my Mum's family background had seemed oddly obscured to me as a child. Her Mum's parents were a mystery. When I was in my twenties, Mum told me and my siblings that her parents never married and she hadn't really known her father, although she did have an idea of who he was.

Like most people of our generation, my siblings and I didn't share the moral ideas surrounding illegitimacy that had affected our Mum so deeply. When Mum showed me an old photograph and said 'I think this was my father', I was very curious. I'd recently had a daughter, and this was her great grandfather and my grandfather. I asked Mum if she'd like me to find out more about her father and she gave me the few details she'd made a note of in 1992.

I used the local history section of the now demolished Birmingham Central Library. When I arrived in the library, I would request microfiche of census, birth, marriage and death records, depending on what I was looking for at the time. Sometimes I would request, in writing, certificates from registry offices, for which I paid a small fee.

I started by looking for Albert Joseph Favill, but soon realised I was barking up the wrong tree. Favill is an unusual surname and there weren't many of them in the records. No Alberts were coming up. Then I found a Joseph Albert Favill – on a death register. This was a strangely spooky moment. My Mum didn't know that her father had died.

I discovered that he'd eventually married and had her two half-siblings. She was relieved to hear this as she'd always worried he'd spent the rest of his life alone.

In 2023, with access to records easily available via Ancestry.co.uk, I've been able to find out a lot more, and much more quickly, about Joseph's family and the areas where the Favills lived. Joseph had four children with the woman he finally married (Doris Saddington), one of whom was conceived before he married her and before he went to Manchester and met my grandmother Jemima. Ultimately, he went back to Doris.

I've had my DNA tested for Ancestry.co.uk, and know that the DNA I inherited from my Mum covers the area of Laxton.

My siblings and I never met Jemima, Mum's mother. Mum rarely spoke of her and when she did, referred to her as a friend.

This summer my husband and I visited areas of Nottinghamshire where the Favills lived, including Laxton, Edwinstowe and Southwell. We both enjoyed exploring Nottinghamshire for the first time. We stayed in Laxton where Joseph and his siblings were born and visited the church where they were baptised. I liked peaceful Laxton, with its tall hedgerows alive with twittering birds and its ancient grassy graveyard."

Laura attached a copy of Joseph's birth certificate which shows George and Mary as his father, and a family tree.

News from the Museums of Tuxford

With the approach of November we are preparing to remember the sacrifices made in War. Unfortunately the effects of war are still being experienced today.

The Walks of Life Museum has tributes to those who made sacrifices in World War I and II as well as various artefacts. Come and see our collection. Life post war is harsh in any country both on the individual and society as a whole. To support the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal we have been clearing the Nissen Hut on our site for a fund raiser. We are most grateful that two young people, Shani and Victoria, are willing to spend a night in the Nissen Hut, reflecting on how easy life is today in comparison to how it was for those affected by war and the lives of the post war squatters. They hope people will support them and donate to the British Legion appeal.

On Saturday 11th November at 2 pm there will be a talk on the life of the squatters

post World War II, who had to live in Nissen huts due to the mass housing shortage created by bombing and the shortage of building materials and skilled labour. Many of those people were in paid employment



or ex service personnel. Life was harsh for many years.

This is a free event with refreshments. Please contact Diane if you want to come along.

It isn't just humans that make great sacrifices in war. See how horses were affected by visiting **The Museum of the Horse**. One of the horrors

of WWI was chlorine gas, first put to use by the Germans in Ypres in 1915. It caused great harm and distress to humans, but one forgets that horses were just as vulnerable. The English gas mask for horses was not very effective. It was little more than a hessian nose bag soaked in a chemical to neutralise the gas

Unfortunately the horses thought they were feed bags so immediately put their head to the ground to try to find the food at the bottom of the bag. It is said that many bags didn't survive for long. It would seem most European countries and America had more advanced gas masks with breathing apparatus attached. It is thought that the Museum of the Horse has the largest collection of horse gas masks in Europe. There is only enough room to display a couple at a time.

The most disturbing horror is post WWII Eastern European. One wonders what chemicals they planned to use! The illustration shows this mask currently on show in the military room. The horses also wore goggles to protect their eyes. These are even more rare and the museum is still waiting to acquire one.



Opening Times

The Museum of the Horse: 9.30 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday and 10 am to 2 pm on Saturdays.

Contact Sally via www.dogart.com Tel: **01777 838234**

The Walks of Life Museum: Thursdays and Saturdays 11am to 4 pm, other times by arrangement.

Contact Diane, dianehunt08@btinternet.com tel: **01777 872776**

Entry to both Museums is free although donations are much appreciated.

Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

16/9/23	50	Ian and Jackie
23/9/23	13	Linda Malloy
30/9/23	52	ROLLOVER
7/10/23	26	A-Marie (Rounders)

We now have only 3 numbers available: 51, 52 & 53. To take one please ring me on **870844**. As a reminder, all proceeds go to supporting the Laxton Sport and Recreation Field facilities.

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September following Tuxford U16 team now enjoying our facilities are in this month's OF.

Thank you.

Michael Manning

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Tree Surgery at Egmanton



Anyone who has driven past Egmanton Church recently cannot have failed to notice the results of some tree surgery work undertaken at the end of September.

The Highways Department undertook the work because overhanging branches had fallen several times in recent years, and they were deemed dangerous. The word was that they were taking down the overhanging branches. As you can see, this turned into something altogether more radical.

Interestingly, a long term resident recalled there being a discussion on the safety of the trees some 50 years ago. Fortunately the work has been completed and nobody has been injured.



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Southwell Ploughing Match and Show

We were very fortunate to have the show virtually on our doorstep this year, at North Muskham. Certainly early on the access worked very well, without the hold ups that have happened on some occasions.

This was a big site and the ploughing competitors were in place ready to start at 9am on the far side from the entrance. It was interesting to notice as the event progressed,



just how much the soli varied from

place to place. In some areas it appeared heavy and clay-like, while quite close by it was fine and sandy. It is a dark, rich colour, due to deposits of silt from the Trent flooding.

From the first the tractors pulling passenger trailers were in demand to enable everyone to simply enjoy the ride or to see the further-flung activities.

In addition to the main ring, animals were competing in the showing classes and horses were competing in a host of events. There was also the usual mix of trade stands, both connected to the rural world and of a more artistic or culinary nature.

The main attraction in the main ring this year were the Paul Hannan Quad Bike Stunt Riders. They amazed with their mastery of their bikes .

The show will take place next year at Oxtou on the last Saturday of September, so why not make a note of the date now?



Egmanton Full Fibre Broadband Project

The project to supply super fast broadband via fibre direct to the property is now complete. A big thank you goes to the group who worked on the project, and in particular to Steve Bunnell, who has shown the patience of a saint dealing with the correspondence it has generated, both with the powers that be and informing the potential customers in the village.

The group are to be particularly commended because most projects of this type have been set up to serve businesses and populations in the 1000s or tens of 1000s, so we are very fortunate that the suppliers have been persuaded to supply our small community.

The core group of villagers who, through the project, applied for the government vouchers which paid for the scheme, must now order a package from the supplier of their choice. All infrastructure costs are covered and first experiences are showing that only a small cost increase for the monthly service will result, while the speed of connection will increase greatly.

Because the infrastructure has been installed throughout the village, anyone who wishes to is now in a position to order their full fibre package, regardless of whether they originally committed to the project.

One of Steve's on-going frustrations is that modern privacy rules mean he has never been told which villagers have signed up for the government's vouchers! As a result, there are a large number of villagers who have not received his regular information bulletins and who will not know that they can now take advantage of the opportunity. He is asking anyone who has received the information to share it.

The final stage for those wishing to move to the new service is to make an arrangement with the supplier of their choice. Once this is done, they will come and connect the fibre cable to the property and they will normally supply a new router. Calls will then be fully digital.

The existing cable will remain, but the land line connection will be cut off. If you want to keep your land line you can keep your number but might need to buy and install an ATA adapter depending on your router. You could also buy new, digital, handsets to make and receive calls. Alternatively you can work with a supplier who is able to direct calls via the fibre so that you pick land line calls up using your mobile phone wherever you are without incurring forwarding charges. You need to do your research!

Anyone with a phone line which is critical for medical services should take expert advice as these services are not automatically able to transfer to the new system. Digital services will be rolled out nationally in the next few years.

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Hand Bell Ringers

Edwinstowe

The subject of hand bell ringing comes up from time to time, and it has been raised again recently following a new correspondent taking over for The Dukeries Singers. John Banbury wrote:



"I am not only involved with the Dukeries Singers, I am also one of the Edwinstowe Hand Bell Ringers. While it is often called a novelty act, we do play all sorts of material from carols at Christmas to Beatles songs like 'When I'm Sixty-Four' and 'Eight Days a Week' as well as classical music. We recently even played 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles' in homage to West Ham FC. To ring hand bells

doesn't require you to read music. The music is all translated into numbers, making it easy for everyone to learn from scratch.

The Edwinstowe Hand Bell Ringers performed recently at St Paulinus Church and at St Nicholas Church in Retford.

If you would like to hear us, you can come along to the 'Last Night of the Proms' at The Dukeries Academy on Friday 17th November at 7pm. We will also be performing at the Edwinstowe Lights Switch On, which will take place on Thursday 23rd November at 6pm.

The group meet every Sunday evening at The Church Rooms, Mansfield Road, Edwinstowe between 7pm and 9pm and we are looking for new members. It's great fun, why not give it a try. Full training will be given."

Please call John Banbury on **01623 822472** or mobile **07759 086132** for more information about booking the team for an event or information about joining.

Laxton

We had a very enthusiastic and successful team of hand bell ringers in Laxton a number of years ago. Janet Cooke and her late husband, Frank, were heavily involved in ringing both the tower bells and the hand bells. Janet provided the following information and photos for

one of Laxton History Group's big displays some years ago and it seemed fitting to include it here, especially with so many new residents in the village who will know nothing of yet another old tradition.

The text on the LHG display said:

"The team was formed by Frank Cooke in 1983. The next three years were a period of intense activity when the team developed its skills and reputation.

When the team started, bell ringer Frank, assisted by his wife Janet, initially taught the team of girls from the village to ring using the bells, which until then had been kept in the church tower. There were then twelve bells, all in poor condition.



The bells are played from music presented as a series of numbers (and examples were shown in the display.) Some were bought in this form, but where it had to be transposed from the more familiar notes, Frank undertook this task as well

As the girls improved, they began to play concerts and received donations to their

bell fund. They were also fortunate to obtain a grant from the County Council, and the funds raised enabled them to augment the collection of bells to a total of 28.

The Team was much in demand and played in a Christmas concert at Kneesall which was broadcast on the radio as well as at Newark Palace Theatre and numerous other venues. They found themselves so much in demand that they could not manage to play all the events which tried to book them."

There are some of the girls who rang who are still in the area and who will recognise themselves from the photos.

As you can see from these photos, they had smart uniforms for the

team and really looked good when they went out to perform. The uniforms and the bells are still in Laxton in safe keeping.

Laxton Church Bells

Recent events have generated renewed interest in the church bells, including two people coming forward to express an interest in taking up ringing.

Janet has kindly provided details of the Laxton church bells and the inscriptions on them. There are six in total, with the treble being the smallest.

Each bell carries an inscription, and Janet has kindly supplied details,

Bell	Diameter in inches	Weight	Cast by	Date
Treble	30.25	5cwt 2qt 25lb	John Warner & Sons	1863
2	33.5	6cwt 1qt 25lb	Immanuel Hatton	1721
3	33.5	6cwt 3qt 14lb	John Warner & Sons	1860
4	3.25	8cwt 1qt 2lb	Henry II Oldfield	1591
5	39	10cwt 0qt 1lb	Seliok Family	c.1500
Tenor	40.75	12cwt 2qt 10lb	Henry II Oldfield	c.1599

which would be hard to come by any other way.

Treble 'An offering from Renira H A Martin to Laxton Church In memory of her husband GEORGE MARTIN - Her brother Henry Bentinck and Uncle Charles Herbert, 2nd Earl Manvers 1863'

2nd 'God will Reward my Benefactors MDCCXXI'

3rd 'Cast by John Warner & Sons, London 1860'

4th 'God □ Save □ Our □ Queen □ ho 1591'

5th ☒ 'benedicta setsca trenetas' ho

Tenor + GOD SAVE OUR CHVRCH OVR QVEENE AND REALME
AND SEND VS PEACE IN CHRIST AMEN 1599

We will continue with more about bells and, in particular the Laxton bells, next month. Janet attributes the information she provided to Mr George Dawson, who had a lot to do with the Diocesan Bell repair Fund.

Frank Cooke, mentioned above, was the captain of the Laxton Tower Bell Ringing Team in his day. He was well known in bell ringing circles and after his death, a bell which was being cast for the church in Sutton cum Lound, was dedicated in his memory. The weekly journal for church bell ringers, 'Ringing World' carried an article in similar terms to the information above which told the story of the bells at Sutton. It included reference to the fund raising for the bell which was dedicated in Frank's memory.

"Early 1989 saw the formation of St Bartholomew's campanologists. ... A Committee was formed, ... our objective being the funding of a sixth bell. Various fund raising events were then organised, culminating in a gigantic one day Bric-a-Brac sale at Retford Buttermarket, which raised the outstanding sum in excess of £1,000 on the day.

This spurred us on towards our final goal!

A substantial donation from Mrs Janet Cooke of Laxton, in memory of her husband Frank Cooke, a well known ringer in the Diocese, brought us within reach of our target, thus enabling us to place an order for a treble for six'. (bells in total)

April 1991 saw a party of ringers set off for the foundry in Loughborough to see the casting of the new bell. The new bell to be inscribed 'St. Anne's Church. Lound 1859 - 1987'

St Anne's was a Chapel of Ease, which closed in 1987, the metal from the single bell was donated to be incorporated in the new casting. The new bell was hung on May 26th 1991, by Taylor's of Loughborough, assisted by Local help.

A dedication service took place in August..."



The bell dedicated to Frank Cooke being cast. Below: the finished bell



Laxton Sports & Recreation Field

Minutes of meeting 14th September 2023, @ Laxton Visitor Centre

Present:

Neil Randall (Chairman), Michael Manning (Secretary/Treasurer)
Anne-Marie Harriman (Rounders Rep), Helen Sheard (Rounders Rep)
Liz Harrison (Rounders Rep), Richard Pywell (Tuxford U16 team)
David Sheard (Parish Council Rep), Gavin (LAFC)

Welcome and Apologies.

Neil welcomed all particularly Richard; Apologies were received from Ivan.

2. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the last AGM on 25th May 2023 were agreed as a true record.

3. Welcome Richard and Tuxford U16's

Neil welcomed Richard from Tuxford U16 football team and introduced him to all. A small WhatsApp group has been set up between LAFC, Tux U16 and Neil/ Michael to discuss football match planning, etc

4. Bonus Ball and finance update.

We currently have only 8 unallocated Bonus Balls as the Rounders team has 1 and Rounders players have 4, total 5. The 8 are: 30,35,40,41,42,51,52 and 53 and Richard confirmed he will take 5 of the balls himself. The unallocated 3 will remain available.

5. Pavilion update including litter

The re-treating of the Pavilion was again raised. Neil will speak with Mark who emulsified the inside as he said he would do the re-treating. Dave said he could ask the PC to provide the stain if necessary.

The extra dog litter bin is well positioned at the entrance to the field and a reminder is displayed on the Pavilion. Litter signage is also displayed and all users are reminded to take litter home.

6. Field/Mower update

The mower continues to work with little repairs needed, Neil will arrange for it to have a full service at the end of the mowing season. The bald patch on the Rounders playing area is to be repaired and the playing area will be moved slightly. Neil will arrange for Ivan to cut the hedge and the grass up to it.

7. Football and Rounders partnership working

A small WhatsApp group has been set up to ease the two football teams to communicate and is working well as is the larger WhatsApp group with the Rounders. No issues have come to light so far.

8. Election of Committee members Laxton PC and Tuxford U16

Both Dave Sheard and Richard were nominated as new Committee Members for the Parish Council and Tuxford U16's respectively. All were in favour.

9. AOB.

Neil confirmed that it will be the 10th anniversary of Stuart's passing

away on 24th August next year and he and the footballers intend to mark it with an event at the Field on 24th/25th. All Com Members were asked to think about what we should do and it will be put on the agenda for discussion for all meetings until then.

Neil continues to receive complements from the Newark Football league congratulating us on the excellent condition and facilities at the Field.

10. Dates of next meetings.

The next ordinary meeting will be on Thursday 18th January 2024 and the next AGM will be on Thursday 24th May 2024 @ 7:30 pm in the Visitor Centre. Any additional ordinary meetings can be arranged on an ad hoc basis.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

Michael Manning.



Dukeries Singers

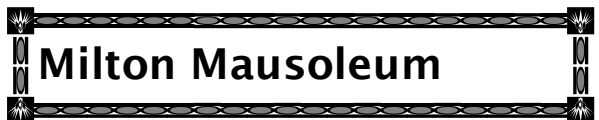
Our summer concert was a hit with the audience, with some wonderful performances. The Edwinstowe Hand Bell Ringers played songs including 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles' adapted for hand bells by John Ottaway.



The Jubilee Ukuleles provided loads of fun accompanying the community singing with a selection of 50's, 60's and 70's.

Our Christmas Concert is on Saturday 9th December at Ollerton Jubilee Hall at 7pm.

Please call John Banbury on **01623 822472** or mobile **07759 086132** at any time for more information.



Milton Mausoleum

Sat 11th November from 10am – 4pm
Christmas Gift and Crafts Fayre
Free Entry

A great mixture of stalls for quality gifts and crafts by local companies, with some new additions plus a raffle, tours of the Monument room, hot and cold food and a welcome seating area

Sat. 2nd December 3pm Carols by Candlelight in the Mausoleum

Please reserve your seat for this fabulous start to the Christmas season. Will be joined by Village Harmony. This event has proved extremely popular and attracts a full house. For all enquiries and bookings please contact us at milton.mausoleum@outlook.com or

Bobby 01777 870300 and Jenny 01777 871706

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
For Information please contact, Email **karenbaker321@outlook.com**
mobile **07399 669380**
- ♦ **Pilates** - Thursdays from 5:30pm - 6.30pm with Holly Rye.
Contact **07415436001** Email **holly-rye@hotmail.co.uk**
- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ♦ **Coffee Morning:** Second Saturdays 10 - 12. This month's is on **11th November** All welcome

Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council

A reminder about the pot hole reporting contact details are:
**[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/potholes/
report-a-pothole](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/potholes/report-a-pothole)**

Or ring Customer Services on 0300 500 8080

Laxton Defibrillator

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

Please do remember that the defibrillator must only be used once authorised by a call to 999.

Michael

Laxton Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

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

The available numbers are: 51, 52 and 53.

Please contact Michael on **01777 870844**

A meeting was held on 14th September following Tuxford U16 team Starting to enjoy our facilities. A report of the meeting will be available in next month's Open Field.

Michael

Useful Contact Details

Defibrillator Contacts:

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

Police

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

PC Gary Sipson 07525 226575 or 101 x 800 7673

Email : gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

PC2548 Deborah Bakin supported by
PCSO 8524 Richard Dunn at Southwell

07595 074292

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

Cardiac Arrest? Say “Alexa Activate Emergency CPR” to an Alexa device

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@nottsgov.uk 0115 977 5661
Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk

Firework Time Again

Please Think of the Animals

With bonfire night just around the corner, it seems a good time to remind people to take care when having firework events. They can be terrifying for animals and some people as well. At this time of year everyone with animals tends to be on alert for a week or so before to a week or so after 5th November.

If you are planning to let off fireworks at any other time during the year, please let your neighbours with animals know so that they can take precautions.

Animal owners, and horse owners in particular, will quickly spread the word amongst each other so everyone will be safe and happy and your tip off will also let people who would like to watch and enjoy the spectacle know when to be at their windows.

Thank you on behalf of the animals and owners

Laxton Village Hall

Craft Fayre

Saturday 18th November, 11.00am – 2.00pm

£1 admission inc. cup of tea / coffee

- ★ Lots of local crafts for those tricky Christmas presents
- ★ Start your Christmas shopping at the stalls
- ★ Cake stall for cakes of all sorts to take home
- ★ Traditional home made cakes & soup
- ★ Raffle, tombola etc.

Everyone very welcome