

Open Field

£1

October 2020



*Ruby and her friends reach Laxton on their sponsored walk
from Kneesall to Weston on 21st August 2020*

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



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	KNEESALL	Mr Ian Thom
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Flowers and Brasses Rota - suspended until further notice

Mrs M Beckett & Mrs B Noble	4th & 11th October
Mrs S Rose & Mrs R Creighton	18th & 25th October
Mrs L Booth & Ms H Keay	1st & 8th November

Coffee Morning Hosting Rota - for reference when they are resumed

October 8 th	Diane Wood
November 12 th	Janet Cooke
December 10 th	Mampa Haste

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

Contributions for the next edition TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY NOON ON 16th OCTOBER PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED. You can send at any time.

Message from Brenda, our Churchwarden

Sorry there is not much to say this month. Things are still the same. Our next service will be on Sunday 11th October at 10:30 am. This will be our Harvest Festival service. This year it has been decided to have a Morning Prayer / Family service rather than the usual Holy Communion for Harvest.

Social distancing will have to be in place with the usual hand sanitising etc. If you are coming, please wear a mask.

The clergy team are trying hard to plan things, but it is proving difficult to keep 10 churches going with few staff. No plans have yet been made for November. As it is Remembrance Sunday, we shall just have to wait and see what happens.

Brenda

Message From The Ministry Team

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:

Our prayers are with all our engaged couples and baptism candidates, and their families, and especially with those who are bereaved. Some of our churches will remain closed, including for weddings, funerals and baptisms. Most, including Laxton, will now be opening, and weddings are permitted by the government. What is possible within a service is limited by strict regulations. We are currently planning for baptisms; there is likely to be a lengthy waiting list. Funerals will usually be held at the graveside or in the crematorium, with limited attendance, although funerals are now possible inside churches.

Anybody wanting a wedding, baptism or funeral is advised to talk it over with one of our ministers: please contact Brenda for current information. For the time being there will be no 'Open Vestry Hour'.

Although we have no choice, we hope you will understand that in complying with regulations we are loving our neighbour and protecting our NHS.

We look forward to fully marking these important milestones in the Christian journey again as soon as possible.

Sympathy - John Smith

We were saddened to hear of the death of John Smith on 24th August after a long period of illness.

John lived at Crosshill House in Laxton with his wife, Roberta before their move to Retford 3-4 years ago, but they had always kept in touch with friends in Laxton.

John had spent a considerable time in the Merchant Navy, and when the Parish Council was invited to celebrate Merchant Navy Day on 3rd September each year, John was invited to formally help raise the flag at The Dovecote. A meal usually followed this and led to the group meeting at 3 monthly intervals for lunch.

The funeral was at Babworth crematorium on Thursday 10/9/20.

John will be sadly missed by his many friends here. We send sympathy to Roberta and all the family.

Farewell John.



Congratulations

Congratulations and a very special birthday wish from us all to Anne Dutton who celebrates her 90th birthday this month.



Ken Shepherd

We were very sad to hear the news that Ken passed away on Thursday 6th August 2020.

He had spent much of his life in Laxton and became a very prominent member of the Community in a number of ways. He was an avid sports fan playing football for Laxton for many years and was a founder member of the Laxton and Dovecote Darts Team and was probably one of the best players they have ever had!

But he will be best remembered by most of the community as the Clerk to Laxton and Moorhouse Parish Council for 50 years, only retiring in his 80's due to his health.



There was very little that happened in Laxton or Moorhouse that Ken either did not know about or have some influence over. He organised the memorial we have on Moorhouse Road to the crash of the Wellington bomber and the Canadian airmen who were killed. He also organised a very memorable service in Laxton Church to unveil a plaque to those from the Community who fell in the war which was attended by a number of dignitaries including the First Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire Sir Andrew Buchanan.

He was a very active supporter of the Open Field Farming System and passionate about helping to preserve it for future generations. As a working farmer in the system and as Clerk to the Parish Council, he was in a very good position to "negotiate" with The Crown when things went wrong!



To celebrate Ken's 50 years' service and retirement as Clerk, we were able to arrange for him to be invited to the Queen's Garden Party in Buckingham Palace but unfortunately due to his health he was unable to attend on the Day.

So it's good-bye Ken and thank you from all in Laxton and Moorhouse for a life full of community spirit, involvement and personal friendship; Laxton wouldn't be the same today without you.

Michael Manning

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Local Sayings of Yesteryear Part 1

We have received this selection of sayings remembered and maybe still used. Some may be very local and others maybe more widely used. Can you add your own favourites?

- ☆ A creaking gate hangs a long time!.
- ☆ Hear all, see all, an say nowt. Eat all, drink all, an pay nowt.
- ☆ If yer do owt fer nowt, do it fer thy sen.
- ☆ A cold wet May, plenty of corn and plenty of hay.
- ☆ Friday flit, not long to sit.
- ☆ Oak before ash, we're in for a splash.
Ash before oak, we're in for a soak.
- ☆ A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay;
a swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon;
but a swarm of bees in July isn't worth a fly.
- ☆ You have to go and tell the bees the news.
(Apparently Gran failed to do this when grandad died, and they all died or disappeared.)

Village Hall

The Village Hall Trustees recently held a socially distanced Committee meeting to discuss the possibility of re-opening the Hall. A lengthy discussion took place where we considered all our responsibilities and in particular our Duty of Care.

The Committee unanimously agreed that as we still have grave concerns about the risks to users and the Community, the Hall should remain closed in the near future.

As the pandemic and Government advice is rapidly changing, we agreed to meet again in October to review the options at that time also considering the kind of activities which the Village Hall is normally used for.

Please keep safe and well.

Best wishes

Laxton Village Hall Committee

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

We would love to give a mention to anyone who is celebrating, so please send in details for any month. If we have missed anyone, we apologise.

The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Anne (90), Ruby, Sophie (21), Lee (50), Sylvia, Mark and Neil, Joy (70), Bridget.

One family has three celebrations - for Anna, Jem and William.

We apologise for sending a belated happy 70th to Graham for last month.

Many happy returns to you all.

If you know someone we have missed, please tell us.



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A Humorous Look at the Pandemic

- ◆ So it that right - there is no cure for something which is killed by sanitiser and soap?
- ◆ How Long is social distancing going to last? My husband keeps trying to come into the house.
- ◆ Day 6 of self isolation. I started chatting to a spider today. Seems nice. He's a web designer.
- ◆ When social distancing is over I still want some people to stay away from me.
- ◆ If all this has taught us anything it is that stupidity travels faster than any virus.
- ◆ Really?! So my chance of surviving this is directly linked to the sensible behaviour and common sense of others?
- ◆ It seems the spread of the virus depends on two things: How dense the population is and how dense the population is.

A Little Light Relief - From Parish Notices

Remember the church jumble sale. We have a gents three-speed bicycle, also two ladies for sale, in good running order.

Bertha Belch, a missionary, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church. Come and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

Next Sunday's preacher can be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

We are pleased to note that there has been a change of mind by the Housing Department regarding the name for the new Housing complex for the elderly. 'St Peter's Close' did seem somewhat inappropriate.

God is good. The vicar is better

Astronaut Takes Blame For Gas In Spacecraft

New Study Of Obesity Looks For Larger Test Group

Ruby's Walk for Beaumont House Hospice



As we reported last month, Ruby Doyle, daughter of Lee and Paula and granddaughter of George and Brenda, planned to raise some funds for Beaumont House Hospice.

It was a real treat last month to write about something that was actually about to happen and it continues this month with the first report of an event for months.

Paula writes:

‘A huge thank you to everyone who supported Ruby and her friends on their walk for Beaumont House Hospice at Newark.

Nearer the time they were joined by some more friends who had heard about what they were doing.

They set off from the Hay Barn Cafe at Kneesall at 9.30 am on Friday 21st August on what was a very windy but fine day and paused for a photo at Kneesall School gates.

They made their way to Laxton across Mill Field then up to the Dovecote at Laxton where Sam kindly had drinks waiting for them.

Next it was across to Egmonton Wood and down into Egmonton, where Joy and Dik met them to take photos.

The walk was planned to keep road walking to an absolute minimum, but next it was up the road to Hagg Lane, past Sandra's. She had kindly put flags and balloons out to welcome them.

A short walk up Moorhouse Road led to another long cross country section on to the track to Lady Wood Farm and down to the old A1.

The final stretch was down the lane to the Birds Nest Coffee Lounge





at Hall Farm where they were met by a large archway of blue balloons and applause from all their family and friends.

The walk, which was to be 6-7 miles, turned into 8 miles which for the young girls Ruby, Devon and Isla was a great achievement.

Thanks go to Lindsey at the Hay Barn

Café, Sam at the Dovecote, and Lesley at the. Birds Nest Coffee Lounge and a big thank you to Joy and Dik for taking the lovely photos for them and publicising it in the local papers.

Once again thank you to everyone for their support and for all the donations Ruby received.'

At the Birds Nest Coffee Lounge an official presentation of the money raised was made to Kat Wright from Beaumond House. Paula had to forget her urgent need of a drink and a sit down to add up all the money so that she could fill in a presentation cheque for the photos. There was £1,150 at that point between cash and the Just Giving page.

While they were there money continued to be donated and even before the photos for the papers had been taken the cheque was out of date. By the time the report went to the Newark Advertiser and the Retford Times three days later over £1,500 had been collected with more to come. The total now stands at £1,720.00 which is a tremendous effort for young children

Kat was delighted with the sponsorship and made a point of thanking everyone. She said how vital this sort of activity is when so many of the usual fund raising events which keep their vital work going have fallen victim to the pandemic.





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General advice will be given via our Advice line which people can reach by calling **03444 111 444** or by Textphone: **18001 03444 111 445**. This is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm. Alternatively, you can ring our local office number on **01623 861769** where you may be offered a call back

People can **chat online** to an advisor by visiting our website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/contact-us.

To contact us via email use **clients@sn-ca.org.uk**

You can find help with **Debt & Money Advice** on 01623 869081

People looking for advice on **consumer issues** (e.g. issues related to products or services you've purchased) can contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on **0808 223 1133** and Textphone: **18001 0808 223 1133** or chat online to an advisor on our website.

Anyone seeking to make a new claim for **Universal Credit** should call the Universal Credit Help to Claim line on **0800 1448444**.

Textphone: **18001 0800 144 8 444** and Web-chat:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/helptoclaim

You can find frequently updated advice on a range of issues at www.citizensadvice.org.uk"

Since the 23rd of March, people most frequently needed help with debt and welfare benefits issues, often to do with Universal Credit. There has been an increase in people facing employment issues, especially dismissal and redundancy.

Citizens Advice have been campaigning for a number of issues relating to the current COVID-19 crisis, including, short-term financial aid for renters who have fallen behind on their rent during this period and for the Government and business to provide support for people who have fallen into debt, to help free them from the damaging long-term consequences of their debt and help strengthen economic recovery.

Citizens Advice gives people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are, and whatever their problem.

Pat's Plant Stall

Pat would usually have closed her stall well before this, but she continues to receive donations of plants which people are buying and the home wares, including beautiful new cushions, have been selling well.

As a result, the stall is still open and still raising money for Medical Detection Dogs.



Dogs have an incredible sense of smell thanks to the complex structure of their noses, which contain over 300 million scent receptors, compared to 5 million in a human. This means they are the best biosensors known to man, which combined with their ability to learn makes them perfect for detection dogs. Medical Detection Dogs' own research has shown they can detect the odour of disease with high levels of accuracy.

This project has attracted backing from the UK government and public donations. Working with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Durham University, they are now beginning work on first-stage training of the dogs identified as having the potential to detect Covid 19. Further funding is essential to help speed the work up and give greater resources for training the dogs. Who would have thought that by buying your plants and cushions you could be helping such front line work.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported the stall.

Coffee Mornings

The Coffee Mornings remain suspended for the time being. We will let you know when we can start again. The rota on the inside cover will remind hostesses so that we can start as soon it is right to do so.



Memories of the Infant School in Laxton circa 1940

Last month's cover photo of the old Infants School seems to have revived memories in people who experienced school days in Laxton. Thank you to the person who sent in the memories below.

Do you recall things from your infants school days?



Surprisingly I do not remember feeling cold. Perhaps that was because I was wearing a vest and a liberty bodice and of course knickers with elastic around the legs.

I remember having two sets of knitted jumpers and skirts that my Mum knitted for me. One was pink with bobbles and the other was navy blue with red trimming. I had thick stockings that were held up with garters.

The toilets were outside in the playground and there was nowhere to wash your hands. The toilet paper was last weeks newspaper! All water from the taps was cold.

At playtime one of the best games was throwing either snow balls or nettles. The target was Maddison's window. The other game was playing ball against the house wall opposite (now the Naylors' house).

The most frightening memory was the arrival of the dentist's caravan known by everyone as the "Agony Wagon". The nit nurse was also a regular, unwelcome, visitor.

School milk was either warmed up or even defrosted by putting it around the fire.

I also remember well having my mouth washed out with soap for swearing !!! It didn't cure me ...

"Those were the days"...don't think so...



I remember well the crate of little milk bottles in front of the huge open fire. Was it really huge, or did it just seem so to my 5 year old self? We all laughed at the half inch or more of frozen cream standing clear of the top of the bottle with the foil cap still on top of it. Then, of course, it all ran down the sides as it thawed. Only then could the holder of the much fought over title of 'milk monitor' put the paper straws into the bottles.

And in those days we were sent home for days on end when the outside toilets were frozen up!

Joy

Back on the Road Again

It seemed to be becoming likely that motorised conveyance was coming back, so Steve's car was expected to resume duties. It refused – flatly.

All the usual remedies were applied – charging the battery, hoping, kicking the wheelbarrow – to no avail. There was only one thing to do. Call the AA.

The extremely nice man who came had it sorted in no time and advised a new battery charger may solve our problem if this occurred again. He then looked at Steve's membership card.

"You've been a member of the AA longer than I've been alive!" said the bemused mechanical hero who had just put the car to rights. It seemed to amaze him!

It certainly gave us pause for thought about how our relationship with the AA had changed from when we owned our first cars. Then the presence of the 'AA man' was a frequent occurrence; we knew quite a few of them by name. Our cars were elderly, pre-MOT models and cheap, and the AA membership fee was a vital investment. That is how first cars used to be in our youthful days.

Steve's first was Oscar the sauerkraut, an ageing VW Beetle. Oscar crouched outside the flat, a curious beige-grey colour, and exuded a vaguely Teutonic gloom – Herbie he was not. The highly technically developed cup hook which connected the pedal to the accelerator bar came off frequently in embarrassing places. But his specialty was not starting. We didn't look for parking spaces, we looked for hills for push starting. The only place to go for holidays was Scotland – lots of hills, you see! Oscar finally blew up. A surfeit of hills probably.

Then there was the Citroen Dyane. Vivid red bodywork made of tin foil. Skeletal front seats and powered by a sewing machine engine. Packed with holiday camping gear, the Dyane did NOT do hills. We led some embarrassingly impressive trails of traffic. The car eventually rolled into a wall (the brakes weren't too good) and crumpled like a Keystone Cops film car.

My own effort was Napoleon, a grey and rust Renault 10. The floor mounted yard-long gear lever frequently detached itself, and it was a common sight to see me driving one-handed waving the gear lever about. The accelerator often stuck full on – the simultaneous combination of the two was an exhilarating experience - and a flourishing crop of mushrooms grew in the footwell. I'm told the Renault 10 is now designated a classic car!

Steve's Triumph Toledo, which first broke down 15 minutes after collecting it from the garage, carried on the noble tradition. And then there the Avenger, and the.....

Modern cars, cloned and reliable, are no doubt much improved but nowhere near as exciting. And you don't meet as many 'AA men' as you used to.

Lesley Booth

Festival of Bird Art, Bakewell

Sadly this popular annual event for the wood carving fans was another casualty of the pandemic. The organisers held a fun competition for a single bird which was judged on the basis of photographs submitted by the carver. This was not the British Championship competition this year.



The competitions at Bakewell are divided into three classes for novice, intermediate and advanced and so were the 25 photographic entries. They kept the judges busy for a full three hours poring over the

four photos per entry.

We are delighted to hear that Chriss Rose, who has strong associations with Laxton, came away with 2nd place in the Advanced class with her carving of a Carolina Wood Duck drake (above). Congratulations to Chriss. The winner was a falcon (right) carved by Maggie, who took second place in the British Championships last year with a black necked grebe.



Rota of Services for October

The rota is currently being compiled considerably later than the copy date for 'Open Field', but this month we do have advance notice of two weeks' services.

September

Sunday 27th

10.30am Kirton **MP**

October

Sunday 4th

9.00am Kirton Harvest **HC**

4.00pm Wellow Harvest **EP**

Sunday 11th

10.30am Laxton Harvest **Family / MP**

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

Thank You to Contributors

Last month someone commented that it was a good edition of the magazine. A comment is a rare enough occurrence in itself, but it just shows that when people in the community contribute, other people in the community enjoy it.

The magazine has been a pleasure to compile during and since lockdown, while things remain suspended, because it has been full of different articles from different people. A very big 'Thank You' to everyone who has sent anything, however small. Other places are struggling to produce their magazines at all and last month we needed an extra set of 4 pages to make room for everything. Well done everyone and please do keep on sending in your memories, stories, photos, news and anything else you feel like sharing.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2020

Forward Planning

Dec 4th

Quiz Night (tbc)



Regular Events:

Parish Council 4th Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November

Quiz Nights 1st Friday of December & March

Copy Date for November: 12 noon, 16th October

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. We are unlikely to be able to publish anything received late.

Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to send in contributions this month. We have been very grateful to people for coming up with ideas to make something for everyone to read at a time when all our usual events have not been happening.

We hope readers have enjoyed the variety and maybe even been inspired to contribute something of their own. If you are not sure how to write it, we are happy to help out.

Thank you all.

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I hope you are all well and are not getting down with not being able to go out and about as normal.

We are still in the same situation as we were last month. We still have to consider social distancing and also the Village Hall is not open. It will be nice when we can all get together again and have a good old natter.

We can still wish our members a happy birthday. This month birthday wishes go to Bridget and to Joy for her 70th with a thank you for all the hard work you put into producing the 'Open Field'.

County Office are trying hard to keep things going, which I am sure is very difficult. The Autumn Council Meeting is being held this year via Zoom, which I am sure is a first. On Thursday 15th October the Annual County Quiz will also be held via Zoom.

There are some walks all over the county, north, south, east, west and in the middle - that's us, and is at Eakring. You can go alone or in groups any time from now until 11th January 2021. This date is to commemorate The death of Edmund Halley, the inventor of the first modern compass.



The Team4Us appeal items - knitted hats, gloves, scarves etc. - have to be in by Monday 5th October. If anybody has done any knitting please let me know so that we can arrange taking them to the pick up point.

Looking in the Hornblower I found that in the 'Past

Revisited, article 45 years ago it says that Laxton W I went on an outing to Leverton Windmill in August 1975. I can't seem to remember it. Can you?

Brenda

'Flu Vaccinations

We are already back to that time of year when we remind you to get your flu vaccinations. Despite everything which has happened this year, or indeed because of it, it is more important than ever to make sure that you are protected from the seasonal flu which always goes around.

As we were powerfully reminded several years ago, you may feel 25 but your immune system is still 65, 75 or whatever age your birth certificate tells you that you really are.



There are several types of flu vaccine.

If you're eligible for the flu vaccine on the NHS, you'll be offered one that's most effective for you, depending on your age:

- children aged 2 to 17 are offered a live vaccine (LAIV) as a nasal spray; the live viruses have been weakened so it cannot give you flu
- adults aged 18 to 64 are offered an injected inactivated vaccine; there are different types, but none contains live viruses so they cannot give you flu
- adults aged 65 and over are offered an injected inactivated vaccine; the most common one contains an adjuvant to help your immune system have a stronger response to the vaccine

All surgeries are taking extra precautions this year, which they will explain to you

Sutton on Trent Surgery has informed us that they are now taking appointments for flu vaccinations. If you attend the surgery and want to get your flu jab, please give them a call. You will be given a time at which to attend. Your temperature will be taken before you are invited in. Please wear suitable clothing to pull up or remove.

Tuxford Surgery

The usual clinics will not be happening as they have in the past. Every eligible registered patient will be telephoned individually and booked

The Dukeries Singers

In this "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" I must add to the quotation, "and wind." It has been responsible for leaf stripped runner and French beans, toppled sunflowers and hundreds of crab apples deposited for the delight of the local wasp population.



I'm afraid the Choir has battened down the hatches for this windy Autumn and is still not yet singing together. Some of the singers do "Zoom" in and have a Beetle Drive on alternate Wednesday evenings but that's about as harmonious as we get at the moment.

We do have lots of videos on You Tube and well worth a visit when you need a cheer up and perhaps sing along too. Singing can lift the spirits wonderfully and the voice needs exercise too!

If you would like to find more information about the Choir, we are on Twitter, Facebook and on www.thedukeriessingers.com

Our email address is thedukeriessingers@gmail.com

Although we have no performances planned, our Concert Secretary, Margaret, may be contacted on **01623 642464** or **07896491314**.

I'm sure all the friends in the Choir would wish you a happy, healthy and safe Harvest time and look forward to enjoying closer ties in the near future.

Jan

for a five minute appointment. The Over 65 vaccine is arriving first and so older people will be the first to be called. You do not need to contact the surgery.

Ollerton Surgery

There will be clinics on 10th and 17th October for over 65s only. Please ring the surgery to make your appointment. Please do not just turn up. Vaccines for the younger age groups will follow on in a few weeks, so under 65s are asked not to telephone at present.

We will contact the surgeries and update this information next month.

Memories From Leaphia

Thanks once again to Leaphia Darko for these memories

Recycling

My sister and I had no idea of war as experienced in the big cities. However we had an aerodrome some distance away. Dad, having been in the Boer War and WW1, dug a trench at the back of our orchard – just like you see in the films.

On a couple of nights my sister and I were lifted from our bed and carried to this trench. I only remember being carried there and not being there, nor returning to bed. Unknown to Sylvia and me, Dad must have done quite a lot of digging. Not just the vegetable garden!!

Referring to the outside toilet, Mam would repeatedly say “Have you done it yet William?” Having armed himself with his Woodbines Dad would finally say “Yes”.

The war came to an end. Mam’s refrain rang out “Have you done it yet William?” (She never called him Bill). “Yes”, came the reply. “That was quick”, Mam said. Dad had discovered recycling and we didn’t play in the trench any more.

Serendipity

My family lived at Brecks Cottage for about 12 years. We left to live at Netherfield near Nottingham in 1949. From there my career and life took me to London, Greenock, Colchester and back to Netherfield. Then on to Ghana, back to Netherfield followed by Newcastle and Hexham. Next to Moorhouse I loved Hexham.

Next stop was Sheffield and a rented house with a ghostly presence. This latter was confirmed by a subsequent tenant. From there to Grange Road, Sheffield and then to 152 Dobbin Hill, Sheffield. By this time it was 1963. Margaret (Saxilby) visited us and invited my two oldest children to visit Moorhouse.

We arranged the day and one Saturday morning I asked them to go to the shops for something. They told me they had met a boy in the shop. He was their classmate in school and was going to visit his grandparents in the country. My children told him that they, too, were going to the country.

My children went off to Moorhouse and Margaret took them to see the house that I had lived in.

What a surprise! My children’s classmate whom they had met in the shop in Sheffield was indeed visiting his grandparents in the country. They were living in the house I had lived in in 1949.

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Back in Happy Times

Thank you to Jean Bartle for sending this item in.

It was so refreshing to read 'Down Memory Lane'. I remember Sylvia and Leaphia Hill. They used to go to Laxton Chapel Sunday School, as did Angela Quibell and myself in Mrs Saxelby's large dark blue car. Billy Barbour, Colin Keyworth and Valerie Rose also attended the Sunday School from Moorhouse.

The Sunday School anniversaries were the best in the chapel circuit, held in the first week of May. We learnt everything off by heart. The chapel used to be full of people, with many having to sit outside. In those days you wore your Sunday best clothes.

The front of the September Open Field brings me to the days when the church choir stalls were full. Since Vernon died, there was only John Rushby of the adults still alive, so now, as far as I know, the three young boys, Barry and Nev Saddington and Geoff Moody, and four of the five girls, myself (Jean Warrener), Angela Hope (neè Quibell), Margaret Maddison and Brenda Chambers (neè Bagshaw) are the only people from the choir days since Rosemary Crothers (neè Grundy) died.

It was a pleasure to be in the choir with Jack Cook teaching all of us to sing the anthems for Easter, Harvest Festivals and Christmas as well as the psalms with Edie How (neè Gibson) at the organ.

Practice nights were Wednesdays, followed by the Sunday evening service. We would hear the beautiful church bells ringing, and if the wind was in the right direction they could be heard down in Egmont.

Now to mention in sympathy, Ken Shepherd was the last of the football team players. They wore amber shirts with black shorts and black and amber socks, the same colours as Wolverhampton Wanderers. The games were played in the field behind where the bungalows are now in Timothy Field at the top of Timothy Road. At half time I used to make coffee in a large enamel jug and take it to the players.

Back to John Rushby. He was the only one left who belonged to the Laxton 2nd cricket team. John used to be the umpire for the team and also the scorer from the age of fourteen. All the Laxton 1st and 2nd cricket games were played up Hall Grounds at the top off the lane to the right with Castle Mount to the left.

So now I am the only one left, with all my happy memories, but I feel very sad at the same time.

Laxton Football Team, 1953 / 4

L - R (Back row)

Robert (Bob) Grundy, Roy Beckitt, Les Noble, Walt Britnell, George Pashley, Russ Smith

Front row

Alan Dolby, Ken Shepherd, Ern Noble, Vernon Bartle, Charlie Crowder



To end on a happier note, fields and road sides looked pretty with wild flowers, even violets with perfume on Egmanton Hill side where the hedge was nearer to the road. It was lovely to be able to pick a

bunch of flowers to take home or to school. They would be put in water in a jam jar or sometimes a vase.

Whilst staying with an aunt of mine, and going to the village school in the next village, we went on a nature walk and had to pick a flower to take back to the school to use as a subject for the painting lesson in the afternoon. I called at cottage and asked if I could have a beautiful climbing rose growing on the wall. Unbeknown to me at the time, it turned out to be Gloire de Dijon, which came into my life around 40 years later.

On the way to Moorhouse watercress used to grow in the dyke, go through a small gate and almost up to the drive up to Brecks Farm, where Hoggards used to live in those days and down Beck Lane near the telephone box. Beautiful yellow marsh marigolds (*Caltha palustris*) flowers could be seen growing in the dyke nearer Ossington.

Now I have the time to sit down to some wonderful home made produce, more or less like Leaphia mentioned. Vernon and I used to grow, preserve and cook what we had in the garden. Now those days have gone along with the cricket, whist drives, Old Tyme Dances in the Village Hall, and at Christmas fur and feather whist drives. If you were lucky you could win anything from hare, rabbit, chicken, goose or a brace of pheasants.

Yes, those were the days and the above all happened 1943 - 1956. **PTO**



The team caps were bottle green and gold

Laxton 2nd Cricket Team, 25th August 1952. Away game with Claypole 'N', Laxton won.

L-R (Back Row) John Rushby, Rev.W.Snow, Les Randall, Bob Grundy, Alan Dolby, Wilf Saddington, Ern Noble, Claypole Umpire

(Middle Row) Claypole Scorer, Doug Newbould, Jeff Allis, Terry Beckitt, Jean Warrener (Scorer)

(Front Row) Charlie Crowder, Vernon Bartle (Wicket keeper and opening bat)

Group Oil Order

Sitting here on a lovely sunny late September day, it seems strange to be writing about the winter oil order, but it really is time to start thinking about it.

We usually put in an order mid - late November to beat the inevitable Christmas price rises, and plan to do so again this year. If you would like to join in this order please email me if you have my personal email or use the general address of oil@openfield.org.uk



New members are welcome to the group at any time by supplying an email address, or that of someone willing to act for you, full name, address, land and mobile phone numbers and any special access instructions for your delivery. Our group extends from Tuxford to Carlton on Trent and Kneesall.

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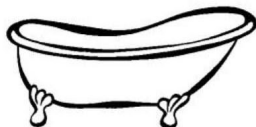


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Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
15/8/20	21	Alan and Anna
22/8/20	12	Roy and Jean H
29/8/20	16	Janet Cooke
5/9/20	32	Kev and Sally
12/9/20	14	Anne Dutton

We have various numbers available. Here is the up to date list of the 14 spare numbers: **1,2,7,11,20,23,26,28,34,51,52,56,57,59 (14)?**

Please contact Mike Manning 870844. Thank you.

Michael Manning

Highway Code Review - Your Chance to Comment

A new consultation opened on 28th July to allow people to comment on plans to revise the Highway Code. It proposes amending The Highway Code to introduce a hierarchy of road users, clarify pedestrian and cyclist priority and establish safer overtaking.

The main changes being proposed are:

- introducing a hierarchy of road users which ensures that those road users who can do the greatest harm have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others
- clarifying existing rules on pedestrian priority on pavements, to advise that drivers and riders should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross the road,
- providing guidance on cyclist priority at junctions to advise drivers to give priority to cyclists at junctions when travelling straight ahead
- establishing guidance on safe passing distances and speeds when overtaking cyclists and horse riders

The consultation closes at 11:59pm on 27 October 2020

See: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-the-highway-code-to-improve-road-safety-for-cyclists-pedestrians-and-horse-riders

Laxton Scarecrows Live On

The following email arrived out of the blue shortly before 'Open Field' went to print:

Hello,

I hope that you are well. My name is Peter Terence Lane, I am a contemporary fine art photographer based near Mansfield. For all art related matters including my website I use my middle name, Terence. My main interest is the areas that make up Sherwood Forest but I do other subjects too. My work has been exhibited locally, nationally and internationally including Southwell (Minster), London, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Amsterdam and Rotterdam and has been published nationally and internationally.

I have been interested in Scarecrow Festivals for some time and was delighted to see those that had been created in Laxton in response to the Covid19 and Key Workers, co-ordinated by Notts Young Farmers. I spent some time there and made some images which have been submitted to the London Independent Photography 2020 "Life Under Lockdown" exhibition which will take place online in November. It is not a competition but three of my images have been chosen and have received a selectors commendation meaning that they will be highlighted in the exhibition, a newspaper and published book. The three images that have been selected can be seen here:

<http://www.terencelane.com/lip-lul>

If possible, would you please let the owners of the particular scarecrows know along with the organiser Jessica Rose. When the book and newspaper is available I will let you know and also send a link to the online exhibition.

Also, and just to clarify, I am not making money out of this, nor is this an attempt to try and sell anything, it is simply to let you know and celebrate the fact that Laxton is going to appear in an important exhibition. I am just disappointed that printed versions of these images are not going to be displayed as usual in an exhibition gallery in London although this could be planned for the future.

Hoping this is of interest,

Regards, *Peter*

Following the link takes you to Peter's web site, where the three selected photos are shown. They were the work of Ruby Doyle and Jo Godson in Laxton and Katie Gent in Moorhouse.



The pictures below are our photos of the chosen scarecrows taken for the 'Open Field' Web site or sent to us for the magazine.

Well done to all the makers



We will bring you details of the exhibition when we hear from Peter.

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Notts Home Guard

Laxton folk have been helpful to me in the past so possibly someone can help me again. Does anyone remember how the local Home Guard was organised because surviving records are very limited. Might a unit have drawn members from several neighbouring villages?

I grew up hearing a family story about my Uncle, Dennis North, & his time in the Home Guard. I remember his dad, Bill North, worked for Dakin's at Weston in the 1950s & I believe they lived at Weston during WW2.

The story told at Dennis' expense concerned a training exercise, possibly with another neighbouring unit. An isolated farmhouse was the target for a night raid, supposedly occupied



by the enemy. 'Our boys' were to make a silent assault on the building, as if to take it by surprise, and to signal that they had 'captured' it by posting a flag on the roof. They were to withdraw equally stealthily, showing that they could have booby-trapped the site without the enemy knowing. Probably to ensure this exercise was taken seriously, the farmer didn't know of his farm's starring role in the proceedings!

The men, fully equipped with uniforms, tin hats and carrying their weapons, had been taught to roll themselves head first over any wire boundary fences. The idea was to continue into a forward roll on the ground and smoothly back onto their feet to run onwards.

When Dennis rolled over such a fence, his uniform hooked onto the barbed wire and his head in its tin hat went into a muddy puddle in the ditch with such force that suction caused it to stick. No matter how he tried, he couldn't pull his head out of the muddy hole, nor could he remove his helmet! He was tangled on the wire, upside down, virtually standing on his head!

Finally, he had to call for help. Naturally, unexpected noises heard by the farmer brought him to his door brandishing his own shotgun, ready to see off anyone hoping to steal his chickens! He was probably pretty surprised to be faced by a bunch of soldiers and the exercise had to be aborted, much to the annoyance of the officer overseeing it.

Jenni Dobson

Egmanton Village Hall

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk / 01777 871171

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

- ♦ **Yoga with Greg** – Suspended. Watch for details of restart.
- ♦ **Egmanton WI - Thursday** 15th October
- ♦ **Zumba Class** - Cancelled for now **Call 07817 311627**
- ♦ **Computer Problems?** - Call **01777 871171** for phone advice
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.

Village Notices

Mike Manning maintains a list of email addresses for villagers and other local people who want to receive up to date information.

If you are not already on the list and would like to be kept informed, please contact Mike on **870844**.

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 Manning

Maplebeck Village Hall

The Hall and its activities are not operating at the present time.

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
Jeanette Geldard 07956 959135, daytime in Kneesall,
evenings / weekends
Anne-Marie & Geoff Rose 07961 933290 / 07957 991002, as required

Police

Sgt 2949 Christial 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

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

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Medical

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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@nottsc.gov.uk	0115 977 5661

Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk

Happy 90th Birthday Anne



We join Anne Dutton's family in wishing her a very happy 90th birthday. Her daughter, Pam, writes:

'Mum is 90 on 21st October - an occasion which we had planned to celebrate with an outdoor afternoon tea, however, it looks now like it may be a while before we can have such a get together.

We look forward to the time when we are able to have some belated celebrations!!

Left: Anne with her granddaughter Caitlin and her two great grandchildren, Cairo and Winter

Janet Cooke spotted this wreath left on Miss Willis grave.



The attached message reads" Fond Memories of a Christian lady.

Barbara Potter Willis, killed by enemy bomb blast 80 yrs ago today.

From Gregory family,

Evacuees at
School House,
September
1939.

Ron Gregory,
28 August 2020.

This ladybird
was well
spotted by
Lynda Moore.

Have you got
a good photo
to share?

