

Open Field

£1

October 2025



Jordan Voce's shot of his mother Mel at a reenactment event, which won the 'Cover' class at the Laxton Harvest Competition

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 14th OCTOBER PLEASE. Earlier preferred. You can
send in your contributions at any time.

Christmas Festival

On the weekend of 5th, 6th and 7th of December, residents of the village are planning to hold a Christmas Festival in aid of church funds. This will include a brass band concert on the Friday night and a display of Christmas trees and decorations. If anyone would like to display a tree, if possible with a theme and title, we would be most grateful. More details next month or contact Margaret Palmer or myself Brenda Noble 870541.

Returning to the Garden Fête, I would like to add my thanks, in particular to Jean and Roy for the use of their garden and house and for all their hard work in the preparations. Thanks to their daughter, Mel, for the loan of her marquee. It was lovely to see so many people there and raise so much money for our lovely old church. *Brenda.*

Christmas Festival Ideas. Can You Help?

Though it may seem premature to be talking of Christmas, a number of villagers have together, already been making plans. The Community Coffee Morning team are involved and will be supporting the venture financially if required.

This year, we would like to get the festive season off to an extra jolly start, on the weekend of December 5th through to the 7th.

The format would be something like this:

EVENING of Friday 5th December:

Carols for everyone concert in Laxton Church with accompanying band. Ticket price yet to be determined.

DAY TIME , Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th Dec

A Christmas Tree Festival in the church, with refreshments in the village hall on the Saturday only.

NOTE: These events above are intended as a fundraiser for the continued preservation and upkeep of Laxton church.

EVENING of Sunday 7th Dec

The Parish Council "Christmas Tree Light Switch On" with the Dukeries Band. Village Hall.

How can you help to make these events a success?

Firstly we need folks to undertake to decorate a tree or make a window display. This tree or arrangement would be displayed in church from

the Friday to the Sunday, or longer if you were willing. We have already been sending out letters and emails in an effort to encourage offers of help.

Individuals, families, groups or businesses may like to participate. Or maybe you would be willing to sponsor a tree or window display.

If you are creative, but shy about doing a whole tree on your own, we could buddy you up with others to help each other. You can work on something together and maybe get to know someone new.

For the refreshments in the Village Hall on the Saturday, we need offers of baked goods. And we will need a rota of volunteers please to work in the kitchen. Obviously we would like baked goods from bakers who have experience, but you need no training to help serve, clear dirty pots and wash up. Many hands make light work and you are assured of a very warm welcome into the kitchen.

In church, we will also need ushers throughout the two days, to ensure no mishaps prevail etc. We will need to set up a rota. Would you be able to spare some time on either or both days to greet visitors. We hope to publicise the event in the local area, so people who are new to our church need to be made welcome.

These are the 'bare bones' of the proposal. For further details please contact Helen Sheard (**07905 161392**) or Margaret Palmer or directly or through Facebook.

Many thanks,

Helen S



Moorhouse

Harvest Festival

Friday 3rd October, 7 pm,
Moorhouse Church.

The service will be taken by Heather Brown

Everyone is welcome

There will be refreshments afterwards.

Get Well Soon

We have no names of people unwell or recovering this month, so we hope this is good news and everyone is well.

To anyone who is not, we send very best wishes and to those waiting for surgery, we hope the wait will be surprisingly short.

Special Coffee Morning Planned

The Laxton Coffee Morning in December is going to be a commemorative event for Karen Sanford, whose 60th birthday would have fallen that month. It will be a charity fund raiser, and there will be more details next month.

In our regular notice, the December date has been given as 13th or 20th. **We can now confirm it will be December 13th.**

We have our usual event on October 18th and in November we make way for the History Group Craft Fayre and of course everyone is welcome at that.

Group Remembrance Service

Saint Michael's Church, Laxton

Sunday, November 9th, 2025

10:30 am

Wreaths will be laid

Everyone welcome

Harvest Weekend



First of all, thank you to all those people who kindly helped to decorate the church on the Thursday. It looked lovely especially with all the bright sunflowers.



Unfortunately, our Vicar, Canon John Chambers, who was to be coming, was unwell and at the last minute we had to get the Rev John Smith to stand in. Fortunately everything went alright.



After the service everyone made their way to the Village Hall for supper. Thanks to Jean and helpers Mel, Amanda and Helen P. who cooked it for us and to Charlie who helped with washing the pots. Everyone sat down to steak pie and

vegetables with some lovely home-made puds.

On Sunday afternoon Heather Brown came to preach at our service. Thanks to Graham for playing the organ on both days. Mike

Jackson read as usual and we had a new volunteer to read for the first time - Rachel Hennell. Thanks to both of you.



The service was followed by the auction with our auctioneer, Mike Jackson. Thanks to everyone who gave items to sell and to those who gave to the Wellspring Church Food Bank.

Thanks once again to everyone for taking part in any way over the weekend.

Brenda

Sports & Social Field Presentation

On the evening of Monday 15th September, members of the Laxton Sports Field Committee, presented former chairman, Mike Manning, with a commemorative gift. This, together with a plaque in the club house, is in appreciation of his many years of work on this committee. Mike was instrumental in securing the funding for the club house and its eventual construction, alongside the late Mr Keith Dutton and Ken Shepherd. For many years, Mike coordinated the weekly Bonus Ball draw. This is still an ongoing fundraiser.

There are ball numbers still available if any of our readers would like to take part. Please contact our treasurer Helen Pick at High Street Farm.



L-R: HS (Laxton Ladies Rounders)Team , Mick, Neil Randle (Laxton Football Team) and Ivan Rayner.

Thank You

"May I say huge thanks to the Laxton Sports and Recreation Field Committee who presented me with a gift in recognition of over 20 years of support helping run the field, facilities and Bonus Ball.

The gift is a booking to take Cath and I on a 2 night stay at our favourite hotel in Yorkshire in October.

Again many thanks to the Committee for the gift and carrying on the good work.

Michael Manning

Coffee Morning Corner

Coffee Mornings are now in full swing.

2nd Saturdays Egmonton Village Hall 10 - 12 Oct 11th

3rd Saturdays Laxton Village Hall 10 - 12 Oct 18th

4th Saturdays Ossington Hut 11 - 1 Oct 25th

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Village Hall News



“Chop & Chat” On Monday 6th October our monthly luncheon club returns to Laxton Village Hall. The group meet from 11am until all the washing up is done. Anyone is



welcome. It is not essential that you live in the village. This is an opportunity to have some company and socialisation. We prepare a hot meal and dessert together, before sitting down to eat. We are a sociable crowd so you won't feel lonely. You don't have to be involved in the prep. We usually eat around 1pm. The group has enjoyed sponsorship from Newark &

Sherwood DC in the past, but it is anticipated that moving forward, a nominal charge will be required. For further details contact Helen Sheard.

The **“Pilates”** class continues to be run by our experienced fitness teacher, Rachel. 4-week block bookings up front cost £24 for the block. Please contact Helen Sheard if you are interested. It is held at the Laxton Village Hall on Thursday evenings running from 18:30 to 19:30. It is aimed at all levels, so beginners are very welcome. Get in touch to see if there will be space for you.

Other news

Laxton Village Hall is now a good cause in the Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery. You can all sign up for a chance to win and to support the Village Hall starting at £1 per week. For each ticket sold, our good cause gets 60p.

For more info use the QR code, or the link: https://www.newarkandsherwoodlottery.co.uk/referral/1499120727/192397949?utm_source=manual



Reminder - the next **“Quiz Night”** is on **Friday 28th November** so please make sure this in your diaries and start working out who your team will be. More details will follow nearer the time.

We continue to look for more volunteers to join the trustees and assist with the running of the Village Hall. Do get in touch with one of the trustees if you are interested in getting involved or want to find out more.

As ever, thank you all for your continued support. We have a great community asset and we encourage you all to make use of it.

Memories of Laxton, 1913 and 1914

Janet Cooke has kindly sent in this account of moving into Laxton which was written by her grandmother, Alice Bailey.

Memories of moving into the village in 1913 by Alice Bailey neé Clark, who was born at Knapeney Farm in 1899.

We - my father and mother (Richard and Kate Clark) and my two younger sisters, Kathleen (late married to Arthur Grundy the blacksmith, and Dolly) came to live at Town End Farm in March 1913. The roads of those days were good and made of flint stone with grass verges either side.

Most houses had a pump to pump water from a well, but they had already started to lay water pipes for tapped water. The village had 22 farms and 5 or so outlying farms.

There were 5 or 6 smallholdings with a few acres of land and some houses with paddocks or large orchards. These had Common rights and were also allowed to raise the Moor.

All people, with few exceptions, worked in the village mostly on the farms.

There was a school. Mr. Willis was headmaster and he was assisted by Mrs. Willis and an infant teacher. It was a church school and most of the boys were in the choir, Mr. Willis being the choir master and organist.

The vicar was Mr. Collinson and everybody was expected to go to church on Sunday night and morning. There was a small Methodist chapel.

1914 WAR CAME

Reverend Tunbridge took over as Vicar.



Many of the young men were called up. Army officers came round and commandeered those horses suitable for army duties – with no payment!

Each family had to be more self-sufficient, i.e. growing their own vegetables, fattening and killing their own pig for bacon etc., keeping hens, catching rabbits (and many did a bit of poaching)! Pigeons were a delicacy. Men used to shoot rooks, but only the breast could be eaten.

Most folks made their own bread and cakes, etc, and wine and beer. Two bakers did come into the village – Bartons from Weston and Jackson's from Norwell. They had horse drawn vans. Mr Craig, who came for Jackson's, always stopped at The Dovecote Inn until it was up to the horse to take him home!



Laxton School Choir

Back row Harold Sampson, Billy Bamford (organ blower), Frank Moody, Bernard Atkins, Dick Cocking, Sam Bennett

Seated L-R Sam Moody (George Burkett, Richard Clark – church warden) Mr Willis (organist/choir master and schoolmaster), James Price, GB Atkins, Jack Cook

Front row Fred Sampson, Steve Marrison, Walter Laughton, Tom Marrison, Eric Sampson

Winter Vaccinations

We have barely said farewell to the heat of summer and it is time to think once more about winter vaccinations. As we were told by the GP who used to write for us, 'You may not feel your age, but your immune system is the age your birth certificate suggests' and it needs a bit of help. This is especially true for anyone who is classed as 'vulnerable', including older people and pregnant women.

Flu vaccinations are available from your surgery from 1st October for those eligible and the programme will run until the end of March 2026 to ensure the maximum take-up. Most local surgeries are offering them in clinics on specific dates and are taking bookings.

You are eligible for a free vaccination if you:

- are aged 65 or over (inc. those who will be 65 by 31 March 2026)
- have certain long-term health conditions
- are pregnant
- live in a care home
- are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance
- live with someone who has a weakened immune system
- Frontline health and social care workers can also get a flu vaccine through their employer.

Most eligible people can get the flu vaccine from 1 October 2025.

You could get a flu vaccine from:

- your GP surgery
- a pharmacy that offers NHS flu vaccination
- your maternity service (if you're pregnant)
- your care home (if you live in a care home)
- your employer (if you're a health or social care worker)

You can book online now

If you're aged 18 or over, you can book a flu vaccination appointment at a pharmacy online or in the NHS App now.

Vaccination appointments will take place from 1 October 2025.

You can have the flu vaccine at the same time as other vaccines such as the COVID-19 and shingles vaccines.

It's not usually given at the same time as the RSV vaccine, but you can have them together if a doctor or nurse thinks it's needed.

The COVID-19 vaccination

You can get the winter COVID-19 vaccine if you:

- are aged 75 or over (including those who will be 75 by 31 January 2026)
- are aged 6 months to 74 years and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment
- live in a care home for older adults
- Have health conditions and treatments that mean you're eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.



If you're eligible for the winter COVID-19 vaccine you can book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment online or in the NHS App now.

Vaccination appointments will take place from 1 October 2025. You do not need to wait for an invitation before booking an appointment.

The vaccinations will be available at:

- walk-in COVID-19 vaccination sites
- local services, e.g. a community pharmacy / GP surgery
- your care home (if you live in a care home)

The COVID-19 vaccine is given as an injection and most people only need 1 dose. You can have the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as the flu vaccine or RSV vaccine.

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BRANSBY
— HORSES —

If you would like to help Bransby Horses, please save stamps from your mail. Cut them off with about 1cm all around and pass to Sandra Clarke who collects them for Bransby. You can also pass to Jean in Laxton or Joy in Egmont.

Laxton WI Bingo Night

Come and join us for a
fun evening

Friday, October 24th, 2025
Laxton Village Hall

Tickets £8

**Including bingo books and
refreshments**

Tickets from:

Brenda 870541 or Sandra 870624.

Laxton History Group



In September we were very pleased to welcome Chris Weir from Nottingham to speak about Jesse and Florence Boot.

Chris was surprised to be approached by the Boots company to write a book about their history. This is now out of

print but available on-line.

The story began with Jesse, born in 1850 to Mary, wife of John, a farm labourer, who had moved into the city to seek a better life. He used his knowledge of plants and herbal remedies learned from his mother to create a business and began to make and sell them. Young Jesse wrote of going barefoot into the fields to gather the ingredients so that his one and only pair of shoes were not damaged.

His father died when Jesse was aged 10 and his mother insisted he stayed at school to the leaving age of 13. He worked in the business and, when given it by his mother aged 21, he continued to develop and expand it.

A driven man, he wanted more branches, bigger buildings and more products. He was not afraid to invest. With the backing of his bank manager he developed a huge business aided by Florence, the wife he met while at church during a rare holiday on Jersey. She was the daughter of a shopkeeper and knew all about book keeping etc.

Both had sound instincts to match their skill sets which enabled them to expand their products through diversification and advertising on a grand scale. They were devout people with a social conscience and believed in trying to look after their many staff. They promoted education, building a college on their factory site and having libraries in their shops and they introduced staff trips to Skegness, Derbyshire and even a convoy of trains to London.

When the business was sold to an American, Jesse used his money to develop the University of Nottingham on his own land. He also bought land along the banks of the Trent and gave it to the city as green space for the public. Jesse's son, another John, went to America as a senior director and kept an eye on the business. He bought back shares cheaply during the Depression, eventually becoming the major shareholder and owning it once again.

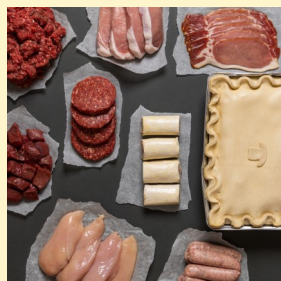
Everyone enjoyed this entertaining and informative talk.

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OCTOBER CONGRATULATIONS

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

The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Anne Dutton (94), Sophie Beckitt, Sylvia Rose, Mark & Neil Hennell, Jem Hill, Anna Hill, William Hill, Ruby Doyle, Lee Doyle, Joy Allison and Bridget Smedley.

The anniversary roll call for this month is: Terry and Jacqueline Smith and Tim & Heidi Keay.

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

Brenda



News from the Museums of Tuxford

The return to school has made us think about the value of education and how we have progressed. The Walks of Life Museum founder, Dorothy Harrison, really appreciated what a privilege it is to be able to go to school and the advantages it gives you in life.

Her mother was a teacher at East Markham school. Dorothy taught in Kenya and Papua New Guinea. Education wasn't available to all in this country until the 1870 Education Act, when free, compulsory non-religious education was introduced. Previously many schools were started by private individuals, managed by trustees and had charitable aims. It wasn't until 1944 that the school leaving age was raised to 15.



Tuxford was a noticeable centre for education with both the Read Building (1669) and the Chantry taking fee paying pupils and offering free places.

The CH.I.N.K.. Charity shop in Tuxford funds their school in Kenya today. We have a dedicated area at the museum reflecting on the work they do. We are always fascinated to find out the story behind the objects in museums. Recently friends of the Walks of Life Museum, Betty and John, have donated a child's school desk. This has helped us to create a display of school days when ink, pencils and exercise books were the means of

recording your work. Now we have computers and the internet which has expanded our access to knowledge, and opportunities.

EVENT: Saturday 18th October Owling Mad and stalls. Find out about owls plus a chance to hold one. Have your photo taken with one: £2.00. The owls will be at the museum 10.30 am to 12.30 am. Stalls 10am to 3pm. Anyone who would like to have a stall £10.00 please contact Diane - details below

Museums help us to remember the traditions and skills from the past and use them to complement our lives today. The saying "don't throw the baby out with the bath water" has an historic origin. In the 16th century people would have one bath a year in May in a barrel



Some Polite Requests

- ⇒ **Would all horse riders please keep to the road** when riding through the village. The footpath is for people to walk on and recently horses have left the path and the grass very muddy and potentially slippery for pedestrians. Thank you
- ⇒ **Please do not put your bagged up dog poo in the litter bin near the phone box.** It is not a closed bin and if it is full of poo bags it creates a very unpleasant smell for people using the bench. There is a dedicated dog poo bin near the Village Hall, which is emptied appropriately.

after the long winter. Father would go first baby being last when the water would be very dirty. This expression was often used to warn people against hasty decisions

EVENT The Museum of the Horse has its on-line Auction on Sunday 19th October via the saleroom.com Whilst there will be quite a lot of equestrian items including the collection of the late Jim Meads, there is a lovely large handmade vintage French faience glen plate. The wonderful hand glazes are lovely to touch. They sell new for over £200. Why not come and pick up a bargain. There will be cricket, golf and aviation prints, paintings, military items, a large artist's easel, furniture and even get fit equipment. Please come along and support us. Many items are being sold to support the museum.

For further details see contact details below. The auction can be viewed on line at the-saleroom.com under the Museum of the Horse. Lots on display Friday 10am to 4 pm Saturday 10am -1 pm.

Why not visit the Museum at the same time? There are always new things to see.

Museum of the Horse / Gallery:

Tel: 01777 838234 curator@museumofthehorse.co.uk

Walks of Life Museum

Tel: 01777 872776 dianehunt08@btinternet.com



The Longest Yarn 2

This much anticipated exhibition of the knitted depiction of Britain at War at Southwell Minster did not disappoint.

The experience began well with the on-line booking system. Gone were the trailing queues and serried ranks patiently waiting in the pews in the nave.



Instead we were welcomed in and were able to immediately see the first of the 80 display cabinets. Without the pressure of feeling you were stopping others from getting in, it was easier to linger over the

works and marvel at the skill and creativity which had produced them.

‘Dig for Victory’ was a much quoted slogan and gardens were turned into vegetable patches. Many of the little scenes showed houses and all of them had their gardens with a brilliantly executed selection of veg - cauliflowers, carrots, potatoes.



There was tremendous attention to detail. The houses had pictures on the walls, the maps and command desks had exactly the markings we have grown used



to seeing in documentary depictions of the events. In scenes with groups of soldiers, there were different hair styles and eye colours. You had to wonder if any of them were the knitters' friends and relatives. The Enigma Machine was instantly recognisable and it was impressive to see that as much effort had been put into knitting the elements of the workings behind the front panel as the front itself.



Royalty were depicted, visiting bomb sites and speaking to the people. Princess Elizabeth was working on a vehicle engine and at the end, there was a

balcony scene at Buckingham Palace with very recognisable characters.

At the end, we were taken through the celebrations when peace came again.



There were street parties with amazing arrays of cakes and other goodies; assorted children watched over by their parents and even a lady going around with a tea pot to refill cups.



There were half a dozen full sized reproductions of named individuals. These were also knitted to show their uniforms and associated artefacts. They included Piper Bill Millin, whose son had been to speak movingly of his father's exploits on the beach on D-Day, playing his bagpipes. One of the display scenes was a reproduction of one of the photos John Millin showed, with his father playing to a group of soldiers relaxing ahead of their embarkation for the D-Day Landing.

THIS MONTH'S SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

28th September

10.00 am Walesby Harvest Rev Vaughan

3rd October Friday

7:00 pm Moorhouse Harvest Festival Heather B

5th October

10:30 am Laxton HC Rev Margaret

4:00 pm Wellow EP Heather B

12th October

10:30 am Kirton Harvest Rev Alistair

19th October

10:00 am Walesby HC Rev Vaughan

10:30 am Wellow HC Rev Margaret

26th October

No services

2nd November

10:30 am Laxton HC Rev Margaret

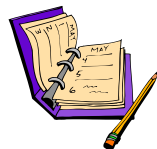
4:00 pm Wellow EP Heather B

9th November

10:30 Laxton Group Remembrance Service



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



OCTOBER

<i>Mon 6th</i>	<i>Chop & Chat</i>
<i>Weds 8th</i>	<i>WI</i>
<i>Weds 15th</i>	<i>History Group</i>
<i>Sat 18th</i>	<i>Coffee Morning</i>

Forward Planning:

Nov: 28th *Village Hall Quiz*

Regular Events:

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

Copy Date for NOVEMBER 2025 edition:
12 noon, 14th October 2025

*Please let us have your contributions in good time. This time we need to make it **an earlier date of 14th because of holiday and half term**. 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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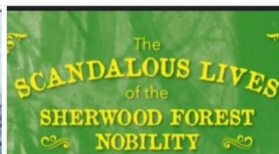
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Laxton WI



I'm pretty sure that if you asked about Laxton WI's monthly meetings the last words you would expect to hear would be "debauchery, drunkenness, licentiousness, adultery, wild and immoral behavior". But if you had come along on 10th September you would have heard of little else.



Adrian Gray

It was all Adrian Gray's fault. He had come along to give us a talk on 'Romance and Disaster – the Unfortunate Marriages of the Sherwood Aristocracy'.

Adrian himself is very far from the subject of his talk, he is a fine historian and his work is amazingly well researched and explained. He speaks well, with a dry wit which did much to highlight the downright peculiar things these wealthy and entitled people from our past got up to.

As Adrian pointed out, they were of course the original 'idle rich', pampered by servants doing all the chores, money to spend on whatever they wanted, and the time to indulge in thrills and adventure - and indulge themselves they did!

Under Adrian's all-seeing gaze, the stiff superior beings seen in the formal portraits which adorn what is left of their stately estates step down in their finery and become very flawed human beings.

Divorce was not an easy option then and entailed involvement with the higher courts and much bribery of the Lords to persuade them to pass the law which would allow the specific divorce. In fact, there had not been a divorce in England since 1540 until 1670.

The servants employed in these families became vital witnesses in the divorce courts, revealing how much entertainment the "carrying on" had provided. One gleeful group described how, when they couldn't get a good enough view through the keyhole of the locked room, they had



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decamped to the patio outside and viewed through the windows. Beats television, I suppose!

Is the name Pierrepont familiar? You know – the Thoresby lot? Well, in the 1600s Henry Pierrepont found a suitable marriage for his 17-year-old daughter Anne to her second cousin John Manners of Belvoir Castle. He was Lord Roos, in line to become Earl of Rutland. Then it was downhill all the way. Lady Anne Roos was described as 'disagreeable' and took to taking extended sojourns in London, when she belittled her husband and said of him: "He gives himself to drinking" and "One may as well raise a house as raise him".

She returned after one lengthy stay pregnant, when it was obvious her husband had not been involved. Her mother-in-law arrived to take charge and christened the child Ignotus, meaning 'unknown'. Lord Roos carried on drinking and started divorce proceedings and Lady Roos carried on carousing, finally running off to Ireland with one of her lovers. She eventually had three other children without the benefit of her husband.

So it went on, and none of the names we know escaped - Clumber, Welbeck, Rufford, Bestwood and of course Newstead. All had their rip-roaring scandals, and not just once. It seemed that the inebriated, hedonistic and profligate of both sexes lived life to the full.

Adrian's extremely well constructed talk was beautifully illustrated and raised many a chuckle, especially the cartoon of the infamous Argyll Rooms in London, a well-known place of debauchery. It was obvious the crowds were not there to discuss the state of the economy.

Adrian has published a book called 'The Scandalous Lives of the Sherwood Forest Nobility', a very good read.

Next month we are having our annual party. We will be dining out at the Fox in Kirton and we will be entertained by Maxine Gardner. The evening starts at 7pm and promises to be most enjoyable, though obviously a little more sedate than our illustrious aristocracy of the past.

It's Bingo Night on the 24th October, and in November there will be a Christmas wreath demonstration with cheese and wine and other light refreshments.

On 12th December we are having a chocolatier demonstration with mulled wine, mince pies and other light refreshments

Why not come along? Non members are welcome. The price is £5 per event. Both events start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. If you would like to join us for either or both of the above events please contact Brenda Noble on 870541 for refreshments numbers or further details

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Thank you Neil

Mike Manning sent this picture, taken in early September with the following note:

Despite all the dry weather Neil Randall has managed to keep the field looking like this, a miracle!!

Spot on Neil and thanks for all your hard work.



Group Oil Order

Trying to find the best date for an oil order is very much guesswork these days. It is still up and down. At this moment, when nobody is needing any, it has been drifting down. I am keeping my fingers crossed that by the time of our November order today's upward turn will not have turned into a trend. Overall the price remains around 55p inc VAT. To put this in context, it is about 4p per litre less than at the corresponding time last year, so maybe we should be thankful for that.

The next order will be timed to try to catch a good price and to see everyone stocked up before the worst of the cold weather and before the inevitable Christmas rise when everyone realises they will be using more. It would be helpful to have indicative orders by the end of October, as the later we can leave it, the longer that stock will last. The following order will be Jan / Feb depending on weather and need.

If you want to be part of the November pre-Christmas order, please ensure you are on the list and send in an idea of you order by the end of October to give me an idea of how pressing it is. You can contact me on my personal email if you have it or on **oil@openfield.org.uk** .

Joy

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Dukeries Singers

On Saturday, 6th September 2025, the Lifespring Centre in Ollerton came alive with the sound of music as The Dukeries Singers presented an unforgettable evening of song, spirit, and community.

Under the inspiring direction of Musical Director John Pope and accompanied by the ever-talented Susan Bennett, the choir took audiences on a musical journey spanning genres, generations, and emotions. From the uplifting opening number "Rise Up with Music" to the soul-stirring finale featuring selections from Les Misérables, this concert was a feast for the ears and the heart.

The program was a rich tapestry of beloved classics and contemporary gems, including "Hallelujah", "What a Wonderful World", "Anthem", and "For the Beauty of the Earth". Listeners were enchanted by the gentle beauty of "The Seal Lullaby", moved by the powerful "You Raise Me Up", and delighted by the jazzy charm of "Rags to Ritz", "Don't Get Around Much Anymore", and "Blue Moon".

A quartet comprising Penny Woolley, Ann-Marie Argile, Jane Richardson and Elizabeth Winter performed a truly wonderful, emotional arrangement of "I Know Him so Well".

Adding even more sparkle to the evening, the concert featured special rock and roll performances by guitarist Ashley Argile, whose artistry brought warmth and depth to every note, and contralto Sarah Prothero, whose voice captivated. The magical tones of the Edwinstowe Hand Bell Ringers rang out, adding a unique and festive touch to the evening.

But this concert was more than just a musical event; it was a celebration of community and compassion. Proceeds will go in aid of the local food bank, supporting those in need and reminding us of the power of music to bring people together for a greater good.

Whether you were there as a long-time supporter of The Dukeries Singers or discovering them for the first time, this was a wonderful evening. Everyone enjoyed the magic and left with hearts full.

If you would like to become a member of The Dukeries Singers, please don't hesitate to call **John Banbury** on **07759 086132** or email john@asherwood.co.uk.





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Laxton & Moorhouse
Community Coffee Morning
All are welcome for coffee and cakes
Laxton Village Hall 10:30am - 12:30
(3rd Saturday in the month)
18th October
November (LHG Craft Fayre)
13th December

November Open Field

Please will anyone planning to send in a contribution note that the copy date for the November magazine will be October 14th. This is a couple of days early due to holidays and the upcoming half term. We want to be able to get it printed before the school closes for half term.

The magazine after that will be the usual combined December / January edition, so please have a think about what you plan to be doing before the end of January and into early February so that you can publicise it in good time

Free Talk by Adrian Gray

Those who have enjoyed hearing Adrian Gray speak at both the History Group and WI might like to know that he is giving a free talk on 7th October between 7.30 and 9pm at The Well, Hospital Road, Retford.

The talk marks the publication of 'Restless Souls, Global Footprints' and Adrian will give an illustrated talk covering some key topics including great Church leaders from Notts, the anti-slavery and missionary movements, Christians and social reform...and more.

Booking is required to secure your place by emailing:

sales@bookwormretford.co.uk

Egmanton 25th Craft & Produce Show

It was amazing after such a difficult season to see such a wonderful display at the 25th annual Craft and Produce Show.



When the doors opened, the knitted class dominated the general view with a large blanket hung on the wall and an entire knitted farmyard beneath it. Unsurprisingly these two entries were later judged joint winners.



The garden produce and flowers lined the walls and occupied more space than ever before. They gave way to the craft classes and children's' entries

In the centre of the Hall were the cookery and preserves classes boasting some tasty looking cakes. The photography classes, also situated centrally, had attracted a good entry of good quality work and was in danger of outgrowing its table. When the doors closed to entries, there were a total of 261 including some impressive weeds displayed outside by the entrance. This tally was just one short of the show record of 262.

There were some lovely apples and a bumper entry of tomatoes. It seems to have been a good year for fruit as there was a great display, including some bunches of juicy looking grapes. The harvest basket class was introduced recently and the Hall has bought a cup for the winner to recognise the amount of work which goes into producing these entries. The variety and quality of the different produce in them is quite staggering.



The most outstanding flower entry was a beautiful vase of mixed flowers, while Jackie Whall took the certificate for the most outstanding item in the craft classes with a superb picture she had drawn of her young grandson.

The Whall family will need a new shelf to accommodate all the trophies they took home as, in addition to Jackie's craft trophy, Richard was particularly successful, winning four trophies. The junior winners had to

Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

Date	Bonus Ball No.	Winner
23/08/25	5	Jackie & Ian
30/08/25	16	Janet C
06/09/25	24	Ian & Rebecca
13/09	10	Stuart R

We now have 5 numbers available (25, 30, 35, 40, 48, 51, 53 & 57). If you would like to join or indeed, if anyone would like an additional number. All proceeds help support the Sports Field and facilities.

A weekly prize of £25 is up for grabs. The winning number is the bonus ball number drawn in the Saturday Lotto draw. If a free number is drawn, the prize rolls over to the following week.

Please note that Helen Pick at High Street Farm has taken over all matters concerning the Bonus Ball. If you have any enquiries please contact her rather than Helen Sheard, who is no longer involved. We are pleased to welcome Helen P as a new contributor.

Thank you for your support,

Helen Pick

be enlisted to hold some of them for him for the photos.

Prizes were presented by Cllr Sylvia Michael. Rebecca Lee was particularly congratulated for entering the junior classes in her final qualifying year, and also entering some of the adult craft classes, where she did very well, winning one and placing in others.

The trophy winners were:

Vegetables. (Hunt Trophy), Fruit & Vegetables, Violet Cup, Harvest Basket Trophy -Richard Whall

Flowers & Floral Art - Georgina Batty, Cookery & Preserves - Elizabeth Banks, Most outstanding Craft - Jackie Whall, Photography - Joy Allison, Teenagers' Cash Award - Rebecca Lee, Egmonton Cup (7-12yrs) -Efren Outram-Tate, Children's Shield (under 7yrs) -Albin Outram-Tate.

This 25th show took place a little after the 25th anniversary of the first as Covid caused the cancellation of the 2020 event. The first show was the brainchild of Elizabeth Banks and she has been the driving force behind all the succeeding events. Village Hall Chairman, John Bower thanked her for all her years of service and presented her with a certificate of recognition from the Hall Committee.

The 26th Show will take place on Saturday 5th September 2026.

Festival of Bird Art, 2025 Bakewell

The 2025 Festival, which incorporates the British Bird Carving Championship, lived up to the standards of recent years. A slight change to the layout made the exhibits easier to see in individual detail.

There was the usually impressive collection of works by the advanced level carvers. How they manage to achieve such detail in the staging as well as their birds is a mystery.

There seemed to be a strong group of Novices exhibiting this year. All new members start at Novice level and earn their right to progress to Intermediate and ultimately Advanced through their success. The strength displayed suggested the next few years could see some new names coming to the fore.

This is a pastime with American origins. This explains the rather confusing practice of awarding blue rosettes to the winners - think 'Blue Riband'. The second place receives a red rosette. In the Intermediate and Novice classes they use gold, silver and bronze, which is much more intuitive.

The winner of the title of British Champion was Richard Rossiter with his Ring Ouzel and the Runner-up was Ton Visser from the Netherlands with his Guillemot in breeding plumage. Ton had previously been a winner and his work is most impressive. Richard's bird showed excellent reproduction of the feathers and included a





detailed sample habitat for the bird to stand on.



A class with a local connection is that for Innovative work. The late David Rose was born and grew up in Laxton. At the time of his early death, David was one of the leading advanced carvers and was becoming known for his innovative work. His widow, Chriss, supported the idea of a class in his memory to encourage people to take a different approach to depicting birds. The winning 'bird' this year showed a bird of prey, perhaps an eagle, balanced on a gun stock, with similar stocks for its legs. The body and wings were loosely connected, but none the less well carved than conventional work.

The event will return on the second weekend of September 2026.

OSSINGTON HARVEST SUPPER

SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2025

6.30 pm for 7 pm in the HUT

BYO Drinks (glasses provided)

Tickets £12 for a Ploughman's Supper

from Sally 07815 917780

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Citizens Advice gives advice on Scam Awareness.

Our annual scam awareness week is coming up this autumn. Below we have some examples of common scams you may come into contact with and how to identify a scam.

It's important to take the time to check something is legitimate before clicking on links or taking the steps suggested by the scam.

A current scam is a text message or email suggesting you need to 'sign up' for your winter fuel allowance this year. You may receive a message to follow the link to 'sign up for the £300 winter fuel allowance.' This is a scam. The government will not contact you this way regarding your winter fuel allowance and you should take the steps to block the sender and delete the message.

It's important to always keep an eye out for scams - they can and do affect anyone. It might be a scam if:

- it seems too good to be true – for example, a holiday that's much cheaper than you'd expect
- someone you don't know contacts you unexpectedly
- you suspect you're not dealing with a real company – for example, if there's no postal address
- you've been asked to transfer money quickly
- you've been asked to pay in an unusual way – for example, by iTunes vouchers or through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union
- you've been asked to give away personal information like passwords or PINs
- you haven't had written confirmation of what's been agreed

If you've been scammed, there are organisations you should report the scam to.

Don't feel embarrassed about reporting a scam – scammers are clever and scams can happen to anyone.

Reporting a scam helps track down and stop scammers. This

prevents other people from being scammed.

You should:

- protect yourself from further risks
- gather all the details of the scam
- report the scam to us
- report the scam to other organisations

You can contact our consumer helpline to report a scam on:
0808 223 1133.

Action Fraud can get the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau to investigate scams. They'll also give you a crime reference number, which can be helpful if you need to tell your bank you've been scammed.

The quickest way to report is online at their website: **<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime>**

If you do not have internet access you can call them on:
0300 123 2040 Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm.

If you got a scam text message

Forward the message to 7726. It will go to your phone provider. They'll investigate who sent the message and might be able to block or ban the sender.

If you got a scam email

Forward the email to **report@phishing.gov.uk**. It will go to the National Cyber Security Centre - they might be able to stop other people being scammed.

If you think someone might be trying to scam you, it's important to act straight away. If you need further advice and support you can call the Citizens Advice consumer service on **0808 223 1133**.


If you need any advice or support we are here to help. All of our sessions are drop in and there is no appointment needed. If you use the internet you can find out details of all of our locations on our website **www.ca-centralnotts.org.uk** or alternatively please give us a call on **0300 5610330** to speak to us over the telephone.

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Milton Mausoleum

HERITAGE WEEKEND

On 13/14th September we held our first heritage event with a 2-day exhibition of historical facts, documents, photographs and artefacts from villagers' recollections of village life in this area.

Over 200 visitors came through the doors of the Mausoleum and were rewarded with many

fascinating displays provided by families and businesses within the parish of Markham Clinton. Tours of the monument room featuring the statue of Georgiana, the wife of the 4th Duke of Newcastle, were provided by our volunteer stewards and proved to be a popular feature. Refreshments were available completing a great weekend. Thank you to our visitors for your support and generosity.



Please contact us if you are interested in joining us as a volunteer and we will be pleased to discuss this with you.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT in the Mausoleum Sat. Dec. 6th at 3pm
Free Entry

Our audience list is now at full capacity. There will be entertainment from guests and some audience participation which is always eagerly anticipated! Donations are gratefully received. Visitors will share in mulled wine, mince pies and we also have a seasonal raffle. The final draw of this year's 100 Lottery will take place too. We are looking forward to our traditional start to the Christmas season.

SUNDAY OPENINGS from 2pm – 4pm

Our Sunday openings at the Mausoleum closed at the end of September and will be re-opening at the beginning of May 2026, but group visits can be arranged for any day with prior arrangement. The magnificent statue of the Duchess Georgiana is worth seeing.

For all enquiries: please contact Gill 01777 811358 or Jenny 01777 811219, 07791527569 or email milton.mausoleum@outlook.com

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

Egmanton Village Hall

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk / 01777 871171

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

- ♦ **Yoga** – with Karen Baker Mondays, 7pm - 8.15pm.
Email karenbaker321@outlook.com mobile **07399 669380**
- ♦ **Pilates** - Thursdays from 5:30pm - 6.30pm with Holly Rye.
Contact **07415436001** Email holly-rye@hotmail.co.uk
- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ♦ **Coffee Morning:** The second Saturday of the month from 10 - 12 .
Next will be **on October 11th**. All welcome.

All events appear on the web site - see above

Reporting Potholes



A reminder about the pothole reporting contact details are:

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

Or ring Customer Services on 0300 500 8080

Laxton Defibrillator

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

Booking Laxton Village Hall

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

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

Useful Contact Details

Defibrillator Contacts:

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

Police

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

PC Gary Sipson 07525 226575 or 101 x 800 7673

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

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

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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

Laxton Harvest in Pictures

