

Open Field

£1

October 2024



Decorating the church for Harvest, Laxton September 2024

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



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Open Field

www.openfield.org.uk

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

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

Contributions for the next edition to be with the Editor by **NOON ON 16th OCTOBER PLEASE. Earlier preferred.** You can send in your contributions at any time.

Church News from our Churchwarden

Harvest Weekend

It's Monday morning as I write this article for the 'Open Field'. Our Harvest Festival weekend of celebrations has just finished for another year.



It began on Wednesday, starting with decorating the church which continued on Thursday. I would like to say a big thank you to all those who went in on Thursday night. The church really did look lovely as always. As soon as you opened the door you got a real smell of harvest.

Celebrations continued on Friday night with our Harvest service, conducted by Rev. Alistair, which was followed by supper. Over 50 people made their way from church to the Village Hall for a sit down hot meal and puds. Thanks to the girls in the kitchen for all their hard work. It was nice for us oldies to



have a rest this year.

Thanks to everyone else who contributed.

Saturday was competition time.

Unfortunately, we seemed to be down on entries this year, although it's been a good year for apples. The judging took place on Sunday morning. Thanks to Margaret M for judging for us once again.

Our Sunday service was taken by our Lay Reader, Heather, and Graham played the organ.

In the past we have shared the proceeds of the harvest auction with a charity, but



this year we continued with the idea of a box for people to add donations to in the form of non-perishable food. This was taken to the Well Spring Church at Ollerton for the Food Bank. They were very grateful and also happy to accept a box of cooking apples which came as a donation.

After the service came the prize giving for those who had won classes in the competition.

We ended the weekend with the traditional auction of produce from the competition classes and any other donations. This is always good fun, thanks to the banter which goes with the bidding. Many thanks to Mike Jackson for taking on the role of auctioneer once again. The auction raised the sum of £122.80 for the church.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Janet and Jean for all their hard work in many areas. over the harvest weekend.

Brenda

Harvest Supper



We had a great response for our Harvest Supper this year, with 54 people coming along.

Preparations began on Friday afternoon with the Hall being set out with two long tables. It didn't take long to get ready, thanks to the

efforts of the ever-present Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees, Dave Sheard and some impromptu help from a young volunteer from across the road who popped by on his bicycle and came in to lend a hand.

It wasn't long before the kitchen was full of the smell of the food thanks to Amanda and Kate and the tables filled up as everyone made their way up from the church.

It was an evening of tasty food and happy chatter. Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way. We raised a total of £281 for church funds.

Get Well Soon

We hope Brenda Noble is soon feeling fully fit after not being very well over the Harvest weekend.

We also send best wishes to anyone else who is continuing to recover from illness, has been unwell or who might be about to go into hospital.

Thank You - Johnny Godson

We would like to thank everyone for the kind words and gestures and the support we have received since our father Johnny's passing. They want everyone to know that it has been really appreciated.

Jo and Andrew

Coffee Morning Corner

The coffee mornings locally are ready and waiting to welcome you in October.

1st Saturday	15 Kirton Park, Kirton	10:30am	None in Oct
2nd Saturdays	Egmanton Village Hall	10 - 12	12/10/24
3rd Saturdays	Laxton Village Hall,	10:30 - 12:30	19/10/24
4th Saturdays	Ossington Hut,	11 - 1	26/10/24

Advertising in 'Open Field'

Standard 1/6 page box: £30 p.a. (colour) £15 p.a. (B&W).

Larger sizes pro rata, e.g. £45 p.a. for 1/2 page (B&W)

Please contact advertising@openfield.org.uk or call **01777 871506** for details and info on web pages / links.

Nature Notes from Moorhouse

Paul Longmuir is back this month with more observations on the natural world around his home in Moorhouse

Where does the time go? Where did the summer go? Did it actually ever arrive?.....

Well, at the time of writing in early September, I can confirm it's been a busy, productive and mostly abundant summer for wildlife in our little part of Moorhouse! The swallows raised two broods and have now left for the long journey to the continent of Africa.

The house martins are still here and one nest out of four is still busy raising a third brood. Amazing. The moorhen managed to raise 4 young at the third time of trying and we also had a family of 9 mallard ducks raised in the pond. Lots of varieties of dragon flies were visible throughout the summer. It has been fantastic to watch these prolific hunters whizzing around the garden.



This year also saw a resident hedgehog. It was so good to see it in the evening scuttling around and hopefully eating and making a small dent in the ridiculous amount of slugs and snails that have been around this year!

Please drive carefully around the lanes. One of the main reasons for the 30% decline in our beautiful native hedgehog is that they are getting squished.

Most people may be aware that this has been a poor year for butterflies, bees and other small insects. Once again the reasons are complex and are predominantly, but not exclusively down to the very

wet and cool start to spring/early summer. This collapse in numbers was very noticeable, just a walk around the garden and hedgerows saw flowers empty, even the “butterfly magnets”, buddleia and lavender were silent and still; very disconcerting at the time.

Luckily later in the season I noticed a significant bounce back, with bumble bees, honey bees and most butterfly species. That said I have not seen a single common or holly blue this year, and all of my solitary bee hotels that were busy in the spring and were full last year are virtually empty, which is sad and concerning.



I have had some fantastic bird sightings this summer and many barn owl and red kite spectacles. This was topped off by a pair of peregrine falcons flying over, no doubt en route to find a home. The reaction of the pigeons was spectacular - flying and darting away at full speed just at the sight of them flying overhead.



As Autumn approaches, the hedgerows are filling up with vital food for our overwintering and visiting birds. This year looks like a good year with brambles loaded with blackberries and the elder bushes teeming with berries.

I've noticed also that most of our fruit trees are bristling with apples and plums. Please don't feel the need to tidy up windfall as they are an important food source for birds throughout the autumn and winter.



Village Hall News

Luncheon Club, now called “Laxton Chop & Chat”

Please come and join us, to prepare and cook a meal together.

All the food is provided, and the costs are covered by the grant from Newark & Sherwood District Council, so just bring yourself and a potato peeler. They will be from 11 am to 2 pm, on the 1st Monday of the month from October to March

- * 7th October (Roast Chicken dinner)
- * 4th November (Roast pork dinner)
- * 2nd December (Christmas dinner)
- * 6th January 2025
- * 3rd February 2025
- * 3rd March 2025

Don't let travelling be a problem, we should be able to sort something out.

Everyone is welcome, although numbers are limited, please contact Dave Sheard to book a place or for more information.

Fitness Class

Firstly, apologies due to circumstances beyond our control, the dance fitness class will now be a Pilates class for a least the first 3 sessions.

Thursday evenings between 6.30pm and 7.30pm

10th October, 17th October, 31st October, 7th November, 14th November, 21st November

Bring a mat if you have one. A few are available.

Again, all of the costs are covered by the grant for these trial sessions

Places are limited. Please book a place with Dave Sheard

07941 625 761



Wi-Fi Hotspot

As we go to print, the new Wi-Fi hotspot at Laxton Village Hall is up and running. All of the information to access it is on the notice board outside the village hall.

Please spread the word, especially to visitors, who need to access the internet whilst in the village, but struggle to get a phone signal.

*Dave Sheard
Orchard View, 07941 625 761*

Egmanton Craft & Produce Show



At the 24th Egmanton Craft and Produce Show on 7th September, entries were reduced but the hall was a picture with the array of produce, floral exhibits and some excellent crafts. It was pleasing that the event was, once again, supported by friends from

surrounding villages. The tallest flower came from Laxton for the second year running! Well done Jean.

A new venture this year was encouraging those eligible for the children's classes to take part in the adult classes. It was rewarding to see that several of them had done so and that their efforts certainly stood up well to the adult competition, not only in the crafts, but with a very good baking entry as well. Congratulations to them all.



Winner of the 'Teenagers' cash award, introduced this year, was Isaac Smith, with his beautiful turned wooden bowl, entered in an adult class.

It was no surprise that Alison Barber won the 'most outstanding craft' prize for her beautifully made dress and matching bag. Nor that her husband, Peter, won the prize for the best harvest basket. This was also rewarded with a new trophy to reflect the amount of work that goes into producing a basket containing a wide range of garden produce.

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OCTOBER CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to everyone celebrating this month. The birthday roll of honour is: Anne D, Sophie Beckett, Sylvia, Mark & Neil Hennell, Jem Hill, Anna Hill, William Hill, Ruby Doyle, Lee Doyle, Joy Allison and Bridget Smedley.

Anniversaries this month: Terry and Jacqueline Smith and Tim & Heidi Keay. Congratulations also go to anyone else we don't have details of

Very best wishes to everyone mentioned. To anyone we may have missed, we wish you all a wonderful day and a happy and healthy year to come.

If you would like a mention for your special day, however long you have been associated with Laxton or Moorhouse, we would be happy to do so.



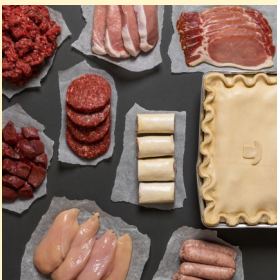
Brenda

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Laxton Rounders Club

On the evening of Tuesday 10th September, the ladies of Laxton Ladies Rounders Team enjoyed a tasty celebratory meal at the Italian Kitchen at the Carpenters Arms, Walesby.

Boasting some 29 players, the club is in the envious position of being able to enter two teams in the Sherwood League.



Laxton Rockets came second in the league this season to winners Worksop, whilst Laxton Spirits improved their league positioning from their debut placing last season by coming 7th out of nine league teams this year. The presentation evening saw various players receive season trophies.

Left: Laxton residents Helen Sheard, Angel Sheard, Linda Malloy, Rebecca Creighton

Front: Lesley Ruskin, a trophy winner for the second year running, Jessica Rose, Daisy Haigh

In the Spirits team:

Most improved players: Helen Sheard & Lily Cole

Captain Linda Malloy's choice of Player of the Year: Daisy Haigh

Co Captain Louise's choice of Player of the Year: Rosie B

The whole club's vote for Overall Player's Player: Rosie M

In the Rockets team:

Most improved players: Lesley Rudkin & Evie Davis

Captain Millie D's choice of Player of the Year: Rachel Garlic

Co captain Elizabeth Harrison Harriman's choice for Player of the Year: CJ Mac

Tour of Britain, Friday 6th September

On 6th September the elite cyclists competing in the Tour of Britain came to Nottinghamshire for the fifth time in eight years and once again could be seen on a road very near to local readers.

Moorhouse residents only had to go as far as the corner to see them streaming down from Ossington and heading up the hill to Egmanton.

Several locals joined the people gathered at Ossington, who included villagers, passing cyclists, who were naturally teased about joining in, and even a gentleman from Mansfield Woodhouse, who rightly worked out that he would have less of a crowd to battle with for a good view than at home.

There was a good crowd and most were also grateful to the ladies of Ossington who had prepared some delicious cakes and refreshments to sustain the eager spectators. In the circumstances they wisely decided that a 'take out' version would be appreciated, and some of the chairs also migrated temporarily from the Hut frontage along to the war memorial corner. Although this event replaced their coffee morning for the month, they had generously advertised that proceeds would be donated to the Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance. They combined these takings with those from the August Coffee Morning and gave a total donation of £150.

This month things return to normal on the **4th Saturday i.e. 26th October at 11am**. As well as coffee and home-made cake, there will be a bring and buy book stall to tempt you.

Ossington farmer, Chris Johnson, gets into the spirit of things with his cycle related creations and he outdid himself this year. You have to wonder if the sight of a cyclist flying over a hedge would spook the riders, or maybe warn them to take care on the sharp corner.

Locals are used to the procession preceding the riders. There seem to be more police cars and motorbikes than we see in the whole of the



rest of the year and lots of other vehicles. Even so, seeing a series of at least twelve motor cycle police take up position, swapping one to the next at the Ossington corner was a surprise.

This time there was a car with a public address system which helpfully announced that there was a breakaway group of 3 with a 1 minute 39 second advantage.

At that point Liam O'Brien (opposite) was third, but he soon forged ahead and was leading the race as they approached Collingham, where he won the sprint.

The television coverage made much of the strong headwind the riders battled through Ossington resulting in the advantage of the leading three being down to just over 1 minute at Egmonton where more villagers were waiting to cheer them.

By the time they had crossed the Trent at Dunham and were travelling the 8 miles down the other side to Collingham, the wind was at their backs. It changed everything, as predicted by the commentators, and the peloton took due advantage to reduce the lead to virtually nothing. Soon after the sprint Liam O'Brien was swallowed up by them and did not feature again.

The ultimate winner, in a heroic effort from a group of four, was Frenchman Paul Magnier (front right), who appeared totally spent at the finish in Newark. Pedalling the speed at which they passed as we watched, most mortals would be spent after 100m!

Once again it was a great spectacle to enjoy so very locally, with the added bonus of some fevered activity on the part of the people who fill in pot holes, making sure the cyclists didn't make the front pages for all the wrong reasons while passing through our area.



Laxton History Group



The September meeting of the Group fell too late to include a report, but as Open Field goes to press for October, we are looking forward to meeting



Danny Wells for the first time and hearing about the Victorians and the Christmas Scene.

Continuing with the 'preparing for Christmas' theme, next month we will be holding our popular Craft Fayre, with its great selection of gift ideas as well as games, a light lunch and a good chance to chat to friends and neighbours. This year it falls on November 16th, so please put the date in your diary.

Our final meeting before the winter break will be on November 20th, when the subject will be 'The River Trent and the

Countryside', with Keith Small as our speaker.

We welcome villagers and anyone interested in hearing more about the topics on the programme. There is no membership fee - just £3 at the door and attending once in the year makes you a member. We look forward to welcoming you.

Problems at Ossington Church

As you will see later in the magazine, forthcoming events in Ossington church have been relocated. We have heard that there has been a catastrophic explosion in the church following a routine boiler service. Luckily there has been no structural damage but a coating of black soot covers every surface.

The PCC have been introduced to two specialised cleaners by their insurers. The cleaning and redecoration of this Grade I listed building need expert care and it seems likely that the church will remain closed until Christmas. It's hoped that the Carol Service may celebrate the re-opening on Sunday 22nd December. We wish them well with all that must be done and hope for good news by Christmas.

Ancient Graffiti



This month we received a message from a resident of Egmonton with a query that local people may be able to help with. If anyone can help, please get in touch with Jean or Joy and we can arrange to pass on a message or to take up the kind invitation to go to see the writing.

In the early 1980's, my eldest son and I were renovating a small room off the main staircase, on the top floor of our house in Egmonton. The walls of this room had been lime washed over and over again since the farmhouse had been built, but the time had come to remove it and get the room back to the original plaster underneath.

And this is when it happened... On one wall, as I was applying a stabilising solution, lettering became visible, done by two girls left alone in this room. The first read 'Sarah Woodhead' scratched into what would have been wet plaster at the time. The second would have been another name and maybe the year, but both had been scratched out completely, as though this second girl had thought - 'I can do better than this.' And then she wrote...

'Ann Clark is my name,
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Lackston is my dwelling place,
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Sept. 29th. 1797.'

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And there it all lay hidden under lime until my son and I discovered it.

So... Does anyone in your history group know anything about Ann Clark and her friend Sarah Woodhead? After all this time I would be very interested to know; and if any of your members would like to see this ancient graffiti, my wife and I would be only too happy to show them.

The Longest Yarn at the Minster



Last month we reported that the knitted tribute to the D-Day events in WW II, known as 'The Longest Yarn', was to come to Southwell Minster in September. This was to be the first, and so far only venue at which it would be displayed in the UK.

It was widely advertised and featured on TV to great effect, attracting an entirely unforeseen number of visitors. On the first day 2000 people arrived and massive queues formed. People were coming long distances and the Minster had forms out for visitors to fill in their post code and to say if they had visited the Minster previously. Most of the entries had ticks against them as first time visitors.

The Minster sent out an email advising people not to come early and, if possible, to come later in the event's run. Staff at the exhibition said that, rather than dropping off as is normal with exhibitions, the attendance has continued to rise! No doubt helped by people who have seen it encouraging their friends to make the trip.

Some local people visited early and returned with tales of one or even two hours queueing, but saying it was worth every minute.

The crowds continued to arrive in their thousands. To their credit, Minster staff put in place a well organised queueing system. Once inside the doors, there were all the usual seats at the disposal of those queueing and well drilled volunteers guiding visitors to give everyone a fair chance. There was plenty to look at while waiting. The system meant that viewers were in single file as they passed the exhibit cabinets and each had an excellent view.



The display was shown in Perspex cases, which were cleverly shown on large trunks, which were clearly their transport containers. This neatly solved the twin problems of needing a level display surface for 80 tableaux and somewhere to store transit containers in one go!



The patience of those who queued was rewarded with a display unlike any other. There were so many levels on which to marvel at it. The prodigious amount of work (800 hours on one tableau alone); the skill of the knitters and a good number of embroiderers who had done the stitch work involved; the planning skills which had

enabled each scene to be made to a scale which would let it fit in a standard space and the constructional skills of those who had assembled all the tableaux. Reasons to admire were endless - and then there was the fact it was depicting the D-Day story with all it holds for us all. It was astonishing and a privilege to have been allowed to see it - and free!



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Those who were fortunate enough to see this magnificent work were rewarded with an unforgettable experience.

There was a guide book to the event which gave the story of each scene. Unfortunately, although 5,000 had been ordered, they

were supposed to be delivered in small quantities, but some days the delivery failed and other days the number was short. Not to mention the far greater than expected demand.

In Laxton we are now eagerly awaiting the February meeting of the History Group when the son of the D-Day piper on the beaches will be coming to speak about his exploits.

Knowing that this was in our programme, there was an added interest in looking out for the display featuring Piper Millin. In fact he appeared in three scenes, knitted with wool from his own favourite jumper.

The Longest Yarn

A THREAD THROUGH HISTORY

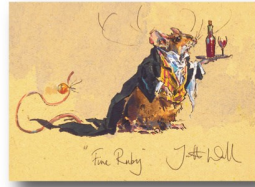
The Longest Yarn 2024 | D-Day - 80 years | 80 days | 1st 80 hours

80th ANNIVERSAIRE D-DAY & BATAILLE DE NORMANDIE

SAMPLE COPY

Please return to welcome desk





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Phone Richard on 07836 699911

Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

17/8/24	49	Joan & Roger
24/8/24	45	Jean & Keith
31/8/24	54	Simon Hill
7/9/24	02	Dave Sheard
14/9/24	54	Simon Hill

Since last month, Bonus Ball numbers **32** has recently become free, so we now have 6 of the 59 numbers available for anyone who would like an additional one or who would like to become a new member.

The available numbers are: **32, 34, 37, 51, 52, 53** As a reminder, all proceeds go to supporting the Laxton Sport and Recreation Field facilities.

British National Ploughing Championships & Country Festival

If you enjoy visiting Southwell Ploughing Match & Show, there is another event very locally soon after, with the added bonus of holding the British National Ploughing Championships.

This takes place on the Thoresby Estate, NG22 9EQ, on Saturday and Sunday 12th & 13th October.

There will be plenty for everyone:

Heavy horses, Steam ploughing engines, Vintage tractors and displays, Agricultural machinery and demonstrations, Trade stands and shopping opportunities, Country crafts and Champion ploughmen and ploughwomen.

Admission £15 on the day, children over 5 £2. Discounts available online in advance for early bookers: www.ploughmen.co.uk

Telephone: **01302 852469** or info@ploughmen.co.uk

Laxton History Group discovered a letter from a farm worker in the 1900s, frightened he might risk his employment by suggesting more advanced classes in ploughing matches to encourage ploughboys to build their skills. Lord Manvers was delighted and readily agreed. This event at Thoresby would no doubt have pleased him.

OCTOBER SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

6th October

10:30 am Laxton HC Rev. Margaret

4.00pm Wellow Harvest Rev. Margaret

13th October

10:30am Kirton Harvest Rev. Alistair

20th October

10.00am Walesby HC Rev. Vaughan

10:30am Wellow HC Rev. Margaret

27th October - No services

3rd November

10:30am Laxton HC Rev. Margaret

10th November

10:30am Wellow **Remembrance Group Service
with Rev. Alistair**

Advance Notice

1st December

10:30am Laxton Advent Sunday

15th December

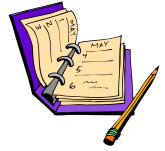
4:00 pm Laxton Carols and Readings



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

Mon 7th (Chicken)	Chop & Chat Luncheon Club
Weds 9th	WI
Thurs 10th	Exercise class (LVH) Pilates
Weds 16th	History Group
Sat 19th	Coffee Morning



Forward Planning:

November

Mon 4th	Chop & Chat Luncheon Club (Pork)
Thurs 7th	Exercise class (LVH) Pilates
Sat 16th	LHG Craft Fayre
Tues 26th	Parish Council
Fri 29th	Village Hall Quiz Night (note new date)

Regular Events:

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

**Copy Date for NOVEMBER 2024 edition:
12 noon, 16th OCTOBER 2024**

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



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It was a small but select group who met for Laxton WI's annual 'trip to the East'. Our guide, as last year, was Chitra who comes to teach us the flowing movements of Indian Dance. **SHE** is graceful and light, each step fluid and meaningful.

WE do our best.

With great patience from Chitra and much laughter from us, we learnt the basic steps of the song and the action which told the story. Wisely, Chitra slowed the music down until we felt at ease and more confident.

Gradually our excellent teacher increased the tempo until at last, with a lovely giggle, she cried 'Let's go for it!' and we set off at full speed.



Our audience of those members who were 'hors de combat' seemed impressed. Chitra seemed well pleased and said we'd done well.

Hopefully we will see Chitra again next year. She is an inspiring teacher and has as much fun as we do, as we beginners stumble our way through her beloved dances.

After the 'lesson' she gave a demonstration of the whole of the sequence we had been learning. It was fabulous.

We had three visitors for the evening who really joined in with a will. There may not have been vast numbers there, but a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

Thank you to Andrea for arranging Chitra's visit, and more next year please.

Festival of Bird Art, 2024, Bakewell

The annual British Bird Carving Championships took place at Bakewell as usual in September combined with the Festival of Bird Art.

The Agricultural Hall was set out with tables covered in gold or blue cloth. The blue tables were for exhibits from less experienced carvers while the Advanced classes were displayed on the gold cloths.

As always, were greeted by the sight of impressive birds waiting to be admired. Bird carving is a little known hobby, but has an international following, with competitions in many countries. In the past couple of years, the British Champion bird has been carved by members from the continent.

It is a hobby which breeds friendships across the miles. Enthusiasts cross continents for courses and to attend events such as this.

There are junior classes, and this year a young boy signed up to our local group. Let's hope we see him next year with a bird. Moving on from junior, carvers become novice and, if successful, intermediate competitors. They are allowed to incorporate ready made accessories into their work.

Once qualified for the advanced level, only glass eyes may be bought and used in an exhibit. Legs are a major change at this level as carvers may well have used ready made metal ones at the lower

levels. It is hard to believe that the minute details are hand made. There are leaves, stems, flowers; even water splashes. To make their lives even more difficult, some carvers incorporate insects, fish and prey species into their work. Indeed, reflecting the American origins of the hobby, fish feature as a category in their own right.

One never to be forgotten year, the winner of the British championship was a fish! Realising only then that posters advertising the next event proudly displaying this superb example of a fish under a heading about bird carving might not be the best idea, something had to change.



There was much debate and now fish still feature, but in a category of their own! This year there was a large fish entry in tribute to the carver of that fateful fish, who had sadly died a few months before.



A further nod to the American origins is the rosette colours. At advanced level the winner wins the blue rosette. Some older readers may remember the 'Blue Ribband' contests, from which this derives. Second placed entries are awarded a red rosette, which

is very confusing to British eyes.

This year, when all the classes had been judged and the judges had a night to sleep on it, all the eligible winning birds were reconsidered to find the champion. It came down to a very close call between a magnificent half scale osprey (left) and a green winged teal (right). Both were superb but the final decision gave it to the teal because of the astonishing quality of the painting of the feathers.



This was carved by Craig Mortimore, who had brought his entries from the USA. He is a member of the 'Virtual Group', which was established to give people who are too distant from a group to join together with others in person.

By coincidence, the group competition was won for the first time by the virtual

group. In this class any member can submit an entry of the named bird, which has been chosen by the previous winners This year there was a flock of goldfinches on the table.

The 2025 event will be in Bakewell on September 13th & 14th.

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Group Oil Order

The daily price published by Boilerjuice for the average price of 1000 litres of oil in England has been falling steadily, but took a sharp upward trend on 12th September which continues. It is to be hoped that it will come down again before we need to order again.

Assuming we get a warm autumn and the cold weather does not come back early, there are no plans to do anything before the pre-Christmas order in late November. If you let me know if you need some, and there is enough demand an extra order might be fitted in.

New members are welcome to join the ordering group at any time. All I ask is that you can be contacted by email, either directly or via someone else who can speak for you.

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

Please use my personal email if you have it. oil@openfield.org.uk is a general address you can use if you don't have mine, which I don't publish because of the amount of spam it generates. *Joy*

Peace Doves at Lincoln Cathedral



Peace Doves is a mass-participation artwork made up of paper doves which suspended in the nave of the cathedral. It is accompanied by music composed by David Harper.

Around 12,000 people wrote messages of peace, hope and love on paper doves since 1st May. The artwork hangs from the ceiling of the nave and is now available for everyone to see. It will remain in place for 10 weeks.

The image above was taken in October 2022 in Sheffield Cathedral. The artwork has been created in a number of

cathedrals, but because each uses birds written on by local people, and each hangs in a different space, they are all unique. Peace Doves will be on display until **14th November 2024**.

Museum of the Moon at the Minster



After the success of last year's Gaia Earth installation, the Minster will soon be hosting the sister work. Luke Jerram's Museum of the Moon will be coming to Southwell Minster. Between 11th and 22nd October 2024.

Measuring seven metres in diameter, the moon features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of

the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface. The installation is a fusion of lunar imagery, moonlight and surround sound composition created by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award winning composer Dan Jones.

General daytime admission tickets are £4 for adults, £2 for U16s, and U5s are free. Booking online is recommended but not essential, but during busy times those looking to pay on the door may have to wait.

Evening sessions are £5 for adults, £3 for U16s and U5s are free.

There is a series of events taking place under the moon installation. There are **Pilates sessions** on the Mondays and Tuesdays 9 - 9.45am. Places are limited so please book early through the web site.

Papagena will give a performance on Monday 14th October. They are an all female a cappella group and their music encompasses pieces from the medieval to the present day.

Words and Music on Wednesday 16th October at 3.30pm is a performance of inspiring words and music about the moon. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Tickets are available from the web site or the Cathedral shop.

Friday October 18th's **Lunchtime Concert** will consist of music related to the moon

Moonshine on Saturday 19th October is an evening of dancing and music under the moon with an 8-piece swing band. Bar available, over 18s only.

Christmas at Doddington



The annual Christmas spectacular at Doddington Hall is now open for booking on the web site. The theme this year is 'A Christmas Chorus'. Opens November 9th to December 23rd.

All the main rooms are decorated and the display extends over all three floors of the Elizabethan Hall. It is an opportunity to soak up the seasonal festive atmosphere in this family home, which has seen a lot of Christmas mornings over its four hundred year plus history.

You will have a chance to see what the present day family and staff have created and to think about how Christmas may have looked and felt through the centuries. Doddington staff, volunteers, local artists and students from Lincoln College design and create the displays. Doddington promotes sustainability and invariably uses materials sourced from the estate or very locally.

This is an event well worth a visit. Some evenings they will be open later to enable visitors to get the benefit of the twilight and the glow of the decorations and twinkling lights.

For those unable to get to the two upper floors, there are 'access talks' in the Library at 12 noon and 2pm daily. Visitors will be shown photos of the displays on the higher floors while Room Guides talk about them - who made them, how and with what materials etc. If you have access issues you should book on to a talk when you book your ticket.

Tickets are £15 for adults, Children 4 - 16 £8.50 and 3 and under free. There are family tickets for 2 adults and 2 children at £40 and for 1 adult and 2 children for £27.

Doddington season ticket holders go free if the card is shown at the gate, but other cards which are accepted on most dates in the year are not accepted for this special event.

The entry fee entitles you to explore the gardens and grounds throughout that day's opening hours. You book a timed entry slot through their web site and should arrive at the door a couple of minutes before that time. Viewing is free flowing with room guides to assist should you want to know more.

News from the Museums of Tuxford

In October, as we move toward autumn, our thoughts turn to activities that people enjoy doing indoors. Art is enjoyed by many bringing such pleasure to the artist and those who view the image.



Friday 25th October is National Artist Day. The Walks of Life Museum will have an exhibition of art from our collection running from the 10th October. This will run until the 7th November, featuring items that our founder, Dorothy Harrison, collected, many from her travels and also from auction. There are some wonderful needlework examples.

If you would like to visit and draw or paint some items in our collection or display your own work please contact us. We have enjoyed visits from art groups but welcome individuals who have this passion.

An important consideration is to put your name and date on your work. We have mysteries that we would love to solve. Dorothy bought two paintings at an auction showing a man and his possibly his wife. They were wrapped in brown paper and it just said 'Cobbs from Auction'. We have shown these to the Cobb family who live in Tuxford and they didn't recognise them.

On Thursday 24th October at 2 pm we will have a talk about Owls, with Annette bringing along her feathered friend. Admission is free and refreshments are available.

On Saturday 9th November at 10am we will be holding a sale of Christmas decorations and gifts with a raffle, coffee and cake.



Please Contact Diane 01777 872776 and leave a message or email dianehunt08@btinternet.com

The Museum of the Horse will have some lovely paintings on display to illustrate Coaching Tuxford and roads in an exhibition, including original works by Cecil Aldin and from a century earlier, Charles Cooper Henderson, painter of horses and coaches.

These will be joined by examples of road shoes from amongst the Doug Bradbury Farriery collection recently acquired by the museum. Long standing members of Laxton History Group may remember the entertaining talk Doug gave when he visited us and the fascinating visit to his museum at Clay Cross. He has since died and it is good to know that some of his collection is close at hand.



The talk that accompanied the first week of the exhibition was so successful that a second one was arranged to accommodate everyone. If more people contact us to request this, a further date could be arranged before Christmas. In the meantime there will also be a good selection of images of Tuxford on show from Eric Coddington, a local historian who bequeathed part of his vast collection to the Museum.

We are open 9am - 4pm Monday to Friday and Saturday 10am to 2pm
Tel 01777 838234 or email curator@museumofthehorse.co.uk



Ossington Art Group

The Art Group has also restarted but it is not too late to join if you would like to find or further your inner artistic streak!

The Group meets on Monday mornings in the Hut at Ossington. The tutor is Laxton's Graham Laughton. For further details please contact Jean Johnson on

01636 821192 / jeajoh410@btinternet.com



Milton Mausoleum



Our next event is the popular **Christmas Gifts and Crafts Fayre** held in the Mausoleum from **10am – 3.30pm on Saturday 9th November**. In addition to lots of new gift ideas we have hot & cold refreshments and a raffle. Free Entry. Come and see the monument of Lady Georgiana, who died shortly after the birth of her twins, sculpted with her.

We value your support for this event and look forward to seeing you on Saturday 9th November.

The Mausoleum is open every Sunday, 2-4pm until the end of September. No need to book.

NB Sat. 7th Dec Carols at the Mausoleum. It is never too early to book your place for this ever popular event!

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

Group Remembrance Service

Sunday 10th November, 10.30am

St Swithun's Church, Wellow

The service will be taken by Rev Alistair Littlewood

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Citizens Advice was set up in 1939 in the days after the start of World War II as a new nationwide advisory service which would help people navigate the uncertainty, chaos and challenges of life during wartime. We advised people on rations, national service, evacuations and more. In 1941 our first mobile advice service, The horsebox, hit the road to reach areas affected by the Blitz.

Lots has changed over the last 85 years but our purpose hasn't.

Jackie Insley, Chief Executive Officer of Citizens Advice Central Notts says of the anniversary, "Since our founding in 1939, Citizens Advice has been a beacon of hope and support for millions of people across the UK. What started as a response to the challenges of

war has grown into a vital service that addresses the diverse needs of our communities. This anniversary is a testament to the enduring impact of our work and the unwavering commitment of our staff and volunteers."

You may notice a new logo at the top of this article. Earlier this year our local Sherwood & Newark branch formed a merged larger



organisation called Citizens Advice Central Nottinghamshire, which includes the Broxtowe & Ashfield offices.

The CAB continues to support the local community through their service. If you need advice in any area you can contact them on the details below.

In person:

Ollerton office Mon / Weds 9.30 - 2.30, 5 Forest Court, NG22 9PL

Newark office Tues / Thurs 9.30 - 2.30, Castle House NG24 1BY

There are also a number of outreaches throughout the local area which may be closer to home - to access the dates and times check online at our website or call the below number.

By Phone:

your local office on 01623 861769 (you may be offered a call back)

Website www.ca-centralnotts.org.uk

Email admin@ca-centralnotts.org.uk

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Race Night



Friday 8th November

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 28th May 2024

Present: Councillors: S. Hill (chair), J. Hill, M. Hennell, S. Rose
D. Sheard, A. Moorhouse

In attendance at parish council meeting

C. Wilson (Clerk)

Election of Officers:

The following were **elected**:

- (a) Chair – Mr S Hill (unanimous having been proposed and seconded)
- (b) Vice-Chair – Mr J Hill (unanimous having been proposed and seconded).
- (c) Accounts scrutineer – Ms A Moorhouse (unanimous)
- (d) Defibrillator inspection councillor - Mr J Hill (unanimous)
- (e) Resilience store keyholder – Not required
- (f) Flood contact – Mr D Sheard (unanimous)

2. Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mrs Creighton and Mrs Michael.

3. Declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.

4. Dispensations: None required.

5. 10 Minutes public speaking: No public present.

6. Thoresby Estate report (if any): No report.

7. Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 21 March and 23 April 2024: The minutes of the parish council meetings held on 21 March and 23 April 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.

8. Matters arising:

LMPC/53/24 – Reports from councillors – Mr Sheard reported that a reply from the Internal Drainage Board is awaited.

9. Reports from district and county councillors: None present

10. Reports from councillors: It was reported that the hedge at Smithy Farm remained overgrown. The clerk confirmed that she had written to the proprietor drawing attention to the overgrowth and requesting that the hedge be cut back. It was also noted that there was overgrowth obstructing the Moorhouse Road pavement in the direction of Marlow farm. The clerk will contact NCC.

There was also discussion of the ongoing issue of potholes in the locality.

11. Property matters including sports field, lease and pavilion and Glebe Field matters (if any): Councillors discussed the sports field. The clerk will submit a formal request for the Thoresby Estate's consent to the council, as tenant, sub-letting the field to the Sports Field Committee.

The clerk confirmed that the Pavilion is now insured in the council's name. She also confirmed that she had passed Mr Rose's specific enquiries on to the insurers and would share the reply when received.

12. Planning matters:

Applications: None.

To note planning decisions by NSDC: Councillors noted the approval of 24/00206/FUL - Installation of 36 Panel Ground mounted Solar System. | The Holdings Moorhouse Road Moorhouse Newark On Trent NG23 6LU received after the agenda had been circulated.

Great North Road Solar Park – Consultation and update – Mr Sheard presented an analysis of the 93 survey responses received from Laxton & Moorhouse parish residents. These were as follows:

63 opposed, 5 in favour, 9 undecided, 6 incomplete

Councillors noted again that there was an opportunity to visit a working solar farm.

d. Compliance: No matters raised.

13. Parish council use of social media:

Approve and adopt Code of Practice: Councillors noted that the clerk had only just received the sample Code of Practice in an editable format.

Progress update: The clerk reported that a Facebook page had been set up but that Facebook's settings require a restriction on public comment to be set separately for each individual post and do not permit an absolute bar on any comments, anyone referenced in a post being allowed to comment.

Councillors recognised that the absence of complete control over third party comments represented a previously unanticipated risk which would require management. The clerk will revise the draft code of practice for the next meeting. Councillors nominated to publish posts will also be agreed at the next meeting.

14. Defibrillator:

Inspection report: Mr J Hill confirmed that the defibrillator had been inspected and there were no issues.

b. Replacement: The clerk will research the cost of a new defibrillator. It was noted that, if the parish council purchases its own, there will be no formal restriction on it remaining inside the Visitor Centre.

15. Flood resilience working party – Reports and associated decisions:

Discussed in detail at the preceding Annual Parish Meeting attended by Ross Marshall, Principal Officer, NCC Flood Risk Management.

Councillors discussed the natural flood management measures which would be of benefit to Laxton and the desirability of identifying and clearing drain blockages. As had been made clear at the Annual Parish Meeting, the latter would involve a cost which NCC would not support because the parish was not high priority in comparison with the flooding which had occurred elsewhere in the county. Councillors asked the clerk to contact the new Mayor, Claire Ward, to request financial support from her for this historic village in the county.

16. Parish environment and appearance, including:

Date for 2025 litter pick: After discussion, councillors **agreed** that the event should take place on the second Sunday in March each year. The 2025 date would therefore be 9 March 2025. The merits of the parish council owning its own

litter picking equipment were discussed with councillors noting that this would bring storage requirements. The possibility of Mrs Michael helping with their acquisition was discussed.

Parish roads and pavements: Discussed at LMPC/71/24 (Reports from councillors) above and at the preceding Annual Parish Meeting.

c. New dog bins: Councillors discussed and clarified the additional fixings required for the new dog bins. The clerk will place the order for two bins and appropriate fixings.

17. Financial matters:

Financial position as at 31 March 2024: Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 March 2024 (incorporating the 2023-24 budget figures).

Financial position as at 30 April 2024: : Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 30 April 2024 (incorporating the 2024-25 budget figures).

Accounts for payment: Councillors unanimously **approved** four payments totalling £566.68.

d. Review and approve 2024 risk assessment: Councillors reviewed and discussed the 2024 risk assessment. The risk assessment was **approved** but will be further reviewed when the insurers have replied to the enquiries raised by Mr Rose. Councillors **decided** that arrangements for a bench inspection should be considered at the July 2024 meeting. There was also discussion of the need for a formal complaints policy.

e. Community Infrastructure Levy - £1,178.89 – Proposals for use: It was noted that the levy could be used to fund a defibrillator.

18. Service faults: The clerk will report the faulty streetlight outside Bottom Farm on receipt of the lamp number from Mr Rose. Mr Sheard had reported a leaking valve which had been repaired. The clerk will report the flashing lamp at the corner of Lexington Court to NCHA.

19. Correspondence: *NSDC - Planning Scheme of Delegation to Officers and Protocol for Planning Committee* – The clerk summarised the changes and explained that the time limits were fixed by reference to the weekly lists which therefore needed to be monitored and the district councillor alerted to any applications which might be controversial and need to be called in. All other items of correspondence noted.

20. 5 minutes public speaking time: No public present. There was discussion of:

A D Day celebration. It was **agreed** that, the anniversary being 6 June 2024, there was insufficient time to plan or publicise an event.

b. The footpath near Bar Farmhouse where the view to the crossroads is obscured by overgrowth. Mr S Hill will obtain more details.

21. Agenda items for next meeting: See above together with mowing of verges.

22. Date of next meeting:

Annual financial matters – 7.30 pm Thursday 18 June 2024 at Laxton Visitor Centre

b. 7.30 pm Tuesday 23 July 2024 at Moorhouse Church

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Contact **07415436001** Email holly-rye@hotmail.co.uk
Egmanton WI - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ◆ **Coffee Morning: October 12th** 10 - 12 then every second Saturday of the month. Next will be **November 9th**. 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

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Laxton Defibrillator

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

Michael Manning

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

Danger to life or crime in progress	999
Otherwise police switchboard	101
Crimestoppers (anonymous crime reports)	0800 555111

Medical

Tuxford Medical Centre	01777 870203
Sutton-on-Trent Surgery	01636 821023
Ollerton Surgery - Middleton Lodge Practice	01623 703266
Newark Hospital	01636 681681
Bassetlaw Hospital	01909 500990
King's Mill Hospital	01623 622515

Cardiac Arrest? Say "Alexa Activate Emergency CPR" to an Alexa device

Fire Safety Advice (Tuxford Fire Station) 01777 870381
MP Mr Robert Jenrick: robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk 01636 612 837
County Councillor: cllr.mike.pringle@nottsc.gov.uk 0115 977 5661
Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk

WI FASHION SHOW

THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER

LAXTON VILLAGE HALL

TICKETS £6 INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS

7 PM REFRESHMENTS 7:30 PM FASHION SHOW

TICKETS FROM BRENDA 870541

MARGARET 07826 429987

Laxton Village Hall

Craft Fayre

Saturday 16th November, 11.00am – 2.00pm

£1 admission inc. cup of tea / coffee

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

Everyone very welcome