

# Open Field

50p

September 2017



*Laxton Church 29th July 2017 with decorated pillars*

The monthly publication  
of the parish of Laxton & Moorhouse  
[www.openfield.org.uk](http://www.openfield.org.uk)

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# Open Field

**Your contributions are always welcome.**  
**We can help if you are not sure how to**  
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Cover photo: Laxton church with decorated pillars

Photo by: Joy Allison



## Letter From Revd. Anna

It's been a busy few weeks for me personally, as well as for us as a wider family of churches. Over the weekend of 14th-16th of July we ran our diocesan camp called Transform Weekend. This year we had 600 people worshipping over the course of the weekend, some have been Christians for a long time; some became Christians over those few days. It's always a thrill to worship with a large group of people, I always find the music so powerful when sung by large numbers. At Transform Weekend we sang contemporary worship songs led by a live band; but at Walesby at the end of July, Jan, our organist led the music in a full church as we sang more traditional hymns; it was just as moving.

The summer months are full of camping trips and holidays camps, fun days and family times and our churches have been busy with garden parties and coffee mornings and fun days. It's great to see the whole community come together and enjoy themselves and it's reassuring to see that the church is important to people. It's been a great pleasure to run fun days in Egmont and in Bilsthorpe and see families who are inquisitive about our churches and about the Christian faith turn up to learn more, we hope these encounters will lead to stronger relationships within and across our communities as we continue to work together.

I've recently been reminded again of those early Christian's that we read about in Acts 2:42-47

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Ultimately this is my hope for our churches: that we continue to meet and grow together, that we enjoy sharing in a new way, that we worship God with passion and in larger numbers, and that people will see our faith and want to know more for themselves, as we grow in faith and number.

Yours in Christ, Anna  
Growing Disciples Priest

## **From the Registers: Baptism**

Congratulations to Charlie Alexander Saxelby who was baptised into the church on Sunday 30th July at Moorhouse Chantry Chapel. Charlie is the son of Craig and Gemma Saxelby of Tuxford and grandson Kevin Saxelby and great grandson of Ken and Margaret Saxelby of Church Farm, Moorhouse.

The baptism was conducted by the Rev. Chris Levy who returned to baptise Charlie as he had married Craig and Gemma and baptised their other little boy, Freddie.

## **From the Registers: Marriage**

Congratulations to Ian Stuart Creighton of Tuxford and Rebecca Claire Rose of Tuxford who were married in St Michael the Archangel Church, Laxton on Saturday 29th July 2017. Rebecca is the elder daughter of Stuart and Sylvia Rose of Bottom Farm, Laxton and granddaughter of Margaret Rose of Lilac Farm, Laxton and Eileen Spray of Wellow, and sister of Jessica.

The service was conducted by the Rev Zoe Burton. We wish them both every happiness in their married life.

## **From the Registers: Funeral**

As was reported last month, we lost one of our village residents with the passing of Charles William Haigh on Wednesday 12th July 2017 at the age of 91. Bill and Pat had been married 65 years.

Our sympathy goes to Pat, children Robert and Christine, grandchildren Elizabeth, Edward, Sarah and Andrew and his great grandchildren Charlie, Chloe, George and Finley who he doted on. He will be sadly missed, especially in the farming community.

## **Get Well Soon**

We are delighted to hear that Alan Tunnard has returned from hospital and is doing well at home. We send good wishes to him for his recovery. We hope he will soon be feeling much better.





## Thank you

We had the most wonderful day celebrating Rebecca and Ian's wedding. The church looked truly beautiful and it was lovely to hear the church bells ring and the organ play. Many thanks to Rev Zoe for making the service very special and personal to us.

We had a fantastic reception at The Dovecote Inn and the sun shone brightly for us all. We were overwhelmed with the community spirit, it was lovely seeing so many people from the village showing love and support to us. A perfect day we will remember forever.

We would like to send special thanks to Brenda, Janet, Graham, the bell ringers, David and Linda.

With love from Stuart, Sylvia, Rebecca, Ian, Jessica and Jack

## Get Well Soon

We are delighted to hear that Dorothy Masterman, who was taken ill on holiday in Canada, has returned home and is doing well. We wish her a full and speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her again soon.

We send good wishes also to a regular reader, George Codd of Egmonton, who has been in hospital.

## Thank You

Pat and family would like to thank everyone who came to Bill's funeral and also everyone who sent cards, flowers and messages of sympathy on our sad loss.

Thanks also to the Rev Philip Howson for a lovely service and Mr G. Hall for his kindness with the funeral arrangements.

A very sincere thanks to everyone from us all.

# Charles William (Bill) Haigh



*Mary Haigh gave a wonderful tribute to Bill during his funeral and we are pleased that the family have decided to share this record of one of Laxton's senior citizens through 'Open Field'.*

**Charles William Haigh**  
**6/2/1926 – 12/7/2017**

Bill's world revolved around his family, his farm and this unique open field village of Laxton.

Picture Bill sitting in his favourite chair beside the Rayburn:

- watching the antics of his great grandchildren Chloe, Charlie, Finley and George, his face lit up with joy.
- talking with pride about the achievements of his grandchildren Edward, Elizabeth, Andrew and Sarah.
- or discussing the latest Laxton farming intrigues with Robert and Christine.

It all began on 6 February 1926 at Skegby, near Marnham, with the arrival of Charles William, a 2nd son for Arnold & Nelly Haigh. In 1937 the family, now grown to five sons and a daughter, moved into the farmhouse at Babbington Springs. Bill attended school at Normanton-on-Trent. His education was cut short by the outbreak of war, when he was needed to help with the harvest, never returning to the classroom. Later, he volunteered for aircrew gunner in the RAF. Despite passing all the tests, he was turned down. It was considered his expertise working the land was of greater value to the country at that stage of the war.

Bill did wear uniform however, as a member of the Home Guard. Always good for a story, some of Bill's tales from those days could have been used in the scripts for 'Dad's Army.' Such as the time, one dark night, he was riding his bike across fields, on the way to a Home Guard

meeting at Sutton-on Trent, and failed to notice a cow laid asleep on the path. He crashed, somersaulting over the cow, which then got up & ran away, seemingly unharmed. Unperturbed, a now rather muddy Bill had to search for his rifle, which had gone flying during the fall. Weapon retrieved, he continued and reported for duty, only to be reprimanded by the officer for having mud up the barrel of the rifle.

After the war, in 1947, the Haigh family moved to Vine Farm, Normanton-on-Trent, which they eventually purchased. Here Bill and his father ran a dairy herd.

It was around this time Bill met and fell in love with local girl, Patricia Pilmore. They married on Pat's 21st birthday in January 1952, setting up home in a cottage next door to the Square & Compass Pub in Normanton. Children arrived: Robert born in 1953 and Christine in 1958.

Earlier this year, Pat & Bill celebrated their 65th Anniversary, and were thrilled to receive a congratulatory message from HM The Queen.

Bill's devotion to Pat was plain to see. They were seldom apart. Then, after nearly 30 years of marriage, Pat took a month-long trip to visit her sister Joan, who lived in Canada; leaving Bill at home. Christine & I did our very best to feed him, but he had no appetite and began to lose weight. This was worrying as it was harvest-time and Bill normally loved his food. Huge relief - when he asked us to get in some of Pat's favourite eats - he wanted a party to welcome her return! Five years later, Bill was persuaded to leave the farm and accompany Pat when she was again invited to Canada. That was the only time he had need of a passport.

Bill had ambition to farm independently and without the requirement to milk cows, a job he did not like. Finding the perfect farm is almost impossible, and when, in 1960, his bid for Manor Farm, Laxton, was accepted, he had taken on a dairy farm. Such was his determination to secure his business, with the regular income a monthly milk cheque provided, he remained 'tied to a cow's tail' for the next 43 years - assisted by Pat in the early days, then by Robert, whom he took into partnership, and, also by Christine.

With Bill at the helm Manor Farm was the quintessential family farm. Never a dull moment. No one was too young or too old to help round up cows; to chase escapees – be they cattle, sheep, ducks, chickens or the pig; alternatively, you could just be required to stand in a gap. Uncle Bill, aka Grandad, enjoyed a special rapport with young people around the farm, teaching them all sorts of skills.

Hedge cutting was the one job on the farm Bill made entirely his own, and continued every autumn and winter into his 90th year. Settled onto his 1981 International 684, long ago christened 'rent a wreck' by a cheeky grandson's finger writing in dust, when the cab still had a back window, Bill would happily disappear for hours.

The rigours of the many years of farm work took their toll, Bill lost an eye through an infection contracted from a splinter whilst hedge laying, he suffered from a frozen shoulder and had operations to replace both of his knees. Bill speaking to a middle-aged Robert; "it ain't much fun getting old, boy" is an oft repeated quote at home. Even so, up until the last few months of his life Bill would like to go out into the farmyard to feed young stock. No longer able to carry the bags of rolled barley mix, he soldiered on, carting them in a wheel barrow, with faithful old Ben & Sam, the last of his collie dogs, seen following close behind.

With the tenancy of Manor Farm came a commitment to Laxton's Open Field farming system, which Bill embraced wholeheartedly. In 1962, he was elected Foreman for South Field, a role he never relinquished, being sworn in at the last Court Leet for the Jury this year. Over the more than half century of service he amassed a mine of information about the traditions of the three open fields, and was more than happy to share his knowledge.

Bill was also active in the wider community, serving on Laxton Parish Council for over 30 years, and as a Trustee of Laxton Visitors Centre.

Life was not all work. Family holidays were taken at Great Yarmouth, and in later years the Scottish Highlands were a favourite destination. Bill enjoyed reading books, preferably whilst also munching a chocolate brazil. Christmas & Birthday tins of Quality Street stashed under his armchair were never effectively hidden from his grandchildren.

No description of Bill can pass without mention of his cap. Going outside, Bill would not have appeared dressed without his flat cap – always worn at a jaunty angle. Over time each work cap would develop a distinctive patina, but Bill was never willing to consider a replacement. One cap, complete with a large rip across the crown, was seen on television, after Bill had been filmed driving the Massey combine harvester. Pat was not amused at the thought of a wider audience viewing her husband wearing such shabby headgear, but of course Bill didn't care. A couple of years later, the next cap met its fate while being used in an unsuccessful attempt to beat out flames, when that same combine caught fire.

Bill was a kind, thoughtful man with a dry sense of humour, who loved to chat and reminisce. He kept abreast of wider events and readily expressed his opinions. Throughout his recent illness, and the various admissions to hospital, he was never heard to complain.

At the end he was where he belonged, at home on the farm surrounded by those who loved him. He had fulfilled his avowed wish – never to retire as he was only going to leave his farm 'in a box.'

# Things to Do this Month

**August 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** Countryside Event at Houghton Hall Farm, B6387 Gamston to Ollerton road  
**27<sup>th</sup>** Ploughing Match, **28<sup>th</sup>** Tractor Road Run

**Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>** Egmanton Craft & Produce Show, 2.30pm

**Sept 13<sup>th</sup>** WI - 'Colour Analysis' 7.30pm **VH**

**Sept 20<sup>th</sup>** History Group visit to Retford. Meet there 6pm

**Sept 27<sup>th</sup>** Meal and Speaker, Malcolm Bevan's Life in Music, South Forest Leisure Centre 7 for 7.15pm.

**Sept 29<sup>th</sup>** Moorhouse Harvest Festival 7.00pm

**Sept 30<sup>th</sup>** Southwell Ploughing Match

**Oct 1<sup>st</sup> (Sun)** Children's film @ Maplebeck VH

**VH = Village Hall   VC = Visitor Centre**

## Traditional Pillar Decorations



Those who have lived in Laxton for many years fondly remember the traditional dressing of the church pillars at harvest time. They were bound with twine into which was threaded wheat, barley, oats etc. to represent the crops grown in the fields. This tradition was revived for the funeral of farmer Bill Haigh.

The following day roses were added to celebrate the marriage of Rebecca Rose to Ian Creighton. Rebecca's family have also farmed Laxton's Open Fields for many years. Her great grandfather Elmer John Rose had a farm in the village as did her grandfather Reg Rose, who held the office of Clerk to the Gaits & Commons. This office is now held by her father, Stuart.



## Mothers Union

Owing to illness our speaker had to cancel his visit to us at short notice. We held a short service at the home of Anne and Keith Dutton followed by an informal evening looking at some of Janet's photo files from 1986 - 1997. This was followed by supper.

We have an evening out for our August meeting on 21st August, following which our next meeting will be a service in church on 25th September. On the 19th September the M U will hold a wave of prayer throughout the diocese. Laxton's slot is from 6pm -7pm all are welcome. This will be held in church.

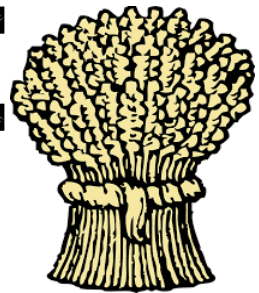
*Janet*

## Lammas Day

Our traditional Lammas Day service was held in church on Tuesday 1st August at 8.00am. The service was taken by the Rev. Zoe Burton.

Thank you to Graham for playing the organ, Stuart for the sheaf of corn to be blessed and everyone who did the readings and prayers.

Our thanks also to the staff of The Dovecote Inn for providing breakfast for us after the service.



## Merchant Navy Day

Sunday 3rd September is Merchant Navy day and our Parish Council has been contacted and asked if we wished to mark this national event. We received a leaflet with details of the event and with suggestions as to how to mark it.

We have purchased an Ensign which will be hoisted at 12pm at the Dovecote Flag Pole by a former member of the Merchant Navy John Smith (Roberta and John) Photos will be taken and forwarded to Seafarers UK the organisers of the event.

Why not stop a little longer and enjoy Sunday Lunch at the Dovey!!

*Michael Manning*



## Village Hall News

**We are very pleased to be able to announce formally that the Laxton Village Hall funding application to The Big Lottery, which Jeanette Geldard has been working on for a number of years, has been accepted and they will be awarding us in the region of £200,000 for a complete refurbishment of the Hall.**

It is quite unbelievable that Jeanette has managed to do this and it will mean that the existing old and historic part of the Hall will remain visually as it is but with new plaster, floor, insulated ceiling (including removal of the suspended ceiling), doors, refurbishment of the beautiful windows and under floor heating. The later additions of Committee room, toilets and kitchen will be completely stripped out with brand new equipment and a disabled toilet.

As we progress we will keep all villagers informed through regular bulletins in the magazine.

At the moment we are going through the legal stages of accepting and agreeing a Contract for the funding. As soon as we have this in place we will be in a better position to say when we can start and how long it will take.

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

*Michael Manning*

## Countryside & Tractor Event & Service



The annual August Bank Holiday Monday Vintage Tractor and Countryside Show will be at Houghton Hall Farm on the Ollerton - Gamston road, the B6387, on 26th, 27th and 28th August. There will be a children's' marquee this year. The ploughing match is Sunday 27th from 10.00am. And there will be a special service in the old chapel at 10.30am and taken by Rev. Zoe Burton. A

DIY BBQ takes place on 26th and 27th, and the vintage tractor run will be on the Monday morning from 10.00am.

# **The Dovecote Inn at Laxton**

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### **Monday August 28th**

### **August Bank Holiday Fun Day**

Bring the family along for a fun afternoon out at The Dovecote Inn. Pick up your mini picnic hampers from us and enjoy our beautiful gardens whilst the kids enjoy the free bouncy castle.

**Picnic hampers available between 2pm and 4pm**

Restaurant opening times as usual, bar open all day.

### **Monday 18th September**

### **Pie Tuesday 5.30pm - 9pm**

Whole joints of Aberdeen Angus beef from Doncasters' family butchers of Newark. 30 day dry aged on the bone, cut in the restaurant and cooked to your liking. Prices are size dependent

### **Monday 18th September**

### **Steak Night 6pm - 9pm**

A choice of chef's lovely homemade pies, all served with a fine glass of cask beer or a glass of wine to suit.  
£13.00 per person including drink

**Advance notice: Monday 31st October** Dare to attend our  
**'Stake' Night with a Halloween Twist.**

Book your table early to avoid disappointment.

**Book now for all these events. For further information or to book a table, please call us on 01777 871586, visit the Website [www.dovecoteinn.co.uk](http://www.dovecoteinn.co.uk) or find us on Facebook. All events can be booked and paid for on line using PayPal**

**Look forward to seeing you all soon at your local pub,  
The Dovecote Inn at Laxton**

# Laxton History Group



Our Heritage Lottery Fund project is now fully completed and we have received all of the grant. We had built up a contingency from our own funds to cover the final expenses as the last 10% instalment is not paid until the project is signed off.

We are now in a position to think about how we want to use these funds within what we are allowed to do by the Rules of the Group. John Chambers set out how we are planning to approach this and members were invited to submit their suggestions to him, Jo or Joy by the September meeting. Members will be able to vote in October on a costed short list from suggestions received.

John suggested that members bear in mind the potential to provide funding to continue the Michael Wood Award beyond the next round, when the initial funding will have been used up; the possibility of marking our 100th meeting (May 2018) / 10th anniversary (Nov 2018) and undertaking a trip to see the Laxton map by Mark Pierce in a display in Oxford planned for 2019. We are also hoping members will make suggestions for future trips and speakers which can be built into the plans which are in hand.

Our speaker in July was Carol Bannister, telling us about the Archdeacons Courts. After describing the courts and their function Carol illustrated her talk with some snapshot examples of the 'lapses of the ordinary and not so ordinary people of Laxton'.

The courts came about after Henry VIII established the Church of England and they continued until around 1790 although records seem to cease for this area after the 1750s indicating they had lost their power. They were suspended during the Civil War up to the restoration of the monarchy.

The Archdeacons Courts had little real power and were widely ignored by people, but they could refer to the Court of Assizes which operated between 1293 and 1872. While people seem to have had little respect for the Archdeacons Courts they felt the power of the Assizes to enforce fines. Laxton came under the Newark Deanery and the courts would have been formally constituted and held twice a year in St Mary Magdalene Church in Newark. They did also travel to parishes on occasion.

Carol had been able to research the papers of these courts through the Presentment Bills held at the University of Nottingham within

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Manuscripts and Special Collections since 1943. The university had an HLF grant between 2002 and 2004 to stabilise some of the papers, which had been deposited in a terrible condition. This part of the collection is now partially transcribed and searchable by place or name online. It is a wonderful resource for family historians. At present because the whole collection is not stabilised it is not possible to form a balanced view of the cases as only the Presentment Bills showing the accusations are readily accessible.

Churchwardens were expected to report people for misdemeanours, often of a sexual nature, and frequently involving the same people who 'harboured' unmarried pregnant women or couples suspected of fornication. Evidence could be as scant as 'seeing them entering the house'.

Failure to keep the church or church houses in good repair often got the Lords into trouble with the courts. The accusers on one occasion could be the accused on another. If the Churchwardens did not present people for misdemeanours they were presented themselves for failing to do their duty.

The Correction Court received the Presentment Bills and the Consistory Court provided a forum for people to dispute the charges brought against them. Pleadings would be written by proctors (lawyers) and meticulously recorded in great detail. These records are of great value today for the information they provide about people resident in the area at the time and their everyday lives.

The outcomes of appeals were that the case could be dismissed, the accused could purge themselves by paying the fine or acknowledging the offence or through penance. This would involve attending church bare headed and bare legged, wearing white and carrying a rod. They would have to publicly admit their guilt after their offence was read out.

While people were supposed not to fraternise with those found guilty, the rulings were widely ignored and life carried on. The events which gave rise to the Church of England meant that the rules for religious observance were supposed to be enforced by the courts. Carol gave an example of a man who attended church while his wife and daughters practiced as Catholics. For 40 years they were summoned twice a year and each time he dutifully paid their 6d fine for doing so.

On **20th September** we shall be hosted by Retford Historical Society for a visit to the town with one of their members as our guide. We meet there at 6pm. Details of rendezvous point from Jean Hennell on **870276**.

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## Historic Text

*This text was recently discovered by a reader whilst browsing 'Project Gutenberg'. Where do you think it is talking about?*

*See following pages for the answer.*

'I believe it may safely be said that nearly the whole of the female population and about one-half the male inhabitants are habitually engaged in cultivating the communal land, which comprises perhaps five hundred acres of light, sandy soil. As is typical throughout the province this land is divided into three large fields, each of which is again subdivided into strips. The first field is reserved for one of the most important grains, i.e., rye, which in the form of black bread, is the principal food of the population. In the second are raised oats for the horses and here and there some buckwheat which is also used for food. The third field lies fallow and is used in the summer for pasturing the cattle.'

'This method of dividing the land is so devised in order to suit the triennial rotation of crops, a very simple system, but quite practical nevertheless. The field which is used this year for raising winter grain, will be used next summer for raising summer grain and in the following year will lie fallow. Every family possesses in each of the two fields under cultivation one or more of the subdivided strips, which he is accountable for and which he must cultivate and attend to.'

## New Date for History Group Craft Fayre

After discovering that Brenda Noble will be wearing her churchwarden's hat on October 28th and will be assisted by Janet Cooke, it looked as though the kitchen for the History Group's Craft Fayre was going to be missing two vital ladies.

We know how everyone enjoys their soup and cakes so we have decided to move the event back a week to **4th November**. Please make a note in your diaries. We will have the usual offering of Christmas present opportunities, games and tasty refreshments.

We plan to hold the event in the Village Hall as usual unless it is already undergoing refurbishments.

# Historic Text

*The text on the preceding page came from 'The History of the American Expedition Fighting the Bolsheviki Campaigning in North Russia 1918-1919' by Jahns, Lewis E et al. They go on to discuss the Russian system to which the previous text refers:*

*'... it will be readily apparent that a Russian village is quite a different thing from a provincial town or village in America. While it is true in a sense that in our villages the citizens are bound together in certain interests of the community, yet each family, outside of a few individual friends, is more or less isolated from the rest of the community, each family having little to interest it in the affairs of the other.*

In a Russian village, however, such a state of indifference and isolation is quite impossible. The heads of households must often meet together and consult in the village assembly and their daily duties and occupations are controlled by the communal decrees. The individual cannot begin to mow the hay or plough the fields until the assembly has decided the time for all to begin. If one becomes a shirker or drunkard everyone in the village has a right to complain and see that the matter is at once taken care of, not so much out of interest for the welfare of the shirker, but from the plain selfish motive that all the families are collectively responsible for his taxes and also the fact that he is entitled to a share in the communal harvest, which unless he does his share of the work, is taken from the common property of the whole. The land belonging to each village is distributed among the individual families and

## Coffee Morning

14th September

10.30am - 11.30am



The next coffee morning will take place on Thursday 14th September at Farms Cottage, next door to Corner Farm at the bottom of the village.

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

Plenty of tea, cakes, and chatter.

for which each is responsible. It might be of interest to know how this distribution is made.

In certain communities the old-fashioned method of simply taking a census and distributing the property accordingly is still in use. This in a great many instances is quite unfair and works a great hardship - where often the head of the household is a widow with perhaps four or five girls on her hands and possibly one boy. Obviously, she cannot hope to do as much as her neighbor, who, perhaps, in addition to the father, may have three or four well-grown boys to assist him. It might be logically suggested, then, that the widow could rent the balance of her share of the land and thus take care of same.

If land were in demand in Russia ... as it is in the farming communities of this country, it might be a simple matter - but in Russia often the possession of ... land is quite often not a privilege but a decided hardship. Often the land is so poor that it cannot be rented at any price, and in the old days it was quite often the case that even though it could be rented, the rent would not be sufficient to pay the taxes on same. Therefore, each family is quite well satisfied with his share of the land and is not looking for more trouble and labor if they can avoid it, and at the assembly meetings, when the land is distributed each year, it is amusing to hear the ... excuses for not taking more land, as the following brief description will illustrate.

It is assembly day... and all the villagers are assembled to do their best from having more land and its consequent responsibilities thrust upon them. Nicholas is being asked how many shares of the communal land he will take, and after due deliberation and much scratching of the head ... he slowly replies that inasmuch as he has two sons he will take three shares for his family to farm, or perhaps a little less as his health is none too good, though as a matter of fact he may be one of the most ruddy-faced and healthiest individuals present.

This last remark is the signal for an outburst of laughter and ridicule by the others present and the arguments pro and con wax furious. Of a sudden, a voice in the crowd cries out: "He is a rich moujik, and he should have five shares of the land as his burden at the least."

Nicholas, seeing that the wave is about to overwhelm him, then resorts to entreaty and makes every possible explanation now why it will be utterly impossible for him to take five shares, his point now being to cut down this allotment if within his power. After considerable more discussion the leader of the crowd then puts the question to the assembly and inquires if it be their will that Nicholas take four shares. There is an immediate storm of assent from all quarters and this settles the question beyond further argument.

This native shrewdness and spirit of barter is quite typical of the Russian peasant in all matters - large or small - and he greets the outcome of every such combat with stoical indifference, in typical fatalist fashion.'



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# **Laxton Harvest Festival**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

**7.00pm, St Michael's Church, Laxton**

**The service will be taken by the Revd. Zoe Burton  
and Reader Heather Brown**

**This will be followed by our**

**Harvest Supper**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

**8.00pm, Laxton Village Hall**

**Adults £7**

**Everyone welcome**

**Names to Brenda on 870541 or Jean on 870276  
by Friday 6th October for catering please**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

**Harvest Family Service**

**4.00pm**

**Readings, poems and songs**

**Please come along and bring the family**

**Everyone welcome**

**This will be followed by the presentation of  
the prizes from the competition and auction  
of all the produce.**

# Laxton Cricket Club

*The news that Laxton Cricket Club has disbanded has certainly stirred memories. Jo Godson, who has been researching the Retford, Gainsborough and Worksop Times for information about Laxton for the Victoria Histories. She has found a great deal of information in past copies, which she has kindly sent in. There is so much that we will serialise it over several months. Many thanks Jo.*

**25/5/1900**

## **NORMANTON v LAXTON**

Played at Laxton on Saturday and resulted in a win for Normanton.

Score:-

**NORMANTON** – First innings: C. Dolphin, b Collinson 1; Smith, run out 2; G. Wakefield, b Saxelby 10; C Templeman, b Collinson 6; G. Esam, b Saxelby 0; G. Firnbridge, b Collinson 6; J. Esam, b Bartle 6; J. Marrison, b Collinson 5; J. Morton, c and b Collinson 7; J. A. Hand, b Collinson 2; B. Thurston, not out 0; extras 3 **Total 42**.

Second innings: C. Dolpin, b Saxelby 6; Smith, b Collinson 1; G. Wakefield, lbw, b Saxelby 4; C. Templeman, run out 9; G. Esam, b Collinson 6; G. Furnbridge, c Saxelby b Favill 23; J. Esam, b Favill 4; J. Marrison b Favill 0; J. Morton, b Favill 0; J A Hna, run out 4; S. Thurston, b Saxelby 5; extras 2; **Total 64 (totals don't add up!)**

**LAXTON** – First innings: G. Saxelby, b J Esam 6; F Rose, b J Esam 0; S Bartle, b G Furnbridge 3; Rev C. Collinson, run out 2; G. Favill, hit wkt, 0; G. Laughton, run out 0; W Rayner, b J Esam 0; R Clark, lbw, b G Furnbridge 7; R Watling, b G Furnbridge 1; L Preston, b J Esam 2; W Pratt, not out 1; extras 8; **Total 30**

Second innings: G Saxelby, b Furnbridge 2; F Rose, not out 2; S Bartle, not out 16; Rev C Collinson, b Furnbridge 2; G Favill, b Furnbridge 3; R Clark, run out 4; W Pratt, b Furnbridge 0; extras 2 **Total (for 5 wkts) 31**; G Laughton, W Rayner, R Watling and L Preston did not bat.

+++++

**8/6/1900**

## **LAXTON v. OSSINGTON**

Played at Ossington on Saturday and won by the visitors. Meynell and Brown bowled well for the home team. For the visitors Saxelby took five wickets for 4 runs and the Rev C. B. Collinson five for 10.

Score:-

**LAXTON** First Innings – G Favill, c Goffe b Meynell 1; S. Bartle, b Goffe 3; F. Rose, not out 7; G Saxelby, lbw, b Goffe 8; G Laughton, c Meynell b Brown 1; R Clark, lbw, b Goffe 2; Rev C B Collinson, b Meynell 0; E



Rose, b Brown 0 W Rayner, b Brown 0; W Pratt, b Brown 0; extras 6 total 28 (*totals don't add up!*)

**OSSINGTON First Innings** - Meynell, c Handley b Collinson 3; Brown, c Saxelby b Collinson 5; C. Goffe, st Rose b Collinson 0; D Wagg, b Saxelby 0; Burnett, c Bartle b Collinson 2; Captain Hankey, c Collinson b Saxelby 4; Chandler, hit wkt., b Collinson 0; G Hoake, c Clarke b Saxelby 0; A Wagg, not out 0; W Fox, c Bartle b Saxelby 0; Handley, b Saxelby 0; extras 0; total 14

*Reports of the Cricket Club meetings were very short, but do shed some light on the people involved and the state of the club back then:*

### **19/4/1901**

A meeting of the Cricket Club was held in the schoolroom on Tuesday evening. Mr Saxelby was elected to the Chair. The accounts were agreed to and the following officers were elected:-The Rev C. B. Collinson, President and Captain; Mr G Saxelby, Vice-Chairman; and Mr F Willis, Secretary.

### **25/4/1902**

A meeting of the members of the Cricket Club was held in the schoolroom recently, the chair being taken by the Rev C. B. Collinson. The accounts showed an income of £3 4s 6d and an expenditure of £3 5s. The Vicar was re-elected President and Treasurer. Mr Saxelby Captain and Mr Willis Secretary.

### **29/4/1904**

On Monday a meeting was held for the purpose of trying to reorganise the village cricket club. The Vicar presided and as several expressed a wish to have a club, it was agreed to make a start at once. The subscription is to be 2s, to be paid on joining the club. Mr S Bartle was chosen captain and it was agreed to try and arrange matches so as to have them finished before the hay harvest began.

## **Strawberry Tea for Hospital Helipads**

The takings from the Strawberry Tea in July at Corner Farm have now been counted and Jean is delighted to say that after she added a very small amount to round it up, the total was an excellent £500 for the Helipads for Hospitals charity.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the event by attending or by donating goods or cash towards the takings. It is greatly appreciated.

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES SEPTEMBER 2017

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

Es = Evensong WfA = Worship for All

### ***27th August***

9am Moorhouse HC  
10.30am Countryside and Tractor Service at Vintage Tractor event, B6387 nr Bothamsall

### ***3rd Sept – 12th after Trinity***

10.30am Kneesall HC  
4pm Wellow EP

### ***10th Sept – 13th after Trinity***

10.30am Laxton HC  
4pm Egmanton Es

### ***17th Sept – 14th Sunday after Trinity***

9am Egmanton HC  
10.30am Wellow HC

### ***24th Sept – 15th Sunday after Trinity***

9am Moorhouse HC  
10.30am Kirton Harvest

**Fri 29th September** Moorhouse Harvest 7pm

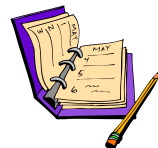
***Tuesday 12th Sept*** – ‘Open Vestry Hour’ for baptism and wedding enquiries 6.30pm – 7.30pm at St Paulinus Church Office, Church Circle, New Ollerton.

***Wednesday 13th & 27th Sept*** – 10am Holy Communion service at St Giles, Ollerton Village. The church will remain open until 4pm and refreshments will be available. Please join us for a cuppa and chat or for a few quiet moments in church. On the 2nd Wednesday we will be exploring local history in Ollerton village. Please come and share what you know and hear something new!

Church Administrator, Eileen, Monday & Friday 10am -12.30pm  
**07983946930 or email: churchadmin1931@gmail.com**  
**Revd Zoe’s number** at the Vicarage: (01623) 862818.



# *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*



**2017**

Sept 9 <sup>th</sup>	NHCT Sponsored Bike Ride
<b><i>Sept 13<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>WI</i></b>
<b><i>Sept 14<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>Coffee Morning</i></b>
<b><i>Sept 20<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>History Group visit to Retford</i></b>
<b><i>Sept 25<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>MU</i></b>
Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council
Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	Southwell Ploughing Match

## **Forward Planning**

Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	WI Group Meeting
Oct 13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Weekend Events
<b><i>Nov 4<sup>th</sup></i></b>	<b><i>History Group Craft Fayre <u>NB New date</u></i></b>
Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	Church Dance
Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parish Council
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Quiz Night
Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	Carols at The Dovecote

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

**Copy Date for October: Noon on 12th September.**

Due to holidays the copy date is earlier this month and it would be greatly appreciated if your contributions could be as early as possible.

On this occasion we cannot include items received after this time.

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# Laxton WI



We don't meet in the Hall in August as, at the time the WI was formed, women would have expected to be in the fields helping with the harvest.

This year the men would have liked the weather to be getting on with the harvest, but the torrential rain of the previous day – some 90mm

- abated in time for our trip to Doddington Hall.

It was still a cool day, but that didn't dampen our spirits and we all enjoyed the trip. We could hardly fail with good company, lovely food and an interesting tour round the Hall and gardens.

The Hall is open for you to walk round at your own pace with cards in every room explaining the many beautiful items on display. It was interesting to see people working on the textiles in one of the display areas.

A table had been booked for our lunch, but when we arrived they seemed to have forgotten all about us.

Sandra soon sorted it out and they opened a private room for us and brought the food to our tables, so what could have been a problem actually turned out to work in our favour.



Even the weather decided to help out by improving while we ate our lunch and making our tour of the extensive grounds and gardens very pleasant. In addition to the planted displays there were sculptures from a temporary exhibition for us to look at.

Thanks to Sandra for organising the day for us.

Our speaker for our meeting on Wednesday September 13th will be Sue Burton whose subject will be 'Colour Analysis' and the competition will be for the most pretty scarf.

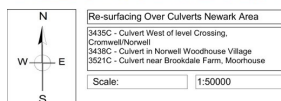
# Road Closure Planned for Moorhouse

We have been asked to bring the following notice to the attention of anyone who will be affected, especially farmers in the area. Via East Midlands, on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council is planning to re-surface the carriageways above the culverts in the locations shown on the attached map.

You may be already aware that on either side of the each culvert the surface has settled resulting in a humped backed profile which is quite severe and therefore dangerous to road users and also resulting in increasing the impact forces on the culverts themselves, (all three are brick arches).

It is therefore proposed to close the road over each structure for one week, with closures/works running consecutively (therefore three week total duration). The works will involve removal of the surfacing over the brick arch culvert, constructing a concrete slab over the settled areas in order to prevent future settlement (and protecting the arch) and resurfacing. We will also look to repair any areas of poor surfacing in the vicinity of the culverts within the road closure.

The first closure (3535C) is initially planned to commence in mid-October. Please contact me with any concerns you have.



**via**

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2017 Ordnance Survey 100019713

*Ian Hamilton*

Project Engineer (Bridges), Highways Design and Structures  
Via East Midlands Ltd. Tel: 0115 9772259

## Nominated Neighbour Scheme

Notts County Council Trading Standards has a Nominated Neighbour Scheme to help protect vulnerable people from unscrupulous doorstep callers and rogue traders. If you live in Notts you can nominate a neighbour to deal with uninvited callers on your behalf. As a neighbour of a vulnerable person you can find out more about becoming a Nominated Neighbour. For more information please contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 04 05 06 who will refer your enquiry through to Nottinghamshire County Council Trading Standards.



# Southwell Ploughing Match & Show

**Saturday 30th September 2017**  
**Kirklington, Nottinghamshire, NG22 8NX**  
**From 8.30am to 6.00pm**



Southwell Ploughing Match is the largest agricultural one day show in Nottinghamshire. There's something for everyone: with classes for a wide variety of animals, produce and crafts – and displays in the main ring. And of course, you'll see every conceivable type of ploughing alongside displays of agricultural equipment.



Held on the last Saturday in September, at a different venue each year, this traditional country event is a celebration of agriculture and farming skills. It is a highlight of the year for many people.

This year's show is being held at Kirklington. The Main Ring attraction will be the Rockwood Dog Display team – who will entertain the crowds with a display performed to music and including an informative and amusing commentary. Many aspects of dog training - from obedience performed to music to dogs jumping through 10 inch hoops, agility, fly ball and active Man Work – will be exhibited. The display is sure to delight with comedy routines and tricks.



Also for this year, The Famous Sheep Show will be on site - a humorous educational live stage show about sheep and wool. It's edu-tainment at its best! Nine breeds will be introduced onto their own stage...and there'll be Dancing Sheep too!

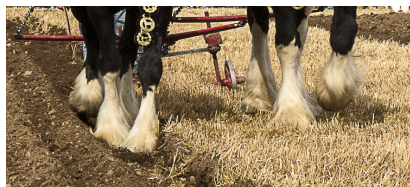
Admission is £10 per adult with under14s free of charge...and there's no charge for parking!

Advance tickets (£8) and VIP parking can be purchased locally from Ploughing Match Committee Members - Jill Hoyland in Egmont (or via Paula Doyle, Laxton) or Tom Seal and John Michael in Caunton ...you can book them on-line too. VIP tickets - to include Forward Parking and 4 tickets - are available at £50 although they will be limited in number.

For further information visit -

**[www.southwellploughingmatch.co.uk](http://www.southwellploughingmatch.co.uk)** - where schedules and entry forms can also be viewed and downloaded.

We look forward to seeing you at this family day out to enjoy a rural tradition!



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## Kirton Coffee Morning

There will be a Coffee Morning on Saturday, October 14th at 3, Rectory Gardens, Kirton. This will start at 10.30am.  
Raffle, Stalls etc. Entry £2 - includes coffee and cake  
The 2nd draw of the 100 Club will take place at this event.

## Egmanton Craft & Produce Show

Egmanton's annual show takes place this year on Saturday 2nd September. Anyone is welcome to enter and there are classes for adults and children including the usual mix of produce, crafts and photography.

The schedule is on the village website at [www.egmanton.org.uk](http://www.egmanton.org.uk) and includes the entry form. Entries need to be with Elizabeth Banks by Tuesday 29th August please.

If you don't wish to enter but would like to come later to admire the entries and see the winners, the event is open for viewing and a cuppa from 2.30pm. The presentation of trophies and awards is at 4pm.

## Events at Maplebeck Village Hall

**Thursday 14th September at 7.30pm "Come Up And See My Etchings"**

An informal and informative Talk by Trish Ferguson, the local expert on Fine Art Printmaking, Processes and Techniques

Entry £1 on the door      Contact: 01636 636726 / 636825

**Saturday 23rd September at 7.30pm "Kick and Rush"**

Skiffle Band with a difference, endless hilarity and a musical delight!

Tickets £10 including supper

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**Tuesday 26th September at 7.30pm Film Screening "I, Daniel Blake"**

The Dark Horse winner of 2016's Palme D'Or at Cannes, Ken Loach's final film punches above its weight. Blake has had a heart attack and wants to get back to work; but his GP says no. The Government says he's fit and therefore strips him of his benefits. A moving drama that gives a human face to the austerity cuts and the headline statistics.

Tickets £5      Contact 01636 636421

## Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
22/7/17	23	Danny
29/7/17	36	Dave/ Joyce Stone
5/8/17	27	Brian Cartledge
12/8/17	17	Ivan and Chris

Thank you all for your continuing support for our Sports Field. The total number of balls is 59, the same as the National Lottery. There are numbers available. **If you would like to join, you can choose from the numbers 1,34,52,53,56,57 and 59. Anyone with a current ball is also invited to take another.**

To take a new ball please contact either Ken Shep on **870605** or myself on **870844**. Thank you.

*Michael Manning*



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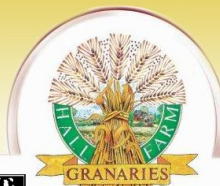
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**Visitors always welcome**

**[www.rotary.org/1220](http://www.rotary.org/1220)**

# The Hewerdines of Laxton:

## George Henry Hewerdine

George Henry Hewerdine was born in 1865, the son of John and Sarah Hewerdine, whose story we printed last month. He married Mary Baker at Laxton on 26th April 1898 and died on 19th April 1947 at Kneesall. Mary Baker was born in 1874 at Laxton. She was the daughter of Joseph and Ann.

George was first cousin to my ancestor Jane Bailey who married Thomas Beedham, as discussed in episode 1, and in 1881 at Westborough he was an agricultural labourer. By the time of the census of 1891 in Laxton, George stated his occupation as 'farmer's son', suggesting that he worked with and for his father.

After George married Mary, the 1901 census showed them with their first child, Gladys Mary who was born in 1900. George's occupation remained 'Farmer's son'.

However, George would want to work his own farm. In Estate correspondence dated 6th October 1900, land agent Mr Wordsworth told '*Mr Hewerdine of Laxton*' that he would help if possible. On 11th October a further letter to G Hewerdine made clear that the letter went to George, offering Jonathan Bartle's property at Kersal. Wordsworth commented that '*the house will not smile upon Mrs Hewerdine after the one she is in*', but added that they will "*clean and tidy it for her*" if they take it. By 15th October George and Mary decided against it and Wordsworth explained he was sorry that was so because such places '*generally have drawbacks*'.

Two years later, on 30th November 1902, Mrs Hewerdine was asked '*if Sampson's present holding would not suit her to begin with*' and with no liability to undertake the Post Office. Samuel Sampson's place was coming available because he was going to New Bar Farm when George Weatherall moved to Weston. On 6th February 1903 Wordsworth's letter shows that George agreed on Sampson's place, plus '*a little of Weatherall's freehold*'. On 25 Mar 1903 a Schedule records land let to Hewerdine at Lady Day 1903. Estate records suggest this was Twitchill Cottage, which stands on the corner, almost opposite today's Crosshill Farm. George had it from 1903 – 1905 and it came with just over 22 acres of farm land.

George and Mary's next two daughters were baptised at Laxton: Ida Garton on 24th November 1901 (Garton being the maiden name of George's paternal grandmother) and Charlotte Harriet on 24th September 1903.

The couple then took a farm at Kneesall, proved by baptisms there for: John William on 16th July 1905; Alice Baker on 1st September 1907; and



Thomas George on 1st August 1909 – all on the 1911 census - followed by Barbara Florence born on 11th Aug 1913 and baptised on 19th October then finally Henry Arthur, baptised on 22nd April 1916.

The database of Estate records also contains a letter dated 3rd May 1910, sent to G Hewerdine at Park Farm Kneesall, after John's death in January.

In 1911, the family household at Kneesall included two male farm servants and a 24 year-old female servant. The farm house had 12 rooms and appears to be where George's father, John, died. If the farm had been worked successfully, then as with the Weatheralls, the tenancy may have passed to George upon his father's death.

The surviving old school admissions register for Kneesall School records a Thomas George Hewerdine. He was admitted to school on 25.05.1914, born 21.05.1909 and lived at Park Farm, Kneesall, his father's name was George, all of which tallies with records already quoted. Sadly Thomas George died on 02.10.1916. Thanks to Kneesall school for sharing their records.



Brenda Noble and Janet Cooke noticed that there is a triple grave near the rear entrance to the graveyard of Kneesall Church where George Henry is buried with his wife and eldest daughter Gladys Mary. The inscriptions around the grave read:

(centre) *'In loving memory of George Henry Hewerdine who departed this life April 19th 1'947 aged 82 years'*

(left) *'also his beloved wife Mary died Oct 28th 1955 aged 81 years. Blessed are the pure in heart'*

(right) *'In loving memory of'* (around the corner following this) *'Gladys Mary Bowd, eldest daughter of George Henry and Mary Hewerdine SPC missionary worker in Siam, died 25th January 1940 aged 40 years. "Father in thy gracious keeping leave we now thy servant sleeping"'*

The NPC records: George H Hewerdine of The Cottage Kneesall, administration to Mary Hewerdine, widow. George was about 82.

Next time: George's sister and younger brothers .....

## Final Wednesday Speaker Evenings with Meal

A date for your diary. Your local Rotary Club, Sherwood Forest, in Edwinstowe, has an open meeting called The Final Wednesday Speaker and Meal Evening on the final Wednesday of each month to which everyone is welcome. Our next Open Meeting is on September 27th. Malcolm Bevan has been involved with music all his life and his talks reflect his knowledge and enthusiasm. He retired as Head of Music at the Dukeries Academy and some may recall he gave a talk in Laxton Village Hall a few years ago.

We aim for entertaining and/or informative talks and September's talk will be both. Come along to South Forest Leisure Centre, Edwinstowe, 7pm for 7.15. Each evening begins with a sociable two course carvery meal prior to the presentation for 30 - 40 minutes. Evenings usually conclude with a few questions for the speaker and the whole event is over in about two hours.

To book places for the September talk (for number of meals) please phone South Forest (**01623 823866**) saying you wish to book into the Rotary meal on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**If you would prefer to attend just for the talk then there is no need to book and the charge will be £3 on the door at 8pm.**

Weds 27<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm for 7.15pm start, £11 inc. meal & speaker.

South Forest Leisure Centre  
Robin Hood Crossroads, Edwinstowe, NG21 9JF

Organised by the Rotary Club of Sherwood Forest who meet at South Forest most Wednesdays. Visitors are always welcome.

## Group Oil Order



26 households took advantage of the last group order, which was placed with Chandlers at a price of 34.49p/litre.

The next order will be towards the end of November. If you would like to be part of this order, please send a note of the volume you need to **[oil@openfield.org.uk](mailto:oil@openfield.org.uk)** any time from early November. If you have ordered before please ensure you have notified any changes to your contact details e.g. phone or email.

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

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# Flu Jabs

Believe it or not although it is August as this is written, it will soon be time for flu jabs again. We have asked local GP practices for the dates when they will be offering jabs, but if you want to enquire in advance please contact your own surgery.

Last year many readers commented that they went to get a jab after reading a Tuxford GP's comment in their magazine that

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

## Tuxford Practice

This year the Tuxford Practice will be holding vaccination sessions again and they tell us:

Our dates this year for patients to drop in for vaccination are going to be;

**Thu 05/10/2017**

**Tue 10/10/2017**

**Wed 18/10/2017**

**All will be afternoon sessions from 13:00 until 18:00**

## Middleton Lodge Practice, Ollerton

Jonathan Cummins, Practice Manager at Middleton Lodge Practice in Ollerton has sent us this this year:

'Flu vaccination is available every year on the NHS to help protect adults and children at risk of flu and its complications. Flu can be unpleasant, but if you are otherwise healthy it will usually clear up on its own within a week. However, flu can be more severe in certain people, such as:

- anyone aged 65 and over,
- pregnant women,

- **children and adults with an underlying health condition (such as long-term heart or respiratory disease),**
- **children and adults with weakened immune systems**

Anyone in these risk groups is more likely to develop potentially serious complications of flu, such as pneumonia (a lung infection), so it's recommended that they have a flu vaccine every year to protect them.

Middleton Lodge Practice is offering all of its registered patients who are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccination the opportunity to book an appointment for one of its special flu vaccination weeks.

Appointments are available between **Monday 18th and Friday 22nd September 2017** and then between **Monday 9th and Friday 13th October 2017**. Please contact reception on **01623 703266** to book your appointment.

If you can't make either of those weeks we will be running clinics on other days. If you are seeing a doctor or nurse at Middleton Lodge Practice from late September 2017 please ask them for your vaccination.

## **Eligibility**

- Many people are unsure who is eligible to receive free vaccination. If you have previously had a vaccination and are in a yearly routine to attend you are likely to be eligible again this year.
- Most people who were vaccinated for the first time last year will be eligible this year.
- One of the hardest groups to catch is actually the 'recently 65's with no long term conditions' – they will never have been invited in the past, and often don't realise that they're now eligible.

There is a useful page on the NHS Choices website where you can check your eligibility for a free flu vaccination. Please visit:

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

or ask at your own Practice.

We hope to have dates from the Sutton on Trent practice next month

Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark is warning that Universal Credit is putting people's financial security at risk as they wait six weeks or more for their first payment. Many people have already turned to Citizens Advice for help with "live service" Universal Credit, a temporary version of the benefit available to people in the area with straightforward claims.

The charity says the numbers struggling will grow rapidly from February 2018 when "full service" arrives, meaning anyone who would previously have claimed one of the old benefits - such as tax credits or housing benefit - has to apply for Universal Credit.

Across the country 1 in 4 (28%) working age households will be claiming Universal Credit, more than half of which (54%) will be in employment. The benefit will also be claimed by more than half (52%) of all families with children in the UK and 6 in 10 (58%) households where an adult is disabled or has a long term health condition.

In a major new report - Delivering on Universal Credit - national Citizens Advice has revealed that the requirement to **wait for six weeks** to receive any payment means people face serious financial insecurity, with many being forced into debt. The research also identifies a wide range of administrative challenges, including problems with the online system and long waits to get help over the phone, which can make the initial six week wait even longer. As part of the new study, national Citizens Advice surveyed 800 people who sought help with Universal Credit in areas where there is full service.

#### It finds:

- 39% of people are waiting more than the 6 weeks it should take to receive their first payment.
- Just over 11% are waiting over 10 weeks without the benefit.
- 57% are having to borrow money while waiting for their first payment.

The report also reveals that people are having problems with the new online application process. These range from difficulties using a computer to issues getting hold of the right evidence to support their claim.

And the research shows that when things go wrong, people are not able to get the help they need: 30% said they had to make more than 10 calls to the Universal Credit helpline during their application process, often having to wait over 30 minutes to get through.

The rollout of Universal Credit is set to speed up significantly in October this year. Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark is calling on the government to



pause this acceleration and use the time to fix key problems before thousands more people are brought into the system. The charity also highlights that, unless addressed, these challenges will undermine the goals of Universal Credit: to simplify the benefits system and offer people the security and support they need to move into and progress in work.

As it stands, many people are facing uncertainty about how much money they will receive and when it will arrive. This insecurity filters through to other areas of their lives, for instance making it harder to focus on finding work while they worry about how to keep on top of bills or put food on the table.

A woman turned to Citizens Advice for help when her Universal Credit application was delayed because her childminder didn't provide receipts on a type of letter headed paper which was required as evidence for her claim. This delay meant she lost her childcare places and had to take time off work to care for her children. Further delays to her Universal Credit claim then meant she could still not afford childcare, and she has since lost her job for taking so much time off.

Lesley Barrick, Advice Service Manager, Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark said: "The principles behind Universal Credit are sound, but a mix of flaws in how the benefit was designed and problems with how it is being delivered is leaving many people's finances in tatters. If anyone does run into problems with Universal Credit, don't hesitate to contact Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark for help."

National Citizens Advice recommends fixing Universal Credit before it is rolled out more widely by reducing how long people have to wait for their first payment

- Removing the 7 waiting days at the start of a claim, to reduce the amount of time people have to wait for their first payment.
- Making sure everyone moving to Universal Credit is told they can get an Advance Payment to help them while they wait for their first payment.
- Introducing an online system for people to book their initial Jobcentre appointments, rather than having to call the Universal Credit helpline.
- Make the Universal Credit helpline free of charge, at least until the roll-out is complete.
- Allow people to adjust to Universal Credit by offering everyone options in how they would like the benefit to be paid.
- Put in place a comprehensive support package before Universal Credit roll-out accelerates, to make sure people get advice to manage their money and deal with any complications in the application process.

Universal Credit was introduced in 2013, aiming to simplify the benefits system, to make transitions into work easier and make every hour of work

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## Milton Mausoleum

The Mausoleum will be open every Sunday  
until September from 2 - 4pm. Volunteers will  
be there to tell the story of the Duke and his  
family. Organised group visits are possible at  
other times. Contact  
**[mausoleum1833@gmail.com](mailto:mausoleum1833@gmail.com)**



pay. Universal Credit is for people on low incomes, both in and out of work, disabled people and those with a health condition, single people and those with families, people who own their homes and people who rent to help them meet their living costs. It replaces six means-tested benefits and tax credits with one benefit. This is paid in arrears, as a single household payment, on a monthly basis.

It is designed to use Real Time Information from HMRC to respond to changes in income, gradually reducing the UC payment as earnings increase to ensure work pays. The six benefits it replaces are:

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-based Employment Support Allowance (ESA)
- Housing benefit (HB)
- Income Support (IS)
- Child Tax Credits (CTC)
- Working Tax Credits (WTC)

Universal Credit is being rolled out gradually across the country, by Jobcentre area. Everywhere in the country now either operates a "live service" or "full service". Live service areas are places where a limited version of Universal Credit is in place only for certain people (e.g. single adults not in work), so as to test the system on those with simpler claims. 'Full' service has been developed to upgrade and build on the first, 'live' system. From May 2016, full service Universal Credit began to be introduced across the country, in a small number of local authorities initially. Live service roll-out is now complete, but full service roll-out is ongoing and due to accelerate significantly from October 2017. All areas will eventually become full service by 2022.

Ollerton Office Drop in Advice Session  
**Monday and Wednesday** : 9:30am to 2:30pm  
5 Forest Court, New Ollerton, Newark, NG22 9PL

Newark Office Drop in Advice Session  
**Tuesday and Thursday**: 9:30am to 2:30pm  
Keepers Cottage, Riverside Park, Great North Road, Newark, NG24 1B

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

**[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)**

# Take Care When Buying Pets

Puppies and kittens are being advertised for sale via online auction websites. Fraudsters place an advert, often claiming the pet is elsewhere usually overseas. On agreeing a sale they request an advance payment by money / bank transfer. The pet does not materialise and the fraudster will ask for further advanced payments for courier charges, shipping fees and additional transportation costs. Even if further payments are made, the pet will still not materialise as it is likely to not exist.

## **Tips :**

- Stay within auction guidelines.
- Be cautious if the seller first requests payment via one method, but later claims that due to 'issues with their account' they will need to use an alternative method such as a bank transfer.
- Consider conducting research on other information provided by the seller, e.g. a mobile phone number or email address could alert you to negative information for the number/email address online.
- As for details of the courier company and consider researching it.
- If the seller is reluctant to meet face-to-face it could be an indication that the pet does not exist.
- A genuine seller should be keen to ensure that the pet is going to a caring and loving new home. If the seller does not express any interest in you and the pet's new home, be wary.
- If you think the purchase price is too good to be true then it probably is, especially if the pet is advertised as a pure-breed.
- Do not be afraid to request copies of the pet's inoculation history, breed paperwork and certification prior to agreeing a sale. If the seller is reluctant or unable to provide this information it could be an indication that either the pet does not exist or the pet has been illegally bred e.g. it originates from a 'puppy farm'. Illegally farmed puppies will often be kept in inadequate conditions and are more likely to suffer from ailments and illnesses associated with irresponsible breeding.
- When thinking of buying a pet, consider buying them in person from rescue centres or from reputable breeders.

If you have been affected by this, or any other type of fraud, report it to Action Fraud by visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling:

**0300 123 2040.**

## Bakewell Festival of Bird Art



This annual event takes place at the Agricultural Business Centre, site of the cattle market, in Bakewell on Saturday & Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September. It incorporates the national Bird Carving Championships, which was won last year by David Clewes with the lapwing pictured left.

The skill of the carvers is amazing. You feel that if you clapped your hands half the entries would fly away. Not only that, the judging is done by carvers in association with an ornithologist, so in the natural classes if your entry would not fool a real bird it will not do very well.

If you have never been it is a good day out and you are close to the town centre where there is plenty of parking.

Opening hours are 11am to 5pm on Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday. £2.50 admission, seniors £1.50 and under 16s free.

## Dukeries Singers

After our Summer break, we are now back in full swing rehearsing for our future engagements. We resume Choir practise on 30th August. We have one concert left to complete our 'Summery Singing Season' - on Saturday 16th September at All Saints Church, Weston, Nr. Sutton on Trent, at 7-30pm.

After this, it is Christmas all the way!! I know, I know, it's early to be considering such things, but the calendar pages whip over at an alarming speed.

We welcome new choir members. You are welcome to give us a try to see if singing in a choir is your "thing" before deciding to join us. We enjoy working hard on our singing to give our audiences a varied and polished performance in concert. All this in a fun, relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. We are a very friendly and supportive group of people who meet every Wednesday evening in the Concert Hall at The Dukeries Academy between 7-30pm. and 9-15pm. This is best accessed via the Leisure Centre entrance and free car park.

Please contact our Concert Secretary Phil on **01623 822070** to enquire about booking the Choir. More information about the choir can be found at [www.thedukeriesingers.com](http://www.thedukeriesingers.com) and also on Facebook and YouTube.

We wish you a warm and mellow Autumn.

*Jan*

# Egmanton Village Hall

[www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk) / 01777 871171

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

- ◆ **Craft & Produce Show 2nd September**

Forms to Elizabeth Banks by Tuesday 29th August

Entries to be delivered to the hall by 11.30 am on the day

Public viewing from 2.30pm with refreshments

Prize presentations 4pm

- ◆ Tuxford Young Farmers - no bookings in September

- ◆ Yoga with Greg – Tuesdays at 7:30pm

- ◆ WI - Thurs 21st September

- ◆ Children's Dance Classes - Saturday mornings (Jill, 07790 601877)

- ◆ **Computer Problems?** - Call 01777 871171.

If your computer is misbehaving or you need help setting up a new one, please call. Donations to Egmanton Village Hall in lieu of fee.

# Maplebeck Village Hall Events

[www.maplebeck.org.uk](http://www.maplebeck.org.uk) / 01636 636692 / 636185

## Regular Activities

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

## Upcoming special events

Weds 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept 7.30pm	Kurling	
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept 7.30pm	Talk by Trish	The Art of Printing
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 7.30pm	Film	I, Daniel Rush
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct. 3.00pm	Children's Film	T.B.A



## Useful Contact Details

### Defibrillator Contacts:

Neil Randall 01777 871229 & 07710 398745, evenings and weekends  
Pat Naylor 01777 870601, evenings  
Jeff Naylor 01777 870601, as required  
Mark Hennell 07812 908316, evenings  
Stuart Rose 07939 228353, as required  
Linda & Max McNaught 01777 870127, as required  
David & Linda, Dovecote Inn 01777 871586, as required  
Jeanette Geldard 07956 959135, daytime in Kneesall,  
evenings / weekends  
Anne-Marie & Geoff Rose 07961 933290 / 07957 991002, as required

### Police

PC Gary Sipson 07525 226575  
or 101 x 800 7673  
Email : [gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

PCSO 4741 Keith Crowhurst 07889 702823  
or 101 x 8007671  
Email : [keith.crowhurst4741@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:keith.crowhurst4741@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

Web, showing other contacts: [www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

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

### Medical

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

**Fire Safety Advice** (Tuxford Fire Station) 01777 870381

Parish Council website: [www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk)



# **Laxton Harvest Competition**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

**Laxton Church**

**Entries to be in church between  
2pm and 4pm please.**

**Please see schedule next month**



## **Moorhouse Harvest Festival**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September**  
**7.00pm**

**The service will be taken by Readers Joan Wood and  
Heather Brown and will be followed by refreshments.  
Everyone welcome.**