

Open Field

£1

September 2023



Laxton History Group Trip to Brodsworth Hall, 16th July 2023

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



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Churchwardens

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Open Field

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

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

Contributions for the next edition TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY NOON ON 16th September 2023 PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED. You can send at any time.

A Message From Our Churchwarden



At the moment we are having difficulty getting vicars to take our services. We are all relying on retired vicars from around the Deanery.

Paula, who works in the Diocese office, and who coordinates our services for a group and most of the Deanery, is having to give up that part of her job. Her workload has become too

much. She is the one who has organised all the vicars for the services for our group.

Most of our rotas are made up until December, but with several gaps. This means we will have to find our own vicars in the future, which we are going to find very difficult.

We, as a PCC, are trying desperately to keep things going. It is not easy with all the rules and regulations, and especially all the paperwork that goes with it. There are also the bills to pay, like nearly £4,000 for the insurance, the building maintenance and all the inspections we must have. This is why we keep having to have some fundraising activities to raise some money.

We will try to carry on as long as we can, but it gets harder. One thing we do not want is to see our lovely grade, one listed church close, like a lot of others are having to do.

Brenda

Lammas Service

On Sunday 6th August we celebrated another of our traditional church services when we held our Lammas Day service. In the past this service was always held on the 1st of August, no matter what day of the week it fell on. Originally it was held at 5:30 am More recently it



had moved to 8 am and now it is 10:30 am. The service is when the first sheaf of corn is brought in to church to be blessed.

The service this year was taken by the Rev. Canon John Smith from

Besthorpe. John first started his ministry in Ollerton. With him taking the service, we were able to go back to the original form of service and have Holy Communion at the end.

Thanks to Stuart C and Simon, for reading the lessons, to Eva and Eliza, Jem and Frankie and Jonathan for reading the prayers. Thanks also to those who presented the gifts: Stuart for the sheaf, Janet for the wine, Mavis for the bread, and Sylvia P for the offertory.

The service was followed by bacon cobs and mushrooms, thanks to Simon and Anna. Tea and coffee were served by Janet and Mavis.



It was lovely to see so many people in church from Kirton, Moorhouse, Walesby, Boughton and Newark. Thank you to everyone who came.

We wish our congregation was as large as that every Sunday.

Brenda



Get Well Wishes

We send our very best wishes to George Noble. He is doing very well and was even seen braving the weather at the Fête. We are so pleased to hear that he is doing really well and wish him a continuing successful recovery.

Baby Boom Birthdays

From August last year until January we had baby boom, with more babies born in the parish than for many a year. In the same period two village families also had new grandchildren or great grandchildren. They are all now starting to reach their first birthdays, so we decided to celebrate their milestone with combined greetings and good wishes to the earlier arrivals this month and the later ones in November. The babies featured this month are: Maddison Waterfield, Ralph Creighton, Jimmy Buckle, Phoebe. We wish them all very happy first birthdays.



Above: Jimmy, (left) and Ralph (right) showing their farming heritage



Left: Phoebe loving life at nursery



Below: Maddison the party girl

Laxton Harvest Weekend

We have not managed to hold our traditional Harvest Weekend with all its events since 2019, so it is with great pleasure that we are bringing it back this year - but a little earlier.

The Harvest celebrations have usually been held in mid October, but this has proved problematic for people wanting to enter home grown produce and flowers in the competition, as frequently most things have been past their best, if not over. For this reason we will be holding it in mid September this year - over the weekend of 15th - 17th.



As always there will be a service on the Friday evening, although at the time of writing it is unknown whether we will manage to find a vicar. If we cannot, we will go for the DIY approach. This will be followed immediately by a **Harvest Supper** in the Village Hall. Everyone is very welcome, but please do **let Jean know asap** if you want to join in the supper as catering arrangements need to be made in advance. Call her on **870276**.

Saturday 16th sees the **Harvest Competition** being held in church. There are classes for adults and for children, which are all listed in the programme in this edition of the magazine. Please make sure that you take your entries to the church during the registration period, 2– 4pm on the Saturday.

The final events take place on Sunday 17th. You will be able to come in to the church to see how your entries have fared from 3.30pm. A service will follow at 4pm after which we will share a cuppa before the competition prizes are presented .

The finale of the weekend will be the familiar **auction of the produce** entries for the competition along with any additional items donated to be auctioned.

This year, being aware of the cost of living crisis and the problems being experienced by so many people, we are introducing a collection of useful non perishable supplies which will be donated to a local Food Bank. This can include cans, jars or packets of staple items such as tea, coffee, fruit and vegetables, cereals, biscuits, etc. Please bring these with you at any time over the weekend when the church is open for a service or for the competition.

Change of Printer for Open Field

Unfortunately after many years of working happily with Rev. Tony Tucker to bring you 'Open Field', he has told us that he is unlikely to continue printing beyond the end of this year. His printer is on a 5 year contract and this deal has enabled him to pass on the advantage of the low contract price via his not-for-profit enterprise. The renewal price is prohibitive and Tony has now retired from full time ministry. We send our grateful thanks for all his help and efforts for us.

And so the PCC find themselves looking for alternatives. They felt that readers still enjoy receiving their magazines on paper, rather than as electronic files. This means looking for a new printer, and they have collected a number of estimates to give them an idea of the cost.

To continue with the colour front and back and the potential to take colour advertisements, the cost will be at least 50% higher than now.

The magazine's cost to subscribers has always been slightly less than 50% of the total production cost and the PCC would like to continue this. Unfortunately it will mean an increase from the current £5 a year to £7.50 for the coming year.

The only potential way to avoid such an increase would be for the community to generate a significant increase in advertisers. Most local magazines carry far more adverts than Open Field does, and we have never had a real drive to increase the numbers.

Recently, and especially after covid, some of our smaller advertisers have retired and others have cut their advertising budgets. We remain extremely grateful to the business who advertise, hoping readers will trade with them. It is important to us that you tell them so if you find contacts on our pages .

We are also aware that some local people with their own businesses advertise simply to support the magazine. Their generosity is invaluable and does not go unnoticed. Thank you all.

Now the PCC would like to ask your help over the next month or two to see if we can gain more advertisers and / or find a good printing deal. Do you know anyone who might advertise, or do you know anyone in the printing business who might help us? Meanwhile, we must advise you to expect a subscription increase in January.

If you can help in any way, please contact Brenda Noble on **870541**, Simon Hill on **01636 822777** or Joy Allison on **871506**.

Thank you.

SEPTEMBER CONGRATULATIONS

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

*Happy birthday wishes go to:
Anne D (93), Mel Voce, Paula Doyle, Jo Godson, Melanie P, Christopher H, Amelie Beckitt, Neil R, Diane W, Graham L and Keith Morton.*

We wish a happy anniversary to Neil & Rachel Hennell and Roger & Alison Beckitt and anyone else celebrating this month.

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



Annual Barn Owl Ringing

For the past few years Mike Jackson has sent us an update on the ringing of Barn Owls hatched in boxes around Laxton. He has usually included one or two images from the activity. This month we have the report for 2023.



We ringed 4 young barn owls in 3 boxes situated around the village. The owls have been short of food this year as the short tailed voles on which the owls feed have not been plentiful.

In one other box the 3 young disappeared, probably ending up as

a snack for mummy and daddy. The adult owl in the picture was born in Norwell Woodhouse last year and carries a ring on its leg. Photo courtesy of Tim Keay.



Notts YFC

Nottinghamshire Young Farmers are hoping for better weather than we have got used to this summer with an outdoor screening of a summer favourite. See 'Mamma Mia' at Floral Media, Cauntton on **Friday 8th September at 7pm for an 8pm start.**

Tickets £15, paid bar, popcorn and sweet treats available. Everyone welcome

Tickets from:

www.ticketebo.co.uk/nottsyfcoutdoorcinema



Notts YFC
OUTDOOR CINEMA

Ticket £15

SHOWING MAMA MIA

FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

FLORAL MEDIA, NORWELL ROAD, CAUNTTON, NG23 6AQ
GATES OPEN 19:00, FILM STARTS 20:00

paid bar, popcorn & sweet treats available

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- | | | | |
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| .Carrots | .Tomatoes | .Bread | £12 Essentials Box |
| .Cabbage | .Cucumber | .Cakes | £16 Family Box |
| .Broccoli | .Peppers | | |
| .Red & White Onions | .Spring Onions | | |
| .Mushrooms | .Soft Fruits | | |
| .Courgettes | .Apples | | |
| .Sweet Potatoes | .Satsumas | | |
| .Baby leaf Spinach | .Pears | | |
| .Mange Tout | .Bananas | | |
| .Celery | .Grapes | | |
| .Garlic Bulbs. | .Local Honey | | |

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GHOSTS AND GUYS

(Laxton's Own Up Helly Aa)



WOW!

This year we are reviving the ancient Laxton tradition of holding a winter celebration party in the village hall, between Halloween and Bonfire night on November 4th, Laxton's Own 'Up Helly Aa' with a bit of a difference. Well, quite a lot of difference actually.

It will include a **CHILDREN'S PARTY**; a picnic in the hall, fun and games and witchy stories. Come and meet **Winnie**, Laxton's very own Weird Witch of the West.

Any child from 0 to 16 is invited, also children who are relatives of villagers and friends of the village children, (provided they pay!) Dressing up is encouraged – witches, warlocks, guys and pumpkins welcome, or any other strange fancy dress which takes a child's fancy.

The party will take place from 4pm until 6pm. It will cost only £2.50 per child. Parents and carers are welcome to stay but they must keep their hands off the picnic baskets!

ADULTS PARTY 7pm untilit finishes!

(And this is where the real fun begins.)

Come and join us for a **"Stew and a Brew Supper."** There will, of course, be a bar and a disco, (only if you feel fit enough!)

AND After supper entertainment will include ghost stories of old Laxton told by old Laxtonians. These are genuine ghost stories of our village passed down by an older generation. Come if you dare to find out if your house is haunted. Old photographs will be screened during the ghastly ghostly story telling showing what Laxton looked like many years ago. Only £5 per head. Excellent value for a night out in your own village. Come and have fun with friends and neighbours, bring a friend from another village if your dare to show them the horrors of Laxton.

Contact Joan Cottee **01777 871137** if you are interested. Tickets will also be available from the pub at a later date.

History Group Visit to Brodsworth Hall & Gardens



Our July visit to Brodsworth Hall and Gardens was a great success.

Members travelled in their own cars and everyone was there on time. Amazingly our group of 14 had grown to 18 by the time we gathered for the inevitable group photo.

The weather on the journey and the

forecast had not been good. We drove through lashing rain and heavy spray, but by the time we arrived there were signs of blue sky.

We all went for a cuppa before setting about the serious business of viewing the property. With an interlude between showers most of us decided to go to the gardens first. What a treat lay in store!

The team of about 8 full time gardeners, supported by volunteers, had made a wonderful job of creating manicured lawns with immaculate edges and a mixture of garden types. We saw colourful formal beds, abundant ferns in a small gorge, a rockery, wild areas and even an archery range; all in a manageable area and with sculpture, different levels and follies to give it character.





There was also a delightful view of the little estate church which gave the impression of being older than it was.

A shower timed its arrival to coincide with most of us being back at the café. After having lunch sitting outside under some huge and effective umbrellas, which kept us dry, we set off into the house.

A very well informed volunteer described how the estate had been inherited in the 1850s. Deciding that the huge Georgian house was too big, the new landowner asked the architect to design 'a small, comfortable family home'. The result was the current Hall! See the picture on the right.

The construction reused many of the materials and also created some estate houses and the church. The grounds were laid out and the house furnished for around £48,000 at



exactly the time that Laxton church was remodelled for a cost of £2,000.

Unfortunately the family suffered four deaths in approximately 50 years, and the death duties paid depleted the family funds to the point that the remaining family gradually had to close rooms. They were eventually reduced to using just four. The widow of the final owner lived there with just one servant until she died.

At this point the Hall passed to English Heritage, who are keeping it as she would have known it. The leaking roof has been repaired, but the decor is being retained as it was, shabby as that is in places and with some rooms used for storage. It was good to see some of the glorious furnishings in better order downstairs rooms as well as a family exhibition and the servants quarters.- Many thanks to Jean for organising the visit.

Ossington Art Group

starts back on Monday 4th September at Ossington Village Hall between 10.00am -12.00 noon each Monday. There is also a class at Edwinstowe at 2pm.

Anyone who would like to try their hand at painting and drawing in all media can join and get professional tuition from Graham Laughton. Just bring along what art materials you have to start you off to begin with.

Fees are £7.00 per session including tea/coffee etc.

Please contact Graham on:

01777 472885 or 07999 528397



Ride and Stride 2023, 9th September

Ride + Stride is a national event and is the single largest source of income for many Historic Churches Trusts, enabling them to make Grants to places of Christian worship. It takes place on the second Saturday of September, 10am - 6pm. In 2023 this falls on Saturday 9th.



You can have a great day out visiting Nottinghamshire's historic churches whilst raising funds for their preservation.

Participants are sponsored to visit churches, which are also sponsored for welcoming visitors. The money raised is split between the trust and those participating churches.

Whether it's a leisurely stroll from the doorstep or an epic cross-county ride, *you* decide your route and which churches to visit along the way.

Most participants set up their own Just Giving page which sponsors can add to, quickly and easily. All you need to set up is a Just Giving account and spread the word. You can also print off a sponsorship form to fill out on the day.

For more details see nottshistorichurchestrust.org.uk/ridestride



Laxton Harvest Festival

Friday 15th September

7.00pm, St Michael's Church, Laxton

followed by

Laxton Harvest Supper

Friday 15th September

8.00pm Laxton Village Hall

Supper, Assorted sweets, Tea & Coffee

Names to Jean (870276) £8 per person

Laxton Harvest Competition

Saturday 16th September

Laxton Church

Entries to church between 2pm and 4pm please.

Please see schedule in this issue to enter

Harvest Family Service

4.00pm Sunday 17th September

Afterwards we will share a cuppa before the

Presentation of Competition Prizes, 5.00pm

and Auction of Produce

Everyone welcome

A Long Ago Birthday Party

Janet Cooke has kindly sent in this item from the August 1922 edition of the Parish magazine. It lists a number of the clergy and officers of the church here at that time, and then goes on to tell of an exciting day for the children:

Diocese of Southwell, Bishop Rt Rev Edwyn, Hoskins, DO

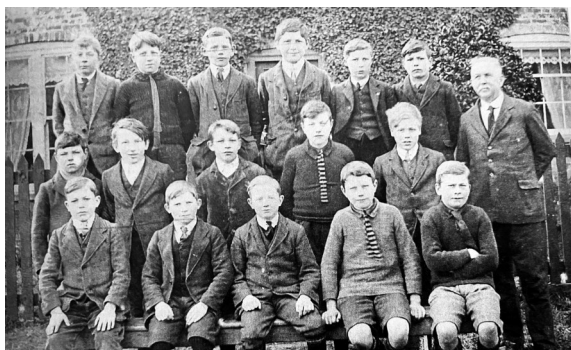
St Michael's, Laxton - Vicar Rev, S B Bleau

Wardens- R Clark, G Burkitt. Sidesmen - Mr J W Morton, S Laughton, J B Cook. Sexton - Mr Samuel Moody. Organist - Mr F. Willis.

"A very happy and memorable event took place on June 26th when teacher and scholars met at Westwood at the invitation of Mr Marrison on the occasion of his attaining his 86th birthday.

A large number of relatives and friends were present including Mr H D Argles (*the Agent for the Thoresby Estate*). After the scholars had done justice to the sumptuous tea that had been provided, speeches of congratulations were made by the vicar and Mr Willis (*the Headmaster of Laxton School as well as the organist*) and earnest wishes were expressed for his future happiness and longer continuance with us.

A very pleasing part of the proceedings followed when, on behalf of the school children, the headmaster presented Mr Marrison, with a walking stick of ebony wood, mounted with silver and explained that the gift was a spontaneous thought of the children.



Mr Willis and school boys in the 1920s

Mr Marrison expressed, with much feeling, his appreciation of the kind thoughts and gift. Hearty cheers were then given by the children, who proceeded to the field where many games and competitions occupied the rest of the afternoon and evening. Towards the close of the day, our hospitable host entertained us further by singing in fine style two songs of the older times, after which the cheers of the children were still more rapturous. Thus ended a very pleasant day, which we sincerely trust will be not be the last of its kind."

Not for the First Time ...

It would appear that, by this time, Mr Marrison's birthday parties had possibly become something of a tradition. Joan Cottee noted in 'The Village Schoolmaster' written as part of Laxton History Group's Lottery funded project covering 1900 - 1920*, that in 1916 the event nearly cost the school dearly.

On Friday, June 30th, HM Inspector of Schools had called and found Laxton school closed without notification having been given to Shire Hall, either from the school managers or the head teacher.

The following was included in a message was received from Mr Bramley at the Education

Board, "... in the event of HM Inspector visiting a school, and finding it closed without notice, he may advise the Board of Education to make a deduction from the grant payable to the Education Committee."

"I shall be glad therefore to know why no notification of this closure was sent to the office and also how long the school was closed."

The vicar at the time was the Rev. Collinson, who wrote an abject apology in which he stated *"a large farmer came down to the school at the end of the week before and said he was having a party for his 80th birthday and would like to entertain the school children but did not fix a day. ... I was out of the way when Friday was decided on and we forgot to send the notice. ... The school was only closed for half the day."*

Mr Marrison is identified in the school log book as the generous "large" farmer from Westwood Farm who invited the children to his 80th birthday party.

It apparently all ended happily with Rev Collinson's word being accepted that he had not known which day had been chosen for the party, and had fully intended to let the Board of Education know of the closure.

Joan quotes this incident to demonstrate "the close relationship which had developed between the village and school, and the respect that the farming community now had for education, and for Frank Willis."

* The seven booklets written for this project can be downloaded free of charge from www.laxtonhistorygroup.org.uk



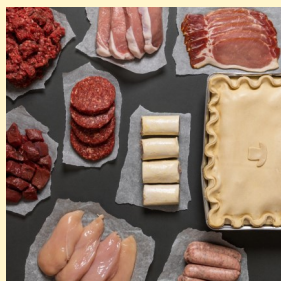
The school girls in the 1920s

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Nottinghamshire welcomes the Tour of Britain



On the day that the July edition of Open Field went for printing, we head that the county would host both the start and the finish of the fourth stage of the Tour of Britain on **Wednesday 6 September 2023**.

The whole stage will be in Nottinghamshire. Since the full map has been published it has become clear that local residents will have much better options to see the riders than early news suggested.

The start will staged at Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre, Edwinstowe with the finish beside Sconce and Devon Park in Newark. Over 100 riders from the world's leading teams are expected to take part.

The peloton and entourage will approach Moorhouse from Ossington, turn right towards Egmonton and on to Tuxford. The timings have now been published and give three times depending on the average speed.

The leaders are due in Ossington between 13.50 and 14.23, which sees them in **Moorhouse between 13.54 and 14.27** and turning up past **Egmonton church towards Tuxford between 13.59 and 14.33**. The full timings can be found on the county council web site.



From past experience of seeing the event pass through our villages, we know that there will be an enormous amount of support vehicles and police motorcycles to see as well as the riders. This time they will be here well into the race, so it is possible there may have been a break away and there could be more than one group to see.

Road closures will be announced nearer the time. They are applied and lifted as the race progresses, so anyone who needs to travel in the area should make a point of checking for the details before the day.

From the timings above, it would seem there will be closures here from some time after 1pm to around 3pm to allow everyone to pass safely.

News from the Museums of Tuxford

This year's National Festivals of Heritage Open Days are from Friday 8th to Sunday 17th September. We will be celebrating at both museums

The Handcart Museum will be offering creative tours of the collection - from the wheelwright to the cartwright who created our artefacts to the designers who decorated the carts. Look at how the carts inspired creativity. Visitors can explore their creativity in the rural barn.

On Saturday 9th September from 10am we are celebrating International Charity Day combined with craft stalls. If you want a stall please contact us or come and support local causes.

On Friday 15th September between 11am and 3 pm there will be a guided tour to see inside the farm house. This is a restoration project in conjunction with the Bassetlaw conservation officers and Building Preservation Trust. Space is limited so please book a place with us

On Saturday 16th September at 2 pm we have a talk by Keith, one of our team. He was present at the 80th Anniversary event in Germany. He will tell us about the Dam Buster's raid and the moving reconciliation activities.



Please contact us to book places at events.

The Museum is open from 11am to 4 pm

Tel 01777 872776 or email: dianehunt08@btinternet.com

Normal open days outside Heritage Week are Thursdays and Saturdays

The Museum of the Horse will be giving an illustrated talk on the excitement and danger; the scandals and tragedies of the ladies of the 18th century and the early 19th century, who were bold enough to ride on these highly dangerous side saddles.

Find out why they had to wear a modesty strap when riding. These

early side saddles were so dangerous they gave rise to the creation of a number of safety devices during the 19th century. Many of these will be on show.

The talk is on Thursday September 14th at 11am. Tickets are free but numbers are limited so please book a space.

Tel Sally Mitchell: **01777 838234** to reserve a space.

Opening hours 10am to 4 pm Monday – Friday and 10am - 2pm on Saturday.



Visitor Guide Booklets and Walks

Progress has continued with the revision of the Visitor Guide booklets for the Visitor Centre. The text has been completed and proof read and the photographs prepared and placed to illustrate the text.

The completed document runs to 28 pages with an illustrated cover and it is the same size as *Open Field*. It follows the format of the earlier volume closely, but brings up to date the information it contains.

Those of you who are familiar with the Visitor Centre will have seen the walks around the village and fields described on a display board. The detail of the walks appeared in brief in the current booklet and also in detail in separate, colour coded, leaflets for each walk.

The revision has removed the walks from the booklet entirely as it is far more convenient to have just a foldable sheet of paper when walking. The details in the leaflets is the final element of the project to review and revise the information provided from the Visitor Centre.

The newly updated Village Booklet is currently with the printers and copies will be available in the Visitor Centre shortly. Many, many thanks to Professor John Beckett for all the work with updating the whole booklet and many thanks to Joy and Dik for a number of new and exciting photos which are now included.

By the way, there are a limited number of the old booklets available if anyone would like one as a keepsake.

Best wishes

Michael



SEPTEMBER SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

27th August

No Services

3rd September

10.00am Laxton

HC Rev Margaret

10th September

9:00am Egmanton

HC Rev Alistair

10.30am Kirton

HC Rev Alistair

15th September (Friday)

7.00pm Laxton

Harvest tbc

17th September

10:00am Walesby

HC Rev Vaughn Sweet

10.30am Wellow

HC Rev Margaret

5.00pm Laxton Harvest followed by Charity Auction

24th September

10:30am Kneesall

Harvest?

10.00am Wellow

HC Rev John Smith

29th September (Friday)


7.00pm Moorhouse

Harvest

1st October

10.30am Wellow

HC Rev Margaret



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

Sat. 2nd ***Egmanton Craft & Produce Show***

Weds 6th Tour of Britain in Moorhouse

8th - 17th Sept Heritage Open Days

Weds 13th ***WI***

Thurs 14th Sports Field Meeting

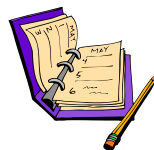
Fri 15th - Sun 17th ***Harvest events***

Sat 16th ***Coffee Morning***

Weds 20th ***History Group***

Tues 26th Parish Council

Sat 30th Southwell Ploughing Match, South Muskham



Forward Planning:

Sun 29th October ***Clocks change***

Sat 4th November ***Ghosts & Guys, Laxton Village Hall***

Regular Events:

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

Quiz Nights 1st Friday of December & March tbc

**Copy Date for OCTOBER 2023 edition:
12 noon, 16th SEPTEMBER 2023**

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

HILLCREST: Equestrian Services

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Breaking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CCTV |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School livery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BHS Regd. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rehab stabling | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Qualified instructor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Holiday livery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fully insured |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Selling livery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident on site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Riding lessons | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with stables |

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We are at the top of Laxton Hill, Egmonton



Laxton WI



Laxton WI August outing is always a welcome event, enjoyed and appreciated by the members. By any yardstick, this year's was superb.

We had a good lunch in the comfortable surroundings of the Chequers pub in Ranby and then ambled outside to sit in the garden

in the sunshine by the canal to wait and watch the Seth Ellis narrowboat being prepared for our trip aboard.

The weather was gorgeous, and we idly chatted and watched swallows dipping and diving over the water, beautifully coloured dragonflies and damselflies darted in and out of the lush trees.



The crew welcomed us aboard, and what a delightful foursome they were. All volunteers from the Chesterfield Canal Trust, they had groomed and prepared the boat to the highest standard. They then made us feel more like old friends who had come to visit. Photographs were taken and we set off to Osberton Lock. Tea, coffee and home made biscuits were on hand.

There were few sounds as we pottered along the reed-lined canal, only the murmur of genial conversation and soft laughter. The scenery widened to open fields

and beautiful blue skies. The small seating area at the prow revealed a gently changing vista of shoals of small fish, and the dragonflies and damselflies who seemed to be escorting us. We saw two herons take flight in front of us and idly flap away.

We did go near some roads but they seemed intrusive and



unwelcome, and it was lovely to slip back into the quiet, cool green of the magnificent willows that lined parts of our route.

All too soon we were at Osberton Lock and watched the crew as they expertly saw us through and back again to begin our journey home.

It was then that Justine was invited to take the tiller and steer us back. She took to it as to the manner born, and a photograph



shows

her completely at ease with a blissful grin on her face as she expertly guided us on. The captain declared her “brilliant” and she was awarded a certificate of merit at the end. She was entrusted to steer us into one of the small ‘winding places’ for us to see the large fish that live in the quiet, deep pools.

Everything has to end, and it was a relaxed and refreshed group who bid farewell to the Seth Ellis back at the Chequers. There was only one word to describe our trip – it was

idyllic. Thanks, Sandra.

Lesley Booth



September Community Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan

The regular Community Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 16th September in the Village Hall. This month's donations will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support for their Great British Coffee Morning appeal.

The collection got off to a good start at the History Group tea at Helen and Dave's house when guests were invited to put something in the box if they would be unable to attend the coffee morning in person.

Everyone is welcome to come along. The more the merrier. We look forward to seeing you there.





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Recent Bonus Ball Winners

22/7/23	2	Lucille M
29/7/23	25	Sam & Sophie
5/8/23	2	Lucille M
12/8/23	44	Lucille M

Spare numbers will soon be taken up by Tuxford U16 Football Team. To buy yours, please act now. The up to date list of the spare numbers is: **30, 35, 40, 41, 42, 51, 52** and **53**. Please contact me on 870844. Thank you.

Michael Manning

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St Michael the Archangel, Laxton
Harvest Produce Show and Competition, 2023
Only Home Produce and work to be entered



Rules

1. Entries to be in Church **between 2pm and 4pm, Saturday 16th Sept**
NB PLEASE NOTE TIME FOR ENTRIES TO BE RECEIVED
2. Each competitor will be given a number in each class entered.
3. Each entry must be the competitor's own work.
4. Entries in Class 3 must have twist top, or wax disc and cellophane cover.
5. **Please note, no meat or fresh cream can be accepted in any class**
6. Prizes will be presented in each section - First 30p, Second 20p, Third 15p

We welcome additional donations of produce, preserves or home baking for auction. These can be left in church on **Saturday, or Sunday from 3:30pm** when the winning entries may also be viewed. **We will also be collecting non-perishable gifts for a local Food Bank.**

Class 1

- A 3 potatoes
- B 3 onions
- C 3 beetroot
- D 3 leeks
- E 3 carrots
- F 1 marrow
- G 1 pumpkin
- H 3 tomatoes
- I 3 runner beans
- J Any other produce

Class 2

- A 3 eating apples
- B 3 cooking apples
- C 3 pears

Class 3

- A Jar of chutney
- E Jar of jam
- F Jar of jelly
- H Jar of lemon curd

Class 4

- A Victoria sandwich cake (no cream)

- B Decorated sandwich cake (any flavour)
- C Fruit cake
- D Plate fruit pie
- E 4 small cakes (buns)
- F 4 small sweet pastries
- G 4 fruit scones
- H 4 cheese scones
- I 4 tray bakes

Class 5 - Photograph

- A A Country Scene
- B It's Spring Time
- C A wild creature
- E Picture suitable for the cover of 'Open Field'

Class 6

Flower Arrangement

- A Hydrangea head in a vase
- B Single stem rose in a vase
- C Bowl of floating flowers
- D One bloom, one veg
- E Autumn Arrangement

CRAFT

Class 7

Craft item, any medium, made in the last year

CHILDREN'S COMPETITIONS:

Class 8 (up to 6 years)

- A A Painted Flower Pot
- B Vegetable or fruit sculpture
- C Harvest Collage
- D A Jar of Flowers

Class 9 (7 to 11 years)

- A A Painting of Harvest
- B Vegetable or fruit sculpture
- C Model from Lego or similar
- D Hand made greetings card

Auction of all entries in Church on **Sunday 17th September at 5.00pm**

This event will support general Church funds and a local Food Bank



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Southwell Ploughing Match and Show

**This year at South Muskham (NG23 6EB) on
Saturday 30th September 2023.**

The one thing which goes into diaries from one year to the next in the local farming communities is the Southwell Ploughing Match. It is a friendly local event with everything rural that you could possibly want.

The Southwell Ploughing Match is the largest agricultural one day show in Nottinghamshire, established in 1855 and run by a committee of local business people and rural enthusiasts. The annual show is held at a different venue every year.

The show represents all the really important interests of agriculture from preparing the land to cooking and eating locally produced food; from horse ploughing through the vintage years to the modern day tractor, a variety of livestock, static displays and trade stands to suit all tastes.

There are classes of all types from active participation on horse back and showing farm animals to baking, floral art, eggs, fruit, veg, hay and more. There can hardly be anyone who could not enter at least one class. Entries opened 1st August.

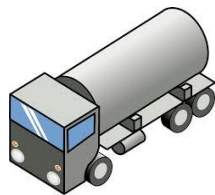
It is also a really big event for Notts Young Farmers who have their competitions, for craft, cookery, produce etc., their contests in the main ring and their opportunity to engage with so many from the local community and share the word about all they do through the year. They even get involved in setting up the event and breaking it all down afterwards.

The event goes ahead regardless of the weather, although it has to be said that a nice day enhances everything. Gates open at 8am and the show closes at 5.30pm. Under 13s are free and dogs are welcome. If you want to see the horse ploughing, that is an early event. There is a tractor and trailer 'bus' service around the show to ensure everyone can get to even the farthest flung corner.

Adults £15, children under 14 free. VIP passes available in advance only at £80 include 4 tickets and priority parking. General parking free. Discounted e-tickets available in advance online via the web site:

www.southwellploughingmatch.co.uk/tickets or for standard tickets locally - speak to Jill Hoyland, Paula Doyle or Brenda Noble.

Group Oil Order



The group order was placed in mid July, with Chandlers once again offering the best price.

Apparently the market was very volatile and we were given a price of 54.1p per litre, as long as it could be delivered within the week. In fact it came two days later.

Originally they agreed to deliver later to a family who were on holiday, but when they called to arrange it, they were told that with the price having already risen to 60p, Chandlers could not honour our price the following week. It seems we were very lucky and this order was timely. Thanks to all 20 customers for getting your orders in promptly when asked. On 16th August the Boilerjuice price was 74.74p/litre!

The next order should be in November. It is usually placed towards the end of the month. This timing is to try to ensure nobody runs out over Christmas and New Year as well as to beat the inevitable seasonal rise as people place last minute orders.

Please let me know if you will be needing an order **from early November onward**. Anyone whose order can be placed by email is very welcome to join. Please contact me on my personal email if you have it. I do not publish it because of the volume of spam that generates. oil@openfield.org.uk is a general address you can use if you don't have mine.

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

Laxton Sports Field - Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

We now only have 8 of the 59 numbers available for anyone who would like an additional one or for a new member.

The available numbers are: **30, 35, 40, 41, 42, 51, 52 and 53.**

Please contact Michael on **01777 870844** to take any of these.

As a reminder, all proceeds go to supporting the Laxton Sports and Recreation Field.

Michael

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call **01777 871506** for details and info on web pages / links.

Heritage Open Days

Every September thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore.

This year the Heritage Open Days 2023 events will take place over the period 8th-17th September. There is a web site:

www.heritageopendays.org.uk where events are listed and you can search by county. See listings for dates and to book.

Sites in the county within easy reach which are listed so far include:

- Lowdham signal box,
The Sidings, Lowdham, Nottinghamshire, NG14 7DU
- Mansfield Town Centre Heritage Walk
- A guided walk / talk around Newark's timber framed heritage
- Civil War Tour of Newark, including the Queen's Sconce
- Heritage Building Skills Demonstration and Participation
- The National Holocaust Centre & Museum, Laxton
- Unwrapping Newark Town Hall (250 years of history)
- Retford Masonic Hall

If you fancy going a little further afield, Prof. John Beckett is leading a walk round heritage Beeston.

There are other opportunities to take behind the scenes tours at:

- Manuscripts & Special Collections, University of Nottingham - the archives where the Manvers Collection, the records of the Pierrepont family and Lords of the Manor of Laxton, are stored
- Nottinghamshire Archives, County House, Nottingham
- Greens Windmill & Science Centre, Nottingham
- Newstead Abbey

or even to try a Photography Workshop with Neil Pledger at Bromley House Library, Nottingham (Tuesday 12/9/23)

Festival of Bird Art at Bakewell

The Annual Festival of Bird Art returns to the Agricultural Hall this year on September 9th and 10th. This is an opportunity to see some of the finest bird carving in the UK as it incorporates the British Championship.

There are classes for novices, intermediates and advanced carvers, who have earned their place by winning at the lower levels in previous years. They are obliged to carve and paint not only their bird(s), but also the props they stand on.

There is a class for innovative carving which was established in memory of the late David Rose, who was born in Laxton. Over the years this has seen some memorable entries, and last year was

no exception, with 'Out for a Duck'.

The more traditional styles of carving are painted to look realistic and this is judged by an ornithologist as well as carvers. Other classes are for stylised representations of bird types and miniatures. There is a class for the regional groups who meet regularly to pursue their craft and even a class for decoy ducks. These must be accurate enough to fool a real duck, which means some hardy soul has to wade into the river to float them for the judges. Why not make

a note in your diary to go along for a look?



Laxton History Group



The History Group will not be meeting in the Hall in August. We decided against a formal August meeting some years ago as so many people were on holiday or hard at work in the fields. Instead we enjoyed a garden social meeting with tea and cakes on our normal date. Fortunately 'Plan B' was not needed as a glorious and warm afternoon gave some respite from the dreadfully wet weather. More of that next month.

The next meeting in the Hall will be on **20th September** to learn more about the women in the lives of the Dukes of Newcastle.

My children are starting new schools in September, one is in primary school and the other secondary. Between uniforms, PE kit and knowing they'll need to catch

the bus each day the costs are adding up. I'm already pretty stretched, so I'm not sure how to cover these extra outgoings. Is there any help I can get?

A new school year can put pressure on lots of people's budgets, so you're not alone in your worries. But there is help available.

A good place to start is the Citizens Advice website where you'll find lots of information on the support you might be entitled to for school-related costs. The help you can get to cover school lunches will vary depending on how old your children are and if you claim benefits. Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 automatically get free school meals. You can apply for free school meals for older children if you claim certain types of benefits, including Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit and Income Support. The full list is available on the **Citizens Advice website**.

You mentioned concerns about travel costs. If your child can't walk to school because of special educational needs or disabilities they should get free school transport. You may be able to get help with transport costs from your Local Education Authority if your children can't walk because it's dangerous or too far. Your Local Education Authority is part of your local council that deals with education in your area, you can find yours on GOV.UK. Contact it directly to find out exactly what support it offers.

If you're on a low income, your Local Education Authority may also be able to help you with activity and school uniform costs. You're likely to be considered to be on a low income if you get means-tested benefits like Universal Credit or Housing Benefit. In some places there are also local charitable schemes that can help. A good place to find out about these is the school itself or Parent Teacher Association (PTA) both will usually know if these kinds of schemes exist.

A lot of people are feeling the squeeze at the moment, but it's important to remember that help is available with starting school costs and you're not alone. For more information visit **Citizens Advice website**.



MOORHOUSE HARVEST FESTIVAL

**Moorhouse Church
Friday 9th September
at 7pm
Everyone welcome**



OSSINGTON PCC invite you to HARVEST FESTIVAL

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Egmanton Craft & Produce Show

This annual event takes place in Egmanton Village Hall on **Saturday 2nd September** in 2023. Anyone can enter and entries are welcomed from the surrounding area. Schedules are available now from Elizabeth Banks - call **872633**.

There are classes for adults and children, including crafts, cookery, photography, fruit, vegetables flowers and flower arranging. There are prizes for all the children's classes and a selection of trophies for various classes.

There is an entry fee of 50p per entry, and entries should be delivered to Elizabeth at the address given in the schedule no later than 5pm on **Tuesday 29th August**.

Entries can be staged between 9.30am and 11.30am on Saturday 2nd September. Non-perishable entries may be left with Elizabeth in advance if you are unable to attend in person.



Judging takes place from 11.30am and the show opens to the public between 3.00pm and 4.30pm when refreshments are available. It is a happy event and a good chance to both catch up with friends over a cuppa and to get some ideas for your own entries in other shows. During this period prizes are awarded for the children's classes and trophies are presented.



Vaccinations

We seem hardly to have had a summer, yet September is the time to be thinking about vaccinations to protect us from 'flu and Covid over the coming winter.

Who can have the flu vaccine?

The NHS will give the flu vaccine free to: adults who are 65 and those who will be 65 by 31 March 2024; have certain health conditions; are pregnant; are in long-stay residential care; receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person or live with someone who is more likely to get a severe infection due to a weakened immune system.

You can have the NHS flu vaccine at your GP surgery or a pharmacy offering the service. Ring your surgery for details.

Covid booster vaccinations

NHS England will soon confirm details on how and when eligible people can access the autumn booster vaccine. Eligibility is similar to previous rounds.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised the autumn programme should aim to complete vaccinations by early December 2023.

Egmanton Full Fibre Broadband Project

Last year we reported, optimistically as it turns out, that the installation of this service to 'distribution points' will be accomplished within 12 months. There should be no need to dig up roads etc. as the fibres will follow the same path as the current wires.'

Since then the project to deliver full fibre broadband to Egmanton has encountered a number of further obstacles on its route to completion. Most of these have literally been obstacles, in the form of blocked or collapsed conduits. Fortunately the necessary works are being carried out at no cost to the households.

Different teams have visited the properties where householders pledged their government vouchers towards the scheme to ensure that the final team laying in the fibre would have a clear run.

The vouchers had a life of one year, which expired at the end of July, so optimism that this deadline meant the work would be completed by then proved unfounded. The current situation is that the properties

whose fibre access has been cleared are having their installations carried out as Open Reach is being prepared. Others need to wait while solutions are found to difficult situations.

Once Open Reach have completed the installation of the infrastructure, people will be able to sign up with a service provider to get their homes connected and to commit to a full fibre package. From this point people will pay an on-going monthly fee for the service they select, which seems not to be a lot more than present services. Details of companies offering the services will become known soon.

Once the fibre is in place at the distribution points, everyone on a list of 101 properties falling within the scheme will be able to sign up to a package of their choosing.

Your Views Wanted on New Activities

Luncheon Club at Ossington?

The pandemic and the cost of living crisis has had a marked effect on community life as well as people's personal lives. In an effort to combat this, it has been suggested that it would be good to have a Luncheon Club up and running in Ossington once more. Several ladies have had their heads together and are willing to run a club in the Hut on a monthly basis, starting on Monday 9th October.

The Luncheon Club would be for everyone – all ages and not only villagers – and be an opportunity to come and meet others in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Details, including pricing, have yet to be finalised until it is known whether there is sufficient interest. Please support **this excellent new venture by ringing or emailing** Mary Brown on 01636 821029 / **marybrown3@hotmail.co.uk** as soon as possible so that detailed planning of menus, pricing etc. can take place. Mary and friends look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to Ossington's newest social gathering!

Blast from the Past – Ossington Whist Drives to Return?

Have you ever played whist, or would you like to again? After a very long absence, whist drives could return to Ossington on a monthly basis from October if there is enough interest. Please let Mary Brown know (contact details as above) if you would like to take part. All levels of players are offered a warm welcome and good fun. Tell your friends – everyone will be welcome, wherever they live!

Egmanton Village Hall

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk / 01777 871171

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

- ♦ **Yoga** – with Karen Baker Resumes 9th September. Mondays, 7.15pm - 8.45pm Email karenbaker321@outlook.com
For Information please contact, mobile **07399 669380**
- ♦ **Pilates** - Resumes Thursdays from September 5:30pm - 6.30pm with Holly Rye. Contact **07415436001** Email holly-rye@hotmail.co.uk
- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ♦ **Coffee Morning:** Second Saturdays 10 - 12. **9th Sept** All welcome

All events appear on the web site - see above

Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council

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

Or ring Customer Services on 0300 500 8080

Laxton Defibrillator

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

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

Michael

Laxton Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

Following an approach from Tuxford U16 Football Team to hire our facilities they will, in addition to our hire charges, take any unallocated Bonus Balls that are available.

So if anyone would like to take a ball or an additional one, please let me know asap; the available numbers are

30, 35, 40, 41, 42, 51, 52 and 53.

Useful Contact Details

Defibrillator Contacts:

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

Police

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

PC Gary Sipson 07525 226575 or 101 x 800 7673

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

PC2548 Deborah Bakin supported by
PCSO 8524 Richard Dunn at Southwell

07595 074292

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

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

Medical

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

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

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



Southwell Minster recently hosted an installation by Paul Jerram known as 'Gaia' - the personification of the Earth in Greek mythology.

Measuring seven metres in diameter, Gaia features imagery from NASA's Visible Earth series. It allows us to see our planet like never before. On this scale the moon would be about the same distance as the Southwell Co-op from the Minster.

Alongside Gaia were two photography exhibitions. One showed some amazing scanning electron microscope shots mini creatures which share the planet with us and the other various landscapes.

Below: Laxton WI beside the canal boat Seth Ellis at Ranby

