

Open Field

£1

September 2025



Robert Haigh ploughing in part of South Field to re-establish furrows between the strips which had been lost. 29th July 2025

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 PLEASE**. Earlier preferred. You can send in your contributions at any time.

Lammas Day Service



Sunday 3rd August was our annual Lammas Day service. Our preacher this year was our Rural Dean Rev Sarah Pattern.

The lessons were read by Stuart Clarke and the Rural Dean. The speakers who read the prayers were Brenda Noble, Mike Jackson, Jessica Rose, Jonathan Price, and Sylvia Pearson from Walesby. The sheaf was presented by Stuart Rose, the bread by Anna Hill, the wine by

Janet Cooke and the collection by Eva and Eliza.

The service started with Common Prayer and ended with Common Prayer and the singing of "We Plough the Fields" and of "Now Thank We All Our God".



Thanks to Simon and Anna for providing us with bacon and mushroom cobs and to Janet and Mavis for the tea and coffee.

Once again, thank you to all those who took part and to everyone for coming. It's nice to

see so many in church on a Sunday morning.



Brenda

Sympathy - Karen Sanford

It was a huge shock to hear about the death of Karen Sanford of Laxton, who died suddenly at home on 27th July 2025. Karen was partner to Richard Waltham and the daughter of Daphne and Edward (Ted) and sister to Clair.



Karen's funeral will have taken place on 29th August at Laxton.

Farewell to Karen

Karen moved to Laxton in the last few years and with her cheerful and helpful personality she had become well known to many and involved in various village organisations and activities. She will be sadly missed and we send sincere condolences to Richard and her family at this dreadful time for them. They are in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank You from Margaret Saxelby

I would like to thank everyone who sent me cards and best wishes for my 90th birthday. I spent it at sea cruising around the British Isles and Normandy (a first experience for me).

Thank you.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Laxton-born Nev Sayer, Janet Cooke's brother on his 80th birthday. We hope it is a happy and memorable day.

80

Congratulations

To Neil Randall of Laxton on his 60th birthday in September. We wish you a wonderful day full of fun and making great memories.

60

Get Well Soon

We send very best wishes to anyone who is unwell or recovering from surgery at this time and hope you will soon be back to full fitness. We are also thinking of anyone who is caring for relatives or friends who are unwell.

Harvest Weekend Requests

Can I please have names for the Harvest Supper as soon as possible?

Thank you,

Jean

Church Flowers and Decorating

Would anyone like to bring some flowers or a window display for the Harvest Festival events in church. Any spare fruit and veg would be much appreciated.

We would also like some help on the Thursday to decorate the church.

Please ring Jean on **870276** or just turn up.

Moorhouse

Harvest Festival

**Friday 3rd October, 7 pm,
Moorhouse Church.**

The service will be taken by Heather Brown

Everyone is welcome

There will be refreshments afterwards.

August & September Open Field

A big thank you to everyone for making it possible to bring you your August magazine on time. Firstly everyone got their contributions in on time, with many arriving early so that by the deadline the layout was almost finished. Secondly the proof readers turned it round in record time - though they did leave one or two 'deliberate mistakes' for you to find! And finally we heard that it was already being printed in under 24 hours. Thanks, as always, to the regular volunteers who go round and deliver for us.

The September issue was started almost immediately with news of the LHG outing and Chop & Chat on tour. As this goes to print, we hope the school will be able to turn it round equally quickly for us to minimise the delay in delivery of your September read.

Thank you all for your support.

Swearing In After the Lammas Service

After our Lammas Day service had ended, our Rural Dean took the opportunity to swear in visiting church wardens. Before you can be a church warden you have to be sworn in in front of the bishop, usually at Southwell Minster.



As some wardens had not been able to attend the Minster, they were invited to attend our Lammas Day service and to be sworn in by our Rural Dean. It was nice to meet some different people.

Brenda

Garden Fete Thank You from Jean

What a lovely night!

Thanks to all my helpers for:

- * putting up the marquee
- * putting out the tables and the chairs
- * donating all the raffle and tombola prizes
- * making the scones and cakes

Thanks to:

- * Mel & Amanda for cooking the hot dogs - what a hot job!
- * Karen & Sarah for taking care of the teas and scones
- * Helen and Janet for running the raffle table
- * Rachel, Joy and Heather for keeping up with all the people who wanted to have a go on the tombola
- * Lesley and Brenda for making cakes and running the stall
- * Dik, John and Derek for looking after the traditional games
- * Sandra for running the book and plant stall

And last, but certainly not least, to all the people who came and supported and spent their money in aid of our beautiful church. A total of **£732.30** was raised, which was a marvellous amount.

Thanks to everyone

Jean

Coffee Morning Corner

Coffee Mornings return in September after the August break.

2nd Saturdays Egmonton Village Hall 10 - 12 Sept 13th

3rd Saturdays Laxton Village Hall, 10:00 - 12:00 Sept 20th

4th Saturdays Ossington Hut, 11 - 1 Sept 27th

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Village Hall News

“Chop & Chat” on tour enabled everyone to enjoy lunch at Maxey’s Farm Shop after the History Group visit to the Horological Museum. See dedicated article.

There will be no meeting in September as it is on its Summer Break. Keep an eye on Social Media, as well as an ear to the grapevine, for any impromptu events. It will return in October, and will remain as the first Monday of the month, so put **Monday 6th October** in your diaries. NSDC have awarded us a £500 grant to help towards funding for this next season, but given rising costs and the excellent numbers we have been attracting, then it may be necessary to make a small charge for each monthly event. More details will follow in due course.

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

Other news

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

For more info use the QR code, or the link below. It's a great way to support your village hall.

https://www.newarkandsherwoodlottery.co.uk/referral/1499120727/192397949?utm_source=manual

The next “**Quiz Night**” will be the last Friday in November (**Friday 28th November**) so please mark this in your diaries.

We are still looking for more volunteers / helpers to assist with the running of the Village Hall. Do get in touch with one of the trustees if you are interested in getting involved.

As ever, thank you all for your continued support. We have a great community asset and we encourage you all to make use of it. A reminder of our goal as trustees “*Managing and maintaining Laxton Village Hall for the benefit of the community of Laxton, Nottinghamshire and the surrounding villages*”.



Church Garden Fête

Laxton Garden fête was once again held in the garden of Roy and Jean Hennell at Blacksmiths Farm. We had had such a wonderful summer up to that point and it seemed impossible that the good luck would continue. The forecast as the week progressed looked worse and worse, with biblical rain forecast for the Saturday. Everyone could only cross their fingers.

Whatever the reason, it was the most beautiful evening - overcast but warm with the slightest of breezes - just perfect for spending in the garden.



A good crowd arrived, starting with the Hennell family who came in force. The young great grandchildren were getting an early taste of the games that we played in traditional English garden fêtes and they were loving it!

Little Dolcie had "helped to set up the skittles". Her glee in knocking them down was a delight to see! Come the time the first customers arrived she was safely amused elsewhere. Her older siblings Isla and Logan discovered the delights of the tombola. Maddison, not yet quite 3, was equally intrigued by it.

The tombola prizes filled two tables so there was plenty for everyone

and people were being very generous. Various people had numerous goes each. Both Chloe and Rachel must have gone home with much lighter purses after funding the children's fun.

The traditional games such as the beanbag throwing and ladder were outside on the grass. Derek Storton was making a good job of supervising these and encouraging people to have a go and see how well they could do. When he learned how much the event made, he declared that losing his voice had been worth it! At the end of the evening the winner of the beanbag throw was Edwin Swordy with a creditable score of 125. Jo Godson won the ladder throw with a score of 6 and Jimmy won the 'balls through hoops' prize.

In the garage, Dik Allison was keeping track of the skittles, where the winner was Dan Salmon after getting all 9 down with his first try. He scored 13 after his free ball throw. Graham Laughton had also knocked everything down with his first attempt but unfortunately failed to add to the score with his second, so he came in second place.

As usual, the raffle was amazing. A big thank you to everyone who donated lovely prizes. It was a huge collection and even gained an additional "special first prize" of an apple tree. This was won by the Manning family and fortunately went to a green fingered family.



The cake stall and the bookstall were well stocked and needless to say proving popular. A number of people were heard to say "I'll have a go at that after I've been to get my cake before it goes." The refreshments were constantly full of people making the most of the chance to chat with friends and neighbours while enjoying the hot dogs, burgers or jam and cream scones.

You might have thought that Mel and Amanda were not there, so busy were they with producing the food for everyone to enjoy, so a big thank you to them. It must have been a hot job on a warm evening.

But the biggest thank you of all goes to Roy and Jean for hosting the event again and for all the work that they and their friends and family put into the setting up, preparation and encouraging people to produce the prizes and help on the stalls. It is a big job and very much appreciated. The evening raised £732.30 for church funds after deduction of expenses for food, prizes etc. This is better than last year and the previous year, so many thanks to all who contributed.

Chop & Chat on Tour at Maxey's



Everything worked perfectly for the combined Chop & Chat and History Group's outing to Maxey's. The tour at Upton finished on time and after comparing notes about the route, everyone arrived there just before 12.30pm.

Janet Cook, Margaret Noble and Mavis Beckitt were able to join us

there, so there was quite a large section at the back of the restaurant reserved for us all.

There was a certain amount of moving furniture to create one long table, then everyone set about choosing from the enticing menu. The small (actually not so small) fish and chips seemed popular. Inevitably there was a delay in getting the food out to so many people, all on individual orders, but the 'chatting' aspect of the group seems to have been honed to a fine art and there was no shortage of conversation.

The group is a great addition to the Laxton social scene. It enables everyone to sit down and enjoy each other's company and gets those who find it less easy to get out in the evenings to join with friends, often lifelong friends, and also to get to know others.

We have yet to decide what to do next month, but the subject was certainly on the agenda.

Many thanks to Helen for doing all the admin for the event. Her efforts were greatly appreciated and it was nice to see her and Dave sitting down for once.





Harvest Festival

**Friday 12th September, 7 pm,
Rev John Chambers
Laxton Church.**

This will be followed by supper in the Village Hall at
8 pm - pies, peas, puds **£8 each**

***Names in please for catering purposes
by 7th September to Jean or Brenda***

Harvest Competition

Saturday 13th September

Please bring your entries for the competition into
church **between 2 pm and 4 pm** ready for them to be
judged. After the service at 3 pm on 14th, they will be
auctioned.

There is no charge for entries

Harvest Service & Auction

**Sunday 14th September
Heather Brown**

3:00 pm Laxton Church

This will be followed by the auction
and refreshments

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for Bransby. You can also pass to Jean in Laxton or Joy in Egmanton.

Ossington Art Group

**Autumn Term session begins 10am - 12 noon from
8th September at Ossington Hut.**

£10.00 per class including tea / coffee

All abilities welcome including absolute beginners.

**Use watercolour, pastel, oils or acrylics. Drawing
skills are encouraged in a friendly atmosphere with
demos and tips.**

**For further information contact Graham on
07999 528397 or 01777 472885**



Laxton WI Bingo Night

**Come and join us for a
fun evening**

Friday, October 24th, 2025

Laxton Village Hall

Tickets £8

**Including bingo books and
refreshments**

Tickets from:

Brenda 870541 or Sandra 870624.

The Longest Yarn 2 - ON NOW

At Southwell Minster September 3rd - 27th

The Longest Yarn 2 is an exhibition made up of 80 panels of "wool art", each 1m long. The focus will be on what it was like in Britain between the declaration of war on September 3rd 1939 to VE Day on May 8th 1945.

Timed tickets are going quickly online now from the Minster web site. A maximum of 6 tickets can be reserved per booking. More can be reserved with multiple bookings. There will be a small number of tickets set aside each day for walk-ups, but when they're gone they're gone, so it is highly recommended to book your ticket in advance to guarantee entry.

If you were one of 30,000+ who saw The Longest Yarn at the Minster last year, you'll know how good this is going to be, and if you missed it, you don't want to miss The Longest Yarn 2!

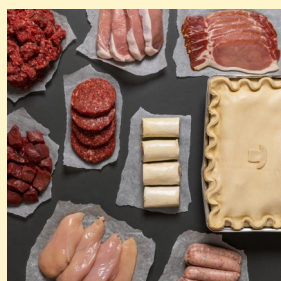
Entry: £5 suggested donation per adult on arrival.

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SEPTEMBER CONGRATULATIONS

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

The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Mel Voce, Paula Doyle, Jo Godson, Diane Wood, Christopher Hill, Amelie Beckitt, Neil Randall (60), Graham Laughton, Keith Morton, John Chambers, Chloe Hennell and Neville Sayer (80).

The anniversary roll call for this month is: Neil & Rachel Hennell and Roger & Alison Beckitt, Dave & Helen Sheard

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

Brenda



Laxton History Group



As has become our tradition, we enjoyed an outing in August rather than a meeting in the Hall. Many thanks to Helen for spotting that the Horological Society were selling their premises and that the chance to visit would soon be lost.

We drove ourselves to Upton Hall, where we were met by a number of of volunteer guides whose knowledge and enthusiasm for time pieces seemed boundless. We soon learned that the British Horological Institute had split off the Museum as a charity, and it should correctly be called the Museum of Timekeeping.



Talking to the volunteers, it seems that various ideas are being explored for their future and that of their collection. The collection includes a magnificent and extensive library collection of inestimable use to clock and watchmakers. We also learned that the training for watchmakers is different from that for clockmakers. Seemingly portability is what distinguishes the two. An apprenticeship is seven years and both are on the red list of endangered crafts.



In order to give us a good tour, we split into two groups, swapping half way. One half was a talk in a room filled with talking clocks, or, more accurately, the machinery which gave them their voice. We learned that the original idea came about because of the sheer volume of people phoning the telephone company to ask the time. A French machine was the first in service, but two British engineers saw it and felt they could improve on

it, which they did. The original TIM was the result.

The voice was recorded onto a series of discs which could be read by lights as 8 miles of fragile tape would have been needed to hold all the details for 24 hours. There have been several versions of the voice and the machines, with the latest being much smaller. They were all

duplicated to enable a continuous service, and when 'the clocks changed', the spare was set up an hour different so that only the flick of a switch was needed to achieve the change.

To the surprise of some, the service is still available. We were told that the civil service spends a surprising amount on calls to it, and a significant number are made just before 5pm so that people are easily able to get away at the end of the working day.

The tour of the collection started with some items which were unrecognisable as clocks, but which were part of the history of time keeping.

We saw a clock of enormous proportions made by a cabinet maker and a row of turret clocks, mostly from churches. The most local of these was from Epperstone.



We arrived at the long case clocks just in time to hear them chime 11am and to see one of the volunteers who regularly goes around and winds them. Among the clocks on display here were two made in Newark. There was also a station clock from Newark Northgate.

Whilst on the upper floor, we were able to see the library and to hear of its national importance. We also saw the first ever copy of the Horological Institute's monthly publication alongside the current one. It is believed to be the longest running continuously published technical publication in the world. It even managed to come out through the wars and Covid.

It was amusing to see the two knitted clocks in the foyer. Maybe an inspiration for our local crafters.

It was a fascinating tour and everyone had ample time to ask their questions. We made sure to say a big thank you to the volunteers for their time and expertise, but we also need to thank Helen for coming up with a great idea for an outing and sorting out all the details for us.

News from the Museums of Tuxford



Museum of the Horse and gallery. The conference room at the Museum is available for hire weekly bookings or one-off events.

Sally is busy preparing for a second online auction via

the-saleroom.com on the evening of October 19th. This platform allows you to be able to bid from the comfort of your own home. Lots

can be viewed online from early October or in person in the conference room on Friday 17th from 10am to 4 pm and Saturday 18th from 10am to 1pm.

Entries are welcome if you wish to sell anything. One visitor said it was one of the most interesting auctions he had been to for a long time. Although there is a strong sporting theme, there will be a good selection of non-

September's Heritage Week runs from Saturday 13th to Sunday 21st. The Museum's theme this year is 'Architecture'. The Walks of Life Museum will be open every day.

Tuxford has many interesting buildings. The former 18th century posting house is now the



sporting items. See below for contact details.

On Saturday 13th September at 2 pm **The Walks of Life Museum** will be marking the 85th Year of Commemorating the Battle of Britain.

On Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th between 11am and 3 pm you can visit to discover the history of building materials and restoration in Nottinghamshire.

Meet the conservation team who are working on the house here, which is at least 400 years old. Space is limited so please contact us using the details below if you want to come along.

21st September is the International Day of Peace .We have been paying tribute in our memory garden by decorating stones.in remembrance. This is also a source of creative enjoyment. Your contributions are welcome.



Museum of the Horse / Gallery:

Tel: 01777 838234 curator@museumofthehorse.co.uk

Walks of Life Museum

Tel: 01777 872776 dianehunt08@btinternet.com



Laxton & Moorhouse Community Coffee Morning All are welcome for coffee and cakes

Laxton Village Hall 10:30am - 12:30

(3rd Saturday in the month)

20th September

18th October

November (LHG Craft Fayre)

13th or 20th December



From Grief to Change: How ‘Paul’s Pit Stop’ and ‘3 Dads Walking’ Changed the Future of Youth Mental Health.

Today marks a watershed moment in the fight against youth suicide, a moment born not from policy rooms or government mandates, but from the raw courage of grieving parents who refused to let tragedy be the final word.

In Ollerton, Paul’s Pit Stop, founded by Jane Beardsley and Mark Gamble in memory of their beloved son Paul, stands as a beacon of hope. What began as a local community interest group has grown into a movement that saves lives, one honest conversation at a time. Through tireless fundraising and advocacy, Jane has brought skilled, engaging speakers into schools, people who know how to reach young hearts with messages that matter: “It’s okay not to be okay.” “You are not alone.” “There is help.”

Her work has not only raised awareness, but it has likely saved lives. By focusing on early intervention and creating safe spaces for dialogue, Jane has helped foster a culture where young people feel seen, heard, and supported. Her efforts and goals align with today’s national announcement: Suicide prevention is being added to the school curriculum in England.

This milestone would not have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of ‘3 Dads Walking’, a group of fathers united by the unimaginable loss of their children to suicide. Their simple yet profound act of walking thousands of miles together has captured the nation’s attention. Appearing on national television and engaging communities across the UK, they’ve turned grief into powerful action, demanding that mental health be treated with the urgency it deserves.

Their courage inspired Jane and Mark to act, and together, ‘Paul’s Pit Stop’ and ‘3 Dads Walking’ have created a synergy that is changing lives. From grassroots efforts in Ollerton to national recognition, they have shown that compassion, when paired with determination, can move mountains.

We owe every member of these groups our deepest gratitude. They have turned pain into purpose, and their work will echo in the lives of countless young people who now have a better chance of being heard, helped, and healed.

Let this be a reminder to us all: Change is possible when compassion leads the way.

Laxton's Chindit - Jack Bartle

A Chindit was a member of a British Special Force, primarily composed of British and Indian troops, who conducted guerrilla-style operations in Burma during World War II. They were known for their long-range penetration tactics, operating deep behind enemy lines to disrupt Japanese supply lines and communications.



Janet Cooke was watching the VJ celebrations on TV when she was reminded of Laxton's Chindit, Jack Bartle, who was awarded the Military Medal.

She provided the photo of him (left) with his fellow Laxton bell ringers: Oliver Laughton (Graham's father), Joe Moody, Sam Moody, George Dolby, Ron Cree. Jack Bartle MM. She also found the photo below of him with Reg Rose (left) and Rev

Valerie Rampton (Right) at the dedication of Laxton's War Memorial in the church.

Speaking to Cynthia Bartle, Jack's niece Janet asked about Jack and Cynthia found the following memorial of his death at the military museum at Thoresby:

BARTLE John Glazebrook (Jack) LCpl MM 4982000

of Tuxford, Nottinghamshire on 14 April 2000 aged 88. He joined the 13th Bn The Sherwood Foresters in June 1940 in UK and then in 1942 moved with the Bn to India when it was converted to 163 Regt RAC.

In November 1943* the Regiment was disbanded and he was posted to the DWR and fought as a Chindit. Then in January 1943* he was transferred to 1 W Yorks and was awarded the Military Medal during the heavy fighting for Meiktila in Burma and was wounded and demobilised in 1946 and worked in the quarrying business until retirement in 1976.

**Quoted from the record at Thoresby.*



THIS MONTH'S SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

7th September

10:30 am Laxton HC Rev Margaret

4.00pm Wellow

12th September (Friday)

7.00 pm Laxton Harvest Service Rev John Chambers
Followed by supper (names please)

14th September (Sunday)

3.00 pm Laxton Harvest Service Heather Brown
Followed by auction and refreshments

10:30 am Kirton HC Rev Alistair

21st September

10:30 am Wellow

28th September

10.00 am Walesby Harvest Rev Vaughan

5th October

10:30 am Laxton HC Rev Margaret



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

Weds 10th

WI

12th - 14th

Laxton Harvest weekend

Sat 13th

Harvest Competition

Sun 14th

Harvest Auction after the service

Weds 17th

History Group

Sat 20th

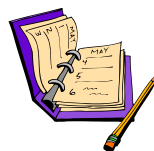
Coffee Morning

Tues 23rd

Parish Council

Sat 27th

Southwell Ploughing Match (Farnsfield)



Forward Planning:

Nov: 28th

Village Hall Quiz

Regular Events:

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

Copy Date for OCTOBER 2025 edition:
12 noon, 16th September 2025

Please let us have your contributions in good time. We are back to the normal date of 16th this time. We do what we can to include last minute items, but it is not always possible. Late arrivals are unlikely to make it into print.



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| .Potatoes | .Lettuce |
| .Carrots | .Tomatoes |
| .Cabbage | .Cucumber |
| .Broccoli | .Peppers |
| .Red & White Onions | .Spring Onions |
| .Mushrooms | .Soft Fruits |
| .Courgettes | .Apples |
| .Sweet Potatoes | .Satsumas |
| .Baby leaf Spinach | .Pears |
| .Mange Tout | .Bananas |
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Laxton WI



August always sees the annual outing of Laxton WI. The organisation and arrangements are made by our ultra efficient events guru Sandra. This year was another resounding success.

Early evening on Wednesday 13th saw our number gathering at Sally Mitchell's Gallery in Tuxford to visit the Museum of the Horse. The summer sun had worked its magic, and cool and pretty dresses were the order of the day – we looked a picture.



Paintings and pictures we saw aplenty and enjoyed the high standard of art Sally Mitchell had in the gallery. Our hostess Sally Mitchell made us very welcome and chatted easily with us all as we waited for the last few of the group to join us.

The tour started in the gallery

looking at a tiny sleigh-like cart. It was beautifully made but looked too small to carry the two passengers it was intended for. The runners were sturdy, but it can't have been very comfortable.

The undoubted star of the show was out in the courtyard, housed in what must have been its historic place. This was the answer to the awful





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If you are local and have no room for visitors to stay, we can accommodate them, or maybe if you are looking for a base to explore this interesting and beautiful area, we offer a quiet location in the centre of the village. There are all amenities, gift and coffee shops, museums and galleries, buses to Lincoln, Newark and Retford.

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problem of moving mail, money and post around the country and was one of the first mail coaches which replaced the rickety casual carting of previous times. Subject to highwaymen, cut-throats and drunken drivers, the 'post' was a very chancy affair. In fact, people were advised to cut their paper money in half and send the two halves separately in the hope they could eventually be put back together.

The 'new' mail coaches were sturdily built, regimented and manned by sober coachmen and an armed companion. He carried a blunderbuss, sword and pistol. They carried five passengers, four inside and one unfortunate soul who occupied the pillion seat outside at the back. This poor chap was exposed to all the elements, and should he be so careless as to fall asleep would become the origin of the phrase "He dropped off."

Comfort was minimal and suspension a dream for the future. With the cramped space and yawing, rolling movement one must have hoped that one's fellow passengers were not too large and not too smelly. Still, it was safer than before. Teams of horses would be changed in moments at the numerous coaching inns like the Newcastle Arms and a heady pace of ten miles per hour could be reached. Trip to Edinburgh anyone?

The beautiful coach we saw is one of only three left in the country and is on loan to Sally and her museum.

Upstairs into the museum proper, we were taken into the conference room where a delightful, tasty spread awaited us. There was also a table bearing twenty or so labelled ephemera to test our detection skills to identify them. Suggestions ranged from the informed to the downright strange and we had a great deal of fun. Some people were even caught cheating by trying to copy from the more historically knowledgeable. For shame!

After this pleasant interlude, Sally escorted us round the beautifully displayed exhibits explaining things as we went and bringing alive their lives before the museum. She described the museum as a hobby turned into an obsession, and the richness of the contents is a tribute to her. All ages were there – ancient saddles and horse tackle, all displaying

exquisite craftsmanship and timeless appeal. It has to be said, though, that some of the very early saddles looked excruciating to sit on!

There is no way here to describe the breadth of interest and impeccable quality of the exhibits and their display. If you were thinking 'museum' meant lifeless and dull, go along and see for yourself.

In all, a most enjoyable evening well organised and in the hands of two very competent and able ladies. Thank you to Sally Mitchell and Sandra – you did us proud.



Next month we will be enjoying a good old spicy gossip of a historical nature when Adrian Gray comes to talk to us about 'Romance and Disaster – the unfortunate marriages of the Sherwood aristocracy'. September 10th – don't miss it!

Laxton Harvest Festival Weekend



Laxton Harvest Festival Weekend will take place between 12th and 14th September 2025.

This is your final call to prepare and deliver your entries for the **annual Harvest Competition on Saturday 13th September.**

Please take particular note of any specifics, e.g. jams and preserves should be from the current season. Lemon curd should be under one month old and all should have the date they were made on the label. This is to ensure they are not

potentially going to have an adverse effect on the judge, who tastes everything! For the same reasons neither fresh cream nor sausage rolls can be accepted.

If you cannot be there on the day, entries can be left at Blacksmith's Cottage with Jean.

If you are bringing your own entries, please deliver to the church between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday 13th September.



St Michael the Archangel, Laxton
Harvest Produce Show and Competition
September 13th 2025



Classes

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

Class 9 (7 to 11 years)

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

NB

No fresh cream or sausage rolls

Jams /Preserves to be from the current season

***Lemon curd to be under 1 month old**

All jars to be labelled with date made

We welcome additional donations of produce, preserves or home baking for auction, which is held in church after the service. These can be left in church on the **Saturday, or Sunday of Harvest Weekend from 3:30pm** when the winning entries may also be viewed.

We will also be collecting non-perishable gifts for a local Food Bank.

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

Charity Speed Shear Event

On Saturday 9th August we held our annual Charity Speed Shear Event, organised by Andrew Hill and we are so proud and pleased at the huge success it was.

The event was held not only to provide the community with an evening of entertainment and insight into the shearing skill, but also with the goal to raise money for our chosen charity – The Farming Community Network (FCN). This is a voluntary organisation and charity that supports farmers, farming families and people in rural communities through difficult times and periods of change. And we are extremely happy to announce the event has helped us raise a total of £894 for this charity!

Now this would not have been possible without the support of a select few people who came together to help us achieve this, so a HUGE thank you firstly (he will hate this but it must be said!) goes to our sponsors, James McGinley @ The Tyre Shop, Ollerton, just a massive thank you to you and Jo.

Huge thanks also to Phil Weaver on the mike for the evening, providing us with commentary and the knowledge needed to understand the great skill that is involved with the shearing technique. Alongside him, Andrew Channing our MC and DJ on the night! The Dovecote Inn for providing a brilliant venue. Maxxis Tyres, for coming and supporting on the night and providing a generous contribution towards our Raffle, which bought us an impressive Mountain Bike as a prize! A massive thank you goes to all of the generous donations towards the raffle prizes on the night, there were some brilliant prizes up for grabs!

Enormous thanks to the Baugh Family for providing us some beautiful sheep to be shorn on the evening and finally, to everyone who showed up on the night to support, cheer and enjoy the event. It wouldn't have been the success it was without you all!

If you were unable to attend, just a brief insight into the night so you can look to come next year...

The competition kicked off with our professional shearers going head-to-head to shear a single sheep in the fastest time they could, while also maintaining the standards expected. Ben Robson-Jones was crowned our fastest shearer of the evening! But who will be taking his title next year?..

We then moved onto to a bit more light-hearted fun with young, old and even the ladies getting involved! Back to the old fashioned way with a team shear race using the old winding wheel to power the shearing tool! Lots of skills involved in this one – Down a pint, turn to wheel, shear the sheep! Sounds simple!?... Lets just say the crowd loved it and a lot of fun was had!

Following on from the evening's success we still have even more great ideas we can add for next year, to make it even bigger and better! Speed Sheer 2026, watch this space!...



Milton Mausoleum



Sat. December 6th at 3pm Carols by Candlelight in the Mausoleum –

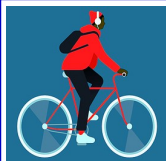
our extremely popular start to the Christmas celebrations. Entertainment will be by The Four Players. There will be mince pies, mulled wine, and a seasonal raffle. The list is already filling up. Come along and join in the fun. Book your place as soon as possible as there is limited seating at this event and places are being reserved now!



Book early to avoid disappointment.

For all enquiries: please contact Gill **01777 811358** or Jenny **01777 811219** or email milton.mausoleum@outlook.com for bookings and any enquiries about the above events.

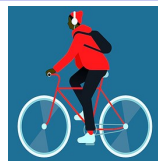
*The Milton Mausoleum is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust
Milton Mausoleum, The Avenue, Milton NG22 0PW*



Ride and Stride (for churches)

Saturday, September 13th, 2025

Sponsored bike ride.



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Egmanton Village Hall

25th Produce Show

Saturday 6th September 2025

Everyone is welcome at this colourful and popular local event. Entry to the classes is open to anyone, regardless of where you live, and everyone is welcome to come along and view the exhibits after the judging. The schedule for exhibitors is on the web site,

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk

Entries cost 50p each for the adult classes. Under 18s are free, and they may enter adult classes if they wish.

General admission begins at 3.00pm. Admission is free for children and exhibitors, 50p for other adults.

Refreshments including home made biscuits etc. are available from 3pm. We very much hope to see you there.

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SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2025

6.30 pm for 7 pm in the HUT

BYO Drinks (glasses provided)

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Dukeries Singers - Welcoming Susan Bennett



The Dukeries Singers are delighted to welcome their new piano accompanist, Susan Bennett. Sue brings a wealth of experience, a deep passion for music, and a teaching philosophy that aligns beautifully with our choir's values.

Sue runs her own thriving business, The Piano Barn, based in Kneesall, handy for our rehearsal venue in New Ollerton. Her studio is a hub of musical learning for students of all ages, and her dedication to nurturing talent is evident in everything she does.

Sue began her musical journey under the guidance of her mother. Her talent and commitment led her to pursue advanced studies, culminating in a performance diploma. Today, she teaches at her studio, specialising in Mother tongue teaching, otherwise known as the Suzuki method, where whole families learn to make music together sharing her passion for music with the next generation.

What makes Sue such a perfect fit for The Dukeries Singers is her belief that music is for everyone. Like our Musical Director, John Pope, she champions the idea that high-quality teaching should be accessible to all regardless of background or experience. Her approach focuses on steady, supportive progress, helping each grow in confidence and skill. This mirrors John's mantra: to bring out the best in the people he has, and together they've already shown a wonderful rapport, bringing energy, fun, and encouragement to our rehearsals.

Sue recently organised the successful Kneesall Music Marathon, a testament to her community spirit and organisational flair. She also accompanies the accomplished Radcliffe-on-Trent Male Voice Choir, where she has seen how music can transform lives, helping over 100 men, many with no prior experience, become concert-ready singers.

As our Chairman John Banbury aptly put it, Sue's playing is "as smooth as silk." Her calm presence, gentle encouragement, and ability to make learning stress-free are already making a difference.

We are incredibly fortunate to have found Sue. Her arrival marks an exciting new chapter for The Dukeries Singers, and we look forward to the musical adventures ahead. With Sue and John Pope at the helm, the future is bright and harmonious. If you would like to become a member of The Dukeries Singers, please don't hesitate to call **John Banbury** on **07759 086132** or email john@asherwood.co.uk.



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5th & 6th July

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Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

Date	Bonus Ball No.	Winner
26/7/25	18	Dave & Helen S
02/8/25	56	Clive C
09/8/25	23	Sue C
16/8/25	37	Robert H

We now have 5 numbers available (30, 35, 40, 41 & 53). If you would like to join or indeed, if anyone would like an additional number. All proceeds help support the Sports Field and facilities.

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

Thank you for your support,

Helen.



Group Oil Order

The price of oil is still all over the place, but has partially recovered from the worsening of the trouble in the Middle East. With the warm weather, I deferred the next order to 14th August, by which time two group members were asking for oil. On that date the price quoted for England by Boilerjuice inc VAT was 54.73p/litre (ex VAT 52.12p). Quotes exclusive of VAT were obtained from Certas (49.5p), Watsons (49.00p) and Chandlers (48.25p). The order was placed with Chandlers.

The ordering group is a way for different households to order together through me to benefit from a discount reflecting volume ordered. The more we order, the better the price. We all pay the same price.

There is no need to order each time. You just send in your contact details to join the group and then notify your requirements by the date given each time we order to take part. If you have plenty, or change your mind you simply don't order. New members always welcome.

If you want to be part of the November pre-Christmas order, please contact me on my personal email if you have it or on **oil@openfield.org.uk** .

Joy

Citizens Advice gives advice on water bills.

Many of us have seen an increase since April in the amount we pay for our water supply. Below we talk through the difference between using a fixed rate for your water or having your water on a meter and other ways you may be able to save money on your water bill.

You either pay your water bill based on a fixed rate or on the actual amount of water you use, measured with a water meter.

When is it a good idea to consider changing to a water meter?

Changing to a water meter may benefit you if you don't use much water.

It may also be worth changing to a meter if your property has a high rateable value. This is because some water bills are based on the rateable value of the property. Before April 1990, every property in England and Wales was given a rateable value, based on how much the property could be let for. A good rule of thumb is that you could pay less if there are fewer people in your property than there are bedrooms.

If you change to a water meter, the company will come to read your meter. You won't know exactly what you're going to be charged in every bill because the amount of water you use could increase if extra people come to live with you or if you buy any new water-using appliances.

You will be responsible for paying for any water that leaks. However, a water company won't normally charge for the first leak in an underground supply pipe.

Many water companies have water usage calculators on their website, to help you work out how much you are likely to pay if you have a meter. If you do not have access to the internet you can give us a call on the number overleaf to arrange our help with this.

If you find you are not better off after changing to a meter, you can usually change back to how the bill was paid before within twelve months. You can't do this if you have moved into a property where a meter is already installed, or if universal metering has been introduced for everyone in your area.

If you don't own your home and are a tenant in a property you can still ask for a water meter. If you have a fixed-term tenancy agreement of less than six months, you must ask the landlord's permission. If your fixed-term tenancy agreement is longer than six months, you don't need your landlord's permission to have a meter but your tenancy agreement may

require you to ask their permission for alterations to the property. You may need advice if your landlord doesn't agree to you having a meter, as any disagreements could cause problems when renewing the tenancy. You can reach out to us for help with this.

Help Paying your water bills

Many water companies offer social tariffs for customers on a low income, claim benefits or if you have to use a lot of water due to medical reasons. To find out more on if your water company offers any discounts or low rates for water you can contact them and ask or alternatively get in touch with Citizens Advice on the details below. We will be happy to help enquire about your water bills or any other issues you may have with your water supply.

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



Thanks to Janet Carr of Ossington for sending this picture of the Maypole at Wellow. It has just been repainted for the first time since it was erected in 2011. It is no wonder when you see the nature of the task.

Have you taken a photo which other readers might like to see? We are happy to publish your images with a credit to the photographer and a description of what is depicted.

Southwell Ploughing Match and Show

This is a highlight of the year for many people in our community. It will be taking place on September 27th in Farnsfield (NG22 8HP) between 8am and 5pm and will be well signposted on the day.

The show represents all the really important aspects of agriculture from preparing the land to cooking and eating locally produced food. Exhibits and competitions include ploughing, using the original horse power and steam as well as vintage and modern tractors. There are also livestock judging and farm management displays, a dog show, horticultural & home produce competitions and home crafts. It is a full day out for all the family.

The site is large and there are free tractor and trailer rides all day to enable everyone to get right round to see everything whether because it is too far to walk or just for something different and a high level view.

Tickets can be purchased from people in the villages, including Paula Doyle c/o Brenda Noble in Laxton, and Jill Hoyland in Egmontan or on the show's web site: www.southwellploughingmatch.co.uk/tickets Tickets are £15 on the day and £14 in advance. Under 14s free. VIP tickets with forward parking cost £80 and admit one vehicle and 4 people.

OSSINGTON PCC invite you to
HARVEST FESTIVAL
in the HUT

Sunday 5th October 2025, 6pm

**Join us for a glass of wine and a
sausage roll after the service**

Festival of Bird Art, 2025 Bakewell



2025 Winner, Craig Mortimore's Green Winged Teal

Regular readers will know about the annual Festival of Bird Art held by the BDWCA (British Decoy and Wildfowl Carvers Association). It is both a display of an unusual craft where tremendous skill is obvious and the British Bird Carving Championship.

There are classes for youth, novice, intermediate and advanced carvers. Even the novices produce some

amazing work. One reason why the entries are so impressive is that they have to be exactly the same dimensions as the real bird. The individual feathers have to be in the right places, numbers and colours and to ensure they are, one of the judges is an ornithologist.

One class is for decoy waterfowl, which have to float in the river just like the real thing. To make sure they do, one hardy member of the organising committee goes for a paddle with them in the nearby river while the judges (and usually plenty of interested bystanders) observe.

In the advanced class the carvers have to make everything in their entry, including any rocks, plant material or water. The way they achieve this can be stunning and is well worth the trip to Bakewell.

Alongside the competitive entries are demonstrations of wildfowl carving and painting, walking sticks, and assorted decorative techniques.

For the practically minded, there are stockists of carving supplies, equipment, paint and wood for carving alongside displays of wildlife art.

The event takes place in the Agricultural Hall in the centre of Bakewell. **This year it will be held on Saturday 13th (11am-5pm) and 14th (10am - 3.30pm) September. £2.50 admission, seniors £2, U16s free.**

See www.bdwca.org.uk




Runner Up, Maggie Port's Osprey (half size)

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Demolition of Cottam Cooling Towers



The Penultimate Sunrise - John Turner

News had spread quickly after it was announced that another North Nottinghamshire landmark was to disappear on 14th August 2025 at precisely 11.00am. This was the scheduled hour for the demolition of the eight cooling towers at Cottam Power Station.

Construction of the power station began in 1964. Since then the 114m / 375ft high cooling towers

had stood proudly on the skyline, clearly visible from Dunham Bridge and many villages and roads in the area. Their intended 30-year life span had extended to 61 years and many local people will never have known the view without them.

Since the site closed in 2019, there have been a number of previous demolition phases. The destruction was said by the contractors to be the largest simultaneous demolition of cooling towers ever carried out.

Many people converged on both Rampton and Torksey and both villages were brought to a virtual standstill. Along the roads, every pull-in or verge with a view of the towers for miles around was occupied by cars from which emerged expectant people carrying cameras.

In six seconds, the towers went from standing proudly to piles of rubble, invisible below the stand of trees in front of them. Dust rose into a beautiful summer sky, but was surprisingly contained and in no time, it seemed nothing had happened.

So, with a bang and a puff of dust the landscape changed and no longer will the towers be seen from the villages or by those travelling between the A1 and Lincoln.



Almost Gone - Des Lloyd, Photographers of both shots from Snappers Photo Club

Egmanton Village Hall

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk / 01777 871171

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

- ♦ **Yoga** – with Karen Baker Mondays, 7pm - 8.15pm.
Email karenbaker321@outlook.com mobile **07399 669380**
- ♦ **Pilates** - Thursdays from 5:30pm - 6.30pm with Holly Rye.
Contact **07415436001** Email holly-rye@hotmail.co.uk
- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ♦ **Coffee Morning:** The second Saturday of the month from 10 - 12 .
Next will be **on September 13th**, followed by October 11th. All welcome.

All events appear on the web site - see above

Reporting Potholes



A reminder about the pothole reporting contact details are:

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

Or ring Customer Services on 0300 500 8080

Laxton Defibrillator

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

Booking Laxton Village Hall

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

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

Useful Contact Details

Defibrillator Contacts:

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

Police

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

PC Gary Sipson 07525 226575 or 101 x 800 7673

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

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

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

Medical

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

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

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



Isla, Logan and Rachel Hennell at the Tombola at Laxton Garden Fete.



Robert Haigh re-establishing the furrow boundaries between the strips in part of South Field after they were lost following previous cultivations (29/7/25)