

Open Field

£1

April 2025



The Spring Litter Pick, Laxton, 9th March 2025

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



Priest in Charge
Churchwardens

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Mr Simon Hill 01636 822777

Vacant

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Mrs Jean Crofts

Vacant

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01636 822777

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Mr Jem Hill

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Open Field

www.openfield.org.uk

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

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

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

A Message from our Churchwarden



I was just thinking about how many sets of twins we have had born in the parish. Our baptism register begins in 1924 and shows seven sets.

The first to be shown were Vernon and Vera Bartle, who were born on May 20th, 1928. We then had a long gap to Janet and Joyce Hennell born April 24th, 1945.

Next to arrive were John and Mary Randall on January 9th 1954. It was another 20 years until Mark and Neil Hennell arrived on the October 20th 1973 followed by Alistair and Edward Bacon on the May 22nd 1988. Next came Katie and Harry Hutchings on the April 3rd 2001 and the last pair registered here were Florence and Lily Muirhead on the August 9th of 2011.

Now we are delighted to have Jack and Joseph, who arrived on January 16th 2025.

Brenda

Rogation Service

Laxton Church

Sunday 4th May

10.30am

Followed by refreshments

**Everyone is welcome to come and join us
for another of our traditional services**

Congratulations



Once again we send congratulations to Sarah Hill and Euan Buckle on the birth of their twin boys on Thursday 16th January 2025 at 3.00am.

The first to be born weighed 5lb 6 oz and has been named Jack Edward (on the right in the photo). His brother weighed 6lb 8 oz and his name is to be Joseph Andrew (on the left of the photo).

Now little Jimmy has two brothers to play with.

Laxton in Bloom



Spring is upon us and the spring bulbs are beginning to bloom in earnest.

May I convey my thanks to Jean and Keith Morton, who for many years have mown and tidied the village green.

Last autumn they added to the floral display by planting

bulbs purchased by the 'community coffee morning' and other bulbs they donated themselves. I think everyone will agree they look amazing.

Thank you Keith and Jean for your splendid work.

Helen

Village Hall News

Our Laxton Alive Projects are working well: -

“Chop & Chat” March, was one of the busiest. We



prepared and ate roast pork, with mashed and roast potatoes, broccoli, carrots and cabbage, with a choice of jam sponge and / or the penultimate Christmas pudding, all with custard. Despite a few last-minute

changes of plan, 19 folks sat down to eat and another 7 meals were delivered.

Our next session is Monday 7th April, 11:00 – 2 pm. Please come and join us. Just contact Dave Sheard **07941 625761** to book a place, or a takeaway meal. We need numbers so we can cater for the right number.

Breaking news. Moving forward, after the April session, we are still working on a few ideas. Suggestions so far are: -



- Meeting on the first Monday and having a trip to a local tea room
- Having a coffee, cake and chat in the village hall.

If you have any thoughts or ideas, please let us know.

The **“Pilates”** class is being supported well, and is now being

run by Rachel, our experienced fitness teacher. Rachel is asking for 4-week block bookings upfront to keep things manageable, priced at



£24. Please contact Helen Sheard, there are a few spaces left. Laxton Village Hall, Thursday evenings 18:30 to 19:30.

Other news. The Spring village quiz has been and gone. We've had lots of positive feedback and managed to raise just over £700, which is going towards the upkeep of our tremendous village hall. Many thanks to all those involved, whether you helped out, came along or donated raffle prizes. A special thanks to Joan and Roger for their quiz questions. Quite a few of us were feeling quite smug in being able to answer one or two this time. Apologies, I was that engrossed that I forgot to take any photos.

Can you spare some time to help with the running of the Village Hall? We are looking for some additional folks to join us as trustees. The role is not too onerous, and of course "*many hands, make light work*". Contact one of the trustees for more information.

Once again, thank you for your continued support, it helps us in our goal as trustees "*Managing and maintaining Laxton Village Hall for the benefit of the community of Laxton, Nottinghamshire and the surrounding villages*".

Many thanks

Dave

Get Well Soon

We send very best wishes to Daphne Sanford, who is home from her operation in hospital and recovering slowly but well. We hope she will soon be up and about again at village events.

Mel Voce has also had a spell in hospital but is now also home and recovering. We send her all good wishes for a return to full health.

We are aware that a few other people are recovering from various health problems and are not 100%. We send every good wish for their recovery.

Special Birthday Wishes

Congratulations to Jean Morton, who will be celebrating a special birthday with an "0" at the end in April—and she is still to be seen helping keep Laxton looking its best! We wish her a happy, relaxing and memorable day.

80

Laxton Spring Litter Pick



Laxton & Moorhouse parish councillors Anna, Simon, and Dave were joined by members of the community on Sunday 9th March, on the first of two community litter picks each year.

Together, the group tackled Acre Edge - the road into Laxton,



Moorhouse Rd, Kneesall Rd, The Bar/ Laxton Rd, the perimeter of the sports field and the section of Wood Lane adjacent to it.

In total, twenty bags of rubbish were collected along with two tyres, a wooden crate, and



the "undercarriage" of a car.

Regrettably, there were some stretches that were not tackled, as we could have benefitted from more volunteers. Maybe you would consider helping out at the end of the summer?

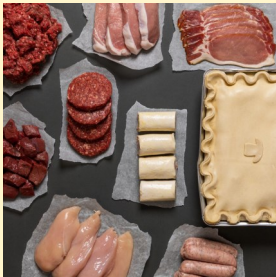
Our thanks go to Mike & Di, Keith & Jean, Heidi, Sarah S, Clive & Sue, and Carol S (a firm friend of Laxton).

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BRANSBY
— HORSES —

If you would like to help Bransby Horses, please save stamps from your mail. Cut them off with about 1cm all around and pass to Sandra Clarke who collects them

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

Coffee Morning Corner

2nd Saturdays Egmonton Village Hall 10 - 12 12th April

3rd Saturdays Laxton Village Hall, 10:00 - 12:00 19th April

4th Saturdays Ossington Hut, 11 - 1 26th April

The Ossington Luncheon Club will be on Monday 14th April at 12.45pm. Please book with Mary Brown (01636 821029) or marybrown3@hotmail.co.uk

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APRIL CONGRATULATIONS

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

The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Margaret Saxelby (97), Brenda Chambers, Roy Hennell, Cath Manning, Roy Saddington, Jean Morton (80), Jackie Smith, Joyce Stone, Christine R, Andrew Hill, Roger Beckitt, Joan Cottee, Paul C, Tara P, Jennifer James, Andrea Bown, John O and Derek Storton.

We send anniversary congratulations to Richard & Diane Wood and John & Sue who celebrate their anniversaries this month.

We wish everyone celebrating a wonderful day and a happy and healthy year to come.

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

Brenda



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Laxton WI Bingo Night

Come and join us for a fun evening

Friday 4th April, 7 pm

Laxton Village Hall

Tickets £8

including bingo books & refreshments.

Tickets from:

Brenda 870541 or Sandra 870624



Laxton & Moorhouse Community Coffee Morning dates

All are welcome for coffee and cakes

Laxton Village Hall 10:30am - 12:30

(3rd Saturday in the month)

19th April

20th September

17th May

18th October

21st June

~~November~~ (LHG Craft Fayre)

19th July

13th or 20th December

~~August~~

News from the Museums of Tuxford

Memories we make in childhood stay with us forever and shape who we are, recalling precious time spent together across the generations, and gifts from childhood.

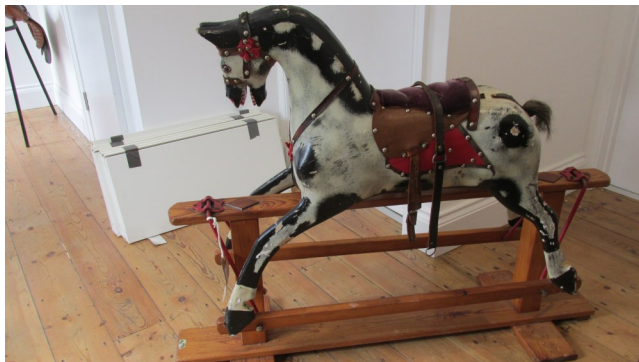
The Youth Service bus is back at the Walks of Life

Museum on Wednesday evening. Reflections from the young people were prompted by the purple poppies we are making for animals lost in wars. They were thinking about how much joy pets bring to them and the effects of loss. V.E day is a time for people to come together especially with the unsettled times in the world.

EVENT The Museum of the Horse has its “**Step Back into Childhood**” exhibition running until 21st April, featuring 1940s pony books, horses, models including Julip Originals and an Ann Pitcairns diorama.

EVENT Saturday 3rd May 2 pm Presentation by Keith Betts “Reflections of V.E. Day” celebrations at the Walks of Life. Please let us know if you plan to come along.

We have a display about reserved occupations’ contributions to the war effort. A student is researching who lived in their house in the past, which is part of the museum restoration project. This work has revealed that George Frizelle was engaged



in active service in WW I and WWII. He survived and lived to 85 .Some of the older Tuxford residents recall the family .

EVENTS Thursday 8th May V.E DAY The nets of poppies will be on display and there will be a gathering round the war memorial at 11am for the community to come together. The Walks of Life Museum will be open after this. Bring a picnic or have a coffee and chat.

EVENT: MUSEUM OF THE HORSE Join in celebrating the anniversary at the Afternoon Tea Dance. Dress to impress in war time outfits. 4 pm to 7 pm Tickets available from the Museum of the Horse curator@museumofthehorse.co.uk Tel: 01777 838234

On Saturday 10th May, we will join with Ossington community to reflect on the sacrifices and major contribution the airfield made in WWII. When it was built lives and the landscape changed forever. Buildings were demolished including the school. Many brave men took off never to return. The Walks of Life won't be open as we are supporting this event. For information contact Walks of Life 01777 872776 dianehunt08@btinternet.com **See also article overleaf.**

Both museums are planning future events and space available for hire



It has been another exciting month with Tuxford Young Farmers. We started the month off with a lovely talk on public speaking from Nick Brown, where all the members got involved and had a great evening.

The following week we had a bingo night at Weston Village Hall, where there were chocolates and sweets to be won. It was a very competitive evening and everyone had a great time.

On 5th March we had a pancake surprise evening. All the members competed in games involving pancakes and then ended the night with a pancake topped with whipped cream! That was very popular.

Last week we had a meeting on Stock Judging, where everyone got to get involved and learnt lots of new tips and tricks for when they are stock judging. There are Young Farmers' competitions for stock judging and it is a skill we need to learn.

A big thank you for everyone who helped run the meetings. The club wouldn't be the same without you all!

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info on web pages / links.

Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

Date	Bonus Ball No.	Winner
8/02/2025	51	ROLLOVER * there was a typo last month, which caused a bit of excitement
22/02	05	Ian & Jackie
1/3	53	ROLLOVER
8/3	21	Alan & Anna

There are 3 numbers free, (**37, 51 & 53**) if anyone 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 in the Saturday Lotto draw. If a free number is drawn out the prize rolls over to the following week.

Thank you for your support,

Dave & Helen.

Ossington's V.E. Day Commemoration

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day on 8th May 1945, when the Allies formally accepted Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces.

To commemorate this momentous event, an afternoon dedicated to the history of RAF Ossington and its airfield is planned for **Saturday 10th May**. Held jointly with the Walks of Life museum of Tuxford, there will be a presentation in the Hut by Milan Petrovic, an enthusiastic and very knowledgeable local expert on the airfields of Nottinghamshire. He has a particular interest in Ossington so his talk should be enlightening. It will be followed by afternoon tea, with a 1940s slant!

Numbers are limited and places need to be pre-booked. If you would like to be present at this very special event, please contact Jean Johnson on **01636 821192 / jeajoh410@btinternet.com** to book your place.

We will be holding a waiting list as there is the potential to hold a second event if there is enough interest. If you would like to attend, please make contact even if you cannot come on 10th May.



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2 nights in our double room: £150 including full English breakfast or alternatives.

Phone Richard on 07836 699911

Muskham Art Group

**Muskham Art Group will be holding an Exhibition on
Saturday 12th April, 10.00am - 4.00pm**

Refreshments available all day. Entry free.

Private viewing Friday 11th April, 7.00pm - 10.00pm

**Stephen Booth, author of the Cooper and Fry series, will
be on hand signing books and meeting people**

**Come and see first class local art at this friendly and
welcoming occasion at South Muskham Village Hall Ring
Lesley Booth on 01777 871747 for further details.**

Magazine Printing for March

Apologies to anyone who received their magazine late last month. The holiday at the school which prints them meant the magazine was delayed for 10 days after we had delivered the finished master.

Jean got the printed copies out to the distributors as soon as possible once she had collected them, but of course that gave the distributors very little time to get them delivered to our subscribers. We now have a list of the school's holiday dates and hope that other than September, we should have no further issues this year.



Group Oil Order

The price indicator we use for timing the oil orders, the 1000 litre average price for England published daily by Boilerjuice, has continued its roller coaster path since we placed our order at the beginning of February.

As it was more expensive than we hoped at that time, but showed signs of going up, group members were given the option of ordering if they needed to, with the offer of a further order 4 - 6 weeks afterwards, depending on the price trend.

The up and down pattern continued, seemingly in relation to various issues regarding the Middle East and Ukraine. By the time of writing the price was going down quite steeply and had reached 60.65p inc. VAT. The summer order is expected to be in approximately late July depending on members' needs and the price trend.

APRIL SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

30th March Mothering Sunday

APRIL 2025

6th April

10:30 am	Laxton	HC	Rev Margaret
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13th April Palm Sunday

10.30 am	Kirton	HC	Rev Alistair
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17th April Stations of the Cross

7.00pm	Kirton		Rev Alistair
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20th April Easter Sunday

10.00am	Walesby	HC	Rev Vaughn
10.30am	Wellow	HC	Canon John Chambers
10.30am	Kirton	HC	Rev Alistair

27th April

No services

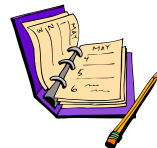
4th May

10.30am	Laxton	Rogation Service	tba
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March - Sun 30th Mothering Sunday



APRIL

Fri 4th	WI Bingo Night
Mon 7th	Chop & Chat extra session
Weds 9th	WI
Sat 12th	Coffee Morning
Weds 16th	History Group

Forward Planning:

2025

May: Mon 26th	Wellow Maypole Celebrations
July: Fri 18th	Garden Fête at Blacksmith's Farm
Sept: 12th - 14th	Laxton Harvest weekend
Sat 13th	Harvest Competition
Sat 27th	Southwell Ploughing Match (Farnsfield)

Regular Events:

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

**Copy Date for MAY 2025 edition:
12 noon, 16th APRIL 2024**

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



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Jo Franklin is one of those ladies who make you feel slightly inadequate. By profession she is a gardener; another hat she wears is that of Jo Franklin - Art, where she is a talented artist. The hat she was wearing on Wednesday 12th March was Jo Franklin - Woodthorpe Willow. She runs workshops and demonstrations with her characteristic flair.

In a well balanced and massively informative evening she made us aware of not only the skills of willow weaving but its enormously important part in rural development.

Until woodworking skills and fine tools became common, the norm was to carry and transport goods in wicker carriers. Saddles were made of woven willow, hurdles for folding in the sheep were made of willow or its cousin hazel. Medieval England ran on willow – it was a necessity and staple part of life.

Industrialisation of life meant the importance passed. Now, with the increased awareness of environmental issues, this vastly versatile product is coming back into its own. Willow can regenerate itself after pollarding for up to 60 years, while conserving and storing carbon to clean the air. It is also very beautiful.



To watch a skilful crafter work is a pleasure. While explaining the tools and preparation of the bases and basic designs she was doing, Jo showed clearly how her hands were holding and moving the willow. The willow had been soaked and left to dry naturally and then either stripped or left with the bark on.

Working terms like butt, whip, upsetting, waley and bradawl were woven into work and the narrative building up a new

vocabulary for this intricate work. Tools were displayed and explained and Jo showed how everyday tools could be used as an alternative to the specialist items.

The results were beautiful, practical and very satisfying. Jo described the peace and feeling of contentment that she found in working with willow.

Jo runs a workshop which sounds very enjoyable and very tempting.

Next month is our AGM. After the business meeting there will be a quiz and faith supper. All are welcome.



New Season at Doddington Hall

Doddington Hall have now published a long list of events for the coming season. You can see them all on the web site.

As this edition comes out, the billed '**Bulb Pageant**' will be coming to an end on 5th April, but the bulbs don't know that so it is still worth visiting the gardens at any time to see what is out. There were even early azaleas out in March, albeit looking a bit the worse for wear after the frosty nights.

The Hall reopens for the season on 6th April until 28th September, with extra opening in November and December for the festive decorations.

Between **18th April and 4th May, 10am - 4pm**, there will additionally be '**Art in the Barn**', an exhibition of work by Lincolnshire Artists' Society with all manner of offerings, and almost all for sale.

An exciting new development for this year and on-going is the return of the **Sculpture Exhibition**. Previously this has been on alternate years, but the decision has been made to make it an annual event. This will be the first year when the exhibition will return after just 12 months. As usual there will be plenty of time to see it as it will run from **26th July to 7th September**, and again will include the 'Young Sculptor' Award.

Milton Mausoleum

We are planning a year of great events for you and details are listed below. This year we will be celebrating a special event too.

Sunday April 27th 12.30:

Friends Sunday Lunch at The West Retford

Hotel, Retford. We will have a raffle and the first Draw of our 100 Lottery.

3-course lunch Price: Adults £27.50 Small Portion £14

Contact us for bookings & menu choices.



Sunday May 4th 2-4pm: First Sunday opening of the Mausoleum when our volunteers will be available to show you around our historic building.

Free entry. Open every Sunday from this date until September 28th. Group visits are welcome any day of the week, to be agreed beforehand. Please contact us for further details.

Saturday June 21st 7pm: Special Anniversary Black Tie Event at the Mausoleum with wine and canapes served on the lawn. Our Special Guest is international vocalist & pianist, Oliver Harris. Oliver has won many awards at the Edinburgh Festival and internationally too. He has the voice for singing the iconic songs of many famous artists. Limited spaces, please book as early as possible. This promises to be a sell-out event. Tickets £18.

Saturday & Sunday 13th & 14th September: Heritage Weekend at the Mausoleum & West Markham Church

Do you know much about your local or family history? Many interesting historical and detailed archives will be on show. Maybe you could add more? More details to follow.

Sat. December 6th at 3pm Carols by Candlelight in the Mausoleum – our extremely popular start to the Christmas celebrations. Our entertainment is by The Four Players. There will be Mince Pies, Mulled Wine, and a Seasonal Raffle. Come along and join in the fun. Book your place as soon as possible as the list is soon full.

All our events lists for 2025 are open NOW for your bookings, 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*

Laxton Harvest Festival Weekend

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

It's time to prepare - Get your garden gloves on and sow your seeds!

Will you be a winner this year?

The annual Harvest Competition will take place on Saturday 13th September and we are letting you know now so that you have plenty of time to start sowing your seeds, making your crafts or snapping your photos.

The schedule is shown opposite and will be published again in August and 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.

We try to keep the rules to a minimum to encourage everyone to have a go. It is all for fun, so please give some thought to entering. If you cannot be there on the day, entries which will not suffer for being delivered ahead of time can be left with Jean.

Coffee Morning Info

Why not come to our monthly Coffee Mornings in the Hall?
Tea, coffee and cake - no charge, just donations. All help and donations gladly received. All proceeds in support of village groups, societies, amenities and occasionally supporter nominated charities. 2025 dates elsewhere in the magazine.

For further information
Please call Helen Sheard **07905 161392**



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 no 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 at 5.00pm 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

Laxton History Group



Our regular members were joined by a good number of visitors for our special meeting in February. We discovered that the son of Bill Millin, the piper famed for piping on Sword Beach on D-Day, lived fairly locally and had invited him to speak to us.

So it was that we gathered in the Village Hall to hear John Millin speak about his father and his D-Day role. John arrived with his wife, Dorrie, resplendent in his father's kilt and carrying his bagpipes.

John began by showing some photos which set the scene for the talk to come, which he gave uninterrupted by further slides.

Lord Lovat, the 24th Chief of the Clan Fraser of Lovat was the Brigadier for whom Bill was the personal piper and whose decisions and actions had a great influence on the events on Sword Beach and beyond on D-Day. He was a powerful individual who was key to the Commandos' formation and much involved in their training, which is how the two met after Bill volunteered for the Commandos.

Lord Lovat called Bill into his office and was 'having a word with him' for poaching. He said he needed a piper for D-Day and that the honour was to fall to Bill.

Lovat declared that as he and Millin were Scots, the War Office rule forbidding unarmed pipers on the front line didn't apply. Soon afterwards Millin was sent south to join the men waiting to board the landing craft. On the night of 5th / 6th June, Bill Millin was in the leading craft with Lord Lovat. He changed from his treds into his kilt as they embarked and Lovat told him to pipe as they set off.



Bill Millin playing to troops awaiting D-Day

The sea was very rough and we heard a graphic description of the effect of this on the troops. There was one toilet for 100 men. Lovat insisted that the French Commandos should be the first to set foot on French soil.

There were two ramps for the men to walk down, but when Bill Millin saw the man beside him killed, he decided he was too big a target and jumped into the water. Once he could begin to walk forward, he

began to play.

Lovat gathered up his men and ordered Bill to play on the beach. Somewhat sarcastically Bill asked if he should also walk up and down, which Lovat approved of and instructed him to do so. He remained on the beach, piping and walking up and down until he was virtually alone, seeing horrific sights throughout.

He and his comrades moved across country to Pegasus Bridge, which they crossed under sniper fire, wearing their green berets. Seeing that most of those killed had taken head shots, they changed to steel helmets.



Bill Millin about to disembark on D-Day

Both images made available for free use

Some German snipers were captured and were later asked why they did not shoot such a very clear target. Their reply was that it was unlucky to shoot an unarmed madman.

On 15th April 1945, Bill and comrades were involved in the liberation of Belsen, when the Germans surrendered to the British and Canadians. Initially Bill piped as they entered, but the sights he saw were so horrific he could not continue.

John admitted he had never learned to play the pipes in his youth. French pipers commissioned a statue of Bill Millin to stand in France near the site of his exploits. His father who was very frail at that stage wanted there to be a Millin piper there and John set about learning so that there would be a Millin piper at the unveiling. The French consider Bill a national hero and, on the day, over 500 pipers came to play to commemorate his bravery. On a site nearby is a statue of Lord Lovat.

When John finished, Dorrie spoke about the 'The Longest Yarn', which many had seen in Southwell last year. The project consists of 80 woollen tableaux commemorating D-Day and will soon complete its final date in the UK. It will travel around different countries, eventually returning to France to be displayed in a dedicated building.

When the project was in hand and they wanted to include the piper in three scenes, John and Dorrie gave his father's favourite jumper to be unpicked for the figures. Dorrie passed round a duplicate of the model in the display.

Dorrie also spoke about the role of pigeons with the Army, and in particular pigeon, Gustav. He was in the care of a person attached to Reuters news agency on a ship on D-Day. He was released and reached his loft carrying a message saying that the troops had landed, after flying against a 35mph headwind and covering the 150 miles in 5 hours and 16 minutes.

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Dukeries Singers

We are building an exciting repertoire for our 2025 concert in response to a heartfelt request from one of our dedicated members, and we couldn't be more enthusiastic about the journey ahead.

Our Musical Director sources music from contemporary composers. This year we will include excerpts from two current West End shows, to bring a touch of theatrical magic to our concerts.

One of the highlights will be selections from *Les Misérables*. The musical opened in Paris in 1980 and in London in October 1985. It is now the longest-running musical in the West End and we are honoured to perform excerpts.

We also plan to include selections from *Mamma Mia!*, a musical based on the songs of ABBA. First staged in 1999, the film adaptation was released in 2008 and it is said that over 65 million have seen the show,

We will also sing music by contemporary composers who have had significant birthdays this year. Eric Whitacre, the renowned American composer, is turning 55. Bob Chilcott, best known as a former member of The Kings Singers and currently conducting at Birmingham University Singers, is celebrating his 70th birthday. Lastly, John Rutter, who founded the Cambridge Singers and whose Christmas compositions are beloved worldwide, is turning 80.

We look forward to sharing these powerful and moving pieces with our audiences, and we hope that our performances will resonate deeply with all who attend.

We all enjoyed a brilliant evening of social fun when members shared party pieces. Mr Roger Bateman (Left) was accepted as honorary Life President of The Dukeries Singers and John Pope (Right), Musical Director was awarded a certificate of appreciation for the fabulous work directing the recent Christmas concert.



We want to strengthen the choir further and encourage former choir singers to rejoin the group. If you have ever sung with the Dukeries Singers or any other choir, we will be pleased to welcome you. Please call John Banbury on **01623 822472** or mobile **07759 086132**.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution has contacted NSDC asking for comment on 'our' vision for the proposed reorganisation of local government. The same correspondence has also been sent to the other borough and district councils as well as Nottingham City Council and Nottingham County Council.

While local authorities are expected to work together and arrive at a consensus, individual Councils can submit their own proposal jointly with any of the Councils invited to respond.

All proposals submitted must take account of the criteria and timeline for this process, including 'sensible' geographical and economic areas, size (a minimum 5000,000 population); and ensuring 'crucial' services such as social care, Children's services and homelessness. They must demonstrate plans to ensure communities are engaged.

Interim plans must be submitted in March 2025 with a full and final proposal submitted on or before 28th November 2025.

Once a unitary proposal has been agreed, the Government will put in place elections to new 'shadow' unitary councils as soon as possible.

Newark Castle Gatehouse Project

NSDC successfully applied for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant in 2017 to carry out a feasibility study to enhance the Castle Gatehouse project. The Gatehouse is, in the opinion of Historic England, 'the most complete example of a Romanesque gatehouse in England'.

Work on the construction part of the project is due to start late March early April for approx. 12 months. A roof will be put on the gatehouse. The gardens will remain open to the public during works, limited by safety considerations. A lift will be installed making the first floor more accessible. A welcome area and larger room will be available for functions. An extensive education programme will be on offer for school groups. 16 trees have had to be felled and a replanting scheme included in plans.

Entry price for NSDC residents will be at half the price that tourists will be expected to pay

Threads Through the Bible Exhibition at Southwell Minster 7 March - 5 May 2025

Southwell Minster will be just the second place in the world to host this exhibition by extraordinary textile artist Jacqui Parkinson.

'Threads through the Bible' is made up of three huge sequences, 'Threads through Creation', 'Threads through the Cross' and 'Threads through Revelation' to create one incredible display of textile art.

'Threads through Creation' and 'Threads through Revelation' have been displayed in many cathedrals in Britain: this is the first time they will come together with 'Threads through the Cross'. It's a rare opportunity not to be missed. This year only three places in the country are hosting the exhibition – Southwell Minster, plus Liverpool Cathedral and Ely Cathedral.



It consists of 44 huge panels with a textile depiction from the first pages of the Bible in Threads through Creation, through key moments in Jesus' life, death and resurrection in Threads through the Cross, to the extraordinary visions of the last book in the Bible, in Threads through Revelation.

The work took ten years to create. There are more than 25 million stitches and if presented side by side, the 44 panels would stretch more than 80 metres.

This will probably be not only the largest textile project by a single artist ever, but also the largest textile project for over 600 years. It will be astonishing in its scale and variety and the Minster organisers are very excited to be hosting such a wonderful installation at Southwell Minster.

The Minster suggests a donation of £5 per person or £10 for families, since it costs over £3,000 per day to keep the Minster open.

There are certain dates when other events or services are taking place in the Minster and you are advised to check the web site before planning your visit.

Monday - Saturday*: 10am - 4pm Sundays: 12.30 - 3pm



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Citizens Advice gives advice on Attendance Allowance.

Lots of people are entitled to a benefit called Attendance Allowance but don't know enough about it to claim. Attendance Allowance isn't means tested so it doesn't matter what other money you get. It doesn't matter how much you have in savings either - there's no limit. It won't affect your state pension and you can claim it if you're still working and earning money.

You could get £72.65 or £108.55 a week - the amount you get will depend on how much help you need. You can spend the money however you like - it could help you stay independent in your own home for longer. You'll need to complete a long claim form when you apply for Attendance Allowance. It might seem daunting at first but help is available from your nearest Citizens Advice office so don't let the form put you off applying.

Attendance Allowance is a tax-free benefit. You'll be exempt from the Benefit Cap so you won't have money taken away from any other benefits. Claiming Attendance Allowance might also mean you're entitled to extra help - for example, you might qualify for a council tax reduction (this depends on your personal circumstances).

You won't be able to get Attendance Allowance if you already get:

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to pay for your care (the 'care component' of DLA)
- Adult Disability Payment

Check if you're entitled to Attendance Allowance

You need to be State Pension age to claim Attendance Allowance. You also need to have a disability or illness that makes it hard for you to look after yourself.

You should apply for Attendance Allowance if you have a disability or illness and need help or supervision throughout the day or at times during the night (even if you don't currently get that help):

- with your personal care - for example getting dressed, eating or drinking, getting in and out of bed, bathing or

showering and going to the toilet

- to stay safe

You should also apply if you have difficulties with personal tasks, for example if they take you a long time, you experience pain or you need physical help, like a chair to lean on. It might help if you compare how you do the personal tasks now to how you used to do them.

Attendance Allowance isn't just for people with a physical disability or illness. You should also claim if you need help or supervision throughout the day or night and have:

- a mental health condition
- learning difficulties
- a sensory condition - for example if you're deaf or blind

Special rules apply if you're terminally ill. Give us a call to find out more around claiming attendance allowance when terminally ill.

You must have had care or supervision needs because of your disability or illness for at least 6 months before you can get Attendance Allowance.

You don't need to have had a diagnosis for your condition to apply for Attendance Allowance. For example, you might still be having tests or appointments to find out what's wrong with you. As long as you've needed help or supervision, or you've had difficulties, for 6 months because of your condition you can claim Attendance Allowance.

You can save time with your claim by applying before the end of the 6 months but you won't get any money until then.

How to Claim Attendance Allowance

You can either phone 0800 731 0122 for an application form or download a form on GOV.UK. When you receive the form if you would like assistance filling it out please give us a call on 0300 5610330 to book an appointment.


For further information and advice on attendance allowance or any other issue please give us a call on **0300 5610330** or visit our website www.ca-centralnotts.org.uk We can inform you of our drop in session availability or arrange to call you back with further advice.

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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 **April 12th**. All welcome.
- ♦ **Wine Tasting Evening with Supper: Friday April 25th** Book on web

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.

Michael Manning

Booking Laxton Village Hall

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

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

Useful Contact Details

Defibrillator Contacts:

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

Police

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

PC Gary Sipson 07525 226575 or 101 x 800 7673

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

PC2548 Deborah Bakin supported by
PCSO 8524 Richard Dunn at Southwell

07595 074292

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

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Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk

