

Open Field

50p

August 2017



*Georgina Cheetham enjoying her first Showjumping Competition at
Laxton Gymkhana, 1st July 2017*

The monthly publication
of the parish of Laxton & Moorhouse
www.openfield.org.uk

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Open Field

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

Photographs of children appear in Open Field and on the web site with the consent of their parents / carers. Open Field appears on the Web in its entirety plus additional photos. If in doubt, photos are not used.

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY
16th AUGUST PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED.**

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Cover photo: Georgina Cheetham at Laxton Gymkhana

Photo courtesy of Trafford Photography



Letter From Revd. Philip

Endings and beginnings.

As I'm coming to the end of my first year serving our communities and am also about to be ordained a priest in the Church of England Revd. Zoe asked me to share some thoughts.

So far it's been a year of sharing many endings and beginnings with many people. Of course much of our work is in joining people in bereavement and in supporting them with funeral arrangements. This remains a privilege of our work and I'd like to thank so many families for trusting us to join you in such difficult times.

The next big privilege is when we join you in your beginnings. Being with you to baptise children or support you in your weddings is a joy. Thank you for letting us share these moments with you.

My experience is that the cycle of endings and beginnings that is life is central to the Christian faith. Jesus points out that "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." He's mainly talking about his death and resurrection – an ending that is necessary to create new life. It seems to me that he is what makes sense of our endings and enlivens our beginnings.

All the best

Philip

Sympathy



We were very sorry to hear of the death of Bill Haigh on 12th July.

Bill moved here from Normanton in 1960 and served on the Jury of Laxton Court Leet for 51 years many of them as Foreman of South Field. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

We send our sympathy to Pat, Robert, Christine and all the family at this sad time as we remember Bill in our thoughts and prayers.

Lammas Day

Holy Communion

8.00am, Laxton Church

Tuesday 1st August

The blessing of the first sheaf of corn

Followed by breakfast at the Dovecote Inn

Linda and Dave at The Dovecote have kindly offered to provide breakfast for us after our Lammas service. The cost will be £6 per head. Please will you let me know if you are coming to church and require breakfast afterwards as I have to let The Dovecote know numbers in good time.

Brenda (870541)

Congratulations and very well done to Joe Redshaw, Linda Brown's son, who graduated from the University of Leicester with a 1st class Honours degree in mathematics. Off next to the University of Manchester to study for his Masters in maths. David and I and all our family and friends are very proud of Joe's fantastic achievement and wish him much success in his further studies.

Congratulations to the Revd. Phil Howson who was ordained priest in Southwell Minster on Saturday 1st July. He was ordained along with eight other candidates from the Diocese by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham.

It was a lovely service. The Minster was full and the Minster choir sang. The Bishop of Sherwood, the Registrar, the Dean of the Minster and the Archdeacon all took part. After the ordinands had all given their oaths they were each given a Bible by the Bishop and then everyone received communion.

At the end of the service there was the usual procession out of the Minster onto the lawns, where the ordinands met with family and friends. Approximately twenty five friends from our group of churches were there to support Philip.



Thank You - Pat's Plant Stall

On behalf of the PCC I must say a huge thank you to Pat Naylor for the fantastic donation of £530 to church funds from the sale of her plants.

Pat works tirelessly during the year sowing, growing and tending the plants, assisted by Lesley Booth. The money raised is all given to the Inner Wheel of Sherwood Forest's chosen charity until their year end. This year it was Blood Bikes. Pat has given the money raised after this to Laxton Church.

Thanks must also go to the people who buy the plants. Thank you once again Pat.

Mothers Union

At the June meeting we welcomed Helen Catchpole speaking on holidays provided by the Mother's Union - referred to as 'Away from it All', 'AFIA'.

Families who haven't had a holiday for two to three years are referred to Helen and her committee by various organisations e.g. Social Services, clergy, Food Banks and schools. The families are visited by two committee members to see if they qualify. Occasionally single or elderly people are given cottage or coach holidays.

The holidays are at the Haven site in Mablethorpe at the end of May. People have to make their own way there, but are given a £50 Co-op voucher towards their food bill. The holiday is followed up by further visits from the same two committee members on their return.

Food hampers are provided for Christmas and children are sent birthday cards. For some families this may be the only holiday they have ever had - and Helen showed us some of the many thank you letters she has received.

The normal cost of this service is around £12,000 - Money raised by Mother's Union branches, collections from special services at the Minster, Count Your Blessings donations and Trust Funds.

The next meeting will be on 31st July, followed by an evening out for our August meeting on 21st August.

Janet

Things to Do this Month

August 1st Lammas service followed by breakfast at The Dovecote Inn

August 9th WI outing to Doddington Hall

August 10th Coffee Morning at The Dovecote Inn

August 16th History Group *'Did We Really Have it Go Good?'*
7.30pm, VH

August 19th Stuart Shepherd Memorial Football Match, 1.30 - 5pm, Sports & Recreation Field, KO 2.30pm

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

August 30th Meal and Speaker, Laxton History Group's HLF Project
South Forest Leisure Centre 7 for 7.15pm start.

VH = Village Hall VC = Visitor Centre

Laxton's Open Field Farming

Following the last Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that we should formally write to The Crown/Carter Jonas (Land Agents) expressing our concerns about the future of our village and the Open Field Farming System.

Opposite and continued on the following page is the reply, addressed to our Clerk, which will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on TUESDAY 25/7/17 at 7:30. As this is likely to be before the magazine is published, once everyone has had a chance to read it, we will hold an open meeting for all to attend and discuss.

Sir John Starkey has also written to The Crown on behalf of the Visitor Centre Trust to express their concerns as well.

Michael Manning

Dear Ms Milward

Thank you for your letter of 8th May setting out the concerns of the Parish Council with regards to The Crown Estate's ownership of the Laxton Estate. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in getting back to you however we have recently undergone an office move which has meant I have not been able to respond in as timely a fashion as I would have liked.

As you are no doubt aware in 2008 we carried out a major review of The Crown Estate's ownership of the Laxton Estate led by Norman Coward. This included interviews with all the farm tenants including Ken Shepherd, then Chair of the Laxton Parish Council, and a further 15 other stakeholders including Michael Manning, now Chair and then Vice Chair of Laxton Parish Council. As was hopefully made clear at the time, this review was carried out to ensure that the future of the open field system and the fabric and infrastructure of the Estate could be properly supported and funded.

The Crown Estate has a quite specific mandate under the terms of The Crown Estate Act which requires us to maximise the financial return that we provide to the UK Treasury, and effectively manage our assets as would any modern real estate company. As a result, the management of Laxton and its quite specific requirements can be challenging for us but we have always sought to ensure that we manage the Estate to the best of our abilities, and in accordance with both our Act and the Parliamentary Undertaking that was given regarding the ongoing management of the Estate. Our recent funding towards the new Village signs can be taken as an example of a project we can assist with which we would not do on our other Estates.

The issues of split lettings, separating land and homes, associated concerns over rural housing generally and the demographic pressures you highlight are ones that are at play almost throughout the entire UK farming industry. However in relation to Laxton specifically these issues and others, not least the uncertainty over the future of agricultural subsidies, which was highlighted back in 2008 as playing a disproportionate part in farm incomes at Laxton, have created a situation where it is difficult for both landlord and tenants to efficiently manage their respective businesses for the long term.

Continued overleaf



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Notwithstanding this I can reassure you that The Crown Estate is committed to the Undertaking it gave to Parliament and our management decisions are being taken to support the current system and certainly not in any way to undermine it. There is an ongoing review, which is still being informed by the findings of the Coward Review the recommendations of which we believe are still relevant, into what is the most appropriate future management and ownership structure of the Estate. Any changes we make will have to be not only for the benefit of ourselves as Estate owner, but also for the tenants who are of course primarily responsible for the operation of the historic open field system.

We are hopeful that we will be able to come up with a proposal that will protect for the long term the agricultural social history, diverse ecological habitat, and traditional village street scene of Laxton. When we do I think we will consider ourselves obliged to discuss this with our tenants first, which may of course include members of the Council, and thereafter we would be happy to meet with the Council. At that point hopefully we would be able to share not only what will inevitably be our still quite preliminary proposals, but also the initial views of the tenants.

Please rest assured that our current management strategy has not changed, and will not do so whilst the Undertaking is in place.

As a final comment it is perhaps worth mentioning that in relation to Moorgate Farm: in our letting particulars we noted that "Any prospective tenant of the land would have to become a member and actively participate in the Court Leet. These duties include but are not limited to attending the annual Court and Jury Day"; in our adverts in both Farmers Weekly and Farmers Guardian we also confirmed "Laxton Estate was never fully enclosed. The Estate's Three Field System operates at Moorgate Farm. Applicants must engage with this Estate structure"; and these commitments formed part of our assessment of prospective applicants.

I hope the above is of assistance but if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with either myself or our agents, Carter Jonas.

Yours sincerely

Iain Mills

Senior Asset Manager

The Dovecote Inn at Laxton

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Monday August 28th

August Bank Holiday Fun Day

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

Picnic hampers available between 2pm and 4pm

Restaurant opening times as usual, bar open all day.

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

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

Laxton Gymkhana

Thanks to Clare Cheetham and Jill Hoyland for their memories of a great day.



Following last year's awful weather and the deluges which had fallen during the week, it was a relief when the day dawned overcast and better still when it turned into a fabulous fun-filled sunny day enjoyed by all who attended. Fears of getting bogged down in the car and horsebox park proved unfounded.

It seemed strange to be without the Dog Show for the first time in ten years, but despite that people still came to support the event and enjoy themselves and, importantly, everyone who came was still smiling at the end of the day.

It was good to see local youngsters taking part. Three year old Georgina Cheetham (right) won a rosette for fifth place in her first show jumping competition and she had a wonderful time helped by Mum Clare and Beth Sharpe. They both got a good workout as they had to jump the obstacles with the pony.

Georgina also won her 'Handy Pony' class, in which brother Josh came third on Buttercup.

The Hoyland family had a great day with eight year old Ella (above) winning the Ridden Mountain and Moorland class on Billy Blitz and receiving the Mountain and Moorland Trophy. She also won the Working Hunter Pony not exceeding 13hh on Harry and received The Raynor Family Cup. Brother Jack, aged ten, came second in the Family Pony class on Bobby Grey.



The organisers, as always, did a marvelous job running the event with such professionalism and friendliness...and the children were encouraged by helpful and supportive judges throughout the day. Thank you to everyone involved, we can't wait until next year's show.

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Laxton History Group



Last month we had one of our occasional outings and didn't meet in the hall. We have finally found a bus with a driver who makes it affordable to go together so everyone met at Corner Farm for the trip. We made a diversion into Newark to collect John and both Brendas then made our way to the A1 for a good run down to Oakham.

We encountered some diversions as we came into the town through pretty villages constructed from the same stone as appears in the Cotswolds. It was a lovely day and we were able to park in the grounds of the castle. Able on two counts - firstly there is a small car park beside it and secondly due to the skill of our driver and everyone on the bus breathing in hard as we squeezed through the narrowest of arches. Well done driver! Not many of the passengers thought he would make it.



There was a surprise in store as it is a very different building from a typical castle. It looks more like a hall, but we were told that the early fortifications around it qualify it as a castle. Our first port of call is always for a coffee, so off we set for the one designated as the meeting place for Heather and Derek, who had come by car. Unfortunately when we found it, it had closed! Dik and Joy went off to find a phone signal and the Stortons while the rest of us went into an attractive pub beside the market for our refreshment. Unfortunately the others didn't find us in there and we only met up again when we had all come out.



A short walk took us back to the castle. Inside the unique nature of this building was clear. They have recently had a large HLF grant to refurbish it and done a

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wonderful job. You enter into the main hall of the building which is high, timbered, painted white and adorned with over 200 horse shoes of all sizes.

These have been ceremonially presented by visiting royalty on their first visit for hundreds of years. The earliest one is a large, iron shoe. Others are of similar size, but over the years as it became clear that the wall space would soon be exhausted, smaller shoes have been made and fitted inside the

larger ones. A local farrier is commissioned to undertake the making so to can be guaranteed to fit the space allocated to it.

We enjoyed a short talk on arrival and were then free to explore. There was a craft event taking place in a further room and it was nice to be able to see the varied and attractive works on sale.

After the tour we were free to do as we pleased until we met up again to go home.

For some it was an opportunity to look around the historic buildings, museum and church and for others a chance to shop.



Thanks to Jean for organising an enjoyable and interesting visit.

We shall next meet in the Village Hall on 19th July at 7.30pm when Carol Bannister will be speaking about the Archdeaconry Courts. On August 16th we shall be in the hall again to hear from John Whitfield and to make up our own minds as to 'The 1950s - Did We Really Have it So Good?'. The meeting takes place at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.

New Dog Litter Bin

The new Dog Litter Bin purchased by the Parish Council has been sited next to the Village Hall.

We hope it will encourage people to deposit their dog litter in there and if it is successful we can look at whether we should purchase any more for the Parish.



Pat's Plant Stall

Each year has exceeded the previous year and 2017 is no exception. **The final total is an amazing £1630.**

£1100 went to Sherwood Forest Inner Wheel Club. This was divided and £1000 was sent to the Blood Bikes charity. The remaining £100 was donated to 'Forget Me Nots' in Tuxford - a self funding charity formed to support people with memory problems. They are open on Tuesday and Friday and provide activities, hot lunch, music, games and occasional outings in a safe and supportive environment. The remaining £530 was donated to Laxton church where there is always a need to repair some aspect of the ancient building.

I would like to thank the regular and passing customers who make all this possible. Most I never see but occasionally I do and it is gratifying to hear the good reports regarding the growth, development and pleasure gained.

Also the lovely Lesley Booth who quietly beavers away growing and then donating many bedding plants to grace the stall. Others, often unknown, leave 'spare' plants on the drive and these too find their way to the stall. Margaret Rose very kindly allowed me to take over her greenhouse this year, it was a real boon.

Finally, I would like to thank Jeff for his forbearance and patience as well as all he does behind the scenes.

Don't forget the competition for the heaviest beefsteak tomato. *Pat*

Coffee

Morning

10th August

10.30am - 11.30am

The next coffee morning
will take place on

Thursday 10th August at The Dovecote Inn.

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

Plenty of tea, cakes, and chatter.



Laxton Garden Fête Thanks

Thank you to Mike Jackson for allowing us to hold our Garden Fête at Crosshill Farm.

As usual the weather was unsettled so the decision was taken to move into the barn just in case.

The attendance was a little down this year due to clashing with other events, but that didn't deter



everyone from enjoying themselves.

There was something for everyone of all ages. There were plenty of cakes to buy and the raffle and tombola to have a go at.

Everyone was kept fed and watered with hot dogs, scones

and tea. Then there was bowls or skittles to work off the calories and keep you fit.



It was good to see friends from further afield there to support us and they were rewarded with amazing success in the raffle.

Thanks to everyone for their support - those who helped with the stalls and games, those who gave cakes, raffle prizes and tombola etc.

Thanks again to Mike for all his help, to Stuart for the loan of tables and chairs and also to Simon and to everyone who helped clear away at the end of the evening.

A total of £525 was made for church funds.



Dovecote Inn Summer Ball



Friday 7th July was the night of our third annual summer ball, and what a night it was.

Thank you to everyone who attending and joined in the fun and party spirit, for

making this another great night to remember. So sorry to those of you who couldn't come this year, as we sold out of tickets by the beginning of May. Just make sure you're quicker off the mark for the next one!

A bigger marquee, more outside seating, new speciality bars, and dancing until midnight, all went towards making this another fabulous event.

250 guests were treated to a champagne reception which was followed by our own hog roast, beautifully served up by chefs Pete and Jacob, and a disco by DJ Chris.



The themed bars were very popular, with Joe and Josh serving up the cocktails and speciality gins, and our wine rep Phil serving a range of rosé wines from around the globe. It was left to Faye and "guest barman for one night only" Jem Hill to run the marquee bar, while resident barmen





Russ and Tom ran the very busy pub bar.

Not forgetting our other little helpers, Sophie, Jess, Ann, Ruth, Jackie, Mum and sis Di, who also worked really hard to ensure that the proceedings ran very smoothly.

A big thank you to all our amazing staff – you never let us down.

Finally a thank you to the villagers of Laxton , to those of you who came along and enjoyed the party, so lovely to see you all and thank you for supporting us again and to those of you who couldn't make it for putting up with music and the extra traffic on Friday night.

Finally here's a few photos from the evening to enjoy – a few familiar faces round and about.



Best
regards,
*Linda and
David*



Strawberry Tea for Hospital Helipads



Thanks to Jean and Roy for hosting yet another lovely Strawberry Tea in their garden for this excellent cause, which could benefit any of us any day.

For once the weather was kind and after an overcast morning the sun had come out and the garden looked lovely as did the marquees they had set up for

the meal and the games and stalls. We heard the setting up of their usual marquee was not without incident as the poles had got mixed up. Anyone who has tried it knows they all look the same until you come to try to fit them together, then it all goes horribly wrong. There was nothing for it but to take it all apart, sort the poles out by length and start again.

As usual the Hennell family turned out in force including three of Roy's brothers, along with sisters, children and their families. They were joined by an excellent turn out of friends from Laxton and around and some even brought their own visitors.



Many thanks to the people who made cakes to sell and to Dik who has perfected his Pimms recipe. Very appropriate for the afternoon when Federer won his record 8th Men's Wimbledon singles title and Lewis Hamilton won his 5th British Grand Prix.

After plenty of friendly chatter the meal was served, consisting of a tasty salad, strawberries and cream, cakes and tea or coffee. Everyone was very generous in

taking part in the raffle and tombola, buying plants and cakes and trying their hand at guessing the weight of the cake, the number of teabags in the caddy and the 50/50 draw.

All was well with the world as Margaret Rose won one of the wonderful

Laxton Cricket Club Officials - 1937

Following on from the sad news that Laxton Cricket Club has disbanded, Max McNaught has sent in this list of former officials. Some of the names will be very familiar to their descendants still here today and to everyone who read the recent History Group booklets. Thanks to Max for thinking to add to the memories of the club.

President: Rev J W N Thurston
Vice Presidents: H D Argles Esq., F Merrills Esq.
Captain: Mr A Frecknall
Vice Captain: Mr R W White
Hon. Treasurer: Mr G Hennell

Executive Committee:
Messrs. R Clark, S Marrison, J Cook, W Moody

Team Selectors: Mr A Frecknall, R Clark

Secretary: Mr F E Moody

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collection of 25 raffle prizes and Mavis Beckitt won the cake, much to the disappointment of Neil Hennell who was beaten by a whisker. Jeff Naylor, caught napping when his raffle ticket was pulled out, had little time to enjoy his prize of chocolates as Pat swiftly claimed it!

Colin Hennell went home £18 richer from the 50/50 draw and Fiona Wagstaff

won the tea bags. We all send very best wishes to George Codd of Egmonton who usually comes with her, but who sadly was in hospital.

Thanks to everyone for their support. The sum raised will be published next month.



CHURCH SERVICES FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES AUGUST 2017

HC = Holy Communion EP = Evening Prayer MP = Morning Prayer
Es = Evensong WfA = Worship for All

30th July

10.30am

7th Sunday after Trinity

Walesby – Family of churches HC

6th August

9am

Kirton HC

10.30am

Kneesall HC

13th August

10.30am

Laxton HC

4pm

Egmanton Es

4pm

Wellow EP

20th August

9am

Egmanton HC

10.30am

Wellow HC

27th August

9am

Moorhouse HC

10.30am

Kirton MP

10.30am

Countryside and Tractor Service at Vintage
Tractor event, B6387 nr Bothamsall

Tuesday 8th August – ‘Open Vestry Hour’ for baptism and wedding enquiries 6.30pm – 7.30pm at St Paulinus Church Office, Church Circle, New Ollerton. The church will remain open until 4pm and refreshments will be available. Please join us for a cuppa and chat or for a few quiet moments in church. On the 2nd Wednesday we will be exploring local history in Ollerton village. Please come and share what you know and hear something new!

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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



2017

July 31 st	MU
<i>Aug 1st</i>	<i>Lammas Service followed by breakfast</i>
<i>Aug 9th</i>	<i>WI Outing to Doddington Hall</i>
<i>Aug 10th</i>	<i>Coffee Morning</i>
<i>Aug 16th</i>	<i>History Group</i>
Aug 19 th	Stuart Shepherd Memorial Football Match
<i>Aug 21st</i>	<i>MU</i>

Forward Planning

<i>Sept 9th</i>	<i>NHCT Sponsored Bike Ride</i>
Sept 26 th	Parish Council
Sept 30 th	Southwell Ploughing Match
<i>Oct 3rd</i>	<i>WI Group Meeting</i>
<i>Oct 13th, 14th, 15th</i>	<i>Harvest Weekend Events</i>
<i>Oct 28th</i>	<i>History Group Halloween Craft Fayre</i>
Nov 17 th	Church Dance
Nov 21 st	Parish Council
Dec 1 st	Quiz Night
<i>Dec 20th</i>	<i>Carols at The Dovecote</i>

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

If you know the date of a meeting or an event, please pass it on so that others can take it into account when planning.

Copy Date for September: 16th August.

We cannot guarantee to include items received after this date.

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Laxton WI



The National Federation held their AGM in Liverpool this year at the Liverpool Echo Arena. It was attended by approximately 4,300 delegates from WIs all over the country. National membership now stands at approximately 225,000, with new WIs forming regularly, especially in more towns. The two resolutions chosen by the membership were put forward and passed.

Janice Langley has served as Chairman for the last four years and she handed over to her successor, Lynne Stubbings from Warwickshire. We wish her well.

As usual we entered a team in the County Quiz - **Joyce, Anna, Margaret and Sandra**, so it was very appropriate that as their initials spelled out 'jams' our team entered as the 'Laxton Jams'. The quiz is held simultaneously in a number of venues across the county and overall about 170 teams tackled the questions. It takes a while to get all the results worked out, but our team felt they had not done too badly.

Unfortunately Brenda had to be elsewhere on our meeting night and our Secretary, Lesley, took the chair. She had plenty of news to share and new events to promote.

The croquet event at Southwell had proved very popular and was oversubscribed. Sadly we didn't get all the tickets we had asked for as they had to be allocated by ballot. The fortunate members who went enjoyed themselves and kept up Laxton's track record since Sally Brown, our Treasurer, won last time. Anna Hill won this time, followed by Chris Walker in second and Lesley and Bridget who both did well.

At the end of September we have the Autumn Council meeting of the Notts Federation in



*Above Anna Hill
Below: Lesley Booth and
Chris Walker*



Newark, which will feature an ABBA tribute band. This is to be followed on October 3rd by our Group meeting, when the competition asks us to produce a display depicting the 'Calendar Girls'. You can imagine the comments which followed that announcement!



Our speaker in July was Penny Forsythe who spoke about Bee Keeping. Things got off to a bad start when her projector refused to talk to her computer. Fortunately help was soon at hand after Joy pressed her car into service as a white charger and fetched Penny's knight in shining armour in the familiar form of Dik. After a stern talking to all was well.

Penny gave a fascinating insight into the lives of bees, the different types of bee and what is involved in responsible bee keeping before offering us the chance to sample some of her delicious local honey.

A 'retirement birthday' gift had started Penny on the road to bee keeping. She now has 23 hives and sells honey from a stall in Retford.

We learned that the Romans had kept bees. They kept them in terracotta pots and would throw them onto their enemies if they were under attack.

The honey is made by the bees as a store of food for the winter. They don't hibernate, but reduce their numbers and cluster on the combs until spring. The honey in the comb will keep indefinitely. A half pound jar is equivalent to a half million bee lifetimes.



Individual bees are short lived but the colony can live as long as they have room to move and create new, clean combs. When everything is in balance the wax moth follows behind the bees eating the abandoned combs and creating fresh space which they can later return to.



Penny spent some time discussing the threats which face bees today and the consequences for us as a species if we lose our pollinators. It was not an attractive prospect and she urged us to plant for bees in our gardens.

At the end of the evening Penny was thanked for her talk and invited to judge our competition for

a home made bee. The winner was Bridget with her pretty bee themed card, followed by Jeanette and Mavis.

Saturday 15th July saw the Notts County Federation's celebration of its centenary at North Muskham. There were around 40 stalls, crafts, WI food and games - some of which were really different and may appear here at future events!



All the county WIs were asked for a proposal for a stall or game earlier in the year. Our secretary Lesley's husband, Stephen, is an author and he kindly offered to donate a copy of his latest best seller as the prize in a 'Treasure Hunt' to find Derbyshire beauty spot where his novel, 'Lost River' opens. Luckily the person who selected the correct spot was there at

the end to receive a copy of his latest book 'Dead Dark' as her prize.



The day got off to a wet start, but ended very pleasant. Visitors and stall holders alike enjoyed the games. The walking netball was popular and both Elizabeth Banks and Joyce Stone volunteered to play. Joyce might have thought twice about keeping goal had she known she would be marking a very

tall man. Despite that she did very well. She admitted the temptation to run or jump - both illegal - was very strong. Elizabeth showed a previously hidden talent at the other end, scoring two goals including the winner. Well done both. Joyce and

granddaughter Emily - maybe a member in the making - carried our banner in the final parade.

We have an outing in August and this year Sandra has organised a trip to Doddington Hall on August 9th. We will return to the Hall for our September meeting on Wednesday 13th at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.



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Countryside and Tractor Event and Service

Thanks to Jonathan Price of Kirton for this information.

The annual August Bank Holiday Monday Vintage Tractor and Countryside Show will be at Houghton Hall Farm on the Ollerton - Gamston road, the B6387, on 26th, 27th and 28th August this year courtesy of the Woodcock family .

The family own the reindeer which the History Group visited earlier this year and these and other animals will be there for petting etc. There will be a children's' marquee this year, with lots of events such as paint a pot, barrel rides, mini ride on tractors, bracelet making etc.

The ploughing match is Sunday 27th from 10.00am. And there will be a special service in the old chapel at 10.30am and taken by Rev. Zoe Burton. Those wishing to attend the service will find the chapel is semi derelict, but will have been made safe. Everyone is welcome to stay for the rest of the events.



A DIY BBQ takes place on 26th and 27th, with a butcher on hand where you can buy your meat.

The vintage tractor run will be on the Monday morning from 10.00am.

Ducksbury Vintage Tractor Run

Those who looked for the tractors would have looked in vain on July 1st as for the first time in many years they did not come near Laxton at all. The route is always kept secret until the drivers are actually on their way and is revealed as they follow the lead vehicle. This year the Laxton area was well represented once again with George and Paula Noble, several members of the Hennell family, Keith Morton and several vehicles from Egmonton, including a trailer full of local folk.

The route took the 111 vehicles north of Tuxford with a stop for lunch at Osburton. Unfortunately for Mark Hennell, his tractor decided it had had enough shortly after lunch and he had to take advantage of a ride home on the low loader which follows the convoy for just such occasions. Everyone else returned home unscathed, aside from a touch of sunburn as the sun decided to come out and shine on the drivers.

Hopefully we shall hear that a tidy sum was raised for the cancer services at Sheffield.

Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
17/6/17	42	Johnny Godson
24/6/17	24	Derek (Dovey)
1/7/17	6	Janet Cooke
8/7/17	25	Linda (Dovey)
15/7/17	23	Danny

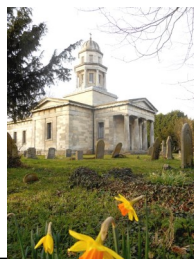
Thank you all for your continuing support for our Sports Field. The total number of balls is 59, the same as the National Lottery. There are numbers available. **If you would like to join, you can choose from the numbers 1,34,52,53,56,57 and 59. Anyone with a current ball is also invited to take another.**

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

Michael Manning

Milton Mausoleum

The Mausoleum will be open every Sunday until September from 2 - 4pm. Volunteers will be there to tell the story of the Duke and his family. Organised group visits are possible at other times. Contact



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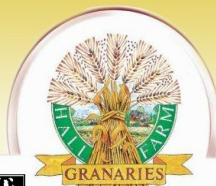
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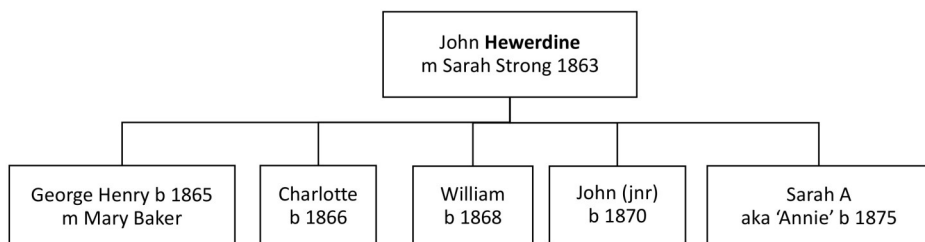
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The Hewerdines of Laxton: Hewerdine / Merrills Sons

In this episode Jenni Dobson looks at the story of John Hewerdine who was born in 1833 at Westborough. He married Sarah Strong in 1863 and his death on 19th January 1910 is presumed to have occurred at Kneesall.

Sarah Strong was born in 1841 at Coleby, Lincs., the daughter of John and Frances Strong. She died in 1929.



John was the only brother of Jane, Charlotte and Mary Hewerdine to remain in England, the others having emigrated to America.

Though Westborough is east of the Great North Road, John possibly travelled north along it to attend Newark hiring fairs, held annually, where both men and women would seek work. In both 1851 and 1861 he worked in villages on this route, at Carlton-on-Trent and South Muskham respectively.

At Muskham, he met a fellow servant, Sarah Strong, whom he married in 1863. They had George H, born in 1865; Charlotte, born 1866; William, born 1868; John, born 1870 and Sarah A (Annie) born 1875.

In 1867 the new Representation of the People Act brought the benefit of the vote to almost twice as many people by introducing changed qualifying criteria. Those occupying a property which qualified by means of a minimum rateable value became eligible to vote, and John Hewerdine was an early beneficiary, appearing in a list of voters for the Doddington area which ancestry.co.uk have added to their collection.

The 1871 census showed John living at Doddington, Lincs, with his widowed father, William, who died in 1873. John was an agricultural labourer but by 1881, he is a foreman, living at Westborough. His eldest

son, George, aged 16, was also an 'ag.lab.'

At some time during the next decade, John moved to Laxton. In the meantime his sister, Jane, died but his two elder nephews, William and Joseph Merrills, still lived in Laxton.

The 1891 census shows a 'Thomas' Hewerdine living at Park Farm, but I believe this is an error by the enumerator. The age is right at 57 for it to be John, the wife is 'Sarah' born at Coleby, Lincs., and the children, George H, now 25 and Sarah A, now 16, also match. Other papers examined during the recent Lottery-funded Laxton History Group project also include mention of a J Hewerdine.

It's worth considering why John made this move. Perhaps his sister and brother-in-law told him of a farm becoming available but another factor may have been the decline in agricultural work taking place nationally. A simple survey comparing the occupations of the inhabitants of Long Bennington, Lincs, (where John's sister Mary lived), between the 1881 and 1891 censuses, shows that about 20% fewer people were engaged in agricultural labour, though the population of the village had diminished by only 10%.

However, it had taken John some time to rise to foreman and maybe the appeal of Laxton was to farm for himself, not for an employer.

In 1901, John and Sarah lived at East Park Farm, which may be the same farm that he took in 1891, as it is the next entry to Breck Wong in both censuses.

By 1902, rising 70, John was considering retirement. A letter from Mr Wordsworth the Thoresby Estate Land Agent, dated 24th Sep, referred to John's notice to quit what is now known as Brecks Farm at Moorhouse. In 1905 an Estate letter was addressed to Mr J Hewerdine of Park Farm, Kneesall and this is the address in the National Probate Calendar for John following his death, probate being granted at Nottingham to his son, George. Neither John nor Sarah was buried at Laxton. Kneesall records at Notts Archives currently end at 1901 so burials have not yet been traced there.

Next time: what happened to John's children

The Sampson Family - USA Enquiry

It was pleasing to have a quick reply to the request last month for Sampson relatives to make contact to be put in touch with Judy in America, who is a descendant of this Laxton family. It is not too late and if anyone else would like to make themselves known their details will be forwarded.

Final Wednesday Speaker Evenings with Meal

Following July's successful meeting where we learnt how to avoid fraudsters and scammers, the second in our monthly programme of entertaining / informative Final Wednesday talks will be on 30th August.

The evening lasts about two hours and will begin with a sociable two course meal followed by coffee or tea, prior to the speaker's presentation for 30 - 60 minutes. We conclude with a few questions for the speaker.

To book places for the August talk (for number of meals) please phone South Forest (**01623 823866**) saying you wish to book into the Rotary meal on August 30th.

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

The August presentation concerns Laxton. Three years ago Laxton History Group obtained a Lottery Grant to research all aspects of village life in the years leading up to, during and immediately after The First World War. The Group have now published seven books covering varying aspects of village life for the years 1900 - 1920. The presentation will cover the planning, implementation and eventual publication of the books with interesting anecdotes gathered during the research.

Weds 30th August, 7pm for 7.15pm start, £11 including meal & speaker.

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

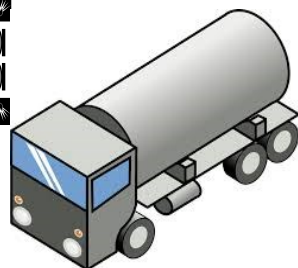
Group Oil Order

The late summer order for domestic heating oil is about to be placed. The next order will be towards the end of November. If you would like to be part of this order, please send a note of the volume you need to **oil@openfield.org.uk** any time from early

November. If you have ordered before please ensure you have notified any changes to your contact details e.g. phone or email.

If you would like to join the group, please provide mobile and land line numbers, email and full postal address plus any special instructions e.g. guard dogs, gates with locks, difficult access etc.

NB once the order is placed no new names can be added.



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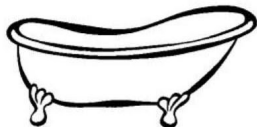
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Dinosaurs of China

If you have been into Nottingham recently, you could not fail to know that there is an exhibition taking place between 1st July and 29th October featuring the 'Dinosaurs of China', subtitled 'Ground Shakers to Feathered Flyers.' The main site of the exhibition is at Wollaton Hall, with a subsidiary exhibition at Nottingham University's Lakeside Museum. It aims to show how modern birds are descended from dinosaurs and includes some finds from the last 20 years which show some to have been feathered.

The exhibition was five years in preparation. Students in Beijing first produced ideas for a hypothetical exhibition as part of their course work then, as the idea took root, students in Nottingham were given a similar brief. The public were consulted on their ideas and strongly supported the idea.

Wollaton Hall was identified as a suitable venue because of its situation in a park where wild animals and birds abound and also because the Natural History Museum there is one of the largest outside London and has exhibits which could be incorporated into the whole idea.

With support from the Chinese, the City and County Councils and the University the project got under way and the majority of the planning and execution took place in the last year. Suitable dinosaur fossils for display were identified and plans made for them to be brought here. Some are the actual bones and others are casts made from the finds.

All had to be dismantled, packed for transit and shipped here. The sea and land journey from Beijing took 50 days. The assembly of the largest specimen, Mamenchiasaurus, had to be completed first. It has been presented rearing up to get it into the building at all and is the height of 3 double decker buses. The scaffolding used to erect it had to be removed before the remainder of the exhibits could be set up.

The space was meticulously measured and everything was checked and double checked. A special ramp construction was needed to raise the crates to the level of the door, and to everyone's relief it all went in. The designers have cleverly incorporated the packing crates into the display as they will be needed for the return journey and would be a headache to store.

7,000 people went to see the exhibition on its first weekend. Booked entry times and parking are available from www.dinosaursofchina.co.uk and there is an accompanying series of free talks at Lakeside. The programme is on the web site.

Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark takes a stand against scams

Citizens Advice **Sherwood and Newark** is spreading the word about scams to help stop more people across **Newark and Sherwood** from being conned. The charity is taking part in Scams Awareness Month, a campaign which encouraged people to report and talk about scams, which ran during July. The drive to get more people reporting scams came as national Citizens Advice revealed a 17% increase in people being scammed after purchasing 'phantom goods'. The scam works by conning shoppers into buying high value items, mainly online, which turn out not to exist. The average loss was £1,100. People were most likely to be scammed when buying cars, flights and furniture. Other 'phantom goods' included jewellery and cameras. The Citizens Advice consumer service received 555 reports of 'phantom goods' scams during January and March 2017, compared with 495 over the same period the year before. Scams operating in the local area reported to Citizens Advice **Sherwood and Newark** over the past year include **computer virus scams where a scammer calls someone up and says their computer has a virus which they can fix remotely**.

Being scammed can ruin people's finances. People can lose significant amounts from phantom good scams, so it's important they don't rush into online purchases until they're sure seller is genuine. People are urged to report and talk about scams so that more fraudsters can be stopped. People can also visit or call the Citizens Advice consumer service if they want advice on whether something is a genuine deal or a scam, or for advice if they have been scammed.

Getting advice and report scams:

- Get advice on an offer you've had, or find out how you can get your money back if you've been scammed from the Citizens Advice consumer service: **03454 04 05 06**
- Report scams or suspected scams to Action Fraud: 0300 123 2040
www.actionfraud.police.uk

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Beware Rogue Traders

A resident has recently fallen victim to traders who charged very much more than was reasonable for work agreed to when they called at the door. Fortunately in this instance a family member was soon made aware of what had happened and the matter was resolved.

It serves to remind all of us that living in a quiet community in the countryside does not make us immune from these things, and cons don't all happen via computer or phone.

If anyone you do not know calls at the door without an appointment you should make it a practice **never** to agree to any sort of work. You should tell a family member, friend or neighbour and ask if it appears the suggested work is necessary. If it is, ask other people for recommendations of traders who have done a good job and get several quotes for any big jobs before agreeing to have the work done.

All reputable traders will happily provide a quote free of charge.

If a caller is trying to sell you goods you should always say 'No'. The potential for a bargain is simply not worth the risk and worry of falling for a con - and victims can be any age, not just elderly!



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Dukeries Singers

Having wrestled with our raspberry bed all morning, I am surely deserving of this sit down in front of my screen. I swear we have raspberry canes for Nottinghamshire!

We have no concerts in August, but we visit Weston, near Sutton on Trent on Saturday 16th. September 2017, to deliver a concert in their Church at 7-30pm.



Our last Choir practise for the Summer term is on Wednesday 26 July. We return to rehearsal on Wednesday 30 August. Thereafter we meet every Wednesday in the Concert Hall at the Dukeries Academy at 7-30pm. until 9-15pm. This is best accessed via the Leisure Centre entrance and free car park.

This would be an excellent time to join this very friendly choir as we shall all be beginning our preparations for our Christmas engagements and all be at square one. You are welcome to attend for one or two weeks to see if singing in a choir is for you. There are no auditions and no necessity to be able to read music. It is fun, friendly and satisfying to sing together to make a good sound.

If you would like to book the Dukeries Singers for your fund raising, celebration, charity event or just "a bit of a do," please contact our Concert Secretary, Phil, on **01623 822070**. He would be delighted to hear from you. For more information about us we are on-line at thedukeriessingers.com and on Facebook and YouTube.

Have a wonderful Summer

Jan

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

- ◆ Tuxford Young Farmers - No bookings in August
- ◆ Yoga with Greg – Tuesdays at 7:30pm
- ◆ WI - Thurs 17th
- ◆ Children's Dance Classes - Saturday mornings (Jill, 07790 601877)
- ◆ **Computer Problems?** - Call 01777 871171.

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

Maplebeck Village Hall Events

www.maplebeck.org.uk / 01636 636692 / 636185

Regular Activities

Yoga*	Fridays	9.30am
Light Aerobics & Pilates	Mondays	1.00pm
Walkers	Wednesdays	10.00am
Ladies Running	Wednesdays	7.00pm
Book Club	Tuesdays	7.30pm
	6 th June, 11 th July, 5 th Sept.	

* More sessions on Tuesday morning and Weds evening

Upcoming special events

Weds 9 th Aug	7.30pm	Kurling
Weds 13 th Sept	7.30pm	Kurling
Thurs 14 th Sept	7.30pm	LOOK at Contemporary Art
Tues 19 th Sept	7.30pm	Film T.B.A

Useful Contact Details

Defibrillator Contacts:

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

Police

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

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

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

Fire Safety Advice (Tuxford Fire Station) 01777 870381

Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk



Jack Hoyland on Bobby Grey



Ella Hoyland on Harry

Annual Stuart Shepherd Memorial Football Match

SATURDAY 19th AUGUST 2017

Sports Field, 1:30 – 5:00 KO 2:30pm



- ☆ Food & Drink available
- ☆ Everyone welcome - old & new players, family & friends
- ☆ Tombola, Bouncy Castle, Penalty shoot out, Games & Raffle

☆ All proceeds to
The Brain Tumour Society