

Open Field

£1

August 2020



The Socially Distanced Grass Sales in the garden at The Dovecote Inn, Laxton, 14th July 2020

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



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Parish Councillors:	Chairman	Mr Michael Manning
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Flowers and Brasses Rota - suspended until further notice

Mrs M Beckitt & Mrs B Noble	26 th July & 2 nd August
Mrs S Rose & Mrs R Creighton	9 th & 16 th August
Mrs L Booth & Ms H Keay	23 rd & 30 th August
Mrs J Cooke & Mrs P Freer	6 th & 13 th September

Coffee Morning Hosting Rota - for reference when they are resumed

August 13 th	Joyce Stone
September 10 th	Jean Hennell
October 8 th	Diane Wood

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

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

Message from Brenda, our Churchwarden

At last we have some good news about opening our churches after lockdown. As from July we are able to open for services, but these will not be quite the same. To start with there will be no organ, no hymns and no wine will be received in Holy Communion services.

Social distancing will have to be in place with all the usual hand sanitisers available. There must be no physical contact so hand shakes must not take place.

If possible a record must be kept of visitors' names and the most important part is the cleaning of the church before opening.

At the beginning of July the ministry team had a meeting via Zoom. As a result the aim is to get the churches open by September, so some will be opening in August under the guidelines.

As things change every day we don't know what will happen in the next few weeks, or even days in our rapidly changing environment.

The rota for August appears on the left hand centre page as usual. All services will be at 10.30am until we get back to normal and all churches are open.

The first service will be the Lammas service at Laxton when the first sheaf of wheat will be blessed. This will be at **10.30am on Sunday 2nd August, not 1st August as is traditional.**



Sadly there will not be the traditional breakfast afterwards as we are not allowed to serve any food as yet.

Probably by the time 'Open Field' goes to print next month things will have changed again

Brenda

If you Need Help ..

If you are older or vulnerable and need help, please contact Mike Jackson (details below) with your phone number and email.



Mike continues to co-ordinate a team of volunteers to bring in shopping, collect prescriptions etc.

Many thanks to the volunteers who have helped throughout the period of Covid-19 to date and who continue to do so.

Mike Jackson
01777 870042, Mobile 07860 676085,
email jackomgj@gmail.com

Village Notices

Mike Manning maintains a list of email addresses for villagers and other local people who want to receive up to date information.

If you are not already on the list and would like to be kept informed, please contact Mike on **870844**.

Laxton Defibrillator

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

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

Michael Manning

A Message from Thoresby

There is no doubt a correct legal name for the body which has bought the Laxton Estate, but as they are generally referred to locally as 'Thoresby', that is the name we are using going forward.

Everyone was delighted to see Gregor Pierrepont and his fiancée at the Grass sales. Gregor is Hugh Matheson's son and is the man with his hand on the helm. A general invitation had been sent for someone to attend, so it was particularly positive that Gregor chose to come himself.

Following the Grass Sales, of which more later, he spoke to the assembled farmers, saying that he had hoped to have this opportunity as soon as the sale had gone through. He also expressed a desire to hold the promised meeting to speak to the wider community as soon as possible, but obviously that is not yet.

Open Field invited him to write a few words to reach most of the village and some of the sider community, which he was pleased to do.



"After a nearly 70-year interval Laxton has returned to the Thoresby fold with a rather delayed completion of the purchase from the Crown Estate on the 2nd of April. Sadly, our plans for a public meeting to discuss with the village our ideas was delayed by the

imposition of lockdown, we still intend to do this as soon as it is safe and legal.

We are committed to maintaining the character of Laxton and preserving the Open Field system that makes the village so special. That requires the tenant farmers of Laxton to be successful and in turn that means we need to fulfil our landlord's obligations, something we take very seriously.

You may have seen our Estate Surveyor, Colin, around the village as we begin the process of fully assessing the properties in preparation for a multi-year program of works as part of our broader investment in the village.

*In the meantime if you have any issues please feel free to contact the **Estate Office on 01623 822301**. We look forward to working with the community in the coming months and years to maintain and enhance this very special place.*

Yours

G. M. Pierrepont"

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A Lucky Escape



Robert Haigh sent us this photo of the result of his recent accident on the A1, when his tractor was hit from behind by a lorry.

The caption he supplied is
‘A cautionary tale for anyone considering driving a tractor or other slow moving vehicle on the A1. The danger is behind you!’

We can't argue with that and are just very relieved that Robert escaped relatively unscathed, albeit with some

bruising worth of a photo or two for family only.

Pat's Plant Stall

The plant stall remains open currently though with a much depleted stock. A range of more mature shrubs have been delivered recently by a friend and are eager to find new homes.

Having decided not to open the stall this year because of the unusual circumstances, I ultimately changed my mind. Contact would be nil and the money has always been posted through the letterbox. What a good decision that proved to be.

The total received by the beginning of July was £900.48

The charity chosen was Medical Detection Dogs as they are investigating training dogs to detect Covid19. Since then they have received government approval and training has commenced.

A portion will also go to the NHS.

I would like to say thank you to the many people who have supported the stall again this year and for the donation of plants and pots and trust that the edible plants are beginning to provide a crop.

Thank you again.





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Coffee Mornings

There will be no more Coffee Mornings for the time being.

We will let you know when we can start again.

The rota will remind hostesses so that we can start as soon as it seems right to do so.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We would like to congratulate anyone celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special event during June.

Please send us the first names of people you want us to send good wishes to.

If we have missed anyone, we apologise. Please let us know who we should be including.

*The birthday roll of honour for August is: **Ian, Rachel, Cynthia** (80) and **Michael** (90).*

Many happy returns to you all.

We can't believe it is a year since Roy and Jean held the first event in the refurbished Village Hall for their Godden Wedding on 2nd August. Congratulations to them for adding another busy year to the total.

If you know someone we have missed, please tell us.



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Tuxford Young Farmers



Recently we have done the spring rally 2020 online, with different challenges for us to take part in from a cookery challenge for a full English breakfast to a British farming lockdown photograph and a few more activities.

We as a club won the rally and had 4 first places, 1 second place, 2 third places and finally 1 fourth place which was a great achievement for us all.

I hope everyone is doing OK and coping well during this lockdown and please keep safe.

As yet we do not know when meetings will resume but we will post it in 'Open Field' when we are back, and hope to see some new members. All will be welcome.

Emily

A Little Light Relief - Face Coverings

Whatever your views on them, masks have arrived and look like being with us for a long time. As with anything topical, it isn't long before someone sees the funny side and Mike Manning has sent in this set of rules he spotted the other day to help anyone struggling to remember what to do

Face covering rules (think of them as your underwear!!)

1. Don't touch or adjust (especially in public)
2. Don't borrow or lend
3. Make sure it is a tight fit but comfortable
4. Make sure it is clean (at least daily)
5. Wear the right side out
6. If it is dirty, throw it away
7. If it is damp, change it
8. Don't go commando!!!

Laxton Grass Sales



The grass sales or the practice of grass letting has its roots in historical practice. Tenants were able to graze their cattle and horses (animals which could be tethered) according to the number of 'gait rights' they held. These were at one time passed on in wills but latterly became attached to properties and were the cause

of much debate.

The grazing process was inefficient. After the enclosure of the meadows and the resulting areas being let to single tenants in the 1720s, the value of the syke grass increased. The grass on the road sides was auctioned, but the first auction of the syke grass was in 1730. This has been repeated annually since, under the hammer of an auctioneer employed for the occasion. The value of the grass has varied significantly over the years.



Originally the timing in late June or early July enabled the farmers to inspect the growing grass before they bid, but now the date is set to enable farmers to mow their purchases as soon as possible after the July 15th date set by English Nature to allow the rare plants on these areas, many of which are SSSIs, to seed.



The actual date is set by the Clerk to the Gaits & Commons, a post currently held by Stuart Rose, who succeeded his father, Reg. In the past such village worthies as the school master, the parish clerk or even the vicar have held the post.

In recent times the auction has taken place in



the Visitor Centre, due in part to there being a £2 levy on each lot to pay for a drink in the Dovecote for those taking part. The situation this



year made it impossible to hold an indoor auction and much debate has taken place to decide where it should be. Eventually it was decided to opt for the garden behind the Dovecote letting rooms and to keep fingers very firmly crossed for a good evening.

For once the weather cooperated. There was plenty of seating and space for the bidders to socially distance, although with some being members of the same family this did not apply to everyone in the same way. The steps to the letting rooms provided an ideal rostrum from which business was briskly conducted.

Following the completion of the auction, which took approximately 15 minutes, Gregor Pierrepont from Thoresby took the rostrum to speak to the farmers present. He outlined what Thoresby had already done and indicated that they intended the Laxton Estate to be brought up to the standard of their existing estate. His theme broadly followed the content of his message on page 5 of this edition.

The weather in the following days has been reasonably good and on the Sunday following the auction hay was already being made on Radbeck Syke.





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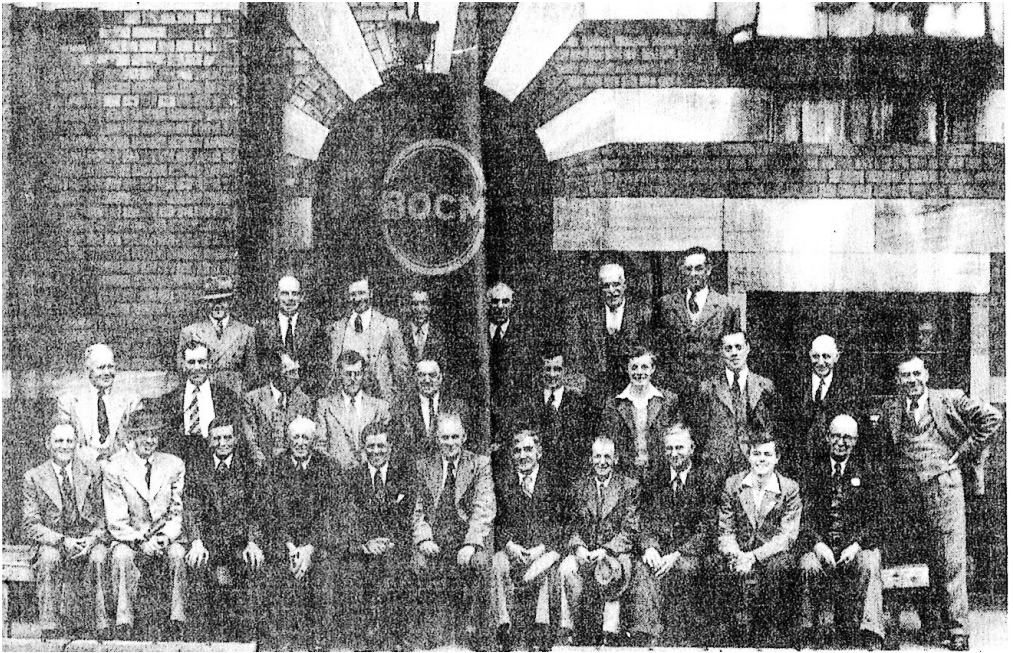
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Jean Hennell has contributed this picture - unfortunately it looks like a photocopy of a newspaper page, hence the poor quality. There are some unknown people in the image. Does anyone know who they are or were? Maybe you have a copy of the original photo and can work it out.

This picture shows an outing to BOCM Mills, organised by C J Hemsall & Sons of Tuxford, which took place in the 1950s.

This photograph belongs to Mr A G Dolby of Headon near Retford.

Back row are:- Lawrence Bartle, Laughton, Tom Cupit, **unknown**, **unknown**, George Sayer and Jack Walker.

Middle row are:- Herbert Godson, Ron Cree, Charlie Crowder, **unknown**, Cecil Brackenbury, Eddie Hoggard, **? Hoggard**, Leslie Hoggard, Arthur Grundy and Bill Bartle.

Front row are:- George Dolby, **? Smith**, Bill Beckett, Mark Bailey, Albert Rayner, Mr Foster, Sam Laughton, Jack Rose, Mr Banks, Roy Beckett and Mr Gilbert (bus driver)

Please let Jean know if you can provide any of the missing names. You can call her on 870276.

Thank you.

News of Our Meetings

In the light of continuing uncertainty about when halls will be able to open, the conditions which will be imposed on them when they do so in terms of cleaning, social distancing etc, and continuing lack of confidence among members about attending gatherings, a proposal to give clarity to everyone about our immediate future was put to the Steering Committee.

The proposal was that we cancel the remainder of the meetings for the year and invite the booked speakers to reschedule to the equivalent month next year. In fact as we don't meet in August or December and normally go for a trip in July, this only related to three future meetings.

The Steering Group voted in favour of the proposal and so the Group will not meet again in 2020. We will review the situation in the autumn and decide if it is feasible to restart in January.

Jean has already been contacting the people who were booked to come to speak to us and is hoping to be able to offer the same programme as we had planned for 2020 in 2021.

Our January and February meetings took place as planned, so the topics for the restart will need to be decided. One suggestion is that we should have a social meeting in the first month of our restart so that there will be no inconvenience to the speaker if it should be impossible for any reason and also so that those members who have not seen each other for a long time will have a good opportunity to meet and chat over whatever distance is deemed appropriate by then.

If any members have any suggestions about a topic for February Jean would be pleased to hear it.

More About Thrashing Days

I really enjoyed Janet Cooke's memories of her father's thrashing machine hard at work. It vividly reminded me of seeing similar equipment in use at a Staffordshire farm when I was child: the noise, the dust and being told to "keep well away in case that belt comes off"

Whilst mechanisation would probably have come anyway, I wonder if

readers will be as surprised as I was to discover that, in part, it was because of Napoleon Bonaparte that steam-powered thrashing machines began to be used.

A few years ago, I arranged a tour of Laxton with Stuart Rose for a small group and remember him showing us a thrashing floor in a barn. He explained how the barn doors are raised up on large stones and the gap at the bottom is normally closed with boards. These boards could be removed so the draught would carry away the chaff as the labourers thrashed the grain using flails. It was typically winter work for the labourers but it was hard and time-consuming, maybe forming up to a quarter of the agricultural year's labour by the 1700s.

When Britain went to war against Napoleon, 'thrashing mills' were introduced into Lincolnshire (and doubtless elsewhere) to compensate for the consequent labour shortage.

It's thought the first thrashing machine was invented by a Scot, Andrew Mickle, in about 1786, although a farmer named Michael Stirling is supposed to have invented a rotary thrashing machine in 1758, used on his own farm for 40 years.

Such machinery must have looked practical to many farmers because they could sell their crop at a single point in time, giving them cash in hand, say for improvements, and without the need to pay as many labourers to work over the winter.

Subsequent events such as bad weather, the reduction in the need for year-round employment of as many labourers, a drop in average earnings, and other factors, meant that by the early 1800s, thrashing machines became targets for the increase in social unrest with many being destroyed and attacks being made on farmers who continued to use them.

Nevertheless, as the 1800s progressed, by mid-century, the increasing use of steam power made it profitable for some men to invest in a machine which would travel from farm to farm around the locality. In Lincolnshire, there even became a term for such a man: 'a higler' (although more widely this term meant someone who travelled house to house selling haberdashery, etc.) and I even have such a man amongst my own Lincolnshire ancestors.

However, to finish this account with a Laxton connection: just such a machine owner lived at Sutton-on-Trent. His daughter married George Bennett, ancestors of Marian Cooper.

Jenni Dobson



Rota of Services for August

Sunday 2nd

10.30am Lammas Service Laxton

Sunday 9th

10.30am Kirton HC

Sunday 16th

10.30am Egmonton MP

Sunday 23rd

10.30am Laxton HC

Sunday 30th

10.30am Kirton MP

HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer



Jeff's Rotary Ride to Rome



Members of Sherwood Forest Rotary are back on two wheels again after 'Shore 2 Sherwood' in 2017, which raised £4000 for Cancer Research UK.

During the current climate, they have had to be creative finding a challenge suitable for all and offering the safest possible way for people to take part, even if social distancing continues in the future. The result is the **1220 Challenge** in aid of 'Prostate Cancer UK', which will run during the Rotary year from 8th July 2020 to end June 2021.

Members will choose to cycle a specific distance, relating to this Rotary Club's district number 1220. They have the full year to complete their chosen distance on a traditional or exercise bike.

Jeff Naylor is cycling the equivalent of the trip to Rome, 1220 miles. Sponsorship is being collected via a just giving fundraising page:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SherwoodForest1220Challenge

Please give Jeff a wave if you see him riding around and sponsor him if you can. We hope to get progress reports as the year goes on.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2020

***Thursdays, 8pm Clap for Carers - outside your house.
Make some noise for those caring for us all***

Forward Planning

Sept 26th . Southwell Ploughing Match

Dec 4th ***Quiz Night***



Regular Events:

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

Quiz Nights ***1st Friday of December & March***

Copy Date for September: 16th August, mid day.

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. We are unlikely to be able to publish anything received late.

Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to send in contributions this month. We hope you find what might have been a very slim volume an interesting read.

Thank you.

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Laxton WI



Hello everyone, I hope you are all well. We are still not sure as to when we will be up and running again. As usual we will have to wait and see what happens in the next few weeks. It's the same thing about so many people in a room and social distancing.

Normally when one of our members has one of those birthdays ending with a great big 0, we make a bit of a fuss of them with a gift and a card. Unfortunately this month we are not able to do so, but we would still like to send our very best wishes to our member Cynthia who celebrates her 80th birthday on 12th August.

We have one piece of good news though. That is that the National Federation have been in consultation with all the County Federations and have agreed that because of all the disruption the pandemic has caused, meaning members have missed meetings and activities, they will offer members three months free subscription.

This means the next renewal date will be in April 2021. This decision has been taken with advice from the Charity Commission and legal advice. The decision has also been taken that the annual date for renewal of subscriptions will be April rather than January. Members have been asking for this for a long time as it will be better for the date not to fall just after Christmas.

As you are also aware, the National Federation AGM at the Royal Albert Hall in London in June was cancelled but the two resolutions with the most votes, which had been chosen to be discussed are still going forward to be campaigned on.

These were:

- 1) A call to increase potential stem cell donor registration and
- 2) End modern day slavery, which is still taking place in the UK today.

These resolutions will now go forward to the relevant bodies to be discussed and campaigned on before going to the government for consultation.

The WI now has approximately 200,000 members and have been campaigning on different issues since 1918 with much success. We have raised awareness on issues of local, national and international concern, such as equal pay, climate change, pollution of our oceans, health problems, care for the elderly and many more.

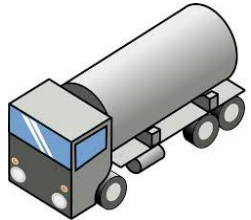
We are not all about 'Jam & Jerusalem'! Things are changing in this modern world of ours as now we have a lot of WIs starting up in our towns with a lot of young members and modern ideas.

As we have been running for 58 years in October here in Laxton, we hope we can continue in the future. We went through a period when numbers got very low, but have recently welcomed a lot of new members and are now around 25 members strong.

If anyone thinks they might like to join, they are very welcome to come along to one of our meetings when we get going again. You can attend a few meetings as a guest before you need to commit to membership, so there is nothing to lose and a lot to gain. We hope to see you soon.

If anyone, whether a WI member or not, is looking for something to do while at home, don't forget the Knitting Team 4 Us items. You can knit the usual hats, gloves, mitts and scarves for children who live abroad in poor conditions. These are taken by lorry with other items which make Christmas presents for them. We would be very grateful. The items are collected together and usually go abroad at the end of October.

Group Oil Order



There have been only occasional enquiries recently about whether oil is being ordered soon, no doubt because with the very low prices offered by Boilerjuice and doubtless others over the last few months people have stocked up. The price still remains much lower than we have grown used to so the late summer order will go ahead towards the beginning of August if there is enough demand. A few people have said they need large volumes, so please don't delay if you wish to add your own requirements to the list.

You can ask to join the list at any time by providing mobile and land line numbers, email and full postal address plus any special instructions e.g. guard dogs, gates with locks, difficult access etc.

We are working from the list which was updated last year. If you have not been in touch for a while you will need to give your details again.

Please send orders to **oil@openfield.org.uk** asap.

Please will long term members of the group ensure you have notified any changes to your contact details e.g. new phone number or email address. Without these you will not be contacted with a reminder, but more importantly the supplier will not be able to contact you. Please don't assume new addresses will be noted from incoming emails.

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200 Years in the Parish

This month we have information about a family which has been in the parish for a very long time, going back to well before photographs.

Michael Saxelby 1790 - 1863

1817 Came to Laxton and a farmer from 1827.

1837 Cross Hill Farm. 1859 Bar Farm - see excerpt from Queenie Sampson's embroidery of the village, right



Ann Saxelby nee Pinder 1797 – 1867

Farmer's daughter. A long line of Pinders in Laxton from early 1600s and probably before.



George Saxelby 1828 - 1875

1859 Leased Sarah Rose's land.

1859 Cross Hill Farm.

This was originally a black and white photo which had been coloured by hand. It has been returned to black and white for printing here.



Sarah Saxelby nee Birkitt 1831 - 1879

Farmer's daughter from Kneesall. Her ancestors were in Kersall from 1500s.



George Saxelby 1862 - 1949

1879 - Cross Hill Farm. Farmer
299 acres aged
only 17yrs.

1885 Paying rent to Manvers.
Tenant right £306.1s.6d.

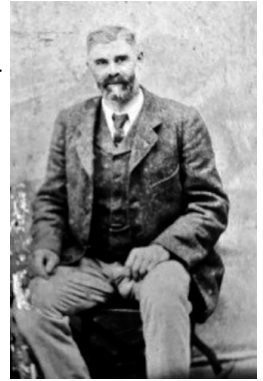
1887 Hill Farm

1921 moved to Hillside Cottage

Wife Mathilda Saxelby nee

Beckett 1862 - 1937 She was a

farmer's daughter from Laxton. She had lost both parents by the time she was 6yrs old.



George Saxelby 1895 – 1982

1921 Church Farm, Moorhouse

which he described as 'renting 'a pig in a poke'.

1958 Wilmington Farm, Moorhouse.



Violet Saxelby nee Hallam 1958

Violet Saxelby nee Hallam 1903 - 1984

Farmer's daughter from Elston and much more besides!

Her father was born in Moorhouse.

c 1958
Church Farm became George Saxelby & Sons.

Kenneth Saxelby 1926 – 2018 and
Noel Saxelby 1930 - 2006 And it still carries on,
sons, grandsons and who knows, great grandsons
some day.

MWS



Did Robin Hood Ever Visit Laxton?

Many thanks to Joan Cottee for taking the trouble to write something to set us thinking this month. Read on and see what you think ...



When asked abroad “Where are you from in England?” and you reply “Nottinghamshire” inevitably Sherwood Forest and Robin Hood will be mentioned. It seems that films from the time of Errol Flynn to the more modern versions of today, starring such actors as Taron Egerton and Kevin Costner, have spread his legend far across the globe.

But who was he really and did he live in Sherwood Forest? In fact did he exist at all? Was King Richard his friend and Prince John his arch enemy? Laxton castle was seized by John in 1204’ by then he was king, and used as a hunting lodge

in Sherwood Forest. Is it possible that, if he existed at all, Robin Hood on one of his sorties from the thick of the forest actually came to Laxton, which at that time was central to forest activities?

The stories and dramatization of the tale of Robin Hood go back many centuries. One of the first mentions we have of him is in a printed comedy from 1594. Then in 1624 “Robin Hoods Pastoral May Games” was printed. In 1751, in the famous Drury Lane Theatre, a musical entertainment about Robin Hood was performed.

One 18th century historian, Paul de Rapin, claimed that in about 1199 Robin Hood and his companion Little John plagued Yorkshire with their robberies. There were many ballads and folk songs which told the story of his band of merry men living in Sherwood Forest and presumably plundering as far north as Yorkshire.

Loxley in Staffordshire was said to be his birthplace and it was claimed that he was of noble birth, the son of William Fitzooth, and he was said to be the rightful Earl of Huntingdon. What can have given rise to the legend of this aristocratic robber?

If Rapin was right and Robin Hood, or Robert Fitzooth, was around Sherwood Forest at the turn of the 11th century, it is just possible that

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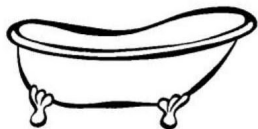


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4/7/20	13	Colin Cree
11/7/20	22	John and Carol S

We have various numbers available. Here is the up to date list of the 14 spare numbers: **1, 2, 7, 11, 20, 23, 26, 28, 34, 46, 51, 52, 56, 57, 59**. Please contact Ken Shep on 870605 / Mike Manning 870844. Thank you.

Michael Manning

the stories arose from the sad end of a disenfranchised aristocrat, who was a victim of the rebellions of Henry 11's sons against their father. Henry's reign was plagued with family disputes and rebellions. It may be that someone in the Fitzooth family chose the wrong side in one of the rebellions and thus came to lose their titles and their lands. They were forced to become outlaws and to escape justice had to take to a life of crime in the forest.

Around this same time in the 12th century Laxton was a thriving settlement in Sherwood Forest. The manor was held by the de Caux family who had considerable estates and Laxton was the centre of their holdings. Moreover the de Caux Family were the "Keepers of the Royal Forests in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire". We have no proof that Robin Hood, or Robert Fitzooth, or Robin of Loxley ever came to Laxton, but a settlement so important to the forest could not have escaped the notice of the outlaws who lived there. There may well have been rich pickings here!

The legend of Robin Hood is mixed up with the old myths of a champion of the poor against the rich, a common theme in folk songs and stories from time immemorial. But there is no doubt that there were bandits in the forest at that time and Robin Hood might just be a character in legend who represents all of the bandits who once haunted the byways of Sherwood Forest.

Since we may never know the truth of who Robin Hood actually was you can choose whether you want to believe he was a heroic aristocrat, champion of the poor, or whether he stands for all of the common bandits who lived in the forest, or indeed whether he ever came here to the Laxton of the time.

Family History Enquiries

Bartle: Many thanks to Janet for a comprehensive response to Dale in Melbourne. He is delighted to be in touch and has shared more information which he has discovered about his direct ancestors. Janet remembered we had published the family tree in 2015 and that was sent to him with other information provided by Janet.

This month we have received three further enquiries about families with a history in Laxton. Maybe people have found researching their ancestors a good way of passing lockdown. If you can offer any insights into the people mentioned, please contact the people enquiring directly via the emails below, which they have all agreed we may publish.

Lacey

Nichola, also in Australia asks

'My mother's grandfather was Moses Lacey of Laxton, a gardener I believe? I think he was born around 1840. His son William married Sarah Gale and they went on to have my gran, Nellie, who was one of 12. I think the family possibly moved to Southwell at some point or maybe Kirton?

Thanks so much, Nichola Morgan
nicholaharper@gmail.com

Hewerdine

Claire is more local, living in Nottingham. She writes

'Unfortunately my parents divorced when my brother and I were young so I don't know much on my father's side other than what is on Ancestry.

My great great grandparents were John Hewerdine and Sarah Strong, Laxton area

My father was Peter John Hewerdine and aunt was Patricia Hewerdine Kneesall and Eakring, buried in Kneesall.

My grandparents were John William Hewerdine and Winifred Pitchford/k Laxton, Kneesall and Eakring area Park Farm and Field

Farm tenants, buried in Kneesall

My great grandparents were George Henry Hewerdine and Mary Baker Laxton, Kneesall and Eakring area Park Farm and Field Farm tenants, buried in Kneesall

I was just wondering if anyone has any memories or photos of their time in Laxton, Kneesall or Eakring?

Waiting in anticipation

clairehewerdine@hotmail.

Hallam

Vanessa bell is researching the family tree with her partner, whose name she only gives as Mr P Hallam. She writes

'I was wondering if you knew anything about the Hallam family. In the 1871 census we have a Thomas Hallam who is an innkeeper and a farmer in Moorhouse, Nottinghamshire, but we do not know where he and his family lived. His wife was Mary (we think) and his children were Joseph and Emily at the 1881 census and they had one servant whose name was Anne Brown who was 14 years old.

Separately Vanessa stated his children were Joseph Hallam, John T Hallam and Anne Hallam.

Thomas was born in Norwell so what bought him to Moorhouse we don't know or why the family left and went to Holme.

In 1861 Thomas Hallam was a Farmer of 19 acres but we do not know the name of the farm and in 1881 he was farming a 168 acre farm with 1 labourer and 3 servants, but again do not know the name of the farm or if it still exists. Please can you help?

Do you possibly have any information on Thomas, his family and descendants or can you tell us where the family lived please.

Thank you so much for your help

belv13@yahoo.com

We have been able to tell Vanessa that as a farmer in Moorhouse at that time, they would have had The Ship Inn. The property still stands, but now as a private dwelling.

If anyone can add to the story Vanessa would be pleased to hear from them.

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Every good wish from the Choir to all readers, with fond hopes that all are safe and well.

We really hope that we can soon get back to some normality and re-commence our usual activities.



Our members are looking forward to physically meeting and singing as a Choir again as well as reconnecting with all friends in our choir family. We do all miss our singing sessions. Our social distances are rather too large for harmony at the moment.

Singing on the back lawn or in the shower just isn't the same as being shoulder to shoulder making music together with your pals. I reckon some of our voices will need a couple of hours warm up to get rid of the rust!! So sing wherever and whenever you can. It will lift your spirits and could even give pleasure to others.

The Choir are keeping in touch via a regular Zoom meeting, on the telephone, on Facebook, on You Tube and on our website thedukeriessingers.com and email at thedukeriessingers@gmail.com

Information about the Choir may be found on these sites, and looking forward, our Concert Secretary, Margaret, is on **01623 642464** or **07896491314**.

A safe and harmonious summer to you all,

Jan

Flood Alleviation Works at Egmonton

The chosen contractors to conduct the building of the flood resilience scheme to the west of Egmonton moved on site on July 13th and 14th. Work has started on building a dam which, in normal conditions, allows the water from the Kirton Road direction to flow through the village dykes unobstructed. If the flow increases beyond a specified level, a device in the dam closes the outlet, flooding the area of open land behind it and reducing the flow through the village until the levels go down. The device is activated by water pressure and will be fully automatic once installed and commissioned.

Egmanton Village Hall

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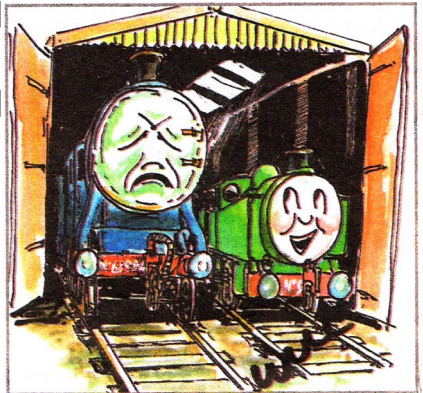
Please check the EVH web site or call for latest details.

- ♦ **Yoga with Greg** – Suspended. Watch for details of restart.
- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Cancelled for now
- ♦ **Zumba Class** - Cancelled for now **Call 07817 311627**
- ♦ **Children's Dance Classes** - Cancelled for now Call Jil, **07790 601877**
- ♦ **Computer Problems?** - Call **01777 871171** for phone advice
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.

One for the Track!

'I warned you about getting steamin' on the West Highland Railway!'

Doon the line a train came puffin'
Celtic 6 - Rangers nuthin' (or vice-versa if that's your persuasion). But in the case of leading farmer, John Cameron – turned part-time engine driver – the train he was driving last weekend the Easter Steam Special, powered by his own engine No 61994 'The Great Marquess', came down the Inverness to Kyle line firing on all cylinders, in fact it was absolutely steamin' ! .



Along with West Coast, railway inspector, Peter Walker, JC stopped at Achnasheen to take on water from a road tanker whose previous load had been whisky from a Speyside distillery – what they didn't know was that several gallons of the golden liquid had been left in the delivery pipes and went straight into the locomotive's tank.

JC does nothing by 'haufs' and is a tee-totaller, but the way the Great Marquess flew up the gradients clearly showed that, unlike her driver, she enjoys nothing better than a wee dram!

Thanks to Jean for this wee item

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
Jeanette Geldard 07956 959135, daytime in Kneesall,
evenings / weekends
Anne-Marie & Geoff Rose 07961 933290 / 07957 991002, as required

Police

Sgt 2949 Christial 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

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

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Otherwise police switchboard	101
Crimestoppers (anonymous crime reports)	0800 555111

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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
MP Mr Robert Jenrick: robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk	01636 612 837
County Councillor: cllr.mike.pringle@nottsc.gov.uk	0115 977 5661

Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk

Butterflies & Moths of Lockdown

