

# Open Field

£1

August 2026



*Rainbow over Laxton Church taken by Steve Moore*

The monthly publication of the  
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

[www.openfield.org.uk](http://www.openfield.org.uk)



|                                     |                   |                                                                                                          |              |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Priest in Charge</b>             |                   | Vacant                                                                                                   |              |
| <b>Churchwardens</b>                |                   |                                                                                                          |              |
| LAXTON                              |                   | Sarah Stringer                                                                                           | 07870 39125  |
| MOORHOUSE                           |                   | Mr Simon Hill                                                                                            | 01636 822777 |
| KNEESALL                            |                   | Vacant                                                                                                   |              |
| WELLOW                              |                   | Mr Ben Wells                                                                                             | 01623 861309 |
| WELLOW                              |                   | Mrs Jean Crofts                                                                                          |              |
| <b>P.C.C:</b>                       | <b>Chairman</b>   | Mr Simon Hill                                                                                            | 01636 822777 |
| <b>Deanery contact number</b>       |                   |                                                                                                          | 01636 650063 |
| <b>Parish Council:</b>              | <b>Clerk</b>      | Catherine Wilson                                                                                         | 01636 813387 |
| <b>Parish Councillors:</b>          | <b>Chairman</b>   | Mr Simon Hill                                                                                            | 01636 822777 |
|                                     | <b>Vice Chair</b> | Mr Jem Hill                                                                                              |              |
|                                     | <b>Members</b>    | Mr Mark Hennell, Mr Stuart Rose,<br>Mrs Anna Moorhouse,<br>Mrs Rebecca Creighton,<br>Mr Richard Allerton |              |
| <b>Laxton Village Hall:</b>         | <b>Chairman</b>   | Ian Robinson                                                                                             | 07771 696248 |
| <b>Thoresby Estate Office</b>       |                   |                                                                                                          | 01623 822301 |
| <b>Magazine Editor</b>              |                   | Mrs Karen Singleton                                                                                      | 01777 870999 |
| <b>Magazine Advertising</b>         |                   | Email: <a href="mailto:advertising@openfield.org.uk">advertising@openfield.org.uk</a>                    |              |
| <b>Photography by / Photos from</b> |                   | Joy Allison, Karen Singleton, Steve<br>Moore, Lynda Moore, Diane Hunt                                    |              |

**Open Field**

[www.openfield.org.uk](http://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 AUGUST PLEASE. Earlier preferred.** You can send in your contributions at any time.

# Upcoming Church Services

Services are usually held 1st Sunday of the month at St Michael the Archangel in Laxton

- |                           |                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun 2nd August</b>     | <b>10:30 Lammas service</b> All are welcome. The service will be followed by bacon baps, please let Sarah know if you are planning to attend for catering. |
| <b>Sun 06 September</b>   | Service cancelled                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Fri 18th September</b> | <b>19:00 Harvest Festival</b> This will be followed by a Harvest Supper in the Village Hall                                                                |
| <b>Sat 19th September</b> | <b>14:00-16:00</b> The church will be open for harvest competition entries                                                                                 |
| <b>Sun 20th September</b> | <b>16:00 Church service</b> followed by auction of produce                                                                                                 |



## From the Registers

A happy family occasion, Edward Creighton was baptised 12th July 2026. Congratulations to Rebecca, Ian and family.

## Get Well Soon

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

## Sympathy - Ann Dutton



We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Ann who died 7th July after a short illness. She was 97 years old.

Our thoughts are with Pam, Caitlin and family.

Ann and Keith, her late husband, were much loved members of our community and they both got

involved with many activities in the village. They lived at Orchard View for more than 40 years.

Ann held the post of churchwarden for many years and was a most effective leader. We will miss her

*Mike Jackson*

## In Memoriam - Karen Sanford

The family of the late Karen Sanford would like to update all family and friends, near and far, who kindly donated towards a bench in memory of Karen. This has now been installed.

Thank you so much for your kindness, generosity and love for Karen. The bench is a lovely tribute to her.



## Lammas

Lammas is from Old English *hlāfmæsse*, "loaf-mass". August begins with Lammas Day or Loaf Mass Day. The name originates from the word "loaf" in reference to bread and "Mass" in reference to the Eucharist. In Christianity, the offering of first fruits to God is described in the Old Testament, which depicts how, "when the harvest ripened, the priest went into the field and gathered a sheaf of first-ripened grain. Then he took that sheaf into the temple and waved it before the Lord."

Lammas is a festival in the church calendar to mark the blessing of the first fruits of harvest, with a loaf of bread being brought to the church for this purpose. Traditionally, a loaf baked with flour from newly harvested corn would be brought into church and blessed. It's one of the oldest points of contact between the agricultural world and the Church.

In the medieval agricultural year, Lammas also marked the end of the hay harvest that had begun after Midsummer. At the end of hay-making a sheep would be "*loosed in the meadow among the mowers, for him to keep who could catch it*".

# Summer Magazine Printing

The school which prints our magazine for us does not return until the first week of September, so we are unable to bring you the September issue until after that. As I am still finding my feet as editor, the copy date for the September issue will be **16th August**. Early September events should already be in this August issue so we will be concentrating on mid-September onwards for the September magazine issue.

Rest assured your items for inclusion will be used as soon as possible, so please keep them coming in.

Things should be back to normal for the October issue.

Thank you

*Karen*

Egmanton Village Hall

**26<sup>th</sup> Produce Show**



**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

Entry open to all

Entry Fee : 50p per exhibit

Open to Public 3:00 - 4:30pm, Admission: 50p Adults,  
Exhibitors & Children FREE

Refreshments available from 3.00pm

Presentation of Trophies & Awards at 4:15pm prompt

[www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk)



# LAXTON WI FUNDRAISER

## MASTERCHEF MASTERCLASS



Laxton WI invite you to meet Claire Syrenne,  
runner-up of Masterchef UK 2025 and  
hear about her experience of being  
on Masterchef.

### DETAILS:

- Friday 11th September 2026
- 7.30 pm Laxton Village Hall.
- Tickets £10 including cheese and wine.

GET TICKETS FROM: Marg Palmer - 07826429987



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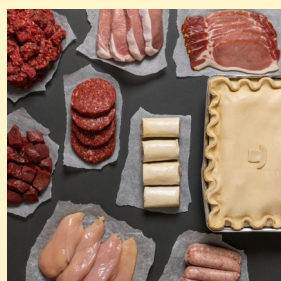
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## Chop & Chat On Tour

It was a relief that our latest stop on the summer tour took place a week after the searing heat of late June. The fifteen people gathered happily under the trees at Manor Farm Tea Room, Bleasby would have been less enthusiastic about leaving home in high humidity and temperatures in the mid thirties. 24C with a pleasant breeze was just right. During our tour we should possibly call the group 'Choose & Chat' as the only effort required is to make a selection from the excellent menus we have been offered. That leaves plenty of energy for the chat, which flowed happily throughout.



We were very well looked after at Bleasby. The table accommodated the whole group and there was a refreshing amount of shade offered by the trees in the pretty garden. The staff were very helpful. One lady had even lived briefly in Laxton and recognised Jean and Roy, who had been near neighbours. Nothing was too much trouble and the generously filled plates were arranged very attractively. Nobody was complaining about skimpy portions! In fact several felt they could have shared theirs. Jean was heard to comment that it seemed she had half a pound of bacon in her sandwich. The crab salads soon disappeared as well - a special summer treat.

We have decided to take a break in August as a number of people will be away. Dave, our much valued head chef, volunteered to take up the reins back in the kitchen on the first Monday of October, which will be the 5th. Everyone decided the tour should continue until September. Helen will be making enquiries and circulating the details via the group WhatsApp chat in due course. If you would like to join in there are no requirements. We welcome villagers and friends, so please do get in touch if you would like to know more.



A big thank you to Helen for arranging another successful lunch and we are all looking forward to the next one.

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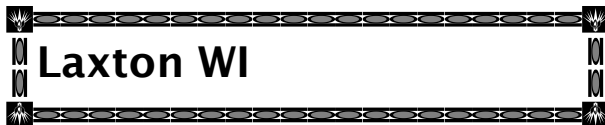
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## **Blood Bikers come to Laxton**

In 1962 Mrs Margaret Ryerson, living in a family home in Surrey, saw a need. Acting to fulfill this need, she instigated one of the most amazing courier services which has saved many lives – that is the Blood Bikers.

Contemporary film showed us Mrs Ryerson's kitchen with hand written cards in numerous boxes and the bakelite phone she used to contact the volunteers. We saw a seventeen-year-old young man putting this precious life saving cargo into the back of his motorbike and speeding off.

Telling us all this were two of the present generation of the organisation, still delivering medical care of the highest order and which has grown to a national scale.

Each county now has its own Blood Biker organisation and every member involved is a volunteer. Nottinghamshire run a fleet of around ten motorbikes (ex police bikes), nine cars (ex ambulance) and a mini fleet for fund raising. These are housed in various locations and volunteers use their own cars to collect them for the jobs they do. They collect and deliver whole blood, microbiological samples, specialist surgical trays and equipment, and samples for investigation. The riders and drivers are extremely well qualified and the vehicles expertly maintained. Fund raisers can be any age and bring commitment and enthusiasm.

The massive team to bring this to fruition assemble an array of legal, technical, practical, logistical talent of every sort. They are all volunteers.

The saving in monetary terms for the NHS is massive – over a million pounds this year and rising.

Blood Bikers do not receive any government funding, being completely supported by the public and organisations such as the WI, large concerns such as supermarkets, and public contributions.

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— 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.

What of the people who make this valuable work the success it is and give their time and expertise so readily?

The two people who we met were Chris, who had been influenced by his wife and was retired, and Naomi, who was a young professional woman whose dad had been a biker. In Naomi's impressive presentation we saw groups of smiling volunteers at shows and social occasions. The smart vehicles and striking uniform they wore spoke of attention to detail, and the air of togetherness could not be doubted. These volunteers came from every age group and walk of life.

Both Chris and Naomi said several times how much they valued the 'family' feeling – i.e. supported and cheered. They hold frequent social occasions, and the bonding is almost tangible. Naomi said more than one time 'I love doing this.'

So if you see the distinctive over-jackets and groups talking in front of a supermarket or on a showground, go over and meet a very special 'gang'. You and your family will almost certainly have been helped and possibly a life saved by these dedicated volunteers.

Next month (August) is our annual outing. We are off to meet some llamas, learn how the hair is used and have a good time as usual.

In September we are getting creative with Indian block painting on a tote bag. Suzanne Plamping is coming along to guide us. It is a return visit for Suzanne, as her last visit was a great success.



### **Upcoming events at Laxton Village Hall**

Visitors welcome - £5 per event. Please let Marg Palmer know for catering

|                     |                                                                   |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wed 9th Sep</b>  | Craft, Indian Block painting                                      |
| <b>Fri 11th Sep</b> | Talk/presentation by Claire Syrenne,<br>Runner up Masterchef 2025 |
| <b>Wed 14th Oct</b> | Autumnal flower arranging,<br>demonstration by Wild Jasmine       |

# Laxton History Group



Members met in June to hear about the Nottingham Goose Fair from Bob Massey. In fact he said this was only Part 1 and we will need to invite him back if we want to hear Part 2.

The early records show that the Goose Fair took place in the Market Square, and it was this period which Bob covered. There was an interesting picture of the square as it was before the current Council House was built.

The first recorded fair was shortly after 1284, making it over 700 years old. Only one other goose fair survives and this is known as the Goosey Fair at Tavistock, Devon.

Some 20,000 birds were walked from the Lincolnshire fens to Nottingham, with their feet protected for this marathon march by leather boots covered in tar. The birds were reared for the Michaelmas festivities on 21st September. The fair is in early October since the change to the Gregorian calendar when 13 days were 'lost'.

Rents traditionally fell due at Michaelmas and riots greeted the date change as people had fewer days to raise the money for their rent.

According to Bob, in addition to geese and high quality cheese, women were also sold at the Fair! The cost of divorce was beyond the reach of most. A wife could be passed to another man for a fee in exchange for a deed of sale, thereby achieving the husband's goal at minimum cost.

The weather conditions in the 18th century caused crops to fail and the Goose Fair could have closed in this period, but the Council kept it running because, despite everything, the income they received from it was beneficial.

Later on side shows became a big part of the attractions, and the cattle market moved to its current site to make room for them. Exotic animals began to appear and amazed people, who had only seen drawings of things like elephants.

Bob showed the very early 'Twigdon's Riding Machine', which was the original idea for the gallopers. It consisted of a witch's hat roundabout

with rocking horses fastened to it, turned by hand. Huge crowds attended to see these marvels

Food became important. There were nuts and gingerbread and also fried fish, potatoes and hot peas with bread. This appears to be the forerunner of fish, chips and mushy peas which still feature today.

Bob gave an insight into the money to be made, creating great wealth for the showmen. Once film was available, people became excited to see themselves. Showmen would film locally, e.g. at factory gates as the workers came out, and showed the footage at the fair that night or the next day. 2000 people at a time would pay 1p for a 10-minute show, and this could generate around £500 a day – a fortune at the time.

Rides got bigger when power was available from generators and in 1907 the first big wheel appeared – with no restraints for the riders! The popularity of the rides took trade from the shows, which fell away.

The Fair has seldom been cancelled, but the Bubonic Plague did so in 1646. It was cancelled for the second time for WWII and again in 1928 when the market square was being rebuilt. The most recent closure was during the Covid pandemic.

The Fair outgrew the square and, amidst protests, moved to its present site at The Forest, which is where Part 2 begins ...

The next meeting will be our annual trip, which this time takes us to Bomber Command at Lincoln for lunch and a tour. In August Helen has invited members to tea in her garden as she has done now for a couple of years. We shall be hoping for a good day for this.

The next meeting in the Village Hall will be in September.



*The Goose Fair - Market Place, Nottingham*

# Laxton Community Coffee Morning

Please note that there will be a break in August, so no Coffee Morning until the third Saturday in September (19th). As always, everyone is welcome, from Laxton and Moorhouse or beyond and no matter if you have been before. We look forward to seeing you.

## Change to Harvest Competition



The classes in the annual competition which takes place as part of the Harvest weekend celebrations have been the same for a number of years. This year a few changes have been made.

There are two additions to Class 1 for home grown produce. Eggs and a cucumber have been added.

The bigger change has been to the children's' classes. It seemed unfair that the really young children should be competing against those aged 6, so the children's entries have been split into three classes, with ages up to 5 years (Class 8), 6 - 8 years (Class 9) and 9 -

11 years (Class 10).

The full, revised schedule appears opposite.

Please start planning your entries. There are prize cards for the children, but most of all it is a chance for everyone to get involved, have a bit of fun and enjoy coming together to meet friends and neighbours while looking at the colourful display at the front of the church over the weekend.

Everyone is welcome to enter, whether from Laxton or not, and no matter how long you have been here. More entries can always be fitted in and the more the merrier for a lovely display.



**St Michael the Archangel, Laxton**  
**Harvest Produce Show and Competition**  
**September 19<sup>th</sup> 2026**



**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 1 Cucumber
- K 6 Eggs
- 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 5 years)**

- A Painted Flower Pot
- B Vegetable or fruit sculpture
- C Harvest Collage

**Class 9 (6 to 8 years)**

- A Painting of harvest
- B Vegetable or fruit sculpture
- C Miniature garden

**Class 10 (9-11 years)**

- A A painting of harvest
- B Veg or fruit sculpture
- C Hand made greetings card

**NB**

**No fresh cream or sausage rolls**

**Jams /Preserves to be from the current season**

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

**All jars to be labelled with date made**

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

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

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

# Michael Ducksbury Memorial Road Run

The 2026 running of this popular local event was held in gorgeous weather and there were likely to have been a few sun burned heads and arms after a long day on the road.

Around 80 tractors left Tuxford at 10am, about 12 of which were driven by people from Laxton and Egmonton or connected with the villages.



This year they set off heading north and had gone through Thaymar towards Elkesley when news reached the leaders that an incident along the planned route meant that they were unlikely to be able to



pass. This meant a hasty replan of the route and everyone turned round near Elkesley and headed back towards Thaymar. There must have been some bemused spectators seeing them coming past a second time so soon.

From Thaymar they went through Bothamsall and eventually managed to reach the lunch

destination at Leyfields near Eakring at 2pm, around 90 minutes late and very hungry! The rest there was very welcome and the decision was made to continue with the afternoon route as planned.

This took them to Kneesall and then down the back lane to Laxton, avoiding the main road. They came out at the top of the village and gave everyone a very good view as they drove right through and out of



Laxton on the road to Moorhouse.  
Next was an off road section cutting through towards Weston before coming back towards Egmanton. Those who were expecting to go straight up Tuxford Road were surprised when they were taken along the Kirton Road a short way before going up the stone road to the top of the ridge where they drove along to rejoin the road for the short trip back to the farm. They arrived at around 5.30pm when the raffle was drawn and prizes were awarded.

Early estimates suggest that some £2,000 was made, but we will bring you a more accurate figure when one is available.



# 80<sup>th</sup>

## Celebration of Notts YFC

Calling past members and friends to an afternoon of friendship  
and memories

**Sunday 2nd August 2026  
at Floral Media, Caunton**

**From 4pm**

**Buffet meal served at 5pm**

**Bring your own drinks**

**Raffle**

**Tickets from Julie Baugh**

**07483 156637**

## THIS MONTH'S SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

**We have been unable to obtain any information about services at other churches. Services currently arranged for Laxton are shown at the front of this issue.**

Please note that this is because nobody has provided Laxton with the information about other village churches. If you usually go to one of the other services in the group, we suggest you contact them to confirm arrangements.

We will endeavour to provide this information in future months.

## Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

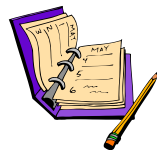
| Date     | Bonus Ball No. |
|----------|----------------|
| 13/06/26 | 44             |
| 20/06/26 | 44             |
| 27/06/26 | 24             |
| 04/07/26 | 47             |
| 11/07/26 | 41             |

There are currently 10 numbers spare. If anyone would like to invest £1 a week to try and win £25 please get in touch. The winning Bonus Ball (BB) is the number which matches the National Lottery Bonus Ball drawn on a Saturday. All money goes towards supporting the Sports and Recreation Field.

*Helen Pick  
High Street Farm*



# *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*



## **AUGUST**

**Sun 2nd**                      **Lammas service, Laxton Church, followed by  
bacon baps and a chat**

**4pm Notts YFC 80th Celebration**

**Fri 28th**                      **5pm Tractor Trundle, start at Dovecote Inn**

## **SEPTEMBER**

*Thu 3rd*                      *7.45pm Laxton Village Hall AGM*

*Sat 5th*                      *3pm Produce Show, Egmanton Village Hall*

*Wed 9th*                      *WI, Indian Block painting*

*Fri 11th*                      *7.30pm, Masterchef talk, Laxton Village Hall*

*Fri 18th*                      *7pm Harvest Festival, Laxton Church, followed by  
harvest supper in the Village Hall*

*Wed 16th*                      *History Group Meeting, Village Hall*

*Sat 19th*                      *10am Coffee Morning Laxton Village Hall  
2-4pm Harvest competition, church open for  
entries*

*Sun 20th*                      *4pm Service, Laxton Church, followed by auction of  
produce*

*Sat 26<sup>th</sup>*                      *Southwell Ploughing Match, Farnsfield (NG22 8HW)*

## **OCTOBER**

**Mon 5th**                      **Chop & Chat, Laxton Village Hall**

**Wed 14th**                      **WI, Autumnal flower arranging**

## **NOVEMBER**

**Fri 27th**                      **Village Hall Christmas Quiz**

**Copy Date for September 2026 edition:**  
**12 noon, 16th August 2026**

*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.*

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*Congratulations to everyone celebrating a special event this month. We wish you all a wonderful day*

## **BIRTHDAYS**

*The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Terry Smith, Ian Creighton, Rachel Hennell, Jamie Hennell, Maddison Waterfield, Michael, Cynthia B, Mark Weatherall, Sue Saddington, Dave Stone, Ian Robinson, Ralph Creighton, Jimmy Buckle, Edward Creighton and Frankie Sheard*

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

*Congratulations to everyone on the anniversary roll call for this month: Jean & Roy Hennell, Jean & Keith Morton, Dik & Joy Allison, Marti & Martin Waterfield, Robert & Jeanette Juska, Heather & Derek Storton, Pat & Jeff Naylor, Jean & Wilf.*

*If you would like your special event recognised here, please let us know the details.*



*Jean*

# Village Hall News

“**Chop & Chat**” is still ‘on tour’. Please see the separate article. We anticipate restarting in the Hall in October.



## It's YOUR Hall for YOUR events

A reminder to everyone of the facilities that Laxton Village Hall has to offer, and which can be hired to host any form of event. All details can be found on the LVH website [www.laxtonvh.org.uk](http://www.laxtonvh.org.uk).

On the website, there is a Facilities tab which sets out what is available. The Bookings tab has the details of rates, discounted for village residents as well as a booking calendar. Also on that page is a booking enquiry form for you to complete with the details of your event.

The Hall has been used in recent months for birthdays, christenings as well as wakes and other family events. We have a number of regular corporate bookings for locally based organisations, and we very much value their patronage .

The “**Pilates**” class is run by our experienced fitness teacher, Rachel priced at £28 for a 4-week block or £8.50 for an individual session. It is held at the Laxton Village Hall on Thursday evenings running from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Please contact Helen Sheard if you are interested.

The regular **Village Hall Quiz** will again be held on the last Friday in November, which is **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November**. Please hold this date in your diary, with a start time of 7pm for 7.30pm. Team numbers will be needed nearer the time

**An easy way to support YOUR Hall** is to sign up to the Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery, starting at £1 per week. For each ticket sold, our Village Hall gets 60p.

Check for details using the QR code here.

As ever, thank you all for your continued support. We have a great community asset and we encourage you all to make use of it.



A reminder of our goal as trustees which is *“Managing and maintaining Laxton Village Hall for the benefit of the community of Laxton, Nottinghamshire and the surrounding villages”*

For information, a list of the current Village Hall trustees is as follows:  
Ian Robinson, Lesley Booth, Stuart Rose, Charlotte Gregory, Margaret Palmer, Helen Pick, Linda Malloy, Karen Singleton and Heidi Keay.

We do have space for a couple more trustees. If anyone would like to get involved, then please do speak with one of the trustees to register your interest. Ideally we could do with some assistance on the maintenance / DIY front, with it now being almost 10 years from the start of the refurbishment project, funded by the National Lottery grant. As you can imagine, that means that parts of the Hall are starting to be in need of some attention!

**The AGM will be held at the Village Hall Thursday 3rd September at 7.45pm All are welcome!**

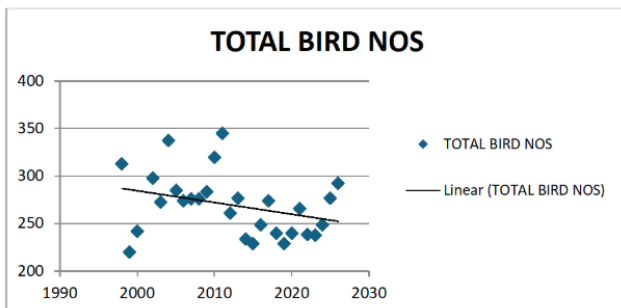
## Birds at Crosshill Farm

Bird numbers at Crosshill Farm have fallen over the last 28 years despite Stewardship schemes including fallows, grass margins and winter bird seed plots.

The birds have been counted in May each year before the young appear. The latest figures include 293 birds in total including 41 species. Numbers have risen over the past 4 years, which is encouraging.

Although farmers get the blame for the fall in numbers my own view is that climate change is also a major factor.

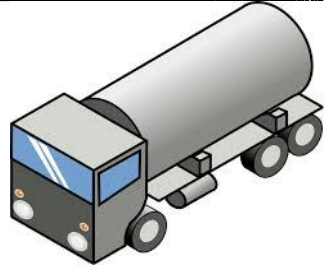
*Mike Jackson*



# Group Oil Order

Our next routine order should be between the end of July to the end of August depending on prices and demand. This year, the price advertised by Boilerjuice for the 1000 litre

average in England fell to just over 65p/litre, but remarks from the US sent it up to over 76p. It is now slowly falling again. For comparison, last year in mid-May it had dropped to 46.96p.



It is still volatile because of the tension in the Middle East which explains why the current price is elevated. The trend could change at any time. I have been congratulated on the price obtained last time, but it is still down to a combination of timing and luck. I plan to wait and see what happens politically and with the price. The order will be placed when it becomes apparent that people are concerned that they need to buy, even if they would rather not or everything suddenly resolves itself and prices fall to seasonal average levels.

Please let me know when you feel you will need to order within a month and I will see if there is a general appetite for an order. I **would like to be able to respond quickly to a change in either direction!** Please see the magazine for updates or email me as there will be a bit of a gap between August and September issues arriving.

You can join the ordering group at any time. You just need an email address or a friend / relative who will be your contact with me. The group serves Laxton, Moorhouse and surrounding villages.

Everyone says how much they want if they need oil at the time of an order. You do not have to order each time and you are entirely free to order with any supplier between group orders.

I negotiate for customers to pay after delivery so that they only pay for what actually goes into their tanks and your oil is ordered in your name. It is then up to you to manage all further contact with the chosen supplier for that purchase. Please use my personal email if you have it. [oil@openfield.org.uk](mailto:oil@openfield.org.uk) is a general address you can use if you don't have mine.

Joy

# Helios at Southwell Minster

In the past we have reported the installations 'Gaia' (the Earth) and 'Museum of the Moon', both by the acclaimed artist Luke Jerram and displayed at Southwell Minster. The Minster is hosting a third of these works. Helios, his recreation of the Sun, opens at the end of July and will be in place around the time you receive this issue.



The installation is a fusion of solar imagery, sunlight and a specially created surround sound composition at an approximate scale of 1:200 million. Each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 2000km of the Sun's surface!

It will be on display between 29th July and 15th August. It measures 7metres in diameter. Helios is made using NASA imagery in a similar fashion to his earlier works, revealing the sun like never before!

Tickets cost £5/£3 and we hear they are selling fast. You can book through the Minster's web site, so it is recommended to book in advance to avoid disappointment. Under 5s go free.

There is a special preview night and 'Pilates under the sun' sessions also available

## Coffee Morning Corner

No Coffee Mornings in August. They return in September.

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# News From The Museums of Tuxford

**The Museum of the Horse** is delighted to be holding a conference with the authors of recently published books including Erica Munkwitz from the U.S on the history of the side saddle and two English academics. These are Emma Herbert Davies who will be speaking on Medieval Horse veterinary work and who has just translated a 13th century book from Latin, published by Routledge and Alison Moller speaking on The Enlightened Horsemanship in the 18th century published by Xenophon Press

**EVENT 2nd September 10am - 4pm.** £50 for the day to include talks from the authors, lunch, participation in a handling quiz of curious antiques and vintage equestrian items and a tour of museum side saddle exhibition. Please book in advance.

For tickets email [curator@museumofthehorse.co.uk](mailto:curator@museumofthehorse.co.uk)

Tel: **01777838234**



**The Walks of Life museum** is linked to Tuxford Network Rail Test Track.

**EVENT Thursday 6th August 11am - 1pm** at the Walks of Life Museum . Free admission. The work of the Europe's largest railway test track. Jacob, the test track manager, will be sharing news about engineering and the design of trains which can travel at 125 mph

including hydrogen trains. Work experience students will be filming at the site. There is level access and it is suitable for secondary school pupils with refreshments available.

**EVENT Nottinghamshire Day is on Tuesday 25th August.**

The aim is to honour the county's heritage and culture. Encouraging residents to appreciate their community. The museum is developing a display to celebrate Tuxford Trail Blazers. People and companies who have made a positive contribution to Tuxford.

You will be amazed at what people have achieved. Find out about the hidden stories from people who





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have lived and worked in Tuxford. Some internationally famous. Join us to celebrate **11am - 4 pm** refreshments available.

**5TH September** charity stalls 10 am - 4 pm. If you want a stall, contact Diane Hunt

**Museum of the Horse: 01777 838234**  
**curator@museumofthehorse.co.uk**

**Walks of Life Museum: 01777 872776**  
**dianehunt08@btinternet.com**



The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is part of Nottinghamshire County Council's school aged childcare offer. The programme aims to support the wellbeing of children aged between 5 and 16 years, focusing on physical and mental wellbeing by providing a variety of face to face activities during school holidays.

Local activity providers run sessions that are fully funded for children and young people aged five to 16 years and receiving benefits-related free school meals. Most holiday clubs also offer paid places.

Included in each session is a meal. This may be breakfast or lunch depending on the programme offered.

The aims of the programme are:

- to support children to eat healthily
- to support children to stay active during school holidays
- to support children in their understanding of health and nutrition
- to support families to be engaged with local support services.

Contact the HAF team by email if you think you could be eligible: [HAF@nottsccl.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@nottsccl.gov.uk)



## Side Saddle Exhibition at

The Museum of The Horse  
22nd June - 5th Sept 2026  
Habits, Saddles, Stirrups, Whips, etc.  
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# Days Out This Summer

A couple of opportunities to plan a day out have come to notice this month. Brief details appear below, but you can find more on the web site of either.

## The Greensleeves Project

This is an exhibition of specially made period costume at Wollaton, Hall, Nottingham, based on the ballad 'Greensleeves'. Her gifts document not only the clothing of the 1580s but also fabrics, embroidery, and many other aspects of material culture. The extraordinary wealth of evidence contained in the song's 18 verses has formed the basis of this ambitious reconstruction of sixteenth century dress.

The exhibition and its textile handling display is included in the normal entry price of the Hall and runs **until Sunday 1st November**. All of the clothes and accessories created for the project can be seen in the new exhibition, and there are a number of associated events over the next year.

## Sculpture at Doddington



This exhibition at Doddington Hall has become a 'must do' event in many diaries. This year it is open **between 25th July and 6th September**.

Admission to the gardens where the exhibits are displayed and for sale is £9.50 for adults, £4.50 per child and £22 for a family ticket.

Season holders go free and carers benefit from 2 for 1. There is a 20% discount for Art Fund, CPRE, Historic Houses, and RHS members.

An additional fee is payable if you want to view the house during your visit.

There will be some 325 pieces on display in the beautiful setting of the Hall's gardens and the Stable Yard, aka the Bauble Barn in another season.

All the usual café and retail opportunities will also be open for visitors.



## Dukeries Singers

### **Celebration of Music Across Generations Strikes a Chord in Edwinstowe.**

A truly uplifting evening of music and community spirit was enjoyed at King Edwin Primary School in Edwinstowe, where

The Dukeries Singers joined forces with pupils for a memorable "Celebration of Music Across Generations."

The special concert brought together voices young and old in a joyful showcase of shared musical experience. More than simply a performance, the collaboration proved a valuable opportunity for young people to build confidence and develop a love of singing, working side by side with an established adult choir. For the members of The Dukeries Singers, it was equally rewarding to support and inspire the next generation, sharing in the unique pleasure of making music as part of a larger ensemble.

The programme offered something for everyone, with audience members treated to much-loved favourites from The Sound of Music, performed jointly by choir and pupils. These combined pieces were among the highlights of the evening, perfectly capturing the spirit of collaboration and demonstrating the impact of bringing different generations together through song.

In addition, The Dukeries Singers showcased their own versatility and energy with spirited performances of 76 Trombones and Hallelujah, delighting the audience and highlighting the group's musical range.

The partnership reflects the choir's strong commitment to openness and community involvement particularly important at a time when opportunities for shared activities across age groups can be limited. By bringing together children, families, and adult singers in one setting, the concert helped to strengthen community connections. Parents, grandparents, teachers, and members of the wider community filled the hall and responded warmly to the performances.

The young performers impressed all present with their enthusiasm and confidence, clearly benefiting from the experience of singing alongside more seasoned musicians. The sense of pride and enjoyment was evident throughout the evening.

The Dukeries Singers pride themselves on being a friendly and welcoming local choir, where people come together simply for the enjoyment of singing and good company. Inclusivity lies at the heart of the group, and new members are made to feel at home from their very first rehearsal, regardless of experience.

Following the success of this collaborative concert, the choir is keen to extend that welcoming spirit even further. Anyone inspired by the evening whether parents, grandparents, or members of the wider community—is warmly invited to consider joining.

Those interested in finding out more are encouraged to contact **John Banbury** on **07759 086132** or via email at **[john@asherwood.co.uk](mailto:john@asherwood.co.uk)**.

Events such as this are a powerful reminder of music's ability to bring people together, bridging generations and creating lasting connections. In Edwinstowe, it was an evening that will be remembered not just for its music, but for the sense of community it so clearly fostered.



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we are open from 2pm – 4pm every Sunday afternoon and our volunteers will be pleased to show you around our historical building.

Groups are also welcome to visit with prior booking on any agreed day of the week. We would love to hear from you.

## Sat.10<sup>th</sup> October Autumn Fayre at the Mausoleum 10am – 4pm

This event is free entry, and we are keen to welcome you to another successful event at the Mausoleum. We have many stalls inside and outside for you to browse and begin your seasonal shopping? Hot and cold refreshments available.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 3pm Carols by Candlelight** is our extremely popular event which is always booked to capacity. Please book your places early to avoid being disappointed as many were last year. Mulled Wine, Hot Chocolate and Raffle.



## AUTUMN GIFTS & CRAFT FAYRE



AT THE HISTORIC MILTON MAUSOLEUM

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**[milton.mausoleum@outlook.com](mailto:milton.mausoleum@outlook.com)** or by phoning

**01777 811219 / 01777 870330**

# Egmanton Village Hall

[www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk) / 01777 871171

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

- ♦ **Yoga** – with Karen Baker Mondays, 7pm - 8.15pm.  
Email [karenbaker321@outlook.com](mailto:karenbaker321@outlook.com) mobile **07399 669380**
- ♦ **Pilates** - The class has now closed and anyone wishing to attend is welcome to contact Helen Sheard about places available at Laxton
- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ♦ **Coffee Morning:** The second Saturday of the month from 10 - 12 .  
There are no Coffee Mornings in July and August, but they will resume in September on **September 12th** All welcome.

*All events appear on the web site - see above*

## Reporting Potholes



A reminder about the pothole reporting contact details are:

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/potholes/report-a-pothole](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/potholes/report-a-pothole)

**Or ring Customer Services on 0300 500 8080**

## Laxton Defibrillator

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

## Booking Laxton Village Hall

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

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

## Useful Contact Details

### Defibrillator Contacts:

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|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Neil Randall     | 01777 871229 & 07710 398745, evenings & weekends          |
| Mark Hennell     | 07812 908316, evenings                                    |
| Stuart Rose      | 07939 228353, as required                                 |
| Jeanette Geldard | 07956 959135, daytime in Kneesall,<br>evenings / weekends |

### Police

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

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

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

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| Ollerton Surgery - Middleton Lodge Practice | 01623 703266 |
| Newark Hospital                             | 01636 681681 |
| Bassetlaw Hospital                          | 01909 500990 |
| King's Mill Hospital                        | 01623 622515 |

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

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# **Tractor Trundle**

**Friday 28th August 2026**

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