

Open Field

50p

December 2018



A Country Scene

Winner of the class by this name in Laxton Harvest Show 2018

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



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Open Field

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www.openfield.org.uk

**Your contributions are
 always welcome. We 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 12th DECEMBER
 PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED.**

Cover: Ploughing
 Photograph by Linda Moore



Letter From Revd. Philip

What Christmas do you dream of?

That is, of course, a manipulative question. Those of us growing up on Bing Crosby's dreams know the right answer is "white", but if you're my wife, the answer would be "multi-coloured and sparkly". What does she know!?

The TV programme QI tells us that Charles Dickens is responsible for Crosby's dream. Apparently, Dickens had 5 or 6 white Christmases in his formative years, years that shaped his later novels. And so, a western Anglo-Saxon idea of Christmas with snowy scenes and snug family fires is how we long for Christmas. Even I, with my deep inner Scrooge popping up every December would like that to be how it is.

I'm fresh back from an exchange trip to South Africa. It's my guess that in South Africa, dreams of a White Christmas have a much more painful meaning. I doubt Crosby would go down so well there. The sad thing is that the dream of a multi-coloured, multi-lingual society that emerged after the end of Apartheid is under serious strain: with poverty, corruption and racial politics pushing hard against Mandela's dreams.

Nevertheless, I'm proud to see that Christian life in that beautiful country is deeply multi-coloured and sparkly. While there I shared Jesus's Holy Communion meal with people of all tribes, cultures and colours. This was an experience of particular and rare joy which gave me some hope for Mandela's vision.

It's my thought that our Christmas dream changes if we pay attention to the story of Jesus. It's already noted that Jesus was the son of an under-age and unmarried mother; his dad was a working class step-dad; in his early years he was a refugee; he came from a nowhere town called Nazareth. And yet, by the end of his story he was crying out "Father, forgive them ..." on a cross and doing everything he could to connect all people with the love of God.

Something about my South African experience showed me the possibilities of that love: a love that cares very little about where we come from but will do anything to bring us together; a love that knows deep down that heaven-on-earth is multi-coloured and sparkly; a love that keeps hoping even when our inner-Scrooge is taking over.

I hope your dreams come true this year, but more than that, I hope your dreams lead you to he who is the truth.

Happy Christmas,
Revd Philip

Registers - George Kenneth Saxelby

The funeral of George Kenneth Saxelby was held on Saturday 3rd November at St Michael's Church, Laxton and was taken by the Rev. Philip Howson.

Ken, as everyone knew him, died on Sunday 14th October at the age of 92 years. Ken was born at Church Farm, Moorhouse and lived there all his life, working on the farm first with his father George and his brother Noel, then with his son Kevin and nephew David and lastly with grandsons Craig and Ben.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Margaret, children Kevin, Karen and Gillian and grandchildren Craig, Tia, Eloise and Ben and the rest of the family.

Sympathy - Pat Shepherd

We were sad to hear that Pat Shepherd had passed away in hospital on Sunday 28th October at the age of 87 years. Our sympathy goes to her son Chris, his wife Christine and granddaughter, Emma and all family and friends.

2018 Open Field Thank You & Subs

Thank you to everyone for their contributions this year. Of course the regular support of our advertisers is vital to ensure we can continue to bring the magazine to you in high quality and with lots of news, so a big thank you to them.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles, poems, stories and photos as well as reports from different organisations. Without them we would have no magazine.

Thank you to the faithful team of distributors who go round with the copies each month and to Jean who not only edits the magazine, but takes it out to the distributors and

Thank you to our readers. Without you it would all be pointless.

Now is the time to think about ordering your magazine for the year to come. The price will be kept at £4. Please have it ready in an envelope with your name on to either hand to your distributor or to drop through their door some time soon. A very happy Christmas to you all.

Thank You - Ken Saxelby

Margaret and family would like to thank everyone who attended Ken's funeral and all who sent cards of sympathy.

Ken liked to tell jokes and when I was looking through his drawer I found one which I would like to share with you:

Susie Lee gone and fell in love:
She planned to marry Joe,
She was so happy 'bout it all
And she told her Pappy so

But Pappy said, Susie, gal,
You'll have to find another
I'd just as soon ya Ma don't know,
But Joe is yo' half brother

So Susie put aside her Joe
And planned to marry Will,
But after telling Pappy this,
He said, 'There is trouble still

You can't marry Will my gal
And please don't tell your mother,
But Will and Joe and several Mo'
I know is your half-brother'.

But Mama knew and said to her,
'My Child, do what makes you happy,
Marry Will or Joe,
You ain't no kin of Pappy.'

Disappearing Flowers - Do you Know Anything?

How low will some people go?! Recently flowers, intended for one of Brenda's beautiful displays, were stolen from the church tower. Needless to say Brenda has been very upset. This is not the first time. Flowers have been taken from arrangements in the past. It is hard to think of anything to justify such a thing and the feeling which comes to mind is that whoever you are - shame on you! If anyone knows anything please come forward.



Telephone Problems

Following last month's update, we now appear to be making some progress. However it didn't start well as the initial response from BT's High Level Complaints -

Customer Resolutions Manager was that we are NOT connected to Tuxford exchange and never have been: they said we are connected to BULWICK exchange and no reported problems had been received!!!

After Googling where Bulwick is, it transpired they were looking at the Laxton in Northamptonshire!!!! We suggested that either the Post Codes could have been a clue or the fact that the MP assisting us with the issue is the Newark MP but they still managed to get the wrong Laxton!!

Below are the small apology and their new update. Unbelievable!

Can we suggest if anyone is continuing to have problems, please let me know as we now have a high level complaints manager dealing with it!! please give me a ring 01777 870844.

Michael Manning

Hi Mr Manning,

Yes I recognise the name from my emails with Sue Gray.

Apologies about the Laxton village mistake. It's been a perfect storm of not being familiar with all these areas and our system not looking at the wider location but focuses on small villages, so you don't always see where they are in relation to the rest of the country. However, that's why having phone numbers and full addresses are most useful, so thank you for supplying those.

You may be aware that this problem started due to a faulty piece of equipment in the Tuxford exchange.

The fault resulted in moisture building up in the cables that leave the exchange and connect to the green roadside cabinets that provide telephone service across the area.

These are called exchange side or E side cables. They're large pressurised cables and consisting of hundreds of individual copper cables to provide service to large areas. The cables terminate in the green cabinets, where they're split out into individual copper cable connections to serve individual properties.

The moisture that built up in the exchange extended down the E side cables causing interference in the phone service. Because these were the main cables, this is why such large numbers of residents were affected at

the same time and across the exchange area.

Our specialist engineers have been out testing all the cables to all the cabinets across the area. They have replaced the damaged cables serving all the cabinets. This is why we expect to see improvements in the service as the damage has been repaired.

There may be faults on the cables leaving the cabinets and running to each property, however they won't be connected to the issues in the exchange. Within the cabinet the E side cables coming terminate away from the cables leaving the cabinet. They're connected by internal equipment with the cabinet. So the moisture issue hasn't affected cables leaving the cabinets.

If you continue to send me over any number for affected residents I'm happy to collate them and have them investigated. I'm endeavouring to make contact with the residents Samantha sent over to me previously to see what their situation is having been recently tested. I would have completed this by the end of this week.

I can assure you though that we are also well aware of the issues and we're working hard to rectify this and resolve this one and for all.

Thanks

Lucy Kirwan,

High Level Complaints - Customer Resolutions
Openreach

lucy.kirwan@openreach.co.uk

Web: openreach.co.uk

Found - Pair of Spectacles

Have you lost a pair of spectacles in a soft cover outside Church Farm? They have been taken into safe keeping so please contact Stephanie at 'Greenpeace' if you can identify them.



Mothers' Union

There is no house meeting of the MU in December. In January we shall be going out for a meal, so if you are not already a member and would like to join us, please have a word with Janet or Brenda.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

Santa's helpers will again sort and deliver your Christmas cards around Laxton.



Please leave cards, **with full name and address please**, in the box at the back of the church **on the book shelves**. The **metal money box on the wall behind the door** is for your donations to the church.

Please note both boxes will be emptied daily. The church is open during daylight hours daily.

Starts Saturday 1st December, Closing date:

5.00pm Monday, 17th December

Village deliveries will take place that week



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Group Advent Service

Laxton Church

Sunday December 2nd

10.30am

**Blessing and lighting of the first
candle on the advent wreaths**

**The service will be taken by
Revd. Anna Alls.**

Everyone Welcome



Plough Sunday Service

13th January 2019

Laxton Church

10.30am

**Come and join us for
one of our traditional
rural services during
which the plough and
the churn will be
brought into church
and blessed.**



Congratulations Amanda and Emily



Over a year ago, in a friend's shed under a dust sheet I came across a Ferguson Grey and gold F35 (tractor). Missing some parts and tyres flat she looked a sorry sight.

After a bit of nagging and a lot of please's, Lee who owns her, agreed to me taking her home and getting her back on the road. I refer to the tractor as her because I found out later that the Grey and Gold were called 'Goldilocks'.

Several months later after a lot of hard work cleaning and polishing and repair work by Mark, we were up and running and out on the open road. I took her on road runs and entered vintage Tractor shows to show off my pride and joy.

At last the hard work paid off at the Newark Vintage Tractor Show last week.

On returning to the show on Sunday I was over the moon to see we had been awarded the Grey and Gold 35 Reserve trophy.

Many thanks to Mark and Emily for their un-ending patience as I spent any spare time in the shed polishing, and of course a huge thanks to Lee

who now has to make an appointment to see his own tractor.

I am very often round the village on Sundays to keep her battery charged up because, as any elderly lady, she is capable of digging her heels in and refuse to start.

Amanda

Emily has become a keen member of Tuxford Young Farmers and has done very well in her first year. She came home from the harvest Supper with not one, but two trophies. One was for attendance and participation and the other was the White Cup for the most promising up and coming junior member. This one is engraved with a number of very familiar names in the village, so Emily is following in their footsteps.

Following on from this great start at the club, Emily has taken on the job of press correspondent this year and you can see her report on their activities elsewhere in the magazine this month.

All the family send congratulations. They are very proud of her

It has been a successful period for Amanda and Emily. Thank you for sharing your stories and lovely photos with us. We always welcome items like this from villagers, so do get in touch if you have a story to tell.

OUR CHURCHYARD NEEDS YOU



It's a thankless task spending hours, every week in our church yard on a mower, weaving through the stone memories of loved and lost ones but that's exactly what George Noble does. I'm sure he doesn't want a medal!

Though he does deserve one as the churchyard has looked amazing this year, BUT he does need some help...

I for one have put my name down with Gus (not that he knows it yet!) and the more villagers we can get on a rota-like system for next year the better. So if you can spare a morning / afternoon or two next year please let me know and we'll put together a rota to suit all for next year.

James (Ivy Cottage)



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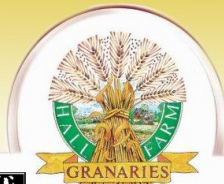
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Village Hall Update



Following a meeting last week, of the Village Hall Committee, we are pleased to say that the tenders are currently progressing and we eagerly await the figures.

Once they have all been presented a meeting with the architect to check that finer details have been complied with, will follow and a decision will be made.

We think that early spring will be a viable starting point as the chosen builder will have other commitments before starting of the Hall. This will also allow for the weather to improve.

Pat Naylor

NSDC Residents' Survey

You should all have received a copy of the Residents' Survey distributed by NSDC. I decided to fill mine in as they wanted views from all over the area and was soon wondering if they were actually addressing the questions to many of the people in this district. How many rural villages can you name where you might encounter any of the services they suggested we might want improved within a 15 minute walk?

Rather than letting it go, I phoned up and was firstly told that 'If we asked questions everyone could answer it would be a very big survey'. Work that one out!

I insisted on a call back from someone in a position of responsibility and a long discussion resulted in them calling again to say the on-line version had dropped the 'walk', but seemingly not the 15 minutes.

If you agree that NSDC made a real mess of this one by considering only residents who live in the towns, please do write in to them as the lady I spoke to suggested and tell them what you thought. If we just accept being invisible it will only happen again.

Joy

Laxton's Historic Open Field Farming System and Sale of the Laxton Estate

The Estate went on the market as promised on 19/10/18 with the distribution of the glossy brochure. Several copies have been distributed in the village and advertisements appeared in several major daily papers on Saturday 20/10/18

The Crown Estate will now wait for 'Expressions of Interest' to be submitted up to the end of November/beginning of December. They will then commence a short-listing and selection process. The Visitor Centre Trust has made representations about being included in the selection process and we await their comments.

The brochure is a handsome document and contains some wonderful drone photos of our pretty village. Disappointingly though, the history time line on page 8 and 9 includes several small photos of scenes around the village, unfortunately it is NOT **our** village but the other Laxton in Northamptonshire!! There are also a number of factual inaccuracies, some of which have been corrected in the on-line text.

What happened to proof reading one asks, or have they been talking to BT about the telephone issues?

In the first week of November the following letter was sent from Robert Jenrick our MP. We are not sure whether all households have received it so it is reproduced below.

Michael Manning

" 1 November 2018

You will, of course, be aware the Crown Estate has decided to sell the Laxton Estate. This clearly has a significant impact on you as residents and I thought it would be helpful to update you all on the work I have been carrying out on your behalf.

I have met with Alison Nimmo, Chief Executive of The Crown Estate, and with Michael Gove MP, DEFRA Secretary, and have secured the following subject to final confirmation from HM Treasury and The Crown Estate.

- The estate is being offered for sale with a notice stating that the medieval strip farming method be continuous in perpetuity. I am clarifying whether this will be provided by a full legal covenant.

- The estate will not necessarily be sold to the highest bidder. There will be an effort to judge the suitability of the bidders as future custodians of the estate as well as their financial offer. I hope this process will include officials from DEFRA.

Sadly, I was not able to persuade The Crown Estate to gift the estate to a suitable charitable organisation. The Crown Estate has a statutory duty to protect the tax payer by securing value for money on the assets it owns and disposes of. I have however been comforted thus far by their willingness to engage and sensitivity.

In my meetings with Alison Nimmo and Michael Gove I have repeatedly argued that the Laxton Estate should pass to an organisation or Trust to preserve the unique heritage forever, project the rights of tenants and realise its full potential.

At present we have a few local proposals being worked on. If there is a realistic prospect of success and it commands the support of tenants and the village more generally, I will lobby DEFRA and The Crown Estate.

Laxton is one of the most beautiful parts of my constituency, steeped in farming history, and it is essential we find the right steward ensuring its future and yours as residents. I am very aware that this is a time of uncertainty for you and am here to defend your interests.

If you have any concerns or queries in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me in writing or via email to jenrickr@parliament.uk

With best wishes,



***From the Member of Parliament for the Newark
Constituency***

*including Balderton, Bingham, Collingham, East Bridgford, East Markham, Lowdham,
Newark, Southwell and Tuxford."*

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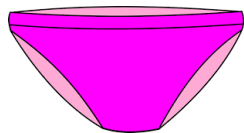
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Rotary 'Bras for Africa' Collection

As mentioned last month, the Rotary Club of Sherwood Forest are collecting underwear for women in Africa. They would like new or lightly used bras and new pants in adult sizes. Women who do not have a husband, father or brother, or whose family do not have enough money, to purchase necessary underwear often experience unwanted attention which can result in being socially excluded from a community resulting in restricted opportunities for work and education for their children.



Currently over 800,000 items have been supplied to four countries in Africa.



If you have anything to donate to this collection, please drop off at School House, Laxton, next to the Village Hall on High Street. This will be an on-going collection so please bear it in mind at any time.

Coffee Morning

13th December 10.30am - 11.30am

The next coffee morning will take place on Thursday 13th December at Diane's house, 1 Timothy Road, opposite the church.,



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 History Group



Our October meeting was brought up to speed with the details of the sale of the Laxton Estate, which had just been announced. Members agreed that as Joan Cottee is already a Trustee on the Visitor Centre board, she should represent our interests there.

We may have identified a speaker to talk about Ossington, which has long been on our list of things to do, so we are crossing our fingers it all works out. We have been booked to go to Lenton History Society in February to give our dramatised presentation.

Following the business we were entertained by Sam Millard speaking about the Rufford Poachers. He is a member of Rattlejag Morris Dancing Team. The story of the Rufford Poachers took place on the night of 13th November 1851, when poachers from the Mansfield area made their way to Rufford Park where the Earl of Scarborough's gamekeepers were waiting for them. Sam had researched the event to add to the dances used by Rattlejag, who now perform it every 1st May at Laxton dawn on Laxton castle.

Sam discovered Mansfield Library to be a useful source of information and learned there that an Australian, Percy Grainger, originally collected the song. Sam learned that the incident had actually taken place at Bilsthorpe near the Limes Café, where the road through Earl of Scarborough's Rufford Park. He referred to the Earl, rescuing a French maid from the Serpentine, who became his partner and mother of his children although he could not marry her in those times, as she was from a different class. We refer to this in our own presentation.

Most of the poachers involved in the incident were framework knitters, the poorest of the poor and at the bottom of the social scale. The combined effects of the Enclosures Acts and Game Laws of 1830 meant that the poor had little choice but to break the law to feed their families. Hence around 40 unarmed poachers went out to face 10 gamekeepers who knew they were coming and arrived with flails, and flintlock pistols intent on action. The poachers picked up stones to use as weapons and had nets which they pegged alongside the road. They identified themselves by wearing white sashes.

Stones flew through the air and fell like rain. Mayhem ensued until one stone hit a gamekeeper on the side of his head. It was 10 at night and the poachers realised they weren't going to win and disappeared back to their houses. Only one poacher didn't get away. He decided to crawl off to Machin's Gorse and hid there overnight with a broken arm

and was badly beaten up. In the morning he walked back to his parents' house, 15 miles away, in Bulwell. His parents realised he was in a bad way and took him to the Infirmary.

On the Tuesday the local authorities started picking up people involved in the incident. 16 people were arrested. Some of the gamekeepers said they knew people involved. However, at the Magistrates Court in Mansfield the magistrate looked at the evidence and dismissed the case as there was little evidence to hold most of the suspects. Three were tried the following March at Nottingham Crown Court. Although at this time court cases were very rapid, the case lasted all day and the defence lawyers were poor, failing to present evidence that proved John Moaks innocent. The Judge instructed the jury saying the strongest punishment should be dealt out.

There were various offences including manslaughter (not murder) and they were found guilty on all charges and sentenced to be transported beyond the seas for a term of 14 years. This was very harsh compared to sentencing for other crimes i.e. 2 years for malicious stabbing but offences against the aristocracy were dealt with in the hardest way possible and they were sent to Wakefield Prison before being sent to the south coast to be put on prison ships to Australia.

Sam said he had then checked the Australian records for this time and found no mention of them. However, he later discovered that they had in fact been transported to Bermuda, along with other prisoners at this time, who built the infrastructure of the country although they were later transported back to England.

All were eventually released and went back to their families. Only John Noakes got into trouble again for poaching and was sent to Perth, Australia.

Our next meeting will be on 21st November. It will be our 10th Anniversary and a cake is being acquired to mark the occasion. We will be welcoming a return of the popular speaker, John Whitfield, this time taking 'The 1960s Good Times' as his theme. We continue to meet in Egmonton Village Hall, where we will next get together in January 2019 and welcome visitors or new members at any time.

Jean discovered in early November that our coach trip to Waddesdon Manor on December 8th had run into a problem. Somehow the booking had not been entered into their system and the date was fully booked. Many hasty telephone calls later, Jean was able to book us in for November 18th and thankfully Marshalls were able to change our coach reservation.

More of that in January ...

CHURCH SERVICES FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

HC = Holy Communion EP = Evening Prayer MP = Morning Prayer

Es = Evensong WfA = Worship for All

2nd December

Advent Sunday

10.30am

Laxton Advent Wreath Service

4pm

Wellow & Egmonton Advent Carols with **HC**

9th December

Advent 2

9am

Walesby **HC**

10.30am

Laxton HC

Wednesday 12th December

6pm

Kneesall Carol Service with Kneesall C of E school

16th December

Advent 3

9am

Walesby **HC** & Egmonton HC

3.30pm

Wellow Carol Service + Wellow House School Choir

4pm

Laxton Christingle

23rd December

Advent 4

10.30am

St Paulinus **HC**, New Ollerton

24th December

Christmas Eve

3pm

Wellow Crib Service followed by **HC**

4pm

Kirton Christingle

6pm

Egmonton Carols & Crib

7pm

Moorhouse carols followed by HC

11.30pm

Midnight Mass, St Giles Ollerton Village

25th December

Christmas morning

8am

Egmonton said BCP **HC**

10.30am

Kirton **HC**

30th December

New Year's Eve

10.30am

Family of Churches **HC**, Holy Trinity Kirton

There is no 'Open Vestry Hour' in December for baptism and wedding enquiries



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

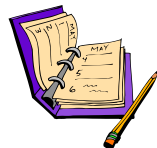
2018

Dec 2nd Lights Switch on, Tuxford

Dec 7th Laxton VH Quiz Night @ Egmonton VH

Dec 12th WI @ Egmonton VH

Dec 13th Coffee Morning



Copy Date for January: 12th December.

NB Early closing date for January edition. Please ensure we receive your contributions for the magazine by this date. We cannot guarantee to publish anything received later. We appreciate receiving items as early as possible.

Village Hall Quiz Night

The Quiz is well organised ready for Egmonton Village Hall on 7/12/18. Please ring and confirm your team numbers.

We hope to have a good turn out and can we ask that you all bring your own glasses please especially drink glasses and readers as necessary!!!

Oh and if anyone has the odd raffle prize going begging we would be very pleased to have them.

Best wishes and thank you all for your continued support for the Hall.

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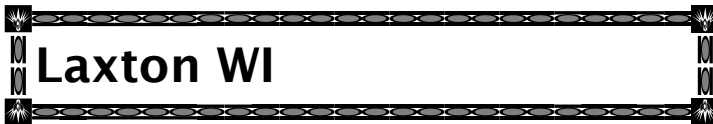
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Laxton WI



In the past we have reported missing speakers, but this month was different. Brenda was in the process of paying our speaker when he corrected the name she suggested should be written. There followed a discussion, after which it became clear that the gentleman with us was the speaker expected the following week for the History Group meeting.

He was full of apologies not only for the mix up but for the fact he was not free the following week. That story will be continued next month in the LHG report! He had travelled an hour to reach us and kindly volunteered to stay until our booked speaker arrived just in case. It would have been ironic to turn away a speaker and then have the booked one fail to find us.

Shortly afterwards Paul Vickers arrived and all was well. Paul himself was a late booking as our planned speaker, Elizabeth Banks, was unable to be with us this month.

Brenda quickly turned her attention to the business and presented a lovely bouquet to Anna who had been missing for one of those big birthdays last month. She also shared the good news that not only had our trio enjoyed their night of Bingo, but Judy had won a good sum of money. Sandra won last time. Maybe Laxton will not be welcome next time?

We have a team for the Village Hall Quiz to be held at Egmonton in December and Pat reported that the change of venue for the Inner Wheel coffee morning had produced takings of £466 for Inner Wheel charities - an increase of 50% compared to the previous year.

We then welcomed magician Paul to speak. He began by sharing his difficulties in finding us, which had been compounded by traffic lights which had sprung up at the end of the drive. It appears he and one of our visitors had been on something of a tour looking for the drive up to the Hall. Once Paul got started on his act, it soon became obvious that nobody in the audience was safe. It turned out to be a lively evening for a first visit from Justine, newly arrived at Brockilow Farm and a return visit by Sally, Sandra's daughter here from Orkney. It was good to see both of them and they would have had a tale to tell when they returned home.

Paul offered us the choice of his talks on the history of magic or modern day magic but after some indecision and a slight preference for the history, we had what came across as a ad hoc mixture of the two.



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Sandra was presented with a horn to beep when she felt like it. She understandably decided to make that soon as she was unsure what the result would be. Aside from some jesting, she got off lightly. Later in the evening Paul revealed that he had previously set the time he thought she would do so on a clock.

We learned why we can't win at the three shell game and then saw some clever sleight of hand with playing cards.

Heather was given little choice but to 'volunteer' to go to the front after Janet thought the spotlight was shining on her. Heather soon discovered Paul had a collection of trick scissors as she helped with the 'cut and restored rope' trick. She looked justifiably wary when asked to stand right in front of Paul while he held a knotted rope in front of her. The atmosphere lightened when she was asked to blow on the knots and two of them smoothed out when Paul ran his hand over the rope. She was asked to blow the third knot to Pat in the audience, which proved harder than it looked, but everyone laughed when it simply slid off the rope. Heather was sent home with that as a souvenir.

We learned a little about Houdini after that. He boasted that he could take a punch to the stomach from anybody. This went badly wrong one day when a volunteer punched him hard twice before he had prepared for it. The impact burst his spleen, but because he would not admit to being beaten, he left it two days before seeking medical attention, by which time he could not be saved. This was a introduction to Paul's own escape trick. He asked Justine and Joy to lock chains around his wrists. He appeared firmly shackled, but everyone made a mental note not to ask either of them to lock up their bicycle as Paul easily escaped his restraints.

We had some fun with the eye deceiving the mind, proving we don't see what is in front of us. We were first asked to read the statement 'I love Paris in the the Springtime' and very few noticed that the word 'the' was repeated. We then had to say how many times F appeared in another sentence. There were in fact six, but only two people saw them all. Most of us didn't notice them in the three 'of's in the piece and apparently this is the usual result.

The act concluded with Bridget having a narrow escape due to her crutches then Chris shooting an invisible arrow from a balloon 'bow'. Amazingly she burst a balloon the other end of the room!

In December we will be holding our AGM, having voted for potential committee members at this meeting. This will include a supper. Everyone is welcome, but as we are catering it would be appreciated if any visitors intending to join us could let Brenda know on 870541.

Tuxford Young Farmers



Once again we have had a busy month. The 9th of October meeting was spent making table decorations for our Harvest Supper Ball on Friday the 12th.



Over 150 people attended the event and after an excellent meal, the award winners were announced and trophies presented. Our guest speaker came from The John Eastwood Hospice and gave an informative talk on the work they do giving specialist help both at the Hospice and out in the

community. The in-patient care unit offers Respite Care as well as support and care for the terminally ill.

Many thanks go to members who spent time dressing the dinner tables and of course all those who donated raffle prizes.

We visited The Museum of the Horse at Sally Mitchell Gallery on the 16th and saw many forms of old saddlery both from working horse to those used general riding, including a side-saddle.

Halloween always gets us busy and pumpkin carving brings out our creative skills. This year the competition was won by Jess Rose and Sarah Gillard. The 31st October was a night of fun and games.

To get November started we had a tour of the Majestic Theatre in Retford. We were shown around the back stage area and looked at how the props and lighting for events are managed. We purchased a seat in the theatre to be named after Tuxford Young Farmers so please have a look for it next time you visit the theatre.

If anyone would like to come along and find out more about the Young Farmers we meet at Egmonton Village Hall Farm Granary, Weston every Wednesday at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Emily Hennell

Final Wednesday Speaker Evenings with Meal

Your local Rotary Club would like to thank all our friends who have supported us this year. Every penny of what we raise is used to benefit people, organisations or charities in our local community, and abroad where they are in need of support.

Please continue to visit us for our 'Final Wednesday' speaker each month. We offer a good meal, good company, and hopefully a good speaker at South Forest Leisure, Edwinstowe, 7pm for 7.15. Our next speaker will be on January 30th.

The next time you will see Rotary in Action will be at Tesco for our Christmas Collection. We will be there all day on Friday December 21st, Saturday December 22nd and Sunday, December 23rd. We will be in various costumes with Christmas themed music and hoping the weather is not too cold, please say 'Hello'. All money raised during the three days is for the benefit of the local community.

We wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Jeff Naylor
for Sherwood Forest Rotary

Inner Wheel Coffee Morning

The coffee morning on Saturday 10th November, in what is a new venue for us at the Town Hall in Ollerton, went well. The sun shone and there was a social buzz in the air whilst coffee and cake were consumed and people browsed the stalls.



It was an excellent social event which raised a significant amount for the charities supported by us including the local community and national charities.

Thank you to those of you who joined us in the Town Hall and we hope to welcome even more support the same time next year.

Pat Naylor

LHG Craft Fayre

Everything was different this year, with our temporary venue, different timing and - horrors - ***no soup***. Despite that



the hall at Egmonton looked very festive and the bakers had been extremely busy. Both the refreshment counter and cake stall were groaning at the start. As usual the raffle was amazing and the atmosphere was cheerful.



Thanks to everyone who supported us with their stalls or who ran games and to everyone from Laxton, Egmonton, Kirton and beyond who came to enjoy what was on offer. The event raised £318 for funds.

Events at Maplebeck Village Hall

www.maplebeckvillagehall.org

Film: The Florida Project (15)

Tuesday 15th January 2019, 7.30pm, £5 on the door.

This is a sublime blast of modern life. Precocious six-year old Moonee is spending her summer with a rag-tag group of friends outside the candy-floss coloured motel where she lives with her young mother, Halley. Whilst Moonee makes the most of her childhood, Halley strives to make ends meet.

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Peggy, The War Horse

Peggy was one of a few thousand horses brought back home after the war was over.

Dad brought her to Church Farm to be our Gig horse so she must have been one of the of horses which had been used to pull supplies and ammunition to the front and bring back the wounded soldiers.

She was very temperamental and stubborn and often refused to budge. Dad would have to stand beside her, or even in front, to encourage her to move on. She would suddenly decide to go with a lunge, sometimes knocking dad to one side, unable to jump onto the shafts and leaving mother to cling onto the reins as Peggy careered down the lane. Peggy stopped when she felt like it.



A post war photo of a horse in the shafts shared with LHG by the late Marian Cooper

She carried us in the gig, known as the Peggy Cart, to visit relations, to chapel and, perhaps most importantly, to Newark Butter Market where mother sold butter, eggs and vegetables to her regular customers.

Dad had to be very watchful as he approached any of the three level crossings on the way to Newark. Peggy hated the

whoosh of the trains and more than once got fast in her traces as she reared in the shafts, overturning the gig. Needless to say there was no produce left for sale on these occasions.

With the advent of the car in the early thirties Peggy was retired and lived her remaining years in Church Croft, well looked after, as she deserved. Dad reckoned she was about 33 old years when she died.

Having spent most of his life with horses, Dad often used to shout 'Whoah' when he wanted to stop the car. Fortunately there was little traffic.

Peggy was long remembered.

Laxton Cricketers

Thanks to Brenda Noble for the photo below, which shows players from the past, including appropriately enough, Ken Saxelby to whom tributes are paid elsewhere.



Those pictured are L-R, back to front:

Les Noble, Wilf Ilott, Noel Saxelby, Ken Shepherd, and Bob Grundy and

Ted Sayer, Russ Smith, Ken Saxelby, Spink Gregory, Bob Sampson and Ern Noble

Thank you to Brenda Noble for sending this to us.

Cover Photo

The illustration this month was the winner of the 'Country Scene' class at the Laxton Harvest Show, entered by Linda Moore. Thank you for letting us use it, Linda. It is certainly a cheerful image for Christmas.

Dick Whittington: a Panto for Charity

It's showtime for East Markham Players, who are staging productions of 'Dick Whittington' in the Village Halls at East Markham and Dunham on Trent. The Players have added a few unique twists to the traditional story which, once again, is promising to be an excellent show. The panto is written by Cheryl Barret, Directed by Kev Micklethwaite and Angela Allen, with choreography by Angela Allen

In the last 9 years, more than £8,000 has been raised for local charities by the Markham Players. This year the proceeds are going to Cedar House Hospice, Retford and Macmillan Nurses. Cedar House was built in 1994, in a peaceful location at the rear of Retford Hospital. A number of East Markham Players cast have very personal reasons for supporting this special charity, who also provided unconditional love and support to family members to help them achieve the best quality of life in their final weeks.

Every penny counts for Cedar House who rely on charitable donations to keep this invaluable service running.

With slapstick comedy, upbeat popular singalong music hits and lots of local talent this fun-filled family show, tickets sell quickly. Will the show wipe away the post-Christmas blues? Oh yes it will!!

We are looking forward to putting on really great productions at both venues this year with matinees and evening show times available to suit everyone, so we can raise as much money as possible and at the same time put smiles on lots of faces.

East Markham Village Hall performances take place on Friday 25th January at 7.30pm, and Saturday 26th January 2019 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

A fully licensed bar, teas, coffees, ice creams and a raffle will be available at all performances.

Tickets cost just £7.00 for Adults, Children £5.00 (under 16) a Family ticket will cost £20 for 2 adults and 2 children and can be purchased from Sally Mitchell's Gallery in Tuxford, by calling 01777 871227 or emailing tickets@markhamplayers.co.uk from 4th December.

Tickets would make a perfect stocking filler, but sold out quick last year, so make sure you grab them before they sell out.

More information online:

www.markhamplayers.co.uk or
www.facebook.com/markhamplayers

Markham Players Present

Dick Whittington



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| 27/10/18 | 56 | ROLLOVER |
| 3/11/18 | 53 | ROLLOVER |
| 10/11/18 | 53 | ROLLOVER |

If you would like to join, you can choose from the numbers 1, 2, 11, 26, 28, 42, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57, 59. You may take more than one number. Please contact Ken Shep on 870605 / Mike Manning 870844. Thank you.

Michael Manning

Kirton Holy Trinity Church

A 'Festive Gathering' will be held at Kirton Hall Farm, Kirton, on Sunday, December 9th, at 1.30pm. A light buffet lunch, mince-pies, mulled wine, log fire, and carols round the piano, make this a very Christmassy affair! Please join us and start the festive season here! Entrance is £2 - we aim to keep the cost low as a 'thank you' for your support at our Coffee Mornings over the year. Raffle - and the fourth draw of the 100 Club will take place at this event! Everybody Welcome !

Group Oil Order



The pre-Christmas order was placed in mid November with Chandlers. There was a distinct upward trend in the early part of the month, followed by a brief dip, during which we were able to place an order of 19,300 litres for a total of 25 members. We achieved a price of 49p per litre, which was less than might have been expected. Individual orders around that time were being quoted over 50p.

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.

If you want to order oil next time, which will be around the end of January, please send a note of the volume you need to

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The Dukeries Singers

After a mild Autumn so far, I wonder if we shall have any of the deep and crisp and even stuff. A light dusting would accompany all our carol singingbut not the slippery stuff. Recovering from a broken wrist I'm considering deleting the previous sentence!!!!



We have a variety of Christmas engagements to enable all to celebrate the season. Christmas begins with the Turning on of the Christmas Lights on Edwinstowe High Street on Thursday 29th November where we shall be carolling from 5-45pm.

Our Festive calendar then is;

- Sun 2nd Singing at Tuxford Christmas Lights.
- Sat 8th The Dukeries Singers Annual Christmas Concert
Ollerton Jubilee Hall, 7-00pm.
- Weds 12th Carol Singing at Boughton Crematorium, 6-7pm.
- Fri 21st Concert, The Mansfield Masonic Hall at 6.15pm.
- Sat 22nd Carol Singing, The Alders Restaurant, Ollerton.

We shall return to our "non-Christmas" rehearsals after the New Year when we shall be preparing some fresh new material for our forthcoming 2019 engagements. We practise every Wednesday evening from 7-30pm. until 9-00pm.in the Concert Hall at The Dukeries Academy, Ollerton. This is best accessed via the Leisure Centre Entrance and Car Park.

If you wish to book the Choir for your Anniversary, Celebration, Charity or Fund Raising event, **please contact our new Secretary Pauline on, 07951 609217.** For information about the Choir, our web address is **thedukeriessingers.com**

You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

I do hope that in the midst of all the hard work this season seems to bring with it, that you find time to enjoy the peace and hope of Christmas and join us in celebrating with all the wonderful Christmas music.

A Happy and Harmonious Christmas to you all.

Jan

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Trip to Waddesdon Manor

Laxton History Group's coach trip to Waddesdon Manor, a National Trust property, in the Aylesbury Vale in Buckinghamshire ran into an unexpected problem when we discovered that the booking had not been recorded at that end. There followed much hasty calling round, after which it emerged that it was possible for the coach company to take us and for the Manor to admit us, on Sunday November 18th.



We look forward to reporting what we found there next month.

Cold Callers Active In Nottinghamshire

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We have had reports of two men going door to door advising people of issues with their roofs and offering to fix them. When they are on the roof, they find other problems and the costs escalate.

Trading Standards never recommend employing a trader based on a cold call.

If you are considering having work carried out on your property or garden make sure that you get three quotes from reputable traders. To find local traders who have been approved by Nottinghamshire County Council Trading Standards please visit www.checkatrade.com

Waste & Recycling Opening Hours

From now until February 2019 recycling centres across Nottinghamshire will be open daily from 8am - 4pm.

Remember the recycling centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.



Egmanton Village Hall

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk / 01777 871171

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

- ◆ **Yoga with Greg** – Tuesdays at 7:30pm
- ◆ **Laxton WI** - Weds 12th, 7.30pm,
- ◆ **Egmanton WI** - Thurs 20th December
- ◆ **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 636421

Regular Activities

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Yoga | Tues 9.45am and Fri 9.30am |
| Clubbercise | Thurs, 8.30pm |
| Walkers | Weds, from approx.10.00am |
| Kurling (without the ice!) | 2nd Weds monthly 7.30pm |
| Book Club | (22 nd Jan, 26 th Feb, 26 th Mar, 30 th Apr, 4 th Jun, 9 th Jul. 3 rd . Sep.) 7.30pm |

Upcoming events and Films (all 7.30pm)

2019

Tues 15th Jan The Florida Project

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

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| 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: robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk | 01636 612 837 |
| County Councillor: cllr.mike.pringle@nottscc.gov.uk | 0115 977 5661 |

Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk



Laxton
Christingle Service



Sunday 16th December
4.00pm

The service will be taken by
the Rev Philip Howson

All the children will receive a Christingle

Please come and join this family service and
then stay for refreshments.

Everyone Welcome



Moorhouse Church

Carol Service

7.00pm

Christmas Eve

The service will be taken by
the Rev Phil Howson

Followed by tea and biscuits.

Afterwards there will be a short service of
Holy Communion for those wishing to stay.