

Open Field

£1

December 2025 & January 2026



All ready for Christmas at Doddington Hall, November 2025

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



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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 JANUARY PLEASE. Earlier preferred.** You can send in your contributions at any time.

Church News

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council of Laxton and Moorhouse, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

I would also like to thank everyone for their support over the last year, especially while I have been unwell. Thank you to Janet for all her help and support and to Jean for all her help organising the Garden Fête, Harvest Festival and the social events.

Thanks to Sandra for cleaning the brasses and providing flowers; to Margaret for playing the organ and to Sally for coming in to clean the church for us.

Thanks go to Dave for mowing the churchyard and to Richard for strimming. We must not forget Simon, who like us, is trying to keep Moorhouse church open, as the situation with vicars doesn't get any easier. I must not forget Sarah for looking after our books although she is now a busy mum.

Thank you to everyone,

Brenda

Thank you to the Open Field Team

Continuing the theme of thanks, we would like to thank our advertisers who help us keep the magazine affordable and the team who print it.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to *Open Field* over the last year. Without the contributions we receive every month, there would be nothing for you to read, and without the dedicated team who deliver it, you would never get it through your letter box. And of course, without you, the reader, it would all be pointless!

We are very grateful to you all. Thank you and please keep on supporting our local publication. We wish you a happy Christmas and a very happy and interesting new year to write about.

Jean and Joy

Get Well Soon

We are pleased to know that Janet is doing well and is now at home. We send very best wishes for her continuing recovery.

In Memoriam

We send our sympathy to all the family and friends of Clive Shepherd, who died recently. He grew up in Laxton and his sister, Diane, has sent the following tribute to his life.

Clive sadly passed away in Newark Hospital on the 25th October aged 65 years. Clive was born at Step Farm, Laxton, which was our grandparents' home. When he was 3 weeks old we moved to Timothy Road.

Clive was the eldest son for Mum and Dad, Mary and Ken Shepherd. Myself and Clive were joined by Stuart (who we sadly lost in 2014), John and Anne Marie.

When Clive was 12 years old we moved to School Farm, making many childhood memories. After school he knew he wanted to do farming and he went to Brackenhurst College. He spent all his working life doing the job he loved on dairy farms.



Back Row John, Stuart and Clive
Front Row Diane, Dad, Mum and Anne Marie.

In 1985 he married Angeline at Muskham Church. They had 2 sons and 2 daughters. Clive was forced through his health to retire early a couple of years ago. He retired to Newark.

Clive's funeral service will be on Tuesday 25th November at 11 o'clock at Sherwood Forest Crematorium.

Thank you for the cards and messages, they mean a lot during this difficult time.



Coffee Morning Corner

Coffee Mornings are now in full swing.

	2nd Saturdays Egmanton Village Hall	10 - 12 Dec 13 th Jan 10 th
	3rd Saturdays Laxton Village Hall	10 - 12 Dec 20 th Jan 17 th
	4th Saturdays Ossington Hut	11 - 1 - Jan 24 th



Subscriptions for your Magazine

We are back at the time of year when we must ask you to renew your subscription to *Open Field*. The price for 2026 will remain at £6 for the eleven issues for the year. We must say thank you to our generous advertisers without whose support this would be impossible.

Please pay your delivery person or put your payment in an envelope with your own name on it and drop it in to the person who delivers to you as soon as you can. Before we go into February we need to know how many copies we will need.

Alternatively you can put your £6 in an envelope, clearly marked with your name, **in Jean's letterbox at Blacksmith's Cottage, High Street, Laxton or Joy's at The Dovecote, Church View, Egmanton.**

Your prompt payment will be really appreciated. Thank you for your support.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERIES,



Christmas is not far away. Do you want to save on postage or save your legs walking round the village?

The answer is the Christmas card box in the church.

To have your cards delivered, just pop them into the box on top of the bookcase at the back of the church with a contribution to church funds in the metal box on the wall. They will be sorted and delivered for you.

The box will be there between 8th December - 14th December, for delivery soon after for deliveries in Laxton and Moorhouse only.

Please note the advice below.

1. Please make sure each envelope has a **clear name and FULL address on the envelope.**
2. Remember, "To Sue" is unlikely to get to Sue and "Sue, Timothy Road," will not fare much better.
3. Please support the church this Christmas with this win: win service. The income from the donations is very valuable.

Thank you

Brenda

Remembrance Day Service

This year it was the turn of Laxton to host the Remembrance service for our Group, which was conducted by the Rev. Alistair Littlewood. John, our bugler, sounded the Last Post and Reveille. The Kohima prayer was read by Rev. Alistair.

Wreaths were laid by Mike J, Laxton; Sylvia P, Walesby; Joanne P, Wellow; Jonathan P, Kirton; Chris H, Moorhouse and Jem H, Parish Council.

Thanks to Margaret for playing the organ and to Jean, Sandra and Mavis for the refreshments. Also, we can't forget the soldier in the churchyard. Thanks to Simon for putting it out and to George for putting out Janet's cascade of poppies.



We must also thank Graham for the painting of the horse's head Janet put some purple puppies around its neck to represent the horses lost in the War.

Brenda





Photo by Lotus Head at Freeimages.com

Laxton WI

Invite you to join them on
Wednesday, 10 December
For a demonstration of
Chocolate Making

Chocolates will be able to be
bought.

Visitors £5

To include mince pies and mulled wine
Everyone welcome please ring 01777) 870541 if
you would like to join us so we know for
refreshments.

Brenda

Laxton Christmas Festival

All events in aid of Laxton Church



Friday 3rd December

**Carol Concert with Brass Band in
the church**

**Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th
December 10am - 4pm Christmas**

tree display in Church

Plus

Refreshments in the Village Hall during the same hours
Everybody welcome. Why not bring your friends to this
new village event?

Chop & Chat

November's Chop & Chat was as lively and well attended as ever. We were pleased to welcome back Edna, our new member from Walesby, and to see Nev & Jeanette, who looked remarkably fresh after moving to Weston just a few days previously.



In fact Jeanette was a stalwart in the kitchen helping with the washing up. If anyone can think of a suitable word for washing up beginning with C, we could probably become Chop, Chat and C....! Twenty or so people enjoying a delicious and nutritious meal certainly produce plenty of work for those at the sink. Any better ideas than 'Clear up'?

Thanks once again to Dave, our excellent chef, who produced a super tasty cottage pie this time. Everyone is looking forward to the Christmas lunch on Monday 1st December. No doubt there will be some special seasonal fare on the menu. See the calendar for Jan & Feb dates.

Your meal now costs £5 a head. Everyone is welcome, so if you would like to come, please contact Helen S on **07905 166392**.

Laxton and Moorhouse Parish Council

Christmas Lights Switch On

Change of Date from previously published

Now to be held on

Thursday 4th December

Laxton Village Hall, starting at 6:00pm

Come and listen to the Dukeries Band and enjoy a complimentary hot drink and mince pie

Free admission

Christmas Festival

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December

Continuing our Festival celebrations, come and look around our lovely old church, which will be open from 10 am to 4 pm each day. It will be decked with Christmas trees and Christmas arrangements.

At this time we have over 20 trees promised and the team is getting ready to mount a lovely display.

All the money raised over the weekend will go towards the upkeep of our lovely old church. There is always a job to do!

Refreshments will be served in the Village Hall on both Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. We will be most grateful for any donations of cakes or pastries and also help in the kitchen on a rota basis. Helen has worked out the rota, but it is never to late to volunteer. Many hands definitely make light work. We have advertised the event via social media and all the local magazines, so we are hopeful of a good number of visitors from outside the village.

If you can help, please contact Helen Sheard on **07905 161392**.

Thank you,

Christmas Festival

5th, 6th, 7th December 2025

Friday 5th December

7:00 pm, Saint Michael's Church, Laxton

**Come along and join us for a concert by
The Sherwood Forest Brass Band
Tickets £5, inc. light refreshments**

**Just ring and order your tickets from:
Sarah 07870 394125**

Congratulations to everyone celebrating an anniversary or other special event. We wish you all a wonderful day and a happy and healthy year to come.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to everyone celebrating in December, The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Brenda Noble, Robert Haigh, Emily Hennell, Richard Pick, Ann F. and Jonathan and Jake.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to the long list of celebrating in January. It is a good month for twins. Three sets this time!

The birthday roll of honour for this month is a very long one!: Sue S, and our other Sue S, Margaret Palmer and her twin Steff L, Margaret P , Mike Jackson, Mary Noble, Mike Manning, Stuart Rose, twins Jack & Joseph (1), Angelina S, Gabriella & Daniel S (twins), Anne H, Jeff Naylor, Pat Naylor, Chris W.

Brenda



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Village Hall News



“Chop & Chat” On Monday 1st December our monthly luncheon club will be taking place in Laxton Village Hall, with a Christmas menu to kick off the festivities. It represents great value for the £5 per person required contribution. Where else would you get a tasty two course meal and coffee for that?

The Village Hall Quiz on Friday 28th November will be fresh in minds when you read this, but it is already time to think about the next one on Friday 6th March 2026 (the first Friday in March). Make sure to get the date in your new diary or, better still, book your table now by calling Ian Robinson on **(07771 696248.)**, ideally 8 per team, but including numbers in the team when you call to reserve your table.

Start time is **7 for 7.30pm** and cost is **£10 per person**, covering the normal pie, potato and peas supper plus dessert. It is BYO (bring your own) in terms of drink and glasses.

As always all proceeds from the running of the quiz go towards the running costs of the Village Hall.

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 Laxton Village Hall website (www.laxtonvh.org.uk).

In particular, on the site, there is a Facilities tab which sets out what is available, including the fully fitted modern kitchen.

The Bookings tab has the details of rates (which are discounted for village residents) as well as a booking calendar where you can look to see if the date / time you are interested in is currently free. Also on that page is a booking enquiry form for you to complete with the details of your event.

Coming up at the Village Hall are the following events:

December 4th - Laxton Court Leet meeting from 10.30am. The public can come and observe proceedings, though they cannot participate in the Court.

December 4th Parish Council Christmas Tree Lights Switch On from 6pm

Saturday 6th December and Sunday 7th December - Village Hall being used for refreshments etc 10 - 4 both days during the Christmas Tree Festival events at the Church.



Laxton History Group



Jean Townsend was our speaker in October. She gave a lively account of some of the folklore of England.

Most legends have roots in pre Christian religion. The Robin Hood myth is widely recognised. Its origins are in pagan religion and "the Green Man" of the forest. Maid Marian may be a corruption and depiction of the Virgin Mary.

Nottinghamshire also has the legend of Black Shuck - a ghostly, enormous black hound with fiery eyes who is the harbinger of doom. The Shag foal or Gytrash is a demonic beast which haunts country lanes. It is described as skeletal, with a snarling mouth, equine features and a shaggy mane along its rigid spine.

The Lambton worm is a folk story from County Durham. John Lambton caught a worm-like creature when fishing and threw it in a well. He returned years later to find it had turned into an enormous, destructive serpent. A battle with the serpent resulted in a curse laid on the Lambton family.

In Glentham, Lincolnshire a 14th century effigy used to be washed by 7 maidens on Good Friday. This relates back to the Catholic practice of washing holy images until Henry VIII banned it.

Another Lincolnshire tradition which continues today is chasing the Haxey Hood. This is a violent scrum held annually in Haxey. The objective is to push the hood (a leather tube) into one of the four pubs around the village. It dates back to the 14th century when a lady lost her hood in a storm and villagers chased about to retrieve it.

A local story involves the Belvoir witches and is well known. Joan Flower, and her two daughters were accused of witchcraft and of causing the deaths of the two young sons of Francis Manners, 6th Earl of Rutland. In 1618 Joan Flower died en route to her trial, choking on a piece of bread. Her daughters were hanged in 1619. The women were known as "herbal dealers" and had been in service at Belvoir castle.

In Edmondthorpe in Leicestershire in the 17th century, it was said that Lady Ann Smith, a witch, could turn herself into a cat. One late night whilst she was roaming around the castle as a cat, she was wounded in the paw by her butler. He quickly awoke his master, Sir Roger, and they rushed to her bedroom. She was however no longer in cat form, but the injury remained on her human hand. Her effigy in church has red stain on the wrist.

History Group Craft Fayre

The weather certainly did not encourage anyone out to visit this delightful annual event, but Laxton folk and friends are tougher than that. Despite the horrible drizzle and dropping temperatures people still turned up to start their Christmas Shopping.



Jean had worked hard finding a nice mix of vendors new to us and familiar faces. Graham Laughton had a lovely selection of his paintings for sale, including some prints and cards featuring Laxton. Jean's daughter, Mel, had a lovely display of Christmassy decorative items and of course there was the raffle, tombola and ever popular cake stall.



Chris from Norwell came again with his honey and his beeswax candles and we were pleased to see a new stall with wooden items of all sorts.

There was a bit of a communication failure regarding cakes for the kitchen, but that was soon

remedied and there was a steady flow of people making the most of the refreshments. The soup was very welcome on a chilly day. It was nice to see lots of visitors chatting in the café area as well.

There was a good raffle and a surprising number of the winners were still in the Hall when it was drawn at the end of the event. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes.

Thank you also to everyone who supported the event in any way. It is very much appreciated. The event made a very satisfying £431 for History Group funds.



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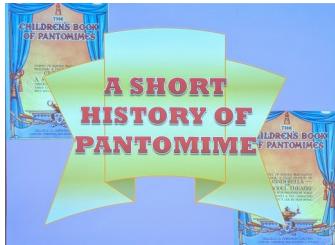
01636 821466

Stan@StanTheSweep.co.uk



Member of the
guild of master
sweeps

Laxton History Group



to be with us.

Before Ann began, John thanked Jean for organising the Craft Fayre, which had raised an excellent £431. The stall holders were all happy and the flow of customers had been steady throughout.

Ann's subject was 'A Short History of Pantomime'. She had been a student herself, studying drama and had remained in the field throughout her career, finally lecturing at Manchester University. She retired in 2014, but missing the students and people she met, if not the marking, she had begun to give her talks.

Her training certainly showed. Despite her petite stature - 4ft 11inches according to her - she had a strong voice which she projected beautifully and everyone was captivated by her tale.

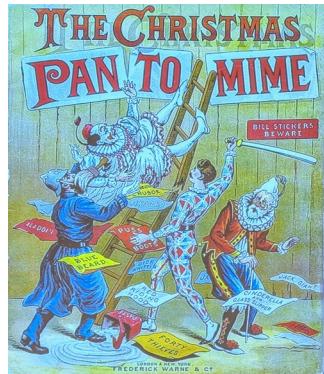
Ann's personal connection to pantomime began as a girl, when she played principal girl in her local amateur production. We learned that 'panto' means all and 'mime' is just what it was.

Early performances were more aimed at adult audiences and in some ways were similar to the mummers plays we have heard about and performed earlier.

It is difficult to identify just when panto began, but it has evolved over at least 300 years. Panto started out as an 'end piece', presented after a major production, e.g. Hamlet. It was a light hearted 15 - 20 minutes to lift the spirits after something more serious or tragic. At this time they would be performed all year round.

As panto developed, there would be an amateur or professional production in every town, which ran for all of November and December and was the major money earner

The final meeting of the year for Laxton History Group had a Christmas feel, but unfortunately we had too many apologies due to illness. Despite that, there was a good and appreciative audience for the speaker of the night, Dr Ann Featherstone, who had come with her son, James, all the way from Ilkeston



for them for the year. It is now often a child's first introduction to live theatre. The stories told have been gathered from all over Europe, although there is no tradition of panto on the continent.

Pantomime became defined by the spectacular visual effects and scenery. Well known painters would be called upon to create sets. There was music and song, but no dialogue. Ann suggested that this might stem from the hugely successful John Rich not having a good speaking voice. As he promoted the art form, mime suited him well.

Rich went on to build the Covent Garden Theatre.

The main characters were drawn from the Italian Comedia dell'Arte in the form of Columbine, Harlequin, Clown and Pantaloona (the baddie). All these are very recognisable in modern productions.

The association with Christmas dates from Victorian times, when it became a tradition to go to see one on Boxing Day evening.

Pantomime had become a stand alone show in the 19th century. It responds to audience tastes.

Amazingly the taste for spectacular scenery meant that it was not uncommon for scene changes to take 20 - 30 minutes, and the audiences accepted that.

It became the norm to use children in pantomimes. Auditions chose the cutest, prettiest and youngest and it was not uncommon for them to work from the beginning of November, but only be paid for the show's run of a few days. Families accepted this as the children might be the only earners in the family.

It was the influx of music hall artists that prepared the ground for the role which soap stars and other media personalities fill today.

The meeting concluded with a heartfelt thanks from Roger Cotttee to Ann in which he revealed that as a teenager he had worked behind the scenes in a theatre. We then all enjoyed some Christmassy refreshments.

The next meeting will be our informal January get together, which this time will be on 21st for lunch at Hall Farm, Weston.



John Rich as
Harlequin holding
his slapstick,
c. 1720

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News from the Museums of Tuxford

Christmas is coming and we begin to think of things like "Jingle Bells" and "One Horse Open Sleighs". The Museum of the Horse has both. They went together naturally because a horse drawn sleigh could go very fast and very quietly on the snow, so you didn't hear it coming in time to get out of the way. Its rudimentary brakes were not very effective and certainly didn't allow time for an emergency stop, hence the bells to warn people that they were coming.



Downstairs in the gallery you will find a late 18c Dutch sleigh. It would have been a young man's sports car of the day in Holland. The girl given a ride in it would have been very lucky because he would have been a very wealthy young man to have such a beautifully decorated sleigh.

Beside the sleigh you will find the most unusual upside-down bells. Give them a push and you will be surprised how much noise they make! Used on horses in Germany to warn people, they certainly have more than a merry jingle!

Upstairs and in the museum, see how many other sleigh bells you can find and listen to their silver jingling sounds. Whilst in the gallery you will find some delightful Christmas



presents.

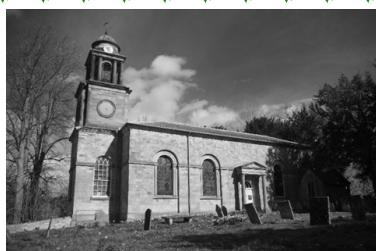
We all have memories of treasured presents. Some will have been delighted at receiving Lego, sharing building with others. Invented in 1955 in Denmark, the name is from the phrase Leggodd (Play well) and it is still enjoyed today.

EVENT Saturday 6th December from 1 pm at The Walks of Life Museum, we have "The "Story of Mining Transport Through the Ages" with a great Lego display and mining artefacts. There will be refreshments, a raffle and a tombola.

David and Joyce would like to wish all friends and neighbours a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Instead of cards we will be making a donation to Notts Lincs Air Ambulance.

Seasons greetings to all



**Ossington PCC
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**in the HUT at Ossington
on Sunday 21st December at
6pm**

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after the service**

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Carols by Candlelight

Friday 19th December 6pm



Kneesall
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Community
get-together



Seasonal
refreshments



Carols

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DECEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

Mon 1st	<i>Chop & Chat</i>	<i>LVH</i>
Thurs 4th	<i>Laxton Court Leet</i>	<i>LVH</i>
Thurs 4th	<i>Christmas Lights Switch On</i>	<i>LVH</i>
Friday 5th	<i>Brass Band Carol Concert</i>	<i>Church</i>
Sat 6th	<i>Christmas Tree Festival, Refreshments in LVH</i>	
Sun 7th	<i>Christmas Tree Festival, Refreshments in LVH</i>	
Mon 8th - Sun 14th	<i>Christmas cards collected for delivery</i>	
Weds 10th	<i>WI</i>	
Sat 13th	<i>Coffee Morning</i>	

Forward Planning:

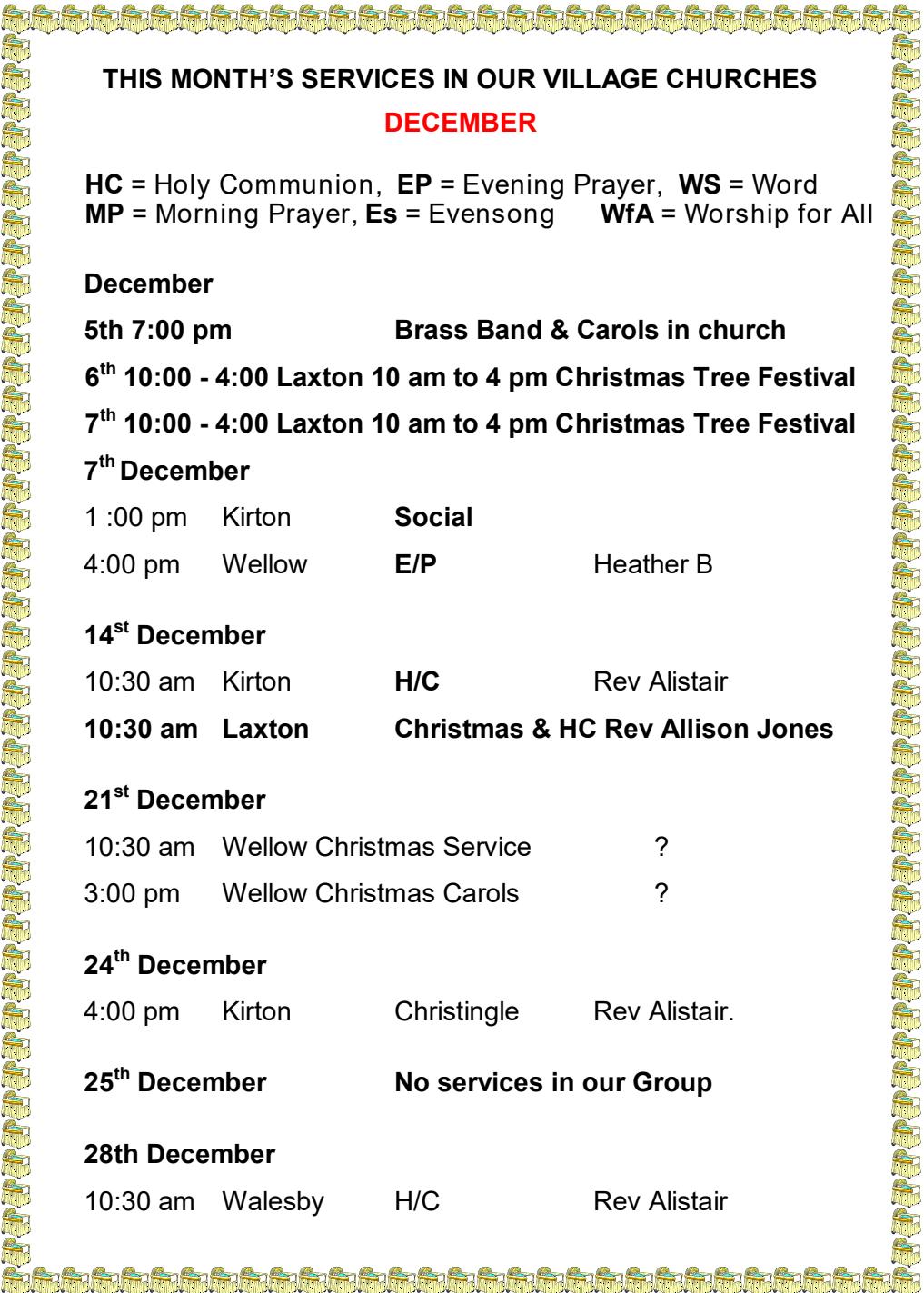
JANUARY

See separate diary after service details

There is no January Open Field. The next copy date is 16th January for the February edition.

Regular Events:

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



THIS MONTH'S SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

DECEMBER

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

December

6th 10:00 - 4:00 Laxton 10 am to 4 pm Christmas Tree Festival

7th 10:00 - 4:00 Laxton 10 am to 4 pm Christmas Tree Festival

7th December

1 :00 pm Kirton Social

4:00 pm Wellow E/P Heather B

14st December

10:30 am Kirton H/C Rev Alistair

10:30 am Laxton Christmas & HC Rev Allison Jones

21st December

10:30 am Wellow Christmas Service

3:00 pm Wellow Christmas Carols

24th December

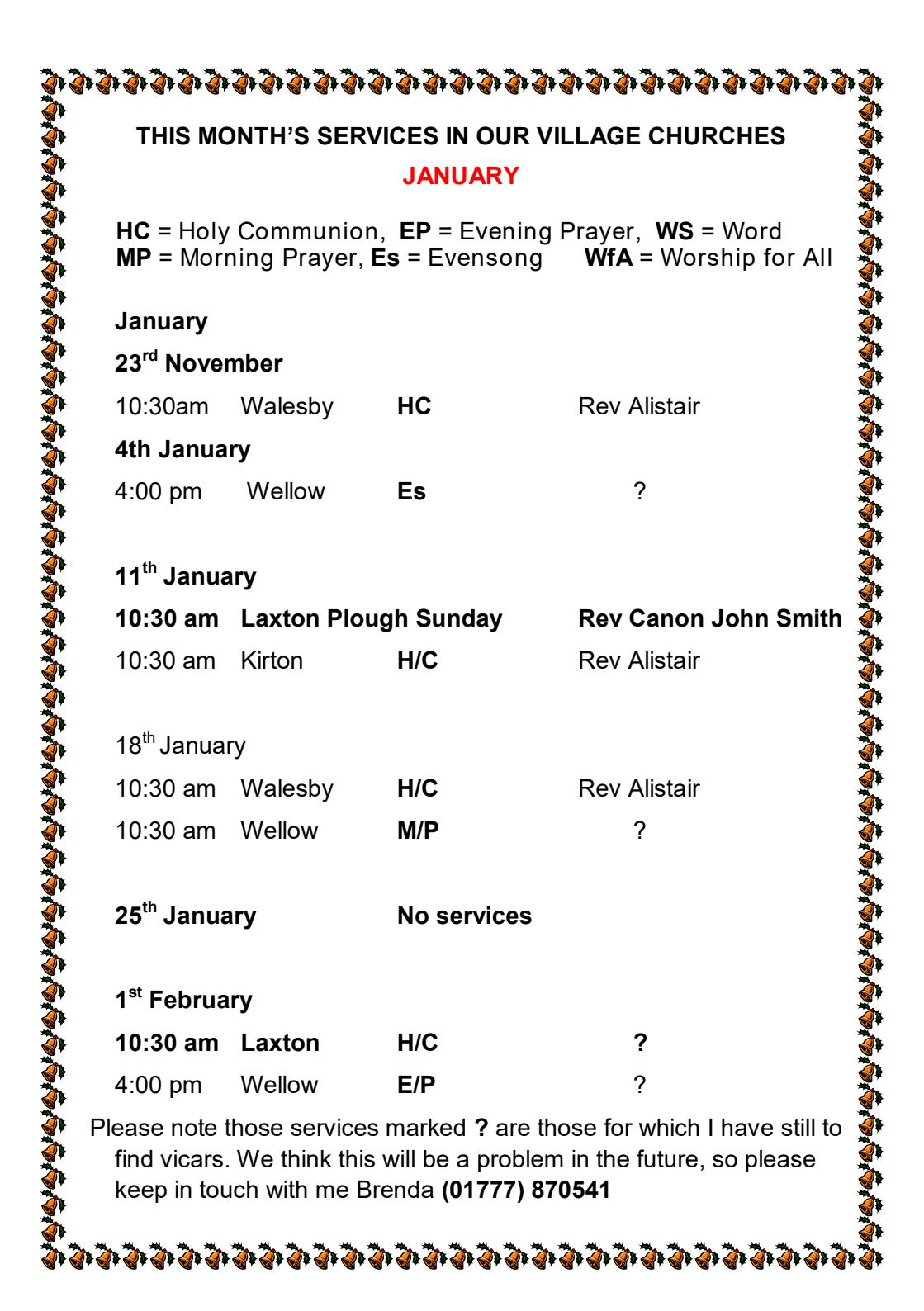
4:00 pm Kirton Christingle Rey Alistair

25th December

No services in our Group

28th December

10:30 am Walesby H/C Rev Alistair



THIS MONTH'S SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

JANUARY

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

January

23rd November

10:30am Walesby **HC** Rev Alistair

4th January

4:00 pm Wellow **Es** ?

11th January

10:30 am Laxton Plough Sunday **Rev Canon John Smith**

10:30 am Kirton **H/C** Rev Alistair

18th January

10:30 am Walesby **H/C** Rev Alistair

10:30 am Wellow **M/P** ?

25th January **No services**

1st February

10:30 am Laxton **H/C** ?

4:00 pm Wellow **E/P** ?

Please note those services marked ? are those for which I have still to find vicars. We think this will be a problem in the future, so please keep in touch with me **(01777) 870541**

JANUARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY

Mon 5th	<i>Chop & Chat</i>
Weds 14th	<i>WI</i>
Sat 17th	<i>Coffee Morning</i>
Weds 21st	<i>History Group Informal Lunch, Hall Farm</i>
Tues 27th	<i>Parish Council</i>



Forward Planning:

FEBRUARY

Mon 2nd	<i>Chop & Chat</i>
Weds 11th	<i>WI</i>
Sat 21st	<i>Coffee Morning</i>
Weds 18th	<i>History Group</i>

Regular Events:

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

**Copy Date for February 2026 edition:
12 noon, 16th January 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. Late arrivals are unlikely to make it into print.

Bingo and Beyond

On 24th October the trusty devotees of the noble game of bingo collected in the Village Hall for the latest WI bingo night. They are a grand bunch.

Dave was there, calm and collected, and the evening flowed well. The air of concentration is remarkable – you could almost cut it with a knife.

Between games the chattering and laughter spoke of sheer contentment.

The half time break was a jovial affair with tea, coffee and light refreshments and giggles, then it was back to the serious business of the evening. As I said, they are a grand bunch.

The 12th November was very different in content. Tracey from Wild Florist in Rufford came to give us a demonstration of wreath making.

Tracey's shop is in the lovely grounds of Rufford Abbey and is a very fitting background for the classes she holds there to pass her skills on and sell the materials for the keen do-it-yourselfers.

She told us that the start of the floral art career began when in honour of her beloved grandmother she took an allotment with a vow to grow all the beautiful plants her late grandmother had ordered and grown. This led to her leaving her teaching career and becoming the expert she is in all things floral.

The teaching expertise had obviously not left her and her narrative as she worked was clear, concise and easy to understand.



Christmas wreaths are Tracey's favourites and the outdoor one she did for us was gorgeous, taking foliage from hedges, wayside trees, climbing plants she had found in the grounds of Rufford.

Topical and practical tips ran through the talk and brought anyone who had fancied making their own to the realisation that 'Yes, they could do it'.

It takes a lot to render our group quiet, but Tracey did it as we watched a beautiful wreath take shape. No fancy language or misleading direction, and a witty and humorous delivery made this a pleasure. Slices of dried orange, stunning holly berries and a flamboyant bow finished off the procedure, and when it was held up for us to see we all thought again whether we could produce its like.

Tracey then made two very simple but pleasing table decorations, just to show us how simple it could be.

They were stunning. She then said she would raffle the wreath and table decorations. Every person had been issued with a raffle ticket. We were all pleased when the big wreath was won by Janet Cooke, as Janet hasn't been well for a little while and it was lovely to see her back in circulation.

So if you see members of Laxton WI creeping round your garden looking like refugees from the SAS, don't worry – we are only collecting foliage for our wreaths.

Thankyou Tracey for an illuminating and wholly pleasurable experience. Anyone who wishes to get further guidance and buy the items they need will be welcome at Wild Florist in Rufford. Go along, the lady is lovely.

We then had a supper of cheese and wine augmenting our usual cakes, tea and coffee. It is a measure of the success of Tracey's talk that we stayed for ages chatting, no doubt plotting where hedgerows required visiting.



Next month we will be watching the art and skill of a chocolatier, when rumour has it we will be able to buy some of the goodies on display. Add mulled wine and mince pies to the mix and it would seem to be a rather inviting evening in the Village Hall. So come along, we'll be pleased to see you.



Group Oil Order

Trying to work out what the oil price might do is becoming increasingly difficult. Over the 15+ years I have been organising the group, there has always been a dip in the early autumn, and the warmer weather would have suggested that this should be the case this year.

Apparently inexplicably it did the opposite and from 23rd October the price continued to rise. It has become apparent that the closure of the Prax Lindsey refinery in North East Lincolnshire has had a widely felt effect. During the process of negotiating the prices for our autumn order, I was told that all the major suppliers used this facility and have been having to source alternative supplies in a competitive environment since. This certainly did not help our cause!

A further issue is making running the group increasingly time consuming and frustrating. Certas now incorporates a number of the companies who used to quote for us, reducing the pool to Chandlers, Watsons and themselves. Both Certas and Watsons have introduced robotic telephone systems which are simply not set up to cope with buying groups. Chandlers remain the only one where it is possible to contact a human being straight away.

It is possibly no coincidence that I have been dealing with the same two ladies there for over 10 years and they are consistently the most competitive. This time I achieved a price of 58.80p/litre and Chandlers told me that on the same day an individual ordering 1000 litres would have been quoted 63.68p/litre, underlining the benefits of buying in volume.

The next order will be towards the end of January / early February, depending on how the weather treats us in the meantime..

You are welcome to join the ordering group at any time provided that you can be contacted by email.

Everyone orders as much as they want, only when they need oil at the time of an order. There is no obligation to order and nothing stopping members ordering with any supplier between group orders.

Please use my personal email if you have it. oil@openfield.org.uk is a general address you can use if you don't have mine, which I don't publish because of the amount of spam it generates.

Joy



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.Mushrooms	.Soft Fruits		
.Courgettes	.Apples		
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Minutes of Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council, 23/09/25

Present: Councillors: S.Hill (chair), J.Hill, M.Hennell, S. Rose, A. Moorhouse

In attendance at parish council meeting

C. Wilson (Clerk), Member of the public (x4)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mrs Creighton's apologies were received and accepted. There were no other parish councillor absences. Apologies from Mrs Michael were also noted. Mr Clark was also absent.

2. **Declarations of interest:** Mr S Hill declared a pecuniary interest in item 13 a i on the agenda (Planning matters - Application 25/01327/HOUSE - Single story extension - Thackholme Green Lane Moorhouse Newark On Trent). Mr J Hill declared a personal interest in the same item.

There were no other declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.

3. **Dispensations:** None required.

4. **10 Minutes public speaking:** Concerns were raised regarding the slippery surface of the Twitchell which members of the public offered to clear. The clerk will report the surface to NCC. The poor condition of the pavement at Moorhouse Road near Bottom Farm was also noted. The clerk will follow up with NCC. A damaged grit bin was also reported. The member of the public will email a photo to the clerk who will log the damage with NCC.

The village Christmas event was also raised. For the public's benefit, councillors **agreed** to move next to item 13 d (Christmas event 2025) on the agenda.

The community organisations had arranged a ticketed concert at 7 pm on Friday 5 December 2025 when a brass band will be playing.

Tickets will cost £5 and include tea and a mince pie. Tickets will also be sold to view the church and decorations on the Saturday and Sunday.

Councillors noted that they had the Dukeries band provisionally booked for Sunday 7 December 2025. In light of the other activities now planned, they recognised that it would be preferable for the lights to have been switched on at the beginning of the celebrations. Mr Rose will ask Mrs Creighton to enquire whether the band would be

free on the evening of Thursday 4 December 2025. After further discussion, it was **decided** that the switch on would take place with refreshments on Thursday 4 December if the band is available and immediately before the start of the Friday 5 December concert without refreshments if the band is not available.

The clerk will submit an application for a donation to the Thoresby Trust.

Mr S Hill will complete a risk assessment for consideration and approval at the November 2025 meeting.

5. Thoresby Estate report (if any): No report.

6. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22 July 2025:

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 22 July 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair subject to the amendment of LMPC/81/25 (Reports from district and county councillors) to read, "Drone" instead of, "Done" and LMPC/87/25 (Defibrillators) to refer to Mr M Hennell instead of Mr J Hill.

Councillors also noted that the minutes of the annual financial meeting on 24 June 2025 had not been circulated. The clerk read the draft minutes which the councillors **approved**.

7. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

8. Reports from district and county councillors: Mrs Michael and Mr Clark were absent.

9. Reports from councillors: The chair reported that he had been unable to attend the most recent SNG meeting.

10. Parish councillor vacancy – Co-option and publicity and selection process: Councillors noted that no candidates had been put forward for election and that the next stage was to fill the vacancy by co-option. They recognised the importance of a fair and transparent co-option process and discussed how this might be achieved. Councillors **agreed** that the vacancy should be advertised on the parish council page on NSDC's website, on the Facebook page and in the noticeboards with a closing date of 10 November 2025. Applications will be considered at the November 2025 meeting.

11. 2025-26 changes to Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) including requirements for:

a. IT policy

b. Generic email account hosted on an authority owned domain:

Councillors noted the new AGAR requirement for an IT policy and generic .gov.uk email account. The clerk will action both. They

also noted the desirability of parish council controlled email accounts for all councillors but **decided** to defer further consideration of this on the basis that the clerk shares minimal personal information with them with an associated low risk of a breach of data protection requirements.

The clerk also advised that the Rufford Parish Council laptop used by the council is failing and its Office software will become obsolete with the withdrawal of Microsoft support for Windows 10. Councillors **approved** the purchase of a new laptop with the cost to be split equally with Rufford Parish Council. The clerk will let Rufford Parish Council know and research possible options.

12. Property matters

a. Sports field, lease, pavilion (including approval of maintenance works and cost) and new litter bin -

Councillors noted that the Thoresby Trust had approved the grant in the sum of £750 in respect of the landlord's costs of varying the sports field lease to permit subletting. After discussion, they **agreed** that the clerk should approach Larken & Co, the solicitors previously used by the council, for an indication of their costs to act on the variation.

Councillors were pleased to note that the grant in the sum of £250 from Mr Clark towards the cost of maintenance materials for the sports field was being approved. They **authorised** Mr S Hill, once the grant had been approved, to purchase repair and maintenance materials up to the value of the grant plus VAT and to liaise with the committee regarding undertaking the necessary works.

b. Glebe Field matters including trees and lease update – Mr J Hill will inspect the big tree.

13. Planning matters:

a. Applications:

i. 25/01327/HOUSE - Single story extension - Thackholme Green Lane Moorhouse Newark On Trent: Having declared interests, Mr S Hill and M J Hill withdrew from the meeting. Mr Rose chaired the meeting in their absence. Councillors considered the application and unanimously **decided** to approve the proposal.

Mr S Hill and Mr J Hill returned to the meeting and were informed of the decision.

- ii. **25/01075/HOUSE - Replacement entrance gates - The Old Vicarage High Street Laxton Newark On Trent NG22 0NX and intercom system, including small uplighters:**
Councillors considered the application and unanimously decided to approve the proposal.
- b. **To note planning decisions by NSDC: 24/01463/CPRIOR | Application to determine if Prior approval required for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to 4 Dwellinghouses and for Associated Building Operations – Prior approval required and granted:** Noted prior approval required and granted.
- c. **Great North Road Solar Park – Planning Inspectorate registration and council representations - Deadline 2 October 2025:** Mr S Hill suspended standing orders to allow a member of the public to address the meeting. The member of the public referred councillors to the significant changes made to the application: reduction in size, project traffic management and restrictions including on traffic through Moorhouse and the addition of a riparian area which the resident believed would exacerbate flooding.
Councillors discussed the next steps now that the project had been accepted for determination. The clerk will register and submit updated concerns based on previous objections.
- d. **Compliance:** Nothing raised.

14. Defibrillator:

- a. Inspection report:** Mr M Hennell reported that one set of pads is out of date but confirmed that, otherwise, there were no issues with the defibrillator. The clerk will order new pads.
- b. Replacement – update and any necessary funding approval:** Councillors discussed the best way forward given that there were no public funding award schemes at this time. They **decided** that the clerk should apply to the Thoresby Trust for as large a contribution as possible with any shortfall to be covered by crowdfunding.
- c. Health emergency planning – Working group report:** Mr S Hill and Mr S Rose had discussed moving this moving forward and recommended that the council wait until the new defibrillator is available to provide a catalyst for interest.

15. Flood resilience working party – Report and any associated decisions: A parish roads and pavements walk round had taken place with Louise Poole of Via, NCC Highways.

16. Parish environment and appearance, including:

- a. Parish benches:** Councillors noted that one bench in Laxto was still broken and that a second was in a poor condition. Mr S Hill and Mr Rose will inspect both and decide on the most appropriate way forward. They will also inspect the condition of the fingerposts.
- b. Parish roads and pavements:** See above (LMPC/98/25 10 minutes public speaking).
- c. Flood resilience – Working party report and associated decisions including NSDC grant award – Approve expenditure:** Councillors **agreed** that the clerk should order 200 aquasacs at a cost of £736 and submit the invoice to NSDC and reclaim as the grant award.
- d. Christmas event 2025 including consideration and approval proposed plans for the event, expenditure and risk assessment:** See above (LMPC/98/25 10 minutes public speaking).
- e. Remembrance Sunday – Lamppost poppies display arrangements:** Councillors noted that Mr S Hill has the new poppies. He will liaise with Mr Sheard regarding the poppies and silhouettes already held by the council.

17. Financial matters:

- a. Financial position as at 31 August 2025:** Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 August 2025 (incorporating the 2025-26 budget figures) which the chair cross referred to the bank statements. They noted the VAT refund which had been received and the remaining CIL levy and spending deadline.
- b. Accounts for payment:** Councillors unanimously **approved** eight payments totalling £991.94.
- c. NJC 2025-26 pay award:** Councillors appreciated that the clerk was contracted on NJC terms and that the new pay award to local government employees therefore covered the council. The clerk will prepare the necessary information for approval at the November 2025 meeting.

18. Service faults: None reported.

19. Correspondence: Item a – NSDC – Winter service offer 2025 – The clerk will place the winter salt order.

Item c – NSDC - Flood Resilience Aqua Sac Offer for Town and Parish Councils September 2025 - See minute LMPC/110/25 c -

Parish environment - Flood resilience.

All other items of correspondence noted.

19. **5 minutes public speaking time:** Councillors noted a written concern raised regarding aggressive cattle on a footpath and **agreed** that the most appropriate way forward was to refer the concerned party to NCC.
20. **Agenda items for next meeting:** See above
21. **Date of next meeting:**

Next regular meeting: **7.00 pm Wednesday 19 November 2025** at the Visitor Centre.



Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw		
Date	Bonus Ball No.	Winner
18/10/25	19	John & Carol
25/10/25	55	Angela
01/10/25	29	Daphne
08/10/25	44	Simon
15/10/25	25	This is currently a SPARE

There are currently nine numbers available, if you would like to join or indeed, if anyone would like an additional number.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all supporters. As the New Year approaches can I please ask BB Holders if they are owing money to bring them up to date please.

Thank you for your support,

Helen Pick

Tools for Africa, Southwell

Tools for Africa is a small group based in Southwell that collects and refurbishes a variety of unwanted tools and equipment that are then sent on to projects around Africa. It has been running since 2001 and meets in the undercroft of the Methodist Church in Southwell

Many carpentry, building, gardening, plumbing and car mechanics' tools, sewing machines and more specialist tools have languished in sheds and garages for decades and very often could be heading for the local tip when their owner becomes too old to use them or passes on. Instead, they are collected, restored, cleaned and sharpened and put together to form usable and valuable kits.

Working with two national charities, Tools with a Mission (TWAM) and Tools for Self-Reliance (TFSR) the tool kits are sent to help young people in six African countries: Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Ghana and Sierra Leone. There, specialist trainers on the ground teach practical skills using the kits. Trainees are given practical skills to enable them to use and maintain the tools provided and the kits are designed to enable the user to undertake many jobs and tasks associated with a particular trade.

However, the training also covers business skills such as costing, marketing and basic finance. Many of the trainees have little or no education and this training has proved vital for the success of the new enterprises. Other aspects of the training include health awareness, vital in areas where illnesses such as HIV have devastated populations.

Costs associated with shipping large quantities of tools to Africa are inevitably high and some tools not required to form part of the kits are sold locally to raise funds for this. The Southwell group has a stall at the annual Hoveringham Vintage Rally and Show held in May as well as one each year at the Southwell Saturday market. It is not uncommon for a vintage tractor driver at Hoveringham to come across the particular spanner he has been searching for in our collection of miscellaneous tools and equipment.

The volunteers meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday evening of each month where they do a variety of tasks such as receiving and sorting donated tools, mending and cleaning items and making and packing the finished tools into prescribed kit boxes for transportation. The group is extremely grateful to the Southwell Methodist Church for allowing us to use their basement for meetings and providing space for storing our tools and equipment.

If you want any further information on Southwell Tools for Africa or would like to discuss donating any tools please contact David Faulkner on 07860 502479. Of course, we would welcome enquiries from anyone wanting to become a volunteer.

Nick Orders

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Dukeries Singers

As Christmas draws near, The Dukeries Singers reflect on a wonderful musical journey. Guided by the ever-inspiring leadership of our Musical Director, Mr John Pope, and supported by the beautiful playing of our accompanist, Susan Bennett, we've shared songs, laughter, and unforgettable moments. To our choir members and the many supporters who attended our concerts and events, thank you. You are the reason we sing.

As we step into the New Year, we extend an open invitation: If your heart beats in time with music and you long to sing, why not consider joining us? There's no audition, no tests or trials, just come along and join in. Everyone can sing, including you!

We rehearse every Wednesday at 7 pm at The Methodist Church in Ollerton.

We would love to welcome you this New Year. There's no audition, no test, just come along and join in.

Here's to a joyful 2026—filled with music, meaning, and new voices joining the song.

Warm wishes, The Dukeries Singers

Concert Dates & Venues:

- ◆ **Friday 6th December at 7:00 pm – Jubilee Hall, Ollerton**
- ◆ **Saturday 14th December at 2:00 pm – The Village Hall, Edwinstowe**
- ◆ **Sunday 21st December at 6:00 pm – Lifespring Centre, Ollerton**
Tickets: £10.00 – includes refreshments and quality wine
- ◆ **Jubilee Hall & Lifespring Centre tickets available from Lifespring, 10 am–4 pm, Monday to Saturday**
Village Hall tickets available from The Village Hall, 10 –2 Monday to Friday.

For more information or tickets contact – **John Banbury on: 07759-086132 / Email john@asherwood.co.uk**





Citizens Advice gives advice on budgeting.

With Christmas right around the corner, here are some top tips to help you budget and keep your money safe over the festive season.

Work out your budget

Importantly ensure your priority bills are paid before purchasing extras.

Use a budget planner tool to help you understand:

- What you're earning and spending
- Where you might be able to cut costs
- What excess funds you have available to spend

Before you start

The planner will be most useful if you give accurate figures. Rough figures will give you a general idea of your budget. Try to find your most recent:

- bank statements
- payslips
- debit and credit card statements or bills
- receipts for things you usually pay for in cash

Make sure you include all your expenses, e.g. money you spend on your partner or family. There is a free online budget at: <https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/everyday-money/budgeting/budget-planner>

If you do not have access to the internet please contact us on the details overleaf and we can help you put together a budget.

Protecting yourself when shopping online

Deals are common in this period. Be vigilant when checking if a website is legitimate, if something seems too good to be true it could be a scam.

If you're buying something on a site you haven't used before, spend a few minutes checking it – start by finding its terms and conditions. The company's address should have a street name, not just a post office box.

Check to see what people have said about the company. It's worth looking for reviews on different websites – don't rely on reviews the company has put on its own website.

Don't rely on seeing a padlock in the address bar of your browser - this doesn't guarantee you're buying from a real company.

Paying by debit or credit card can add an extra layer of security. Contact

East Markham Pantomime

It's Panto time again. Oh yes it is ...

The Markham Players present

'Adventures in Pantoland'

**Performances will be at East Markham Village Hall on
Friday 30th January 2026 at 7.30pm and
Saturday 31st January 2026 at 2.30pm & 7.30pm.
Tickets are available from Sally Mitchell's Gallery, Tux-
ford and East Markham Village Hall during Post Office
hours, 11.45-13.45 Tuesdays and Friday**

See you there!

your bank if you are having problems with a purchase you have made.

Something's gone wrong with a purchase

If something's gone wrong with an item you've bought, you might be entitled to a refund, repair or replacement. It doesn't matter if you bought the item new or second hand - you'll still have rights.

You'll have legal rights if the item you bought is:

- broken or damaged - this is known as not of satisfactory quality
- unusable - this is known as not fit for purpose
- not what was advertised or doesn't match the seller's description

You won't have any legal rights if either:

- it was damaged by wear and tear, an accident or misuse
- you knew about the fault before you bought the item

If the company is not being helpful you can call our consumer helpline on **0808 223 1133** for further help and advice.

If you need any advice or support we are here to help. All of our sessions are drop in and there is no appointment needed.

If you use the internet you can find out details of all of our locations on our website **www.ca-centralnotts.org.uk**

or alternatively please give us a call on **0300 5610330** to speak to us over the telephone.



Wishing all our supporters, volunteers and friends a very happy Christmastime and the best of health and happiness for the New Year.



We really appreciate your involvement and interest in our historic building and look forward to your support for another year of great events.

Our Sunday openings resume on 3rd May from 2pm – 4pm and every Sunday until 27th September 2026 when our volunteers will be pleased to see you. Group visits can be hosted at any suitable time by prior arrangement.

Please contact us by email at milton.mausoleum@outlook.com or 01777 811219

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Court Leet - 4th December 2025

Laxton Court Day will be held on Thursday 4th December, exactly one week after Jury Day, when the field Jury will have inspected the strips, sykes and dykes in the newly sown wheat field.

Laxton's Court Leet is unique. It has powers to legally determine legal proceedings and levy fines within its remit of managing the Open Fields, defined in the Administration of Justice Act (1977). This



ensured that Laxton is unique not just for the functioning three field system, but the continuing existence of the Court to manage it.

The Laxton Court Leet has a Steward, a legally qualified person, who ensures the proceedings are carried out properly. The Bailiff, Robert

Haigh, opens the Court by reading the traditional form of words, now adapted to refer to His Majesty the King.

A list of people with property in the estate, known as The Manor suit roll, is read. Those not present incur an essoign of 2p, which excuses them rather than being a fine. Robert brings a bag of coins to pay these.

The Foreman of the following year's wheat field takes a detailed oath on behalf of the Jury. The Jury members for the next year are then called forward in turn to take a formal oath to serve.

On Jury Day the Jury recorded transgressions in the current wheat field and agreed recommended fines. These are brought to the Court on the Presentment Paper. The Foremen of the other two fields have recently been invited to raise issues.

This is an interesting example of a unique, historical event

happening right here in Laxton. After the Village Hall was refurbished, the Court moved there to enable it to accommodate more members of the public as observers. Proceedings start at 10.30am. If you are free, why don't you go along and see for yourself.

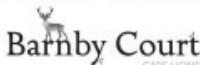


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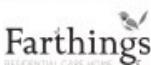
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Egmanton Village Hall

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 mobile **07399 669380**
- ◆ **Pilates** - Thursdays from 5:30pm - 6.30pm with Holly Rye.
Contact **07415436001** Email holly-rye@hotmail.co.uk

Yoga and Pilates will be taking a Xmas break. Check web for details

- ◆ **Egmanton WI** - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ◆ **Coffee Morning**: The second Saturday of the month from 10 - 12 .
Next two will be **on December 13th and January 10th**. 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/**](https://www.laxtonvh.org.uk/)

Useful Contact Details

Defibrillator Contacts:

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

Police

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

PC2548 Deborah Bakin supported by
PCSO 8524 Richard Dunn at Southwell 07595 074292
Web, showing other contacts: www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk
Danger to life or crime in progress 999
Otherwise police switchboard 101
Crimestoppers (anonymous crime reports) 0800 555111

Medical

Tuxford Medical Centre 01777 870203
Sutton-on-Trent Surgery 01636 821023
Ollerton Surgery - Middleton Lodge Practice 01623 703266
Newark Hospital 01636 681681
Bassetlaw Hospital 01909 500990
King's Mill Hospital 01623 622515

Cardiac Arrest? Say “Alexa Activate Emergency CPR” to an Alexa device

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@nottscg.gov.uk 0115 977 5661
Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk

Moorhouse Carol Service

Moorhouse Church

Christmas Eve, 24th December

7:00pm

Everyone welcome

Plough Sunday Service

**Saint Michael's Church,
Laxton**

**Sunday, 11th January,
10.30am**



**This is one of our traditional
rural services. The service
includes the blessing of the**

**plough and the churn. The service will be led by
the Reverend Cannon John Smith**

**Everyone is very welcome and the service will be
followed by refreshments.**

**Please note the change from our regular date. This is
the second Sunday, but is actually the right day for
Plough Sunday.**