

# Open Field

£1

December 2020 & January 2011



*The Laxton Jury Meeting in Top Field, 26th November 2020*

The monthly publication of the  
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

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



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**Flowers and Brasses Rota** - suspended until further notice

Mr & Mrs S Clarke

29<sup>th</sup> November & 6<sup>th</sup> December

Mrs M Beckitt & Mrs B Noble

13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> December

Mrs S Rose & Mrs R Creighton

27<sup>th</sup> December & 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Mrs L Booth & Ms H Keay

10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> January

Mrs J Cooke & Mrs P Freer

24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> January

**Coffee Morning Hosting Rota** - for reference when they are resumed

December 10<sup>th</sup>

Mampa Haste

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

**Contributions for the next edition TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY NOON ON 16th JANUARY 2012 PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED. You can send at any time.**

## Message from Brenda, our Churchwarden

It was disappointing that we had to cancel our Remembrance Day Service on November 8<sup>th</sup>, especially as we have not had one in Laxton for several years.

I must say thank you to Mike Jackson for laying a wreath for us at 11 o'clock and also for raising the Union Jack. Thank you also to Janet for taking photos for us.

Our Advent Service on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November will also have to be cancelled as we will all still be in lockdown.

Hopefully the next service will be on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December. The December and January rota of services is printed in the centre of this edition of 'Open Field'. Our Plough Sunday Service will be held as usual in January.

Thank you to Pat and Jeff Naylor for offering to take on the task of being the collecting point for our Christmas cards this year as the church will be closed, and for offering to deliver them as well.

On behalf of the PCC I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year. Let's pray that next year will be better than this year.

*Brenda*

## Village Hall

Just a further update about the Village Hall; it remains closed and with the current lockdown and possible further restrictions for the rest of the year and into next year is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future.

Weekly checks are continuing to be made to ensure all is well and to comply with the Hall insurers.

Please keep safe and well.

Best wishes and have the best Christmas possible

Laxton Village Hall Committee

## Get Well Wishes

We have been sorry to hear about Colin's stay in hospital and wish him a speedy recovery along with continuing improvements for Stephen, Sally, June and Heather as well as anyone else who is unwell at this time.

## Thank You 1

I would like to say a BIG thank you to Pat Naylor for her donation of £100 to our Church Funds. She gave this from the money received from the sale of her plants during the summer.

*Brenda*



## Thank You 2

I would like to thank all the people who telephoned or sent messages of sympathy following the death of my mother, Janet, on 15th November in Retford. As she moved to this area from Brighton only two years ago and was not known personally to most of you, your kind thoughts are particularly appreciated.

*Dik Allison*

## Thank You 3

Thank you to the many people who sent cards, gifts and messages for my recent 'BIG' birthday. With the restrictions on socialising I was not able to hold the get together I had hoped for with all of you, but you were all so kind that I felt thoroughly spoiled and had a memorable birthday despite the difficult situation nationally.

*Joy*



## Horses in the Church Yard



It has been noticed that horses are using the church yard in some way. Hoof prints have been noticed on the footpath etc. This has caused some distress and Open Field has been asked to print this notice. We ask whoever is doing this not to bring horses into the church yard, but to stick to the roads and verges.

It seems that horses are also using the Twitchill from the church down to the road, which is thought to be unsafe due to the narrowness of the path and the slipperiness of the surface. Thank you .

## Open Field Subscriptions

Despite increased printing costs, we have maintained the price of the magazine over the last seven years or so. The change to an 11 edition year will mean a saving in printing costs and so once again it has been decided that the price of the annual subscription will be £4.



This is heavily subsidised by our advertisers, to whom, we say a big 'Thank You'. A more realistic price per edition is the £1 shown on the cover for copies sold individually.

**All subscriptions are due on or before 1st January. This year we ask you to put your £4 in an envelope on which you have written your name and address. Please have it ready for your distributor when they call.**

Distributors will be advised to carry a bag and ask you to drop your envelope in so that they don't have to handle them at every house. We ask that you make a particular effort to find the right money and have it ready to help with keeping everyone safe.

If you miss your distributor you can always drop your envelope through their door or Jean's at Corner Farm at the bottom of the village on the right.

**Please do remember to put your name and address on your envelope to ensure you get credited with the payment.**

Thank you

# Local Sayings of Yesteryear Part 2

## On Weather

- ☆ Red sky at night shepherds delight red sky in the morning shepherds warning.
- ☆ When the wind is in the east it's neither good for man nor beast

## On Birds.

- ☆ The cuckoo comes in April. She sings her song in May. In the middle of June she changes tune and in July she flies away!
- ☆ One swallow doesn't make a summer

## LAXTON & MOORHOUSE CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERIES, 2020

With the church mostly out of commission it is not practical to have the Christmas Card Post Box in church this year but the income for the church is very valuable, especially in a year when we haven't been able to have the Dances, Church *Fête* or the Harvest Festival.



This year we ask that cards be posted through Jeff and Pat's letter box (**School House, next door to the Village Hall**) between the **1st and 14th December, for delivery on the 15th and 16th.**

1. Deliveries are made in Laxton and Moorhouse only.
2. Please make sure each envelope has a **clear name and FULL address on the envelope.**
2. Please place your cards in a plastic bag along with your donation and **leave at School House.**
4. Please support the church this Christmas.
5. Remember, "To Sue" is unlikely to get to Sue. "Sue, Timothy Road," will not fare much better.

Thanks, Jeff

## Rotary Reverse Advent Calendar, Food Bank November.

The first of two deliveries heading to the CAR Foodbank based at the Lifespring Church in Ollerton. Thank you for all those who donated.

By the time you read this a second delivery will have been made at the end of November.

The Foodbank is very short of food year so any support during December would be appreciated by those having a difficult time under the current circumstances.

*Jeff*



Sandra Clarke is still collecting stamps for Bransby Horses throughout the year.

Christmas seems like the time when many people will be receiving more stamps than usual on their Christmas cards. The friends you

normally see and exchange cards with may well put them in the post this year.

Please trim the stamp off the envelope, leaving at least a centimetre all around to ensure that the stamp is not damaged.

You can leave yours with Jean Hennell in Laxton or with Joy Allison in Egmonton and they will be passed to Sandra.

Thank you.

# Moorend Remembers Those Who Gave Their Lives



On a misty Remembrance Sunday morning the residents of Moorend, young and old, gathered around the memorial for the Canadian airmen who lost their lives in Southfield. The group observed two minutes silence for all of those who gave their lives in both World Wars and also in more modern conflicts. They were pleased to be joined by Polly with Ore, her horse, in remembrance of the animals who also fell in the battlefields of the World Wars.

The late Edmund Rose, former bailiff of Laxton, remembered the Canadian aircraft crashing in Southfield. He joined the men from Laxton who tried to douse the flames, sadly too late to save any of the young men in the aeroplane. A few years ago, Ken Shepherd, who before his recent death was for many years Clerk to the Parish Council, arranged for a memorial stone to be set up in Moorend. He also managed to contact the families of the airmen in Canada, who were both thankful and grateful to think that the village remembered their relatives.

In the History Group's collection of interviews from villagers who have now sadly passed away Marian Cooper remembered the Life Guards and their horses who were billeted here during World War 2. Marjory Sayer recalled the death of Miss Willis, the school teacher, at the door of her home when a bomb fell in the School House garden, demolishing all the outhouses

opposite and uprooting an apple tree. Marian Cooper also told us that her father and her uncle had to go around the village afterwards killing all the cattle that had been injured.

Miss Cox, the Head Teacher during World War 2, recorded the coming of evacuees from London and Sheffield; gas mask practice; the scattering of children to adjacent houses should there be a threat to the school; the children practising running to take shelter in the trenches dug in the Church Fields. The men who gave their lives in that war are recorded on our war memorials and Laxton remembers them every November by the laying of a wreath, indeed many of their families still live in the village today.

The war memorial also commemorates the 9 young men from Laxton who died in World War1 and the other men, and a woman, who served in the war. They also are still remembered by their descendants in the village. As one would expect men from the village joined the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry and served with their horses. Elmer John Rose from Laxton, for instance, was a "rough rider" with the Battalion. They were sailing from Salonika for service in Egypt when their ship was torpedoed with a great loss of men and horses. Those who survived, both men and horses, went on to serve in the Desert Mounted Corps under General Allenby.

When the war was over not only had the Thoresby Estate lost men, but also horses. Earl Manvers was especially fond of one particular horse, Planet, and he tried to buy him back from the army in 1919. He was, however, firmly told by Major General Birkbeck, Director of Remounts, that the war was still lingering on in the Middle East, where Planet was now serving, and since "there was a shortage of good chargers in the Army", Planet would not be returned. In fact, very few horses returned from the war. The majority of those which still survived after 1918 were either humanely killed, sold to farmers in France or sold for horse meat.

Our little village of Laxton therefore paid the inevitable price of war in the lives of men, women and horses. Young men and women served and died, as did the horses which the villagers had bred, stabled, hunted and worked with.

By the time of the Second World War horses were no longer used in battle but they were still used to transport men and supplies. As late as 2001 the U.S.A. Special Forces used horses in the invasion of Afghanistan. That is why at Moorend we were delighted that Polly and Ore came to join in our little remembrance moment around the Canadian memorial stone. We felt it was a fitting tribute to the many people and to the many animals whose lives have been lost in war.

*Joan Cottee*



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## DECEMBER CONGRATULATIONS

*Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special event this month.*

*We would love to give a mention to anyone who is celebrating, so please send in details with dates so we can give you a mention in the right month.*

*The birthday roll of honour for this month is: **Dorothy C, Brenda N, Margaret M, Emily H, Ann F, Jake N***

*We wish a happy anniversary to **Colin & Dorothy** in December. If you are celebrating please accept best wishes and let us know so that we can congratulate you in the next edition.*

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



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Classes now held at Laxton Village Hall Mon 18.30 & Thu 09.15 and at Hall Farm, Weston, NG23 6SY. Please call if you are interested.



**Coffee Mornings**

The Coffee Mornings remain suspended for the time being. We will let you know when we can start again. The rota on the inside cover will remind hostesses so that we can start as soon it is right to do so.




## **JANUARY CONGRATULATIONS**

*Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special event this month.*

*We would love to give a mention to anyone who is celebrating, so please send in details with dates so we can give you a mention in the right month.*

*The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Jeff N, Pat N, Sue S, Sue T, Margaret P, and the other Margaret P, Mike J, Mary N, Mike M, Stuart R, Chris W, Jenni V. Two of these are 70ths. Special congratulations to both*

*We wish a happy anniversary to any couples celebrating this month. If you are celebrating please accept best wishes and let us know so that we can congratulate you in the next edition.*





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# Parish Council

## 30 limit signs

Prior to the Lockdown, we had an socially distancing inspection of the siting of the village 30mph signs with Mike Pringle our County Councillor.

Mike said the felt that all the signs could/should be moved back to encompass all village properties and we made particular representations about the sign on the road from Ollerton.

(Acre Edge road) with the sign being sited after the sharp corner, asking if it could be moved so it would provide a warning before the corner. We await a report back from Highways; understandably everything is being done so much slower during the current crisis.



## Phone Box

We have approached BT about the current state of the Laxton Telephone Box (see photos!) and they have responded with some good news and some not so good!

They have agreed to re-paint it but their painting schedule runs from March to September!

It should therefore look very smart for Easter!!

## Salt bins

We recently have received 7 bags of salt/grit to top up the bins. If anyone see a bin needing topping up please contact one of the Parish Councillors as the spare bags are being stored in the Community Resilience Container at Corner Farm.

The 7 bins are located as follows:

Corner Farm

Egmanton Road (Sports Field corner)

Top of Cocking Hill

Bottom of Timothy Road (Neil and Debbie's)

Cross Hill (Twitchill Farm)

Town End (John Bacons)

Moorhouse

*Michael Manning*

# If Music be the Food of Love

Once again it's time to 'batten down the hatches' and 'draw on our own resources' to keep ourselves sane. Where else to turn but music, past and present?



None of my family played a musical instrument, but with the radio a constant feature there seemed to be music everywhere. Housewives' Choice, Workers' Playtime, Family Favourites ("And here's a bumper bundle") to the wonderful Uncle Mac for children. Who can ever forget:

*"Nellie the Elephant packed her trunk  
And said goodbye to the circus."*

Sheer bliss! (as well as being one of the tunes recommended to play in your head for the rhythm for chest compressions should you ever need to do them!)

At infant school we sang as we skipped and played games.

I was blessed with a lovely older brother who was not only a companion but a music fan, keen on trad jazz and classical music. We explored the worlds of Satchmo, Dizzy Gillespie and Kenny Ball; Spike Jones and his City Slickers exploded, rattled and shrieked across our eardrums; and we 'Ying Tong Iddly-I Po'd' and 'Walked Backwards to Christmas' with the Goons.

Then one evening Eric said there was something we must listen to, and the glorious, soaring voices of Dietrich Fisher-Dieskau and Jussi Björling spiralled through the air singing the duet from Bizet's Pearl Fishers. The hairs on the back of my neck stood on end hearing it – they still do.



At junior school, the enthusiastic music teacher really inspired us to sing. She was ambitious, we tackled four-part harmonies including the beautiful 'Ave Verum'. We went to 'Mairi's Wedding' and ambled

around with Wordsworth and his daffodils and much, much more. It was fun.

Miss Roberts at senior school was a star - a member of the Halle Chorus and keen, keen, keen. I joined the school choirs with enthusiasm and gusto, but nemesis was waiting.

My usual spot was in the middle of the back row, behind the Fisher twins, Hilary Taylor and Sandra Mills. "You stand there, dear, I know they are all much bigger than you, but we will know you are there."

Then it began to dawn on me why I was placed behind four sturdy sound barriers, and how they would know I was there. They must have issued the stalwart foursome with ear plugs. The truth was evident. I was a vocal pariah. Life can be cruel, can't it?

But singing is good for you, for all sorts of reasons, and I've cracked a way to do it which is open to us all in our hour of need.

Here's the plan. Rid the house of other occupants or wait until you are alone. Put on the music and let rip. Grab that air guitar and put on your 'Blue Suede Shoes', clutch that wooden spoon and cr-o-o-o-n to 'My Way', a quick burst of Carmen would be good – whatever floats your boat.



Should you see my car going through the village apparently driven by somebody in the advanced stage of St Vitus' Dance, don't worry – I'm in a 'White Room' with Eric Clapton or adding my own touches to Tom Lehrer's 'Masochism Tango'.

Just be glad – VERY glad – that the windows are closed.

*Lesley Booth*

(Laxton's answer to Florence Foster Jenkins)





# Jury Day 2020

Jury Day had the distinction of being one traditional, annual event which actually took place in 2020, albeit in a modified form.

Normally the Jury assemble in the pub before travelling out to the field in the back of a cattle trailer, equipped for the occasion with straw

bale seats. This arrangement is snug rather than socially distanced, so a new plan had to be devised.

The task of the Jury is to inspect the work that has been done in the wheat field. There are three fields in the Open Field crop rotation system, and each field in turn becomes the wheat field. It then becomes the field with the second



year crop , followed by a year as the fallow field. This means each is inspected every three years.

The system requires that the boundaries between the

individual strips are maintained. The sykes (the areas between the blocks of sykes which are too wet or too steep to be farmed) must also be maintained, so farmers must not plough too far, while being required to plough all of their land. It is a fine balance between sticking to the historic line and being a little bit too far one way or another.

Each farmer ploughs away from his neighbour and away from the boundary of the strip with the syke. It is these boundaries which the Jury is looking at in detail as well as checking that watercourses are unobstructed.

The Bailiff, Robert Haigh, summons the Jury to gather and the field Foreman takes charge, recording the transgressions noticed. This year the task fell to Johnny Godson, the Foreman of West (Top) Field.

Outdoor meetings of groups of up to six people being permitted, the whole Jury travelled in their own vehicles to Top Field. They gathered, but not too closely, while they decided who would inspect which area and set off in groups of three.

It was wet underfoot and the strips were very wet, but at least this year they had been worked and were showing signs of emerging crops, unlike last year when nobody had been able to get on the land because of the unrelenting rain.

To avoid getting their heads too close together while hammering in the stakes, one made a small hole to take the stake and another knocked it home. Here the soft ground helped, because a hammer was barely needed to secure the stakes.

It was probably the fastest Jury Day on record, and also could not end with the traditional roast beef lunch. A final socially distanced gathering agreed on the fines and warnings for the transgressions which were noted. These will be put before the Court Leet the following week. Court Day will also break with the tradition of meeting in the pub and will take place at Crosshill Farm.







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# Sherwood Forest Rotary - Cycling to Rome for Prostate Cancer Research.

This is my end of 2020 report on progress so far re my cycle to Rome, to be achieved by the end of June 2021. I remember Joy at the start mentioning something along the lines of age v cycling v body capabilities and so it turned out to be. For my last report I had cycled the equivalent distance to get me to Dover but at the end of August I set off early one Sunday morning to do a 15 mile circuit of Ossington and Carlton on Trent. In Ossington virtually every muscle from my hips southwards seized up and, unable to walk never mind cycle, I had to be rescued. My doctor banned the bike for a month and diagnosed dehydration, not warming up prior to the ride and not having breakfast. It took a month before I could walk past the football pitch and cycling was banned again, making a total of ten weeks. I am now back on the road and noting advice about being prepared.

While doing two or three circuits a week I have noticed the boxes of fruit and hedgerow produce that have been abundant this year. Produce ranges from plums to apples, sticks to eggs - and even bags of manure free for collection.

I'm finding cycling is good for the mind as well as the body. It's like the good old days when I walked the dog several times a day - it's a time of mental preparation or reflection on the day. The other day I reflected upon eggs. We can get eggs from shops, and often from the farm gate. We can get barn eggs, or so it says on some boxes. And then there are range eggs. Putting myself in the position of perhaps a non native English speaker what would I deduce from the term. They are obviously not produced on a farm or in a barn, they are range eggs. They are perhaps not as healthy either because invariably they are FREE.

I considered the very common, and generous notion, of FREE range eggs. These are available from many a garden gate and I hope our visitor will only ever take one box of six so that others can share that generosity too.

Have as good a Christmas as is allowed this year and please remember if you do meet up with family members (or even friends) that Covid will not be on holiday. Social distancing and face masks, well ventilated rooms or meeting outside, and regular hand washing are still the order of the day for our own survival. Keep Safe. Finally I would like to thank my November sponsors, E of Laxton, H of Laxton, Dave of Saxilby and Mike of Middlewich.

*Jeff*

## Egmanton School in the Early 1930s



There was a joint magazine serving Egmanton, Laxton and Moorhouse early last century, which was referred to at the time as the 'Elm'. These photos show the Egmanton Maypole gathering and are for all of you who loved Maypole dancing and to Jody [Cupit] 94yrs and in particular to her sister, Nancy, now 101yrs, who gave me these photos 40 years ago.

I think both Nancy and Jody are shown here, along with Stella Smith. I think Edie Laughton and maybe one of the Prices.

Is it Paul Johnson holding up the balloons? Ken Saxelby is on the far right, and must be about 8 or 9 years old, so it dates the photos to about 1934/5. MWS







# Services for December / January

## December

<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00 am	Kirton <b>HC</b>
	4.00 pm	Wellow <b>EP</b>
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Laxton HC</b>
	4.00 pm	Egmanton <b>EP</b>
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00 am	Egmanton Christmas <b>HC</b>
	10.30am	Wellow Christmas <b>HC</b>

## **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve**

<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Laxton HC</b>
6.00 pm	Egmanton <b>HC</b>

## **Friday 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day**

<b>10.30am</b>	<b>St Paulinus HC</b>
----------------	-----------------------

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>** No Services

## January 2021

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.00 am	Kirton <b>HC</b>
	4.00 pm	Wellow <b>EP</b>
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Laxton Plough Sunday HC</b>
	4.00 pm	Egmanton <b>EP</b>
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Egmanton <b>HC</b>
	10.30 am	Wellow <b>HC</b>
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Kirton <b>HC</b>
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Laxton HC</b>

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



# ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY***

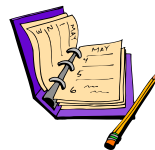
**2020**

**Dec 4<sup>th</sup>**

***Quiz Night - Cancelled***

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>**

***Christmas Cards collected at School House  
for delivery in Laxton & Moorhouse***



**2021**

**Jan 10<sup>th</sup>**

***Plough Sunday Service***

**Jan 26<sup>th</sup>**

***Parish Council via Zoom***

**Forward Planning**

**Regular Events:**

*Parish Council*

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

*Quiz Nights*

*1st Friday of December & March*

**Copy Date for Feb: 12 noon, 16th January**

***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.

Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to send in contributions this month. We have appreciated people coming up with ideas to make something for everyone to read at a time when all our usual events have not been happening.

We hope readers have enjoyed the variety and maybe even been inspired to contribute something of their own. If you are not sure how to write it, we are happy to help out. Thank you all.

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**CALL JIM ON 07968 329108**

Unfortunately we are still no further on with being able to meet up with one another, which is very sad, but we all need to keep safe and well.

County Office are still trying to keep things going for us. In December there will be three different speakers who sound interesting.

The week beginning 30th November is National Tree Week', so we have two speakers from the National Forest. Their talk is entitled 'Robin Hood's 21st Century Legacy - Sherwood People's Forest'. The speakers will be Ade Andrews and Sarah Manton. It will be on Zoom on Thursday **3rd December at 7pm. Book by 1st Dec.**

This and the other events below should all be booked through County Office, and all are free. Please note closing dates for booking.

The second event is 'Christmas Celebrations' with Johnny Victory on **Saturday 5th December at 7.00pm**, also via Zoom. **Book by 1st Dec.**

He is a very good singer and entertainer and we have had him at one of our annual parties.

Another interesting event is percussionist Jo May with 'Playing the Spoons' on **Wednesday 16th December at 6.30pm**. This is also via Zoom. **Book by 14th Dec.**

Thank you to those who knitted the children's hats, mitts, scarves and gloves for the 4US charity. Hopefully these items will now be on their way abroad in time for the children to have them for Christmas.

I must also say thank you to Lesley Booth, who has been delivering our monthly WI news letter, The Hornblower.

As the 'Open Field' goes to press for December / January, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year. I hope you enjoy the chance to meet up with family in our new, temporary, three household bubbles.

Please keep safe and well

*Brenda*



# A Request for WWI, WWII and pre 1970 Wellow photographs

Laxton residents may have heard that Wellow Church Schoolroom now fully restored after 6 years of hard work raising the 90k needed, that we successfully applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund last year and are in the midst of undertaking a project of Heritage Research and Interpretation. As you can imagine through this covid pandemic the job of gathering information has seen its challenges but we have dug up some fascinating old documents and worked extremely hard throughout. The work goes on.



We'd like to ask if anyone in Laxton who has family connections to any of those from Wellow who fought in WWI or WWII might have any old photographs of their relatives. We are looking for not only photographs of the fallen but also of those who survived these horrific wars.

Furthermore, we'd also be grateful to receive any photographs pre 1970 (the older the better) of Wellow which may show interesting views or activities of the village. If you have photographs or indeed any interesting documents you'd like to share, then please drop them in (in an envelope clearly marked with your name and address) to Churchwarden and Wellow Church Schoolroom trustee Jean Crofts, Sunnyside, Maypole Green, Wellow before the end of January 2021.

We will of course make sure your photographs are returned to you and

if we find that we can use and display or even publish them in our Heritage Project we will ask your permission first and include your name.

With very best wishes to all.

*Jane Crofts*



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## Solution or Revolution

We are sitting in our parlour, it simply is no joke,  
We should be in the sitting room but the fire's begun to smoke.  
The chimney sweep has rung to say providing no one's ill  
He'll come around on Friday, I truly hope he will.  
A roaring fire, on colder nights is simply what we crave,  
So hope the sweep can sort us out and the log burner behave.

We've cut down the long border, not a plant in sight,  
The old brick wall that shelters it looks good in Autumn light.  
The greenhouse has been cleared of plants, nowhere any weeds,  
It looks a bit forlorn just now without it's flush of seeds.  
But Autumn is a softer time when jobs and things get done,  
The leaves are stored, the lawns are raked, tools hung up – it's done.

But what about this lockdown, the country's on a slope  
Unless someone intervenes, the nation will be broke.  
Keep shutting down our normal lives is no kind of solution.  
I 'm waiting here with baited breath for wholesale revolution.  
The queues have started up again, people looking glum  
I think in all reality, we all knew it would come.

But Winter's here this time around, with nothing left to spare  
Our tolerance has faded fast replaced by blank despair.  
My Christmas cake's been made awhile, I bought the cards today,  
A few small gifts are gathered here, well, what else can I say.  
Should I order Capon, we won't have a full house  
Instead we'll have a quiet time, with just us and a mouse.

And so I hope for common sense, a sudden recognition  
That one way out of all this mess might be a coalition.  
Less of charts and gloomy news to greet us on TV,  
Instead some talk we understand and just sheer constancy.  
No more U turns, leaks or drama, threats we'll all be dying  
No more waffle, fudge or dodge and certainly, no more lying.

So, gaze out on the Autumn gold, enjoy it's final glory  
And try to see that fairly soon, will come the Christmas story.  
No matter how fed up we feel, no matter how downhearted,  
Remember this, there'll come a day when no one will be parted  
From loved ones, friends or happiness and gone the wilful strain  
For as the Queen said recently, "We will all meet again"

# The Dukeries Singers

Welcome to winter and a quotation from Marie Huston.

*"The gardening season officially begins on January 1st. and ends on December 31st."*

So if like me you have a garden, you still have a few more weeks to finish your autumn clearing. Good luck with that!! In previous years at this time, the Dukeries Singers would already have donned their posh black outfits and bling and have given a variety of Christmas performances to rapturous applause from their appreciative audiences. The festive season is truly one of our favourite times to sing. There is such a huge choice of really beautiful music dedicated to this time of year and we do love to entertain. We are so disappointed that we are unable to perform our usual magic and bring our music to lift spirits and celebrate this special time.

I would encourage you to sing along to Christmas on the Radio, TV, CD, YouTube, phone and all the other gadgets you may have.

By now we have been locked down for several weeks and I truly hope we are now in a safer and more healthy place. As a choir we are so looking forward to meeting up again and enjoying our rehearsals and friendship. I'm certain we are all looking toward to a more normal life. Until then our contact details are:

**[www.thedukeriessingers.com](http://www.thedukeriessingers.com) / [thedukeriessingers@gmail.com](mailto:thedukeriessingers@gmail.com)**

Concert Secretary, Margaret **01623 642464 / 07896491314** plus Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

And a shortened poem by Jean Kenward

I heard Sir Winter coming

He crept out of his bed

And rubbed his thin and freezing hands;

"I'll soon be up!" he said.

"Oho! How you will shiver!"

--And then I heard him say;

"But in the middle of it all

I'll give you

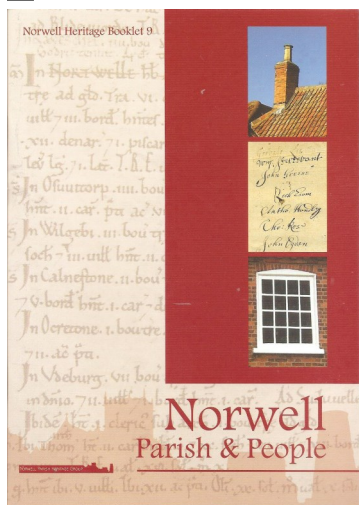
**CHRISTMAS DAY !"**

*Jan*





# A New Heritage Booklet from Norwell



Norwell Parish Heritage Group has just published its ninth Heritage Booklet, *Norwell Parish and People*. This booklet looks at the organisation of the parish in the past, most particularly in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.. Using information from Norwell Town Book, the accounts of the Churchwardens, Constables, Overseers of the Poor and the Surveyors of the Highways it is a lively description of how the parish maintained law and order, looked after the poor and needy,

repaired the highways, byways and waterways – and even how they dealt with strays and vermin.

Launching the booklet was a challenge in this time of Covid. The problem was solved by launching it literally. A model boat was constructed by a member of NPHG, a booklet was placed in it and it was duly launched in the Beck by the co-authors Michael and Elizabeth Jones. The chief spectators were a group of young cows who were fascinated by the whole proceedings – socially distanced, of course.



Booklets are available, price £4.00, from Brenda's, Norwell Village Stores, or from Elizabeth Jones **01636 636 365** or [emjones.norwell@btinternet.com](mailto:emjones.norwell@btinternet.com).

*Many thanks to regular reader, Brenda Wilson for sending in her poem (opposite) reflecting on the current situation.*

## *We thought it was all over (well nearly)*

*We thought Covid was receding and we had it on the run,  
Now it's coming back again, curtailing all our fun.  
The country's going down a hole, in fact we're in a fix,  
Notwithstanding lockdowns and the newest rule of six.*

*Despite our wearing masks each day and standing yards apart,  
We just don't seem to crack this thing or get a healthy start  
To banish all the failing firms, and children out of school  
With testing so chaotic, our Government looks a fool.*

*As darker nights come nearer and our lights go on at tea,  
It's hard for some all on their own to summon up much glee.  
Emotionally, it's wearing with nowhere much to go,  
Venues shut, the theatre closed, it fills you full of woe.*

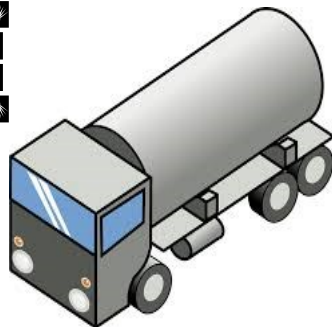
*And as for booking Christmas, well, just leave that clear for now,  
Extravagance & great expense may have to take a bow,  
Instead we might do simple things and cook a homely dinner,  
Enjoy a glass of something fine, declare ourselves a winner.*

*Because, really when you sit & think as humans we exceed  
Mostly what we ever want or certainly we need.  
The age that most of us enjoy started years ago  
We made our fun, our food and gifts and hoped that it would  
snow.*

*So don't be too downhearted, it isn't all that bad,  
As long as we have health and strength we really should be glad  
That we exist in peacetime, with food upon our table,  
With people that we love and see and hug when we are able.*

## Group Oil Order

This month the weather makes it seem much more pertinent to be writing about the winter oil order. The price has remained fairly steady through the summer and into autumn, but is liable to rise as the nights get colder and people start to use more oil.



**We order in mid - late November to beat the inevitable Christmas price rises, so please have a look at your tank and get your order in asap.** If it seems prices are starting to go up we may order early and not have time to wait for last minute requests.

Please will everyone make sure they have supplied their up to date contact details. If you are not sure, send them again. Without an current email you will not get the reminder and the supplier will not be able to contact you.

If you would like to join in this order please email me if you have my personal email or use the general address of [\*\*oil@openfield.org.uk\*\*](mailto:oil@openfield.org.uk)

New members are welcome to the group at any time. You need to supply an email address, or that of someone willing to act for you, full name, address, land mobile phone numbers and any special access instructions for your delivery e.g. locks to be removed, dogs... Our group extends from Tuxford to Carlton on Trent and Kneesall.

Please note that the group order extends only to selecting a supplier and arranging the best price with a volume discount. Everyone pays the same price within the group ordering on any occasion and every household is responsible for providing payment details direct to the supplier selected and making their own payment.

We work with a small number of households where the family make the arrangements on behalf of an older person. If you are in this situation, please make it known that the supplier should deal with you and with not the person at the address for the delivery.

November's will be the last order before Christmas. Normally the following one will be in February. Please note that your order will need to be in around late January. In the absence of a January 2021 edition of the magazine, your only reminder will be the email sent out to those currently in the group.

Keep safe and warm,

Joy

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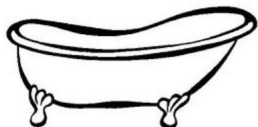


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## Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
24/10/20	44	G Harwood
31/10/20	35	Kevin S
7/11/20	44	G Harwood
14/11/20	13	Colin Cree
21/11/20	47	Jeanette & Dave G

We have various numbers available. Here is the up to date list of the 14 spare numbers: **1,2,7,11,20,23,26,28,34,51,52,56,57,59 (14)?**

Please contact Mike Manning 870844. Thank you.

*Michael Manning*



The work at the old school has restarted, with more of the ground being cleared. It will be interesting to watch as the project progresses.

## Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark gives their top tips to help people across Newark and Sherwood shop safely and securely from home

**Sherwood  
& Newark**

citizens  
advice

Since lockdown began in March we have seen an increasing number of clients turn to Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark for help with consumer related issues. These have covered a range of issues but we have frequently seen clients with problems relating to buying electrical goods and warranties, second hand vehicles and frauds/scams.

As you might expect, due to the restrictions in place since March over half (51%) of people across the country feel more reliant on parcel deliveries. Across the East Midlands Citizens Advice has found that 46% of adults have had an issue with parcel delivery since the country went into lockdown in March.

Despite widespread problems, the charity found that only 35% people across the East Midlands knew their rights if something went wrong.

Jackie Insley Chief Executive of Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark, said:

“Parcel delivery has been a lockdown lifeline for so many of us this year. It’s helped us turn our homes into makeshift offices; send gifts to those we love and miss; and get hold of essentials and the occasional luxury. As we all turn to shopping online more, it’s important people feel confident that they can shop safely and securely from home.”

As a result, Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark are working to help clue Newark and Sherwood consumers up on their rights if something goes wrong with a parcel delivery.

1. **Check delivery policies** - before you place an order find out what the

delivery times, costs and returns policies are of the items you have ordered.



2. **If you're out of the house during delivery** - Consider asking a neighbour or friend if it can be delivered to their address. But beware, if you do provide details of a safe space or nominated neighbour and something goes wrong it's not the seller or courier's responsibility.
3. **Online trader or online marketplace?** - Make sure you know if you are dealing with a trader or a private seller on an online marketplace as dispute processes may vary. If you have an issue with a trader, a dispute can be raised directly with them, but if it's a private individual it may be easier to go through a marketplace's dispute process.
4. **Review traders** - Check and review if the trader is genuine. It's always worth taking a look at reviews to gain an insight as to how reliable the company is and how well they deal with missing parcel complaints and refunds.
5. **Who to deal with when a parcel goes missing** - your purchase and contract is with the seller. If your parcel goes missing you should speak to the trader to deal with the problem, not the courier company.

You can contact Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark for information and advice:

- **General advice** will be given via our Advice line on 0800 144 88 48 or Textphone: 18001 0800 144 88 84 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm. Alternatively, you can ring our local office number on 01623 861769 where you may be offered a call back
- People can **chat online** to an advisor by visiting our website [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/contact-us).
- To contact us via email use **advice@sn-ca.org.uk**
- You can find help with **Debt & Money Advice** on 01623 869081
- For advice on **Consumer issues** (e.g. issues related to products or services you've purchased) call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133 Textphone: 18001 0808 223 1133 or chat online to an advisor on our website.
- Anyone seeking support to make a new claim for **Universal Credit** should call the Universal Credit Help to Claim line on 0800 1448444. Textphone: 18001 0800 144 8 444 and Web-chat: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/)

# Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council - Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd September 2020

**Present:** Councillors:

M. Manning (chair), R.Hennell, M. Hennell, J.Hill, S,Rose, J. Godson

## **In attendance at parish council meeting**

C. Millward (Clerk), M. Pringle (County councillor)

**Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr S Hill.

1. **Declarations of interest:** The chair declared an interest as a member of the sports field committee in item 10 (Property matters – including sports field and Glebe Field).
2. 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:** No public present. A report of damage to the kerbstone at the bus stop at the bottom of Timothy Road was noted. The clerk will report the matter to NCC.
5. **Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 28 January and 25 August 2020:** The minutes of the meetings held on 28 January and 25 August 2020 were agreed as a true record to be signed by the chair at a later date when face to face contact is possible.
6. **Matters arising:** None. **Reports from district and county councillors:** Mr Pringle reported that:The Policy Committee had voted to proceed with a unitary authority
7. NCC has a £60,000,000 deficit although it has received government funding towards the costs of managing the impact of the Covid 19 outbreak.
8. **Reports from councillors:** Councillors formally expressed their sadness at the former clerk's passing and recognised his contribution to the parish council's affairs and village.
9. Otherwise, no reports.
- 10.**Financial Matters:**
  - a. **Financial position as at 31 August 2020:** Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 August 2020 (incorporating the 2020-21 budget figures). Councillors viewed the balances as stated in the bank statements on line.

- b. **Accounts for payment:** The council unanimously **approved** twenty five payments totalling £2028.82. Twenty two were formally approved retrospectively, being payments approved by email and made during lockdown when no formal meetings had taken place.  
**Payments** yet to be made included the reimbursement of the sum of £109.58 in respect of a PAYE payment funded inadvertently by another parish council. The clerk had used the wrong cheque book, the bank then clearing the cheque even though it was signed by the wrong signatories. Councillors verified the erroneous payment by viewing the relevant stub on line.
- c. **Risk assessment 2020 – 21:** Councillors considered and **approved** the draft revised risk assessment for 2020-21 circulated by the clerk, noting that the document had been updated to take account of Covid 19.
- d. **Property matters including sports field and Glebe Field:** Councillors noted that an approach to assume the lease had been made by the sub tenants. Future of the lease to be an agenda item for the November 2020 meeting. The clerk will investigate the legal position in advance of the meeting.

10. **Planning matters:**

- a. **Applications: 20/01653/S73 | Application for removal of condition 07 (agricultural occupancy condition) of planning permission 01/00098/RMA | The Orchard Moorhouse Road Moorhouse:** Councillors considered the application and unanimously **agreed** to approve the proposal.
- b. **To note planning decisions by NSDC: 20/01009/ FUL-** Householder application for replacement of wood burning stove and fit an external chimney (flue) - The Barn, Moorhouse Road, Moorhouse, Newark On Trent, NG23 6AT
- c. **Compliance:** No issues raised. **Village development including ownership and management of The Crown's estate in the long term:** Councillors noted formally that the Laxton estate was now owned by the Thoresby Estate. The chair confirmed that he had forwarded the Housing Needs Survey report to the Thorseby estate as owner.

11. **Defibrillator inspection report:** Mr M Hennell had completed the inspection. There were no issues.

12. **Village environment and appearance, including:**

- a. **Adoption of Moorhouse telephone kiosk:** Councillors noted that the parish council was now the owner of the kiosk. The clerk will report the poor condition of the Laxton kiosk to BT.



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Tel:

**01777 228273**

## **Sherwood Forest Rotary**

**Supporting the Local  
Community**

**07711 802683**

**Meeting most Wednesdays at  
South Forest Leisure  
Robin Hood Crossroads,  
Edwinstowe  
Visitors always welcome  
[www.rotary.org/1220](http://www.rotary.org/1220)**



**Mark Brisendon  
Heating Engineer**

**T: 01636 678036  
M: 07734 450695**

**Oil boiler service,  
repair and installations**



OFTEC registered

- b. Fibre broadband for Moorhouse: Nothing to report.
  - c. Speeding traffic: Mr Pringle will seek an update regarding the re-siting of the 30 mph signs at the entrances to the village. To be agenda item for In attendance at parish council meeting
  - d. Service faults: See LMPC/0920 above (10 minutes public speaking)
13. **Correspondence:** All items of correspondence noted. The clerk will order the 2020 winter salt allowance.
14. Agenda items for next meeting:
15. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 24 November 2020 via Zoom

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

## The Friends of Milton Mausoleum

We are looking forward to 2021 as we have lots of plans for our new season. Here are some of them, Covid situation permitting us to go ahead.



- ♦ **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021** – Sunday Lunch at the West Retford Hotel
- ♦ **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021** – Summer Concert
- ♦ **From May to September**, first Sunday in the month, light refreshments for sale
- ♦ **From May to September** we will have new facilities available – watch this space!

We are always very interested to hear from you on any subject and if you would like more details of our plans please contact us via the details below.

Please look out for our regular updates in local press and media.  
Thank you.

**Facebook:** The Friends of Milton Mausoleum

**Email:** [milton.mausoleum@outlook.com](mailto:milton.mausoleum@outlook.com)

**Web page:** [Friendsofmiltonmausoleum.org.uk](http://Friendsofmiltonmausoleum.org.uk)

**Phone:** Jenny Foulds **01777 871706**

*(Photo: Mark Emmett)*

## Doorstep Delivery Service

*We would not normally publish details of an offer by a business which is not an advertiser, but this one seemed to be worth including because of the exceptional circumstances in which we find ourselves. It was sent to us with a request to publish by the CVS serving this area.*

Morrisons recently provided an update about their doorstep deliveries which you may find useful. Orders may be placed by ringing **0345 611 6111 and select option 5.**

- It is still a bespoke service – customers can order what they want and are not restricted to the original 35 listed products
- It is free to vulnerable and elderly and costs £2.50 for students and £4.50 for isolating families who are working.
- Next day delivery – phone by 5pm. Orders are delivered any time 10-6 the next day – cannot provide specific timeslot.
- Available Monday – Saturday and this will extend to Sundays in December. (temporarily)
- Some restrictions on products due to Covid – for e.g. only 3 cans of soup in total except where it is part of an offer (currently 4 tins of Heinz soups are on offer for £3 and this would be allowed.)
- Customers should ask to have offers pointed out to them
- Alcohol is also restricted to only 2 bottles but of multiple types – so 2 bottles of red wine but also 2 white at same time.
- Medicines limited again to 2 packs per order.

## Opening Hours at Recycling Centres

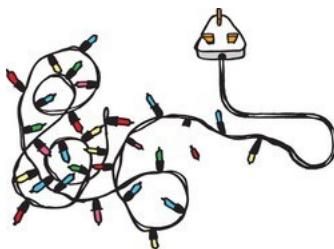
Throughout December, January and February the recycling centres will open at **8am - 4pm.**

The county's recycling centres are open every day apart from Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.



## Fairy Lights Lost Their Twinkle?

If you're getting the Christmas decorations ready for going up and discovered that the lights are more faulty than fairy remember to take them to your local recycling centre rather than putting them in the kerbside bins at home, folks.



Don't forget you can recycle broken electrical or old electronic items you no longer need at our recycling centres too, from electric toothbrushes, old hairdryers, kettles to phone chargers. These products all contain valuable components that can be reused and/or recycled so keep them out of the bin!

## Protect Your Passw0rd Campaign

Neighbourhood Watch has launched a national **PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$W0rD** campaign with 3 quick and easy steps

As we spend more time on our online devices, 34% of people say that they're more concerned about cybercrime than physical crime and a startling 1 in 5 people are a victim of cybercrime! You could be more at risk than you might think.

If strengthening your passwords is something you keep putting off, or you feel overwhelmed by the sea of online security information, you're not alone.

As part of our Cyberhood Watch initiative, launched in 2019, the **PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$W0rD** campaign targets both the overwhelmed and the complacent, providing everyone with 3 easy steps to be more secure online.

### **PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$W0rD in 3 easy steps**

- Create a separate password for your email account
- Use 3 random words
- Turn on two-factor authentication (2FA)

To find out more about how to do each step visit our Password Protection page on our website:

**<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/passwords>**

## Egmanton Village Hall

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

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

- ♦ **Yoga with Greg** – Suspended. Watch for details of restart.
- ♦ **Egmanton WI - Suspended at present**
- ♦ **Zumba Class** - Cancelled for now **Call 07817 311627**
- ♦ **Computer Problems?** - Call **01777 871171 for phone advice**  
If your computer is misbehaving or you need help setting up a new one, please call. Donations to Egmanton Village Hall in lieu of fee.

The Open Field Team would like to wish everyone the happiest possible Christmas in the present difficult situation. Let's hope Santa brings us all effective vaccinations very soon and allows us to get back to something like normal. Thank you to all advertisers, readers, contributors, distributors, and our long serving editor, Jean.

## Village Notices

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

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

## Laxton Defibrillator

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

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

*Michael Manning*

## Maplebeck Village Hall

The Hall and its activities are not operating at the present time.



## Useful Contact Details

### Defibrillator Contacts:

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

### Police

Sgt 2949 Christial Hurley, Sherwood Neighbourhood Policing Team,  
Ollerton Police Station  
PC Gary Sipson 07525 226575 or 101 x 800 7673  
Email : [gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

PC2548 Deborah Bakin supported by  
PCSO 8524 Richard Dunn at Southwell

Web, showing other contacts: [www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

Danger to life or crime in progress	999
Otherwise police switchboard	101
Crimestoppers (anonymous crime reports)	0800 555111

### Medical

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

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

Parish Council website: [www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk)



Janet Cooke's pictures of Remembrance Day at Laxton 2020

