

Open Field

£1

February 2024



Plough Sunday, Laxton Church, 7th January 2024

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



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Open Field

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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 February 2024 PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED. You can send at any time.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERIES



Thank you to everyone who put their Christmas cards in the church along with donations for church funds.

Approximately 250 cards were delivered. Thank you to those people who helped to deliver them for us. A total of £138 was raised, which was very much appreciated. Thank you once again.

Brenda

Parish Council Lights Switch On.

£62 was collected from the carol singing at the parish Council Lights Switch On on Sunday, December 5. It was kindly donated to church funds. Thank you to everyone.

Brenda.

Plough Sunday



Our traditional plough Sunday service took place on Sunday 7th January. The service was led by the Reverend Margaret Groves, which I think was the first time she had conducted this type of service.

Stuart brought the plough again which was taken up to the altar to be blessed. The churn was also taken to the altar by Roy and Mark Hennell. Mike, J and Simon Hill read the lessons.

Before the end of the service, Margaret conducted a short Holy Communion service for us.

Thank you to everyone who joined us from Kirton, Walesby and Moorhouse, and to Janet and Mavis for serving tea and scones after the service.

Brenda

From the Registers - Baptism

Congratulations to Eloise Felicity Harrison, who was baptised into the church on Sunday, 26 November 2023 by the Rev Tony Tucker at Saint Michael, the Archangel Church, Laxton.

Eloise is the second daughter of Samuel and Sophie Harrison of The, Dovecote, Inn Laxton.

Get Well Soon

We hope Mark Hennell soon has good news of a date for the surgery he is waiting for following his fall a while ago when he hurt his shoulder. Meanwhile we wish him well with the discomfort and limitations it places on him.

Congratulations

90

All the family would like to send their congratulations to Eunice Saxilby of Moorhouse, who will be celebrating her 90th birthday on 4th February.

Best wishes also to Eunice on her 90th birthday from all her friends at Moorhouse and Laxton Churches and villages. We hope she has a memorable day.

60

Congratulations

Congratulations are also sent to John G, who will celebrate his 60th during February.

Congratulations

70

We were alerted to the fact that we failed to wish Robert Haigh a very happy 70th back in November, so we would like to do so now, if rather late.

Unfortunately nobody had told us! Please let us know about big birthdays well in advance.

Renewal of Open Field Subscriptions - Good News!

Last month we shared the news that, to our great surprise, Rev. Tony Tucker, our printer for Open Field, had informed us that he can carry on printing. The arrangement through which this will be done appears to have changed, but he assures us he will continue to produce our magazine as before for approximately the price we were expecting when the lower price rise was announced.

The subscription for 2024 (February - Dec / Jan) is £6.00

A big thank you to everyone who has already paid. That is a big help. Please can we urge anyone who is yet to pay to do so as soon as possible.

Please let your distributor have your subscription in an envelope marked with your name **as soon as possible**. Alternatively you can drop it through your distributor's door or deliver direct to Jean Hennell at Blacksmith's Cottage, High Street.

Please contact Brenda Noble on **870541**, Jean Hennell on **870276** or Joy Allison on **871506** if you have any difficulties or questions.

Thank you. Your co-operation is appreciated.

A Very Hard to Wrap Present



Emily Hennell celebrated her 18th birthday back in December. Her present was impossible to wrap, so her friends and family congregated while Dad, Mark, asked her to come outside and give him a hand with something.

Emily adores highland cattle, so imagine her surprise and delight when she was introduced to her very special present, Callie!

FEBRUARY CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to everyone celebrating in February.

The birthday roll of honour for this month is:

Eunice Saxilby (90), Mavis Beckitt, and Margaret O who all share a birthday, Di J, Diane Beckitt, John G (60, Sebastian S and Eloise H.

We wish you all a wonderful day and a happy and healthy year to come.

There are no anniversaries on our list for this month, but we are pleased to send congratulations to anyone celebrating.

If anyone would like their name added to the birthday and anniversary lists, especially for special ones, please let Jean, Joy or me know details ready for next year.

Brenda



An Update from Cath Manning

After three weeks in Nottingham City Hospital, Michael returned home at the beginning of December and is making steady progress.

Thank you to everyone who has sent cards and their good wishes as they have really been appreciated and encouraging support on Michael's long road to his recuperation. Thank you again.

Cath Manning and family.

Thank You from Brenda

1) Thank you to Laxton History Group for their generous offer to give half of the profit from the November Craft Fayre to church funds and half to the Air Ambulance. It was very kind of the members to agree to this, and we are most grateful.

2) On behalf of the PCC, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and say thank you to everyone for their contributions to 'Open Field', especially to Joy, who works hard every month to collate all the articles and adverts and arranges the printing.

Thanks also to Jean for editing and distributing the magazine to those people who kindly deliver it to everyone's home. Thank you to those people who advertise each month and everyone who subscribes.

Annual Christmas Lights Switch On

The 3rd Annual Laxton & Moorhouse Christmas Light Switch on took place at the beginning of December on a horrible night .

Despite the cold weather and snow, the event was well attended. The mulled wine proved a very popular way to thaw out, as everyone gathered in the marquee to take part in the celebrations.

A big thank you, to all those that worked hard to put the event together; to Gregor Pierrepont from Thoresby for switching on the lights and kindly donating the trees; to Maxine for the entertainment inside; to The Dukeries Community Band for the carols outside; to Graham for filling in some of the gaps and of course Sam and his Team, for making it all possible.

It was great to see the tree outside the Dovecote with its huge baubles, and such a shame that the awful weather blew many of them off and eventually blew the tree over into the car park. Let's hope for better weather next year.

Community Coffee Morning

Saturday 16th December was the Community Coffee Morning Christmas get together with friends and neighbours gathering as usual in the Village Hall for our usual goodies. Sporting festive jumpers we partook of mulled wine and mince pies a-plenty. The raffle was a great success. My thanks go as usual to the organising team and this month we are letting the pictures tell the story.

On February 17th we are joining forces with Tuxford Young Farmers. We will have our usual coffee and cakes in return for a donation. Our surplus will go them. They will be running a bake sale to raise money for their funds and their chosen charity, the Children's Bereavement Centre, Newark. We hope you will all come to enjoy the morning.

March will see our first anniversary and I am mulling over ideas for a 'bit of a do'. More details to follow.

Helen





Church Carol Services



How great it was to see so many people in church for our Christmas carol service on Sunday 17th December.

I would like to thank everyone who took part doing Bible readings and poems, and to Margaret for playing the organ for our carols. All of which the readings, poems and carols had been chosen to tell the Christmas story.

Thank you to Janet, Lesley, Mavis and Jean for their help with the teas and refreshments.

It is good to feel we are getting back to normal, having the church, all decorated with the Christmas trees, decorations and lights, and having the crib out again as we usually do at Christmas. There are no vicars for so many rural parishes, and especially at this time of year when everyone wants one at the same time. That is why this service had to be 'a do it yourself' one, so I hope you all enjoyed it.

Moorhouse Christmas Eve Service

On Christmas Eve, we joined Moorhouse for their Carol Service, which Simon had prepared and which he took. Again, like Laxton, this service had to be a do it yourself one.

The church was full and everyone enjoyed the readings and carols and especially the 12 days of Christmas. Simon read the original meaning of this well known carol.

Did you know that the two turtle doves represent the Old and New Testaments, and the four calling birds symbolise the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Then we all had to try and sing it, with no words and no music, but I think we managed it. I am sure we will remember it in future.

After the service, we all enjoyed some lovely refreshments.

Brenda.

Michael Manning has sent in the poem below, which was written to cheer him up in the early stages of his recovery from heart surgery and enclosed with a card. We hope it didn't hurt to laugh!

The Adventures of a Laxton Chap

The continuing tale of Michael the man,
Who at seventy five his heart hit the fan,
His walking slowed down, he struggled to breathe,
So off to the City a cow's valve to receive.

The prognosis was good, five days to be well
But no one foresaw the journey I'll tell.
The valve of a cow was meant to be good,
But things did not go the way that they should.

A heart that beat at double the rate,
A lung that collapsed extending the wait,
Wired up to machines and taking the pills
How long would it take to get over the hills?

Three weeks they did pass before Michael could leave,
One Saturday night home he did weave,
Nurse Cath on call to ensure all was well
To care for poor Michael if ever he fell.

Now Michael was home he could build up his strength,
Sit by the fire and watch telly at length,
Plan for the future the things he will do,
Jobs in the garden, the home, workshop too,
Walks in the country, visits to friends,
On recon heart it all now depends.

Look forward to summer when all will be well,
Back driving the car and walking the fell,
Trips out with grandson', now that will be fun,
Calling at Huttoft to sit in the sun.

'Twill all be a memory, those autumnal blues,
The only reminder will be talking in moos!



Academic Honour for Our Honorary President

We are delighted to report that our Hon. President and friend of Laxton, Professor John Beckett has been honoured for his contribution to scholarship by the University of Nottingham, where he worked for 41 years prior to his retirement.

On 15th December he was awarded an honorary degree Doctor of Letters during a ceremony at which the final PhD student he had supervised also graduated. The ceremony had been arranged for 2020 but, as we all know, things did not go well that year and this was the first opportunity to reschedule it.

Unfortunately seats are always as rare as hens' teeth for these occasions when proud family members naturally want to see their loved ones walk across the stage and grasp the certificate that sums up their years of study. It was entirely understandable that we were not able to send anyone to wish John well on the day - and we would have been just one of many groups he has helped across the area who would have wished to do so.

John was working at the University of Hull when he was appointed Lecturer in History at Nottingham in 1979. He was subsequently promoted Reader in 1987, Professor of English Regional History in 1990, and Professor Emeritus in 2020.

Over the course of his career at Nottingham, John established the University's reputation, profile and standing as a centre of excellence in regional and local history.

Locally, he was closely involved in the Laxton History Group's work which led to the production of a set of seven booklets about the history of the village between 1900 - 1920, and encouraged us to make use of the vast Manvers Collection in the University's Manuscripts & Special Collections facility.

In the citation for his award, it was noted that John 'was one of the first academics to draw upon the University's Manuscripts and Special Collections, introducing undergraduates to the use of original sources at a time when the practice was rare'. It certainly made our project not only much more useful and enlightening than it might have been, but actually made it possible, since we had to pore through numerous boxes filled with original letters between the Estate and villagers etc. to discover information which was not indexed and was not available elsewhere.

John has written a number of books, among which is 'A History of Laxton', first published in 1989. This work was undertaken on an earlier occasion when the Estate was up for sale. He has maintained friendships with many of the long term residents he spoke to as part of his research and is held in high esteem by them all.

His most recent contribution to the village, in his role as a Trustee of the Visitor Centre, was to undertake the updating of the booklet he first wrote at a similar time to his book as a guide for visitors to the village. He was also pivotal in the making of the video shown at the Visitor Centre.

We send our hearty congratulations to John on this recognition of his contribution not only to the accessibility of the history of Laxton, but on the wider stage. We hope to welcome him again soon in Laxton, and he will be speaking at our June 19th meeting.

Craft Fayre

It seems a long time since we held this popular annual event. It actually took place just as the December / January issue was going to print.

A very big thank you to all who helped at the Fayre - to all the stall holders who attended, thanking them for their support, and of course everyone who came and spent their money.





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When the stall fees, the money paid for refreshments etc. and the takings from our various games were added up, it gave us a grand total of £526.20 to share between Laxton Church and the Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance.

It was a brilliant turn out, with more people than we have ever had, including some newer villagers and some who spotted us as they were passing by and decided to drop in. We were busy for most of the time and had a record result at the tombola, taking more than £100 for the first time.

The catering was very popular, with the usual selection of delicious cakes made by members both for eating on the day and to fill the ever popular cake stall. We also always provide soup and cobs and have some regulars who make a point of coming for their lunch. Thank you to everyone who catered for the event.



The raffle looked very attractive, and a big thank you also to those who donated prizes or who helped in any way.

One stallholder booked immediately for next year, having had such a successful day and I am already working on booking stallholders for this November with some different offerings.

Thanking you all

Jean.

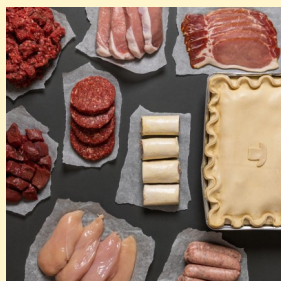
At our meeting on February 21st we will hear from Steve Wright about Nottinghamshire Churches. 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone welcome. £3 at the door, refreshments included.

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Notts Young Farmers' Illuminated Santa Tractor Run

On December 2nd Nottinghamshire Young Farmers organised their illuminated tractor run, with around 100 vehicles taking part.



They followed a route from Morton around a good part of the county, including Farnsfield and Southwell.

As the event has become better known, more people are lining the route to see them and making their donations online or via the collection buckets as the tractors pass.

This year some places on the route had opened to serve warm drinks and refreshments to the waiting spectators. White Post Farm opened their car park to help them. Some also took collections for the funds which were added to the magnificent whole, which this year added up to

over £6,000!

Nottinghamshire Young Farmers thank everyone who supported them in any way. The sponsors and organisations which provided help and support are too many to name individually, but their contributions to this amazing event total are hugely valued.



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Village Hall News

We held a very successful Christmas Quiz at the Village Hall, with lots of fun and laughter, mainly due to the creative mathematical ability of the Quiz mistress and her mathematic husband.

We made a profit of £646. 53 after expenses were taken out. Thank you all of those who contributed.

Our next event is the Spring Quiz on March 1st. Do come and join us.

After that mark **Star Wars Day, May 4th.** in your diaries for the next lively event. Think "Frankie goes to Hollywood, Wham and long, curly hair!" Time travel perhaps?

Our AGM is also in May and if any of you would like to join the Village Hall Trustees, please let us know.



Joan Cottee



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**FEBRUARY SERVICES
IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES**

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

Es = Evensong

WfA = Worship for All Service

WS = Word

4th February

10.30am Laxton

HC

Rev Margaret

4.00pm Wellow

EP

Heather B

11th February

10.30am Kirton

HC

Rev Alistair

18th February

10.00am Walesby

HC

Rev Vaughn

10.30am Wellow

HC

Rev Margaret

25th February


No Services

2nd March

10.30am Laxton

HC

Rev Margaret



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

Weds 14th

WI

Sat 17th

**Community Coffee Morning combined
with Young Farmers Bake Sale.**

Weds 21st

History Group

Forward Planning:

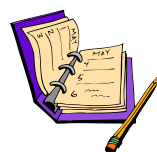
March

Fri 1st

Village Hall Quiz

Tues 26th

Parish Council Date tbc



May

Sat 4th

Village Hall 'Star Wars Day' event. Details later

Regular Events:

Parish Council

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

Quiz Nights

1st Friday of December & March tbc

**Copy Date for March 2024 edition:
12 noon, 16th FEBRUARY 2024**

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.

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Laxton WI



In December instead of our usual monthly meeting, we all enjoyed a Christmas meal at the Olde Plough at Egmonton. Thanks to Sandra for organising it for us.

Our January meeting started with a roundup of past and present events. In December, the WI entered a team in the Village Hall Quiz which they were successful in winning.

Another team entered the Murder Mystery event at Southwell, which was organised by our county federation, and which we call simply 'County'. This involved Robin Hoodie and his Merry Men. They didn't quite guess the murderer, but they enjoyed it and had a lovely ploughman's supper afterwards.

in January, there will be a Burns Lunch organised by County at Sookholme, near Mansfield Woodhouse, where we will be represented.

The speaker for our January meeting was Kevin Lennox, who came to give us an illustrated Talk on Western Canada and the Rockies National Parks. He spoke about many areas and they included Alberta, the Canadian Mounties headquarters, the acres of cornfields, the beautiful scenery, lakes and mountains and all the wildlife. It made you wish you were there.

in January, there is a felting class at County House which two of our members will be attending.

In March we hold our annual Spring Council meeting at Southwell. Our National Chairman will be the morning speaker.

In the afternoon our speaker will be Gill Thomas who some of you may remember from her appearances on the TV show 'The Great British Sewing Bee'. She was inspirational in showing how it was possible to sew amazing garments despite having only one arm. She should be very interesting to listen to and might tell a few stories of how the programme is made.

Our speaker in Laxton for February will be Helen Tickle, who is our county rep for the ACWW, which stands for Associated Countrywomen of the World. She will be telling us about the work they do all over the world. The meeting will be held in the **Village Hall on Wednesday 14th February at 7.30pm**. We are always pleased to see new members and visitors, so if you are interested in what we do, please just come along to the meeting.

Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

18/11/23	56	Clive Corah	23/12/23	44	Lucille M
25/11/23	49	Joan & Roger	30/12/23	38	Linda Malloy
02/12/23	40	Richard (Tux U/16)	06/01/24	41	Richard (Tux U/16)
09/12/23	30	Richard (Tux U/16)	13/01/24	07	Richard Waltham
12/12/23	08	Evie (Neil R)			

Thank you to Michael Manning for providing the information above. He is now able to do some of his usual jobs while still taking things easy during his recovery. Your patience is appreciated if you need to make any changes to your numbers. Just drop him a note and it will be dealt with when possible. Thank you.

The 3 numbers available are: 51, 52 & 53. All proceeds go to supporting the Laxton Sport and Recreation Field facilities.

Dukeries Singers

Dukeries Singers choir has recently been able to purchase a PA system thanks to grants from Tesco and Newark & Sherwood District Council. It was first used at a Christmas concert in the Jubilee Hall at Ollerton. Ashley Carlisle was thanked for not only setting up to get the best out of the system for a concert performance, but also for performing an impromptu guitar vocal folk solo.



Chairman, John Banbury, aims to broaden the choir's musical activities. Music suitable for weddings is being prepared and if it proves to be popular, wedding performances will be a new activity for the choir to undertake. They are also considering creating a free Dukeries Singers pop voices ensemble which would allow members to meet and sing popular songs without needing to read sheet music.

New members are always welcome, and anyone thinking of joining can attend a couple of regular practice meetings, free of charge to discover if it appeals to them. They meet on Wednesdays at the Methodist Hall, Ollerton at 7 pm.

For further information contact John Banbury by phone or text on **(07759) 086132**.



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News from the Museums of Tuxford

Can you remember waiting for the Valentine card that never came. Saint Valentine was a Roman Catholic martyr. Legend has it that he was imprisoned in Rome for ministering to Christians. He befriended his jailer's daughter and healed her from blindness. He is said to have sent her a letter the night before his execution signed 'your Valentine.'

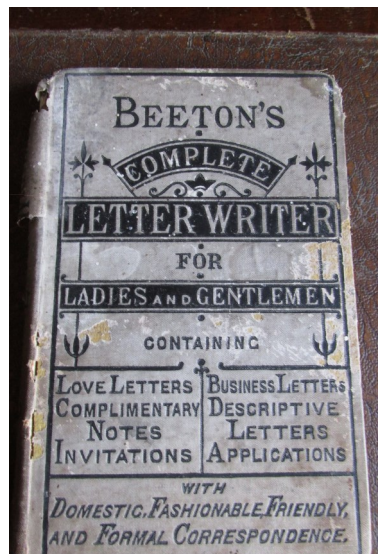


One doesn't think of the Americans as particularly romantic, but they produced some charming heart shaped stirrups which would have made a delightful Valentine present. An example of these can be seen in the Museum of the Horse, together with the most beautiful silver slippers stirrups, which would have made lovely presents for the girl of your dreams.

These are just two of the stories the museum tells. The human emotion of love is not just for people. Love for animals is a lasting bond. Imagine the stress of taking your horse to war.

At the Museum of the Horse on **February 4th at 2.30 pm** there will be a profoundly moving illustrated talk entitled '**The Horses at War**'. We are warned that this is not for the faint hearted. The talk will be followed by a guided tour of the museum. Email sally@dogart.com if you would like to come along.

The Walks of Life Museum has lots of examples of people's love of creating practical objects and making them things of beauty. Books were often given as a love token. In the past the writing of letters was the main way of communicating. It was taken very seriously as we have seen in Mrs Beeton's book on letter writing, which includes how to write love letters. Love between a parent and their child is always and forever.



We are supporting the family and friends undertaking a 33km fundraising walk as a tribute celebrating the life of Carrienne Franks in aid of TB Alert and the RAF Benevolent Fund. Carrienne was a Sergeant flight nurse in the RAF. Whilst supporting the NHS during Covid 19 she contacted TB. Diagnosed too late, she died at 30.

See her story on Just Giving Carriennes 33. Cherish memories of those no longer here, and recognise their contribution. Write a letter to those in your life you love.

Tuxford Young Farmers' News

We are pleased to welcome Amelia, one of the newer and younger members of Tuxford Young Farmers as the new correspondent for Open Field. She has written her first article this month. We have been asked to follow YFC rules which prohibit publishing surnames of anyone aged under 18.

Amelia writes:

Tuxford Young Farmers have participated in a range of activities over the past few weeks ranging from a Christmas meal at the Dovecote Inn, to ice skating at the Doncaster Dome.

In the next couple of weeks we will be enjoying a fire station visit and an evening of ten pin bowling in Newark.


You are all welcome to come along to our fundraising bake sale on **Saturday 17th February at Laxton Village Hall from 10am-12noon**. We are joining forces with the Laxton Community Coffee Morning, who have kindly offered to contribute their surplus on the day to our fund raising effort. There will be teas, coffees, biscuits and cakes so be sure to come and pay us a visit!

This event will be raising funds for the club's funds and for their chosen charity, the Children's Bereavement Centre, Newark.

Notts Young Farmers' News

Three of our local young people did very well at the Notts YFC County Ball on 13th January at Newark Showground.

Chris Hill came 3rd in 'Mr YFC'. Katie Gent was declared runner up in the Melissa Grace Hatton Memorial Award for 'Most Glamorous Member' and Jessica Rose won the title of 'Notts Senior Member of the Year'. Jessica tells us that she is now too old to compete in county events, which makes us on the Open Field team feel very old! Congratulations to all of them.



I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

— Author Unknown

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Milton Mausoleum

Wishing a Happy New Year to all our members and supporters.

We are looking forward to providing you with a full year of events for 2024.

Our first event this year will be a 3-course Sunday Lunch at the West Retford Hotel in Retford, together with a speaker and raffle.

This is a chance for friends to meet up, enjoy a delicious lunch and share plans for the coming year. The date of the lunch is Sunday 28th April 2024, 12.30 for 1pm.

Further details will be available in next month's issue so check your diaries and book your lunch with us.

For any enquiries/tickets, please telephone:

Gillian on **01777 811358** / Jenny on **01777 871706** or
contactmilton.mausoleum@outlook.com

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Group Oil Order



Watching the price of oil has been something of a roller coaster in recent times, and that hasn't changed since the last order. In particular the troubles around the Horn of Africa have spooked the world market, with fears of extended routes to bring in supplies. This resulted in a surge in the price just before we went to print, bring to an end what had been an encouraging downward trend.

Boilerjuice's graph of their average price for 1000 litres across England, which we use as our guide was showing an average price for England of 69.96p/litre on 16th January

The next order will be around the beginning of February, although it may be earlier if there appears reason to do so. It really helps to have orders to hand if there is either a dip in price or signs of an imminent rise.

When it seems right to order I will only allow a short, possibly **very** short, time to respond so that I can act quickly to secure the best price at the time for everyone.

Anyone whose order can be placed by email, either by themselves or by a friend or relative with authority to speak for them, is very welcome to join. Please contact me on my personal email if you have it. NB I do not publish it because of the volume of spam that generates. oil@openfield.org.uk is a general address you can use if you don't have mine.

Joy

Markham Players' Panto 2024

One of the staples of the New Year, which underlines the Christmas celebrations, is the Muskham Players' Panto. This year they will be performing 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'.

Following the opening in Dunham, the show moves to East Markham Village Hall for three performances: Friday 2nd February at 7.30pm and on Saturday 3rd February at 2pm and 7.30 pm.

Tickets are available now from The Gallery at Tuxford. The cast and crew are looking forward to welcoming you at one of the venues for more of their familiar brand of fun and frolics.

Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council, Minutes of the Meeting held on 28/11/23

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

In attendance at parish council meeting

C. Wilson (Clerk), S. Michael (District councillor), Members of the public (x4)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr S Hill. Mr Pringle had also sent apologies. As vice chair, Mr J Hill chaired the meeting in Mr S Hill's absence.
2. **Declarations of interest:** Mr Sheard declared an interest in item 13b (Finance – Accounts for payment) and, as a member of the village hall committee. 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:** The members of the public had attended to discuss the Great North Road solar farm scoping opinion consultation. In order to accommodate this, councillors agreed to move next to item 10 c on the agenda (Scoping - EN010162 - Great North Road Solar Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation).

Mr J Hill and Mr Sheard had attended a meeting on 20 November 2023 called by the Norwell and Sutton in Trent parish clerks to explore, where appropriate, a collective approach across parishes. That meeting had been disappointed to learn that only parish councils had authority to comment with parish meetings having no legal standing for this purpose.

The MP for Newark & Sherwood, Mr Jenrick, had already made his opposition known and had written to all parishes.

It was explained that the scoping opinion was concerned with giving consultees the opportunity to comment on all matters which should be addressed by the applicant's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which would form part of any planning application.

Councillors noted that the document was currently 205 pages long and expressed their frustration that parish councils do not have the necessary resources or expertise to support them in commenting on such a technical document.

Mr Sheard summarised the contents of the draft report he had prepared on the parish council's behalf.

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Councillors noted that:

- a. The public's main concern was that there were two properties in Moorhouse which would be surrounded by panels if the scheme proceeds.
- b. The scheme provided for panels covering 4.45% of the Newark & Sherwood district and 1.4% of the county
- c. Moorhouse has a grade II listed church and Laxton a grade I listed building
- d. Although the NCC flood officer had advised that the risk of flooding and run off at Moorhouse was not significant, there was scope for a rut effect causing water to run
- e. The use of the land to graze sheep around the panels was not necessarily advantageous
- f. There were doubts regarding the extent of the developer's long term commitment to the future restoration of the land to its original condition.

Mr Sheard reported on his meeting with Mr Marshall, the NCC flooding officer. Mr Marshall had visited that Laxton and Moorhouse were not considered high priority when compared with villages such as Caunton where 30 properties had flooded. Mr Marshall had suggested that he attend the March 2024 meeting to meet councillors and talk through issues and concerns. Councillors welcomed the offer. The clerk will issue a formal invitation. Mr Sheard went on the outline the potential options for water management which had been identified.

Mrs Michael drew the public's attention to the NSDC financial flood assistance scheme. She also updated the meeting on the recent flooding and action taken by NSDC.

Mr Sheard emphasised the importance placed by the authorities on households developing their individual resilience. The parish council would stock some spare aquasacs for vulnerable residents although it was noted that these were inevitably ineffective where water rises through then floor. The clerk will order 30 more aquasacs for each of the parish council's two resilience stores. The public left the meeting which reverted to the agenda order

5. **Thoresby Estate report (if any):** No report available.
6. **Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 26 September 2023:** The minutes of the parish council meetings held on 26 September 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by Mr J Hill as meeting chair.
7. **Matters arising:** Item LMPC/306a – WWI and WWII Remembrance – The clerk will follow up on the poppies order. These will be taken down this week. WWI and WWII memorial on

the Green to be an agenda item for the July 2024 meeting. There were no other matters arising which were not otherwise on the agenda.

8. **Reports from councillors:** In addition to her flooding report at LMPC/316/23 10 minutes public speaking, Mrs Michael reported that:
- a. She had spoken with the NSDC officer regarding Bar Farmhouse. It is currently with the conservation team who have yet to revert to the officer
 - b. The introduction of the district wide glass recycling scheme had been postponed. Mr S Hill was actioned to contact ROB to see whether they would collect from Moorhouse in principle.
 - c. The Safer Neighbourhood Group had met on 26 October 2023. The matters discussed were mainly flood focused. The parking issues discussed at parish council's recent meetings had been raised. PCSO Dunn will drive through the village to look at the problem in the new year. The next meeting, if anyone has any concerns they would like to raise, is taking place on 8 January 2024.
9. **Property matters including sports field and Glebe Field matters (if any):** The clerk reported that her search through old accounts and financial records had revealed that the funds for the cost of the pavilion's construction had been paid in to the parish council's accounts by way of a grant and paid out to the builder. This indicated that, contrary to previous discussion and agreement of the council's fixed assets, the council may have a proprietorial interest in the pavilion. As the minutes are now held in the NCC archive she is required to make an appointment to visit to inspect the minutes from the time. She confirmed that she is enquiring as to whether insurance would be available in circumstances where the ownership is unclear. She will report back to the January 2024 meeting once the outcome of her investigations is known.
The clerk had reported the issues with the hedge along the footpath to NCC.

10.Planning matters:.

- a. **Applications:** 23/01733/HOUSE | Demolish existing store. Single storey side/rear extension to form garage/tractor store. Single storey kitchen extension to rear. Convert existing gara to pool room – Following consideration, councillors had no comments.
- b. Scoping - EN010162 - Great North Road Solar Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation: Discussed at LMPC/316/23 (10 minutes public speaking) above.
- c. To note planning decisions by NSDC: None
- d. **Compliance:** No matters raised.

11. **Defibrillator inspection report:** Mr J Hill reported that, save that a set of new pads was required, there were no issues. The clerk will order the pads.

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

- a. **Bar Farmhouse:** Update at LMPC/320/23 (Reports from councillors) above. Councillors **agreed** no longer required as a standing agenda item.
- b. **Parish roads and pavements, including Moorhouse village sign:** Mr Pringle not in attendance. Mr Sheard will inspect issues of concern and report back to Mr Pringle direct. The overgrown hedge at Smithy Farm was referred to the Thoresby Estate for attention. Mr Sheard will send the clerk photos of the condition of the pavement at Moorhouse Road.
Councillors discussed the ongoing absence of a reduced speed limit at Moorhouse, noting that there had been another accident in Moorhouse with a car coming off the road.
- c. **Bench for Moorhouse:** The bench will be installed when weather conditions are better.
- d. **Use of telephone kiosk:** Councillors **agreed** no longer required as a standing agenda item. Mr Sheard will display community information and keep the contents up to date. The use of the kiosk will be developed from there over time.
- e. **Christmas 2023 event – Working party – Approval of arrangements including risk assessment:** Councillors **adopted** the risk assessment as circulated noting that the tree had been erected in accordance with its specifications. Christmas event risk assessment to be a standing item on future September meeting agendas.
- f. Councillors **approved** expenditure of £60.93 on event refreshments and £47.85 on mince pies.
- g. **Flood resilience:** Discussed at LMPC/316/23 ((10 minutes public speaking) above).

13. **Financial matters:**

- a. Financial position as at 31 October 2023: Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 October 2023 (incorporating the 2023-24 budget figures).
- b. Accounts for payment: Councillors unanimously approved ten payments totalling £850.46. Councillors noted the importance of submitting expenditure invoices in advance.
- c. Open Field donation: After discussion, councillors decided to

donate £80 towards the production cost of this important village communication.

- d. Appointment of internal auditor: Councillors agreed that Halam parish clerk should be asked whether she would be prepared to undertake the role for a further year.
 - e. Review system of internal control: Councillors discussed the operation of the system of internal control and agreed that it was adequate for the size and needs of the council and continued to operate effectively, subject to the appointment of an internal auditor which was in hand.
 - f. Consider need for interim internal audit: The clerk advised councillors as to the on-going nature of the internal audit process. Councillors considered their financial affairs for the financial year to date. They decided that, given the annual internal audit carried out by Halam parish clerk, an interim internal audit would be disproportionate and was not justified.
14. **Village Hall:** Councillors noted that the Village Hall was running at a loss. Mr Sheard suggested a donation to the Village Hall but declared a interest as a member of the Village Hall Committee. He noted that this precluded him from participating in any discussion. Councillors took the view that village hall finances were a matter for the committee.
15. **Winter order:** The clerk will place the 2023 winter order.
- 16. Councillor in charge of information:**
- a. Social media: Deferred to January 2024 for consideration of the management implications and the need for and content of a risk assessment.
 - b. Parish council website: The clerk will remove the outdated information from the website.
17. **Service faults:** None reported
18. **Correspondence:** None.
19. **5 minutes public speaking time:** No public present.
20. **Agenda items for next meeting:** See above and Report on Christmas event
21. **Date of next meeting:** 7.30 pm Tuesday 23 January 2024 at Laxton Visitor Centre.

The 2024 meeting dates were considered. Councillors noted that the date of the March 2024 meeting might need to be altered from fourth Tuesday in the month.

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- ◆ **Wine Tasting:** Feb 23rd, 7.00pm, please £19 book via web site
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Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council

A reminder about the pot hole reporting contact details are:
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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

Laxton Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

We now only have 3 of the 59 numbers available for anyone who would like an additional one or a new member. All proceeds go to supporting the Laxton Sports and Recreation Field.

The available numbers are: 51, 52 and 53.

Michael

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,
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Anne-Marie & Geoff Rose 07961 933290 / 07957 991002, as required

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The Community Coffee Morning in December

