

Open Field

£1

July 2020



Top Field, Laxton, 1st June 2020

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Priest in Charge | <u>Vacant</u> | |
| Churchwardens | LAXTON | Mrs Brenda Noble 01777 870541 |
| | MOORHOUSE | Mr Simon Hill 01636 822777 |
| | KNEESALL | Mr Ian Thom |
| | WELLOW | Mr Ben Wells 01623 861309 |
| | WELLOW | <u>Mrs Jean Crofts</u> |
| P.C.C: | <u>Chairman</u> | <u>Vacant</u> |
| Deanery contact number | | 01636 650063 |
| Parish Council: | Clerk | Catherine Millward 01636 813387 |
| Parish Councillors: | Chairman | Mr Michael Manning |
| | Vice Chair | Simon Hill |
| | Members | Mr Roy Hennell Mr Jem Hill |
| | | Mr Mark Hennell Mr John Godson |
| | | Mr Stuart Rose |
| Magazine Editor | | <u>Mrs Jean Hennell 01777 870276</u> |
| Magazine Advertising | | <u>Mrs Joy Allison 01777 871506</u> |
| | | Email: <u>advertising@openfield.org.uk</u> |
| Photography by / Photos from | | <u>Janet Cooke, Violet, Mike Jackson,</u> <u>Dik & Joy Allison</u> |

Open Field

www.openfield.org.uk

Flowers and Brasses Rota - suspended until further notice

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Mrs J Cooke & Mrs P Freer | 5 th July |
| Mr & Mrs S Clarke | 12 th & 19 th July |
| Mrs M Beckitt & Mrs B Noble | 26 th July & 2 nd August |

Coffee Morning Hosting Rota - for reference when they are resumed

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| July 9 th | The Dovecote |
| August 13 th | Joyce Stone |
| September 10 th | Jean Hennell |

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

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

Message from Brenda, our Churchwarden

We are sorry that the church is still closed, but until we have direct instructions from the Bishop we will not be able to open. We have just received an email regarding the cleaning of the church which consists of eight A4 sheets of paper. This will be a huge challenge for the few members of the PCC. We have to test the water, heating, electric etc., before we start cleaning. If there is anyone who feels they would be able to help us when the time arrives it would be very much appreciated.

I would just like to thank George, Roy, Keith and Eric for their help in the churchyard when Will and his men came to tidy up some more of the yew trees.

It will soon be July when we should be having our annual Garden Fete. This is another date in our church calendar that we shall miss, which is a shame as it is always a chance for everyone to get together. Another occasion will be our traditional Lammas Day Service on August 1st. We shall just have to see how things go.

Brenda



Special Anniversaries

We would like to send special wedding anniversary congratulations to two couples whose big anniversaries have been hit by the coronavirus regulations.

7th July Mike & Cath celebrate their 40th anniversary. They are hoping for a relaxation to the rules to let them celebrate with family and friends

28th July Steve and Lynda celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary. As Lynda says 'We waited 30 years for a honeymoon, only for a pandemic to cancel it'

We hope both couples and their loved ones find ways to make these special occasions full of very special memories.

If you Need Help ..

If you are older or vulnerable and need help, please contact Mike Jackson (details below) with your phone number and email.



Mike continues to co-ordinate a team of volunteers to bring in shopping, collect prescriptions etc.

Many thanks to the volunteers who have helped throughout the period of Covid-19 to date and who continue to do so.

Mike Jackson
01777 870042, Mobile 07860 676085,
email jackomgj@gmail.com

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 still accessible as neither the Visitor Centre door nor the cabinet housing it is locked.

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

Michael Manning



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We would like to congratulate anyone celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special event during June.

We plan to make this a regular feature if there is sufficient interest. Please send us the first names of people you want us to send good wishes to.

*As people are still getting used to this new feature, we are sorry to have missed a couple of birthdays and send belated congratulations to **Mary** and **Brian** for June.*

*The birthday roll of honour for July is: **Amanda, Doreen, Margaret N, Stephen, Poppy** and **Jack**.*

Many happy returns to you all.

*Happy anniversary wishes go to: **Mike & Cath, Lee & Paula, Steve & Lynda** and **Ian & Rebecca** who all celebrate anniversaries in July*

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

That's Books: "This is a well written and very moving novel"
Bookbag : "Top ten pick 2016"

EUGENE

Book 1 of the "Whitby Saga" trilogy - Adult fiction

by **John G Smith**

£5 – delivery /p&p free

while author's stock lasts

author@jgwalkersmith.co.uk

Tel: 01777 871226 or Mob: 07741 485029



that
**Slimming
World
feeling!**

Come and join our
Slimming World
virtual group

Same support from my home to yours
Every Wednesday at 6pm or 8pm
Thursday at 6pm or 8:15pm

Call/Text Angela 07507909927

discover more easy recipes online

   slimmingworld.co.uk

Slimming
WORLD
touching hearts, changing lives

MUSIC
THEORY
AND
PIANO
ROYAL
SCHOOLS



Quality Paintings
or Drawings
in any Media

**GRAHAM
LAUGHTON**
B.A.

PICTURE
FRAMING
SERVICE &
RESTORATION



**01777 472885 or
07999 528397**
grahamlaughton.com

Email:

grahamlaughton50@gmail.com



**Tuxford
Lawnmower Centre^{Ltd}**

Specialist in all types of Garden Machinery
Sales, Service, Spares & Repairs

Tel 01522 779110

Come & Visit our Showroom Today!

Ashcroft, Gainsborough Rd, Girton, NG23 7HX

www.tuxfordlawnmowercentre.co.uk

info@tuxfordlawnmowercentre.co.uk



Lockdown Confusion

*Can you tell me what day it is?
I'm really in a mess.*

*I think it may be Tuesday
But that's only just a guess*

*What's this? - A wheelie bin is out!
A green one, oh what a clue
I'll watch the other neighbours
And see just what they do.*

*Now there's a grey one, now a brown
They're just as bad as me
People half way down the street
Have just put out all three*

*That's it, I'm done, I just give up
There's no more to be said
Blow the lot. You sort it out
I'm going back to bed!!*

Confused of Laxton

Even More Rubbish



An update on the 4.5 wheelie bins' worth of litter collected in the first week of lockdown. We have since collected several shopping bags' worth in Acre Edge and this pile is as a result of a walk to the Holocaust Centre and back on the 4th June. It weighed in at about ten kilos and filled a large compost bag.

Peejay



G.D. HALL LTD

(Independent Funeral Directors)

Newark Road
TUXFORD, Newark
Nottinghamshire
NG22 0NA

Tel. 01777 872929

13 Bridgegate
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6AE

Tel: 01777 701222

Email: info@gdhallfunerals.co.uk Web: www.gdhallfunerals.co.uk

Private chapel of rest

24 hour service

Golden Charter Pre-payment plans available

SAIF Approved

Personal Visits to your home

Mobile 0797 257 6020

Coffee Mornings

There will be no more Coffee Mornings for the time being.

We will let you know when we can start again.

The rota will remind hostesses so that we can start as soon as it seems right to do so.



Young Farmers' Charity Scarecrow Challenge

Congratulations once again to the Nottinghamshire Young Farmers for their Scarecrow Challenge. As we went to print the total on the Just Giving web site was £1,515 plus £198 through the Gift Aid scheme.

It has been a terrific success. This one was spotted in Moorhouse recently, but he was confused as he had had to loan his shearing stand back to the farmer.



It is a credit to everyone who made them that they have all stood the test of the heat and the rain. We hear that the policeman at the bottom of the village, complete with hair dryer, had brought about a bit of a reduction in speeding as well. Well done to our young people for showing the way.

Tuxford Young Farmers



Hello again everyone. We at TYF hope you are all well and have come through lockdown unscathed.

Even though we have been unable to meet we have still been busy.

As charity organiser for Notts young farmers association Jessica Rose organised our Scarecrows for Key Workers challenge and we send a HUGE thank you to all for your support. At one point there were around 23 Scarecrows in Laxton and surrounding villages. The amount raised by all your efforts was around £1,500 and this is going to NHS charities. Well done everybody. We are now doing our virtual Spring Rally and Nature trail in which we need to get photos of nature such as: Dragonfly, owl box, Cow parsley plus many others. So you may see us out and about armed with our cameras

As many of you are aware the Notts County Show was cancelled but the young farmers groups continued with their competitions. Using photos and video on line the entries were sent in to be judged and getting most points Tuxford were overall winners. When we will be able to meet again is uncertain but details will appear in the magazine. Please take care everyone and stay safe.

Emily

Stockists of a Wide Range of
Wild Bird Products
& Accessories.

*Plus Country
Themed Gifts,
Garden Accessories
& Pet Supplies.*




**COFFEE LOUNGE
NOW OPEN**

OPENING TIMES:
Monday – Friday 7.30am – 5pm
Saturday 8am – 3pm

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

The Grain Store, Wadnall Lane,
Weston, NG236SY
(Behind the Great Wall Chinese Restaurant)
Call Lesley and Deb 01636 821232
www.hillfarmwildbirdsupplies.co.uk

**WILD BIRD
FOOD SUPPLIES**



Britnell Tree Services



All Aspects of Tree Works

includes felling, crown reductions
crown thinning, crown lifting, pollarding

Gardening & Landscaping

Reliable & Trustworthy Fully Insured &
Qualified
All works carried out to BS3998

**Call Will today for your free quote on
07821 342942 or 01636 702807 or
email
BritnellTreeServices@gmail.com**



Pilates with Mamma



- Improve posture, core strength, flexibility and muscle tone
- Learn to move with ease
- Maximise Injury recovery and prevention
- Increase energy levels
- Relieve stress and tension
- Improve general well-being

Experienced, professional and friendly instructor.

07880 508 274

Small classes, suitable for all levels.
Private classes also available

pilateswithmamma@outlook.com

 pilateswithmamma  pilates with mamma

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.

Tracy Wint Soft Furnishings

Having spent hundreds or even thousands on your decor, why settle for ready made or only a near match when it comes to dressing your beautiful new home.

*The only limits
are your imagination*

A complete, fast, friendly and personal service with quality second to none... and at a price that will undoubtedly surprise.

For your made to measure curtains, blinds or other soft furnishings simply call an expert.

**Tracy Wint Soft Furnishings
Egmontan
01777 870235
tracywint@btinternet.com**



Poem from an Old Parish Magazine

*We met, we married – a long time ago
We worked long hours – wages were low
No telly, no radio, no bath – times were hard
Just the cold tap and a walk up the yard
No holidays abroad – no carpets on floors
But we had coal on the fire – never locked doors*

*Our children arrived quickly, in those days
And we brought them up without state aid
No Valium, no drugs, no LSD
We cured all our pains with a good cup of tea
If you were sick you were treated at once
Not 'fill in a form and come back next month'*

*No vandals, no muggings, there was now't to rob
In fact you were rich with a couple of bob.
People were happier in those far off days
Kinder and caring in so many ways
Milkman and paper boys used to whistle and sing
And a night at the flicks was a wonderful thing.*

*We all had our share of trouble and strife
But we just had to face it, that was life
But now I'm alone and look back through the years
I don't think of the bad times, the trouble and tears
I remember the blessings, our home and our love
We shared them together and I do thank God*

Anon

Agricultural Repairs Fabrication

- MOBILE WELDING & REPAIRS
- IN HOUSE DESIGN & FABRICATION
- BUILDINGS..BEAMS..GATES..RAILINGS

Mild Steel Stainless Steel Aluminium
07968 329108 01636 822708

The Only Way is Gelish

Mobile Nail Technician

Forget False Nails

Grow your own with the aid of Gelish

Call Kimberley 07968 166250

Gelish is a gel based polish which is applied to your natural nails and cured in an LED lamp. Gelish is a high shine and long lasting finish which lasts up to 2-3 weeks and helps protect your nails so they can grow naturally

....FIRE WOOD WANTED....

- TREE REMOVAL SERVICE
- DAMAGED & FALLEN TREES
 - DISPOSAL OF WOOD
- UNWANTED LOGS & PALLETS COLLECTION
 - FULLY FORESTRY TRAINED
 - SMALL FEES MAY APPLY

CALL JIM ON 07968 329108

Laxton WI



I hope you are all keeping well and are coping with everything that lockdown has brought on us. As I said last month we still have no news from County as to when we will be able to return to having our monthly meetings.

As you know, the National Federation AGM at the Royal Albert Hall in London in June was cancelled and has been rearranged for 19th April 2021, still at the Albert Hall.

The resolutions that were chosen for discussion were 1) Call to increase potential stem cell donor registration and 2) End modern day slavery. The Public Affairs department are still working on past resolutions such as loneliness, violence against women, climate change and 'plastic soup'.

If any of you are looking for something to do while at home, don't forget the Knitting Team 4 Us items. You can knit the usual hats, gloves, mitts and scarves for children who live abroad in poor conditions. These are taken by lorry with other items which make Christmas presents for them.

If there is anyone else who is not a WI member and who would like to knit any items for us we would be very grateful. They usually go abroad at the end of October.

Owl Report

We ringed these two chubby little owls which have done well.

Two tawny owls were also ringed.

Unfortunately the barn owls have had their worst breeding season for many years. We think that the wet weather last winter probably drowned out the voles on which barn owls rely for their food supply.

Mike Jackson



Thrashing Days as I Remember Them



Thrashing days were the last stage of getting the corn from the field to the granary. Back in the old days the corn was cut - originally by hand - and gathered into bundles called stooks which were propped against each other to allow the corn to dry thoroughly before it was loaded onto the mophrey for leading back to the farm. No doubt the tern 'leading' in this context comes from leading the horse or horses.

Of course this was done in the good weather and the photo on the left shows everyone tucking into their pack ups in the field.



The equipment needed to thrash the corn needed too many men for farmers to work individually, so one or two would own the equipment and hire it out to local farmers when needed.

My father, Ernest (Tubby) Sayer, had two thrashing sets. The set consisted of the thrashing drums, both

made by Fosters, A string baler or a wire baler, a chopper and a picker.

The drum was driven by a Ransom, Simpson, Jeffrey Steam Agricultural Engine. These were replaced later by tractors.

The first tractor he owned was a Minneapolis Moline which he bought from the 'War Ag.' This had been used to tow bombers out of hangars. He later bought a Field Marshall from Leicestershire. This is still going strong and can be seen regularly at the Newark Show.



Usually the thrashing set would arrive at the farm where it was going to work the night before and was set ready for an early start the next morning. Two men came with the thrashing set and they were given their dinner by the farmer.

The farmer supplied the rest of the men required for the day. The farmers all helped each other out.

There was a break mid morning for lunch. The farmer's wife brought out tea, bread, cheese or similar. I've seen the tea brought out in buckets (clean, of course!) and the men dipped their mugs into it.

As children we always managed to appear at this time and often got a bit to eat! To me there always seemed to be a happy atmosphere in the barn, even though the men had already been working for a long time.



There would have been at least two men on the stack passing sheaves to the two on the drum - one cutting bands and passing it to the second man who fed it into the drum. Care had to be taken not to feed it too quickly otherwise the feed mechanism could get clogged up. This then went through the beater bars in



Ivy Cottage B&B . Main Street . Laxton . Nottinghamshire
NG22 0NU . 01777 871254 . www.the-goathouse.co.uk

EGMANTON PLANT HIRE LTD

Under new management.

Still offering the same quality
service from a new local site.

For a full details and to hire
equipment please phone Aiden

on **07513 879919**

VAT registered

KSR ACCOUNTANTS

KSR Accountants
The Old Buttermarket
Market Place
Tuxford
NG22 0L

01777 872078 / 07710 430593

ksraccountants.co.uk

Advertising in 'Open Field'

A standard 1/6 page box:
30 p.a. (colour) / £15 p.a.(B&W).

Larger sizes pro rata, e.g. 1/2
page £45

Please contact
advertising@openfield.org.uk
or call **01777 871506** for details
and info on web pages / links.

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**



the drum and came out as corn which was collected in bags at the other end of the drum. The straw was either made into bales or made into 'bottles' by the baler, which was attached by belts to the drum.

The waste, known as 'chaff' came out of the chaff hole around the

centre of the drum and was collected on a cloth spread on the ground. This had to be carried away.

The bags of corn had to be carried up the granary steps - a very heavy job. Thrashing days were very hard work for the men - different from today driving a combine around a field.

When the stack was low, sometimes net was put around the base in the hope of catching mice etc. Sometimes we kids were allowed in with sticks to try to catch some!



The price of a day's thrashing was £7.10.00 (£7.50)

The village kids loved to have a ride on the engine. My dad used to tell them to 'be an engine driver you have to have a black face'. The kids obliged much to their mums' not being too pleased!

The engine was sold for scrap. I still have the steam whistle, valves etc. - all brass - the steering wheel and hand lever. These my dad had saved in oil drums and they were found by my brother Nev and husband Frank when they were doing out a shed.

As a child I probably had a 'romantic' remembrance of 'Thrashing Days'. We listened to the hum of the drum starting then we were off to the farm to watch. Some of the farmers who had **to work so hard on Thrashing Days** have other ideas!

Janet Cooke

Bartle Family Enquiry

Manty thanks to Janet for a comprehensive response to Dale in Melbourne. He is delighted to be in touch and has shared more information which he has discovered about his direct ancestors.

Janet pointed out that we published the family tree which she has in 2015 and that was sent to him with other information provided by Janet.

Pat's Plant Stall

The stall is still in place outside Pat's home. Many thanks to everyone who has supported it. The results have been far better than she ever expected in the circumstances. If you need a few more plants, please look there before you go elsewhere.



A Little Light Relief - Moments of Clarity 2

Home cooking. Where many a man thinks his wife is.

Jimmy Durante

America is so advanced that even the chairs are electric

Doug Hamwell

The first piece of luggage on the carousel never belongs to anyone.

George Roberts

If God had intended us to fly He would have made it easier to get to the airport.

Jonathan Winters

I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it.

Robert Benchley

The weather person is the only person that I know, that can be wrong 99.9 % of the time and still have a job the next day.

Johnny Carson



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

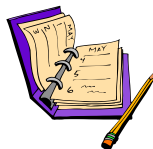
2020

***Thursdays, 8pm Clap for Carers - outside your house.
Make some noise for those caring for us all***

Forward Planning

Sept 26th . Southwell Ploughing Match

Dec 4th ***Quiz Night***



Regular Events:

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

Quiz Nights ***1st Friday of December & March***

Copy Date for June: 16th July, mid day.

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. We are unlikely to be able to publish anything received late.

Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to send in contributions this month. We hope you find what might have been a very slim volume an interesting read.

Thank you.

Recent Bonus Ball Winners

| Date | No | Name |
|---------|----|------------------|
| 16/5/20 | 34 | ROLLOVER |
| 23/5/20 | 54 | Simon Hill |
| 30/5/20 | 45 | Jean and Keith M |
| 6/6/20 | 33 | Evie (Neil R) |
| 13/6/20 | 42 | Brian and Ruth W |

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, 46, 51, 52, 56, 57, 59**. Please contact Ken Shep on 870605 / Mike Manning 870844. Thank you.

Michael Manning

Action Fraud Scam Warnings 1

Criminals are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to try and get their hands on your money and personal information. **To date, Action Fraud has received reports from 2,378 victims of Coronavirus-related scams, with the total losses reaching over £7 million.**

How you can protect yourself from Coronavirus-related scams:

There are some simple steps you can take that will protect you from the most common Coronavirus-related scams. Here's what need to do:

1 - Watch out for scam messages

Your bank, or other official organisations, won't ask you to share personal information over email or text. If you receive an email you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS): report@phishing.gov.uk

2 - Shopping online

If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, for example, by checking to see if others have used the site and what their experience was. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, other payment providers may not provide the same protection.

3 - Unsolicited calls and browser pop-ups offering tech support

Never install any software, or grant remote access to your computer, as a result of a cold call. Remember, legitimate organisations would never contact you out of the blue to ask for financial details such as your PIN or full banking password.

Plumbing and Heating

Alan Moorhouse

- Oil boiler installation, service & repair
- Oil tank installation & pipework
- Bathroom installation
- Sealed hot water systems
- Power flushing



OFTEC registered

Email: alsperfectplumbs@gmail.com

Tel: 07854 069529

Bed & Breakfast

Brecks Cottage

Green Lane, Moorhouse, Newark

Nottinghamshire NG23 6LZ

Telephone: 01636 822445

www.breckscottage.co.uk



E. GILL & SONS LTD
Funeral Directors



'Our family caring for your family'

The Gill family are proud to have provided
care and advice to families in the
Newark and District Area for 100 years

For peace of mind we offer the
E. Gill & Sons Funeral Pre-payment Plan
55 Albert Street, Newark, NG24 4BQ
01636 677461

Laxton History Group



With thanks to our Honorary President, John Beckett who has contributed the article below to provide something for us to think about this month.

Laxton and the Spanish Flu, 1918-19

Spanish Flu has been mentioned many times recently during the pandemic. Comparisons have been made, and examples given of similarities and differences. The emphasis on 'spikes' dates from the three phases of the outbreak during 1918 and 1919. In what follows I am going to suggest that this outbreak was significantly worse than Coronavirus. Today we have a National Health Service, we have a greater understanding of viruses, and we know all about isolation, social distancing, masks and ventilation. In simple numbers, 240,000 deaths occurred in 1918-19 (under 50,000 today) from a population of c.37m in 1918 (66m today).

The earliest cases supposedly came from Spain, which thereby got the blame. In fact the pandemic appeared first in naval and military populations in April 1918, infecting the British Grand Fleet at Scapa Flow, the American and British Expeditionary Forces in France and the German Army. As men returned home on leave, they took the infection with them and it quickly entered the civilian population, first through the ports and then, by means of the main communication routes such as railway lines, into towns and cities along the way. From here human contact carried it into all the remaining towns, villages and rural areas across the country. There was no known cure (i.e. vaccine), one of the obvious parallels with Coronavirus in 2019-20.

In Britain the pandemic occurred in three waves over 46 weeks which, according to the official report by the Registrar-General for England and Wales, published in 1920, were

- between 23 June 1918 and 10 May 1919. The report places the first or summer wave from 23 June to 14 September 1918,
- the second or autumn wave from 15 September 1918 to 25 January 1919 and the
- third or spring wave from 26 January to 10 May 1919, although the onset, duration and severity of each wave differed from place to place.

The unseasonable appearance of the first wave of influenza in the

summer months made this an unusual event to begin with. It was also extremely contagious and many people, especially school children, became infected although most recovered. The second wave, however, was much more serious. The speed with which it struck its victims, the virulence of the infection and the fatal consequences which often ensued, made this wave particularly lethal, while the third wave was only slightly less severe. Furthermore, the age range most seriously affected by it, the 18 to 40 year olds, should have been most resistant to its effects which added to the unexpected nature of the disease.

News that the pandemic had reached Nottinghamshire and that there were 'many hundreds of cases', appeared in the East Midlands' press in July 1918. Four days later Nottingham Post Office and the Corporation Tramways were reported as experiencing serious difficulties in maintaining services through staff illness. School children were particularly affected by the infection and elementary schools were closed in Sutton-in-Ashfield because of absences. Factory workers and miners were also badly affected. It affected more women than men and was said not to be epidemic in Nottingham by 3 July 1918. A major problem was what to do about people who worked in close proximity, such as miners. 250 flu cases in one day were reported at Mansfield Colliery during the first wave.

By August 1918 the outbreak seemed to be over but this was just the end of the first wave. The second wave struck the military population in August 1918. It appeared in Nottinghamshire in October and a severe social and medical crisis quickly ensued. Businesses, such as the Nottingham and Notts Bank in Thurland Street, Nottingham, and the Netherfield Co-operative Society struggled to cope because of staff illness and absenteeism. In industry, Nottinghamshire miners in the Bulwell, Annesley and Newstead districts were reported as suffering badly. In Arnold the press reported that 'Hundreds of men and women are away from work and some of the factories have been almost deserted'.

At the end of October 1918 Dr Philip Boobyer, Medical Officer of Health for Nottingham, warned the Corporation that another, more dangerous wave of flu was imminent. The problem was exacerbated by the signing on 11 November 1918 of the Armistice. At the end of four years of war people were only too keen to celebrate on the streets and this may well explain the second spike. In November 1918 schools were closed, although only for a fortnight, in an attempt to protect Children, but this was problematic when the Armistice was signed.

Crowds had gathered all over the country to celebrate the Armistice on 11 November and flu spread like wildfire as there was no social

distancing. In Laxton 'the children paraded the village and sang patriotic songs' on 11 November 1918. We have no figures but we can imagine what happened as a result. In England and Wales there were 19,454 flu deaths in the three weeks up to 15 November 1918.

Nottingham did not close its schools until 25 November, although a temporary flu hospital was set up at the crèche on Queen's Walk, Nottingham.

Laxton school was closed on 26 November 1918, and it did not reopen until 30 December. The log book records that closure took place because of a combination of influenza and mumps.

Responsibility for closing or restricting the use of buildings lay with the Local Government Board. In November the Board issued an order restricting performances in cinemas, theatres and music halls and the ventilation of such premises, action which had already been taken by many local authorities. There was, of course, no National Health Service, so flu victims relied on local doctors, and probably spread the virus when they attended the surgery. Similarly, cremation was still not widely used and so most of the victims had to be buried putting pressure on cemetery staff. By the end of November 1918, Beeston's undertakers, like many others, were working seven days a week to bury flu victims.

In Nottingham, the city coroner reported that he thought Nottingham flu deaths were on the wane by 30 November, as he had only dealt with 8 that day. On previous days, it had been hard to tell whether flu was a direct or indirect cause of death. Nottingham had the highest number of deaths in the country in the week up to 28 November 1918. The figure increased by 95 the following week.

Dr Chalmers, Beeston's Medical Officer, reported that there had been 84 deaths in Beeston in November, of which 59 were attributed to Spanish Flu. Dr Smith (of Smith and Hannon) asked Beeston patients to return medicine bottles for re-use as they were running out.

If one wished to try a home cure Formamint, the germ-killing throat tablet, was available at 2s 2d a bottle, as advertised in the *Nottingham Journal*. S. Nicol Galbraith, Medical Officer of Health for Newark, made a number of suggestions which included systematic gargling with antiseptic for all school children in the town. Other suggestions were raw onion or whisky.

The cinemas were still open, but under 14s were excluded. Despite a depleted cast due to flu, a concert went ahead at the Palladium, Beeston, on 7 December to raise funds for the Cedars Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital. The military had banned unless in uniform, including nurses, from places of entertainment from 20 November. Churches

remained open because it was thought that people needed the comfort they brought - a major contrast with Coronavirus where they were among the earliest public buildings to be closed.

By 18 December 1918, the papers were saying that the flu was 5 times more deadly than the war, with 6 million deaths. 90,000 in the UK. However, the worst was over before Christmas. 44 flu deaths occurred in Newark 1918-19 according to the annual Medical Officer's Report. The Medical Officer noted the severity of the outbreak in a list of fatal cases of influenza prepared in 1920. In 1900 there were 152 cases, but the number was never in double figures again until 1918. Whereas in an ordinary year like 1917 the total was 74, in 1918 it was 1,522, and in 1919 357.

The third wave began to ravage London in February 1919. It was less virulent than the second, but by 3 March Nottingham's General Hospital was appealing for money to provide more flu beds. Nottingham schools were closed for three weeks in March 1919. 'The cases in 1919', according to the Medical Officer of Health Henry Handford, 'occurred mainly in the spring epidemic of February and March. Handford was himself a victim in March 1919 and for several weeks unable to take any personal part in directing preventive measures'.

More than 10,000 leaflets were distributed to the public, 20 schools were closed, and health visitors and school nurses were withdrawn from other work to nurse cases of influenza.

It is estimated that a quarter of Britain's population were affected by the flu and that between summer 1918 and summer 1919 228,000 people died.

During lockdown in 2020 the newspapers and other media have carried some heart-rending stories, and much the same was true in 1918-19, except that there was, of course, no radio, television or social media. On 23 October 1918 Katherine Wade Dalton married her fiancé at St. Mary's church in the Lace Market area of Nottingham. One week later the newly-wed returned to St. Mary's for her funeral. Later a window was erected in her memory. This is just one of the sobering local facts recorded by Nottingham author Catharine Arnold in her recently published book ***Pandemic 1918: The story of the Deadliest Influenza in History*** (London: Michael O'Mara, 2018)

Joan Knight, who has written a Ph.D on the 1918-19 pandemic, has noted that the most severe wave of the pandemic in Nottinghamshire, including the rural areas and small towns, was the second wave, from

the end of October to the end of December 1918. Nottinghamshire came in in 2nd place across England and Wales regarding mortality in this wave, and in overall 3rd place after all three waves, so rural Nottinghamshire must have suffered. But, as in 2020 the worst situations were in the county's towns, particularly perhaps where people worked together in cramped conditions, including mines and factories.

The influenza pandemic finally disappeared in April 1919 and the crisis was over. After the event, the Registrar-General produced a report on the pandemic and its effects on the civilian population. Using mortality statistics, he produced charts and graphs to indicate the seriousness of the pandemic across England and Wales. He also used death rates to rank the 335 administrative areas identified, according to their category, these being county boroughs, large towns (over 20,000 population) and remainder of counties (small towns, villages and rural areas), the place with the highest death rate being ranked number 1. Overall, the county borough of Nottingham was placed 6 out of 82, the large towns of Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield and Worksop were placed 90, 18 and 13 respectively out of 161 and Nottinghamshire (remainder of county) was placed 3 out of 61.

If you would like to know more about the Spanish flu in Nottinghamshire do read Joan Knight's informative account: <http://www.nottsheritagegateway.org.uk/events/influenza.htm>. For this article I would like to have quoted from the Laxton School log books but, of course, they are locked in the Archives Office! Better luck next time!.

John Beckett

Honorary President, Laxton History Group

Road Works at Egmanton - Latest

There is still no further information on when this work will start. If we hear between issues we will ask Mike Manning to put it out on his circulation.

There has been word that the building of the flood resilience scheme to the west of Egmanton will start in July. The theory of this work is to construct a dam which in normal conditions allows the water from the Kirton Road direction to flow through the village dykes normally, but which closes if the flow increases beyond a specified level, flooding the area of open land behind it and reducing the flow through the village until the levels go down.

Sunday
Special
Meal Deal
£14.95pp
Pappadum & Chutney
Starters, Main Course, Rice &
Nan, Coffee or Kulfi Ice Cream



Authentic Indian Cuisine & Bar
Tel: 01623 860648 / 07751485246

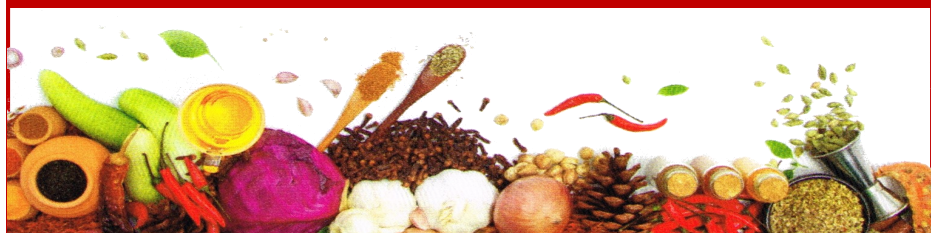


Main Street, Kneesall, NG22 0AD
(Formerly known as The Angel Inn)
Free Car Park Available

Takeaway Service Available (collection only)
Open: 7 days a week, including Bank Holidays, 5.00pm - 10.30pm

www.rajdhaanirestaurant.co.uk

Email: reservations@rajdhaanirestaurant.co.uk



Poem by Shirley Board of Anston WI

The poem below was printed in the Nottinghamshire Federation of WIs' magazine, Hornblower in May 2020. It was written by a member and, as it says, It says it all.

It Says It All

*It's hit us like a bombshell, this Coronavirus bug
We are cut off from our loved ones and can't give them a hug.
Thank heavens for technology, like WhatsApp, Skype and such
Which allows us the luxury of at least staying in touch.
But in this time of social distancing there is lots that we can do
We can garden, try out recipes or get learning something new.
YouTube is a great source for crafts and so much more
Or just catch up with those DVDs gathering dust there in the
drawer.*

*We're clapping for the NHS and lots of other workers too
Who are keeping the country going for the likes of me and you.
And although current restrictions are going to hurt a bit
If we head out on a walk each day then at least we will stay fit.
But don't let all this depress you or make you feel deflated
Our freedom when we get it back will be so appreciated.
Never again will we take for granted going for coffee with a
friend*

*Or a visit to the cinema when we're at a loose end.
Those family get togethers or that pre-planned little jaunt
Maybe heading for a special meal at your favourite
restaurant.*

*The weeks stretch out before us in our state of isolation
But by Jove when this is over we'll have such a celebration.
Things will get back to normal and life will continue at a pace
But hopefully the world will be a much, much kinder place.*

The Dukeries Singers

At this very difficult time of our lives, on behalf of The Dukeries Singers we would like to send our best wishes to every-one. We sincerely hope you have kept well in body and spirit and continue to do so.



The Choir last met to sing together 11 weeks ago on the 11th March and it seems eons ago. I'm sure we are all missing the friendship and companionship and fun we experience from being in such a supportive group of friends. We keep in touch by phone and have had a "Zoom" meeting which was good. Let's hope that life soon reverts to something like normal and we can all return to the activities we so enjoy.

We are still on our website: thedukeriessingers.com on Facebook and YouTube and our email address is:

thedukeriessingers@gmail.com

We SHALL resume activities and will have spaces for all voice parts, so if you would like to try us out or come and listen to us, when we restart rehearsals, we meet every Wednesday evening at 7-30pm until 9-00pm in the foyer of the Theatre at the Dukeries Academy in Ollerton. This is accessed via the main entrance and car park on Whinney Lane.

Optimistically looking forward.....Our Concert Secretary is Margaret on 01623 642464 or 07896491314 Let's hope we can soon begin rehearsal and performance plans.

Keep well

Jan

Advertiser News

Please note that **Egmanton Plant Hire** is no longer operating from Egmanton. It is under new management and the contact phone number appears in the revised colour advert in this edition.

Hall Farm Granary is open usual hours. **The Bird's Nest Café** is operating a take out service. Hand sanitisation at the door which all customers are asked to use. Only three people in the shop at a time. Order at the counter and food and drinks will be brought out to your table. Plenty of space in the outside seating area.

Stuart Rose

DESIGNER AND MAKER OF
ORNAMENTAL IRONWORK

SECURITY GRILLES, RAILINGS, SCROLLWORK &
GATES FOR HOME & BUSINESS
GENERAL BLACKSMITHING
IRONWORK REPAIRS & WELDING
BOTTOM FARM, LAXTON

TEL: 01777 871702, www.laxtonnotts.org.uk



LEE DOYLE

Building Contractor

New Houses, Extensions,
Groundworks, Roofing,
Damp-proofing & Dry Lining,
Paving & Patios, Minor Repairs.

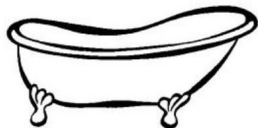
10 Elm Tree Rise
Kneesall
Newark
Notts



Beeby Plumbing

All plumbing and heating enquiries
& 'call-outs', please call

Guy Beeby



07792 484876
01636 822103

C&G, NVQ Level 2, BPEC qualified,
fully insured.

- Domestic Plumbing •
- Emergency Call-Out •
- Bathroom Installations & Repairs •
- Outside Plumbing •
- Central Heating Installations & Repairs •
- Under Floor Heating • Leaks & Bursts •
- Oil Boiler/Tank Installations & Service •

.....from 'leaky' taps to full installations!

Di's Pies

Quality home-made food for
all your private and business
functions.



Contact Di Hustler
01522 788242
07939 526870

Robert Paling Boiler Services

07849747500

**[robpalingboilerservices@
yahoo.com](mailto:robpalingboilerservices@yahoo.com)**

- Oil Boiler Servicing and Repairs
- Oil Boiler installation and
commissioning
- Oil Tank Installation
- Emergency Call Outs
- Fully Insured
- Oftec Registered



Scams Warning 2



NHS Test and Trace scams:

The NHS Test and Trace service plays an important role in the fight against coronavirus and it's vital the public have confidence and trust in the service. However, we understand the concerns people have about the opportunity for criminals to commit scams.

What you need to know:

Contact tracers will **only call you from the number 0300 013 5000**. Anyone who does not wish to talk over the phone can request the NHS Test and Trace service to send an email or text instead, inviting them to log into the web-based service.

All text or emails sent by NHS Test and Trace will ask people to sign into the contact tracing website and will provide you with a unique reference number. We would advise people to **type the web address <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk> directly into their browser**, followed by the unique reference number given to you, rather than clicking on any link provided in the message.

The NHS Test and Trace service will never:

- ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product or any kind
- ask for any details about your bank account
- ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else
- ask you to access any website that does not belong to the government or NHS

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, please report it to Action Fraud at **<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk>** or by calling 0300 123 2040. If you live in Scotland, please report directly to Police Scotland by calling 101.

Stan The Sweep

Local Professional Vacuum Chimney Sweep

*Solid Fuel, Oil and Gas, Aga,
Stove Bricks, Glass & Rope
supplied & fitted, Bird guards,
Chimney liners, Pots, Specialist
equipment for sweeping wood
burners & liners. Certificate
issued.*

*No Mess & fully insured
Contact Stan Hutchinson on:*

07831 661304

01636 821466

Stan@StanTheSweep.co.uk



Member of the
guild of master
sweeps

"FEET FIRST" MOBILE CHIROPODY SERVICES

**Sharon Foster
M.Inst.Ch.P.
HPC Registered No:
CH18101
Telephone
Mobile: 07946 587190
for a home visit**

G.R. GRIMES & SONS

SOLID FUEL & GAS MERCHANTS



Competitive Prices

Ring for a Quote

Tel:

01777 228273

Advertising in 'Open Field'

A standard 1/6 page box:
30 p.a. (colour) / £15 p.a. (B&W).

Larger sizes pro rata, e.g. 1/2
page £45

Please contact
advertising@openfield.org.uk
or call **01777 871506** for details
and info on web pages / links.



**Mark Brisendon
Heating Engineer**

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

Oil boiler service,
repair and installations



OFTEC registered

Help for people struggling to apply for Universal Credit during the pandemic

Sherwood & Newark

**citizens
advice**

Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark is continuing to provide its Help to Claim service for those who need to apply for Universal Credit during the pandemic.

People across Newark and Sherwood District will be able to get support from the charity in the early stages of their Universal Credit claim, from the application through to the first payment. Advisers are delivering confidential support from their own homes via the phone and through webchat.

People can access support by calling **0800 144 8 444** and online through webchat and advice on its website **[citizensadvice.org.uk](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)**. This may include assistance with the online application form or help with providing evidence for a claim.

Recent research from Citizens Advice shows one fifth (20%) of UK adults say they have applied or expect to apply for benefits as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

The local charity has already helped **772** people with Universal Credit since **April 2019**. Nationally, over a quarter of a million people have been supported through the Help to Claim service.

We know many households in our district are struggling to make ends meet as a result of the current crisis. People are having to turn to the welfare system who've never used it before. It's more important than ever that they are supported, so we've rapidly changed our ways of working to deliver our Help to Claim service remotely.

"We offer free, independent, impartial and confidential advice to people from our community every day. We've seen first-hand what can happen when people struggle to make a claim for Universal Credit, and we know how vital our service is to them.

"Anyone who needs help with their application can get in touch with us either over the phone or online over webchat. You don't have to face this alone." <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

Egmanton Village Hall

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** - Cancelled for now
- ♦ **Zumba Class** - Cancelled for now **Call 07817 311627**
- ♦ **Children's Dance Classes** - Cancelled for now Call Jil, **07790 601877**
- ♦ **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.

**Sherwood
& Newark**

**citizens
advice**

Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark announces emergency changes to services

There are a number of ways people can continue to get advice during this time.

- General advice will be given via our Advice line which people can reach by calling **03444 111 444**. This is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.
- People can chat online to an advisor by visiting our website at **citizensadvice.org.uk/contact-us**.
- People looking for advice on consumer issues (e.g. issues related to products or services you've purchased) can contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on **0808 223 1133** or chat online to an advisor on our website.
- Waiting times for these services may be slightly longer than usual as we adapt to our new patterns of working.

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

PC2548 Deborah Bakin supported by
PCSO 8524 Richard Dunn at Southwell

Web, showing other contacts: www.nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

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

Medical

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

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Fire Safety Advice (Tuxford Fire Station) | 01777 870381 |
| MP Mr Robert Jenrick: robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk | 01636 612 837 |
| County Councillor: cllr.mike.pringle@nottsc.gov.uk | 0115 977 5661 |

Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk



Early January and I was wondering whether I should see Spring; if mayhap, this was to be my last Spring.

My garden has grown wild these last few years and yet, by the end of the month, the first snowdrops had struggled through.

Soon the border was awash with white, to be

followed by my wild daffodils and bluebells. Sixty

years ago, I collected bulbs from the site of a derelict house, which had all but disappeared before I was born; as wild as you are can get, alongside the celandines, buttercups and daisies.

Two weeks ago a bunch of peonies; they don't last long.

And then, last Sunday, a splash of red; the poppies were coming out. They are now ablaze with colour, just 7 or 8 flowers, but still! My granddaughter's horse is 'mowing' my lawn.

Yesterday, the wild June roses were out on the bridge. Maybe I shall see another Spring!

MWS

