

# Open Field

50p

June 2017



*One of Laxton's new village signs, erected at the entrances to the village  
24th April 2017*

The monthly publication  
of the parish of Laxton & Moorhouse  
[www.openfield.org.uk](http://www.openfield.org.uk)

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# Open Field

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

Photographs of children appear in Open Field and on the web site with the consent of their parents / carers. Open Field appears on the Web in its entirety plus additional photos. If in doubt, photos are not used.

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY  
16th JUNE PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED.**

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Cover photo: The New Laxton Village Signs

Photo by: Michael Manning



## Letter From Revd Philip

### To mow or not to mow?

Something rather surprised me about my lawn this year. Wild violets had somehow found their way into the grass and were quietly peeping out. I'm not sure I've ever seen wild violets and I rather liked them and wanted to leave them to it, and quite apart from that I'm not a lover of gardening and didn't need much excuse not to mow the lawn.

And then my usual conflicts about gardening kicked in and I was out there with the mower and pretty soon there were no more wild violets but there was short grass. Yet which was the most beautiful – my efforts to tame nature to an idea of tidiness or nature left to itself? Given I'm not expecting the violets to return I suspect it was better before, I just wish I could have had both.

As I write, we are still in the season of Easter, and this reminds me of Jesus' words in the days before he was killed: "I am the vine, and you are the branches, and God the gardener prunes those branches that bear fruit so they can bear more fruit". The idea is that the best parts of us become so much better if God gets his hands on us, and he kindly removes the rough and dead bits to make room for better.

Yet if a vine could speak I'm not persuaded it would thank the gardener for pruning it – it takes a lot of time and effort to grow – and I find it's much the same with us. The tough bits in life are often the times we are pruned ready for something new, and in the hands of a decent gardener the best of us really can become better. The point being that if God were my gardener, he'd find a way for me to have tidy grass and loads of violets.

All the best

*Revd Philip*

## Laxton Garden Fête Update

Traditionally the Fête is held in the grounds of the Old Vicarage, and we were hoping to do so this year. Unfortunately with works still continuing there we have had to find another venue and we are grateful to Mike Jackson, who has very kindly said we can once again use his barn at **Crosshill Farm**.

We will hopefully be able to set everything up in the sunshine outside the top barn, but just in case we should need to shelter from the rays, we can move into the barn. We look forward to seeing villagers and friends there. There is access to drop off, but please park in the street.

## Sympathy - Bert Shepherd

We were sorry to hear that Bert Shepherd had died on Friday May 5th at the age of 86. He had been a great help with doing jobs in church for us until he suffered a stroke. He helped to make the new door in the Mothers' Union Chapel on the north side, made the shelves in the windows and made our noticeboard.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Pat, son Chris and families.

## Get Well Soon

We are sorry to hear that Pat Shepherd has been unwell in addition to suffering the loss of her husband, Bert. We all send our very best wishes at a difficult time.

Bill Haigh has had another spell in hospital and his wife, Pat, has broken her wrist. We are thinking of them and send very best wishes. We hope Pat's wrist mends quickly and well.

We are also sorry to hear, just as 'Open Field' is going to print, that Alan Tunnard has not been well. We wish him well and hope to hear better news of him soon.

## Pat's Plant Stall

I am so relieved that the weather has warmed up, or at least it has as I write. People don't buy plants when it is just above freezing. The plants much prefer basking in warmth rather than cowering from a wind from the north.

Currently there are herbaceous plants, plenty of tomato plants, six varieties to suit all tastes, strawberries in flower, bedding plants can now make an appearance and the cucumber, courgette, beans, kale,

various herbs, hanging baskets and pots are all ready.

The money raised will be going to the Blood Bikes charity - see opposite.





# Moorhouse Garden Fete

**Friday June 9th**

**6.30pm**

**Wilmington Farm**

**Moorhouse**

**Cake stall \* Teas \* Raffle**

**Games \* Tombola**

**Everyone welcome**

**All proceeds to Moorhouse church**



## Blood Bikes Event - Change of Date



The Inner Wheel Club of Sherwood Forest are providing an opportunity for people to discover what the Blood Bikes charity is all about and how it benefits the general public.

A speaker from our local group will explain and then take questions.

It is in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 6th June**, not the 8th as previously advertised. Someone called a general election so the Hall will be a Polling Station on the 8th.

Anyone is welcome, **6.45 for a 7.00** start. It will be followed by light refreshments and a raffle.

**Please contact Pat on 01777 870601  
for tickets which cost £5.**

Proceeds  
will be  
going to the  
charity.



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
BLOOD BIKES**

# **Laxton Church Garden Fête Helpers and Donations Needed**

The PCC would be grateful for any donations for the stalls - cakes, tombola, raffle prizes, books, plants etc. Are you free on the evening of 23rd June? If so, could you spare a couple of hours to help at the Garden Fête?

Could you help run a game or help set up in the afternoon / take down afterwards?

Has anyone got a gas ring or similar that we could borrow to cook the hot dogs?

If you can help,

please call **Brenda on 870541.**



## **Strawberry Tea**

**16th July**

**Corner Farm Laxton 3.30pm**

**- 5.30pm**

**Tickets £7.00**

**from Jean 01777 870276**

**tombola raffle cakes**

**Proceeds to the Golden Hour Appeal, towards  
the provision of  
helipads at hospitals**



# Mothers' Union

Our April speaker was Wanda Adams who is Charity Secretary for the Police Convoys.

During the Bosnian War the then vicar of Rainworth first organised, with the help of the police, a convoy of 30 lorries of aid to get successfully into the country.

This takes a lot of planning. It is very difficult to get permission for the convoy to enter the country. Local contacts and drivers are essential. The organisation works on the principle of helping local people to help themselves.

In Albania after the war the people had very little. Thanks to the aid convoys they were supplied with redundant fire engines together with uniforms - all from Derbyshire Fire Service. These still have the Derbyshire logo on them!

Schools were repaired, desks supplied that would otherwise have gone to land fill sites, plus paper, pens etc. all donated by local Education Departments.

One of the latest projects in Malawi is teaching locals to sew. One example is converting pillow cases into children's dresses. Aid is now starting to get into Syria.

The organisation is totally voluntary. Only Wanda is a paid member. With having such a well organised network of local contacts, the aid can be got into the country avoiding lots of paperwork and possible corrupt organisations.

Our meeting on 22nd May was our annual outing. This year we are visited the Heritage Museum at Bilsthorpe.

Please contact Janet Cooke if you are interested in attending any meeting.

*Janet*

More good news - several people have come forward and offered to cut the grass around the new signs to improve the look of the village. The Hennells/Mannings are cutting/strimming Kneesall Road, Ivan - Egmonton Road, Joan, Roger and neighbours - Green Lane/ Moorhouse Road and Geoff & Anne-Marie - Ollerton Road. We are now getting the grass cut up to the phone box from Keith and Anne's by David at the pub so we are hoping that this will all improve the look of the village. Jean H has a great idea to introduce some flower tubs between the legs of the signs and if anyone else has any ideas or suggestions, please contact a member of the Parish Council.



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# Strawberry Tea for Hospital Helipads



We are all sitting wrapped in thick jumpers and dressing for the chill wind when we go out, so it is hard to think that in just a few short weeks we should be sitting in Jean and Roy's garden enjoying our fresh summer salad and strawberries and cream, but it is a lovely thought to hang on to.

New villagers will not know that this is now well established as a highlight in Laxton's busy summer programme of events. Everyone is welcome to support this excellent cause and it is a lovely, relaxed opportunity to come and meet your fellow villagers. We hope to see you there and really look forward to meeting you.

The proceeds from the event go to support the work to provide helipads at hospitals. It is not well known that many Air Ambulances have to land at some distance from the hospital and transfer the patient to a land ambulance for the final part of the journey. Helipads on hospital premises enable Air Ambulances to land on site, saving patients the delay and discomfort of a transfer by land ambulance from the nearest landing point into the safe hands of doctors awaiting them in the Accident and Emergency departments.

Everyone is warmly welcomed to join in this event and to bring friends or family. If you can't make it (or even if you can) donations of cash or for the cake stall, raffle or tombola would be much appreciated along with simple fund raising ideas suitable for a garden setting. All suggestions welcome to make this a very successful afternoon to help to provide helipads for hospitals.

The tea consists of ham and salmon salad, strawberries and cream, cakes and a cuppa. Tickets cost £7 each from Jean on **01777 870276**. The fences at Corner Farm aren't elastic even if your waist band is in the presence of strawberries, so if you want to come for a delicious Sunday tea, call soon and buy your tickets. We would hate you to be disappointed.



# The Dovecote Inn at Laxton

## Your Local Village Pub



### **Spring Bank Holiday Family Fun in the Garden**

**Afternoon hog roast from 2.00pm. Bouncy Castle and Treasure Hunt (weather permitting). Bar open all day with normal restaurant opening times**

**Monday 5th June and 3rd July**

**Steak Night 6.00pm - 9.00pm**

Whole joints of Aberdeen Angus beef from Doncasters' family butchers of Newark. 30 day dry aged on the bone, cut in the restaurant and cooked to your liking. Prices are size dependent

**Sunday June 18th**

**Father's Day 12 noon - 6.30pm**

Traditional home cooked lunch and a fine pint of real cask ale. Children's menu and portions available  
2 courses £19.95, 3 courses £21.95

**Friday 30th June Great British Menu Gourmet Night 7pm for 7.30pm**  
3 courses of classic and timeless British dishes served with wine at every course. £29.95 per person

**Book now for all these events. For further information or to book a table, please call us on 01777 871586, visit the Website [www.dovecoteinn.co.uk](http://www.dovecoteinn.co.uk) or find us on Facebook. All events can be booked and paid for on line using PayPal**

**Look forward to seeing you all soon at your local pub,  
The Dovecote Inn at Laxton**

# New Village Signs



The 24th April arrived along with four brand new Laxton village signs ready to be erected. The weather was kind and in a very short space of time 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 were very carefully installed.

We knew what they were to look like but we were surprised how big they looked "in situ". Many comments, complements etc. have been flying around since and many of the comments are that they are one of the best that have been seen in the area! Not too much small detailing, great word style and a very strong visual impact as you drive or walk past. It has also been reported that people are stopping to ask about the meaning of the text 'England's last open field village'.

Lots of people and organisations are due many thanks for their help in getting this long awaited project completed. Firstly, The Crown Estate as we could not have afforded the signs without them funding most of the costs.

Secondly, the Parish Council for organising and overseeing the project progress despite a huge setback during the process when Notts County Council Highways refused planning permission over legal technicalities about wording and fonts. Fortunately common sense prevailed after we made stronger representations!!!

Thirdly to our Parish Council Vice Chairman David Brown for seizing the opportunity to broach the subject with The Crown Estate's latest representative when he was visiting the village on another matter.

Fourthly to everyone in the Parish who, over the years, has donated clothing, shoes etc. into the Police Aid Recycle bin at the Dovecote as the money we get for this has paid for the installation of the signs and will fund the signage that Moorhouse will have.

Fifthly to Martin Lane & Sons for producing such wonderful signs.

AND FINALLY big, big thanks to Jean Hennell who, once we had secured the funding, contacted the suppliers Martin Lane & Sons and started the ball rolling!! Well done Jean.

In case anyone is wondering, the colours used to represent the field strips on the signs were taken from an old Estate map when the designer at Malcolm Lane was deciding how best to show them.



*Michael Manning*

*Roy & Jean Hennell watching the installation on Kneesall Road*

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# Laxton Cricket Club Disbanded

## Stumped! 130 All Out

We are sorry to have to tell the village that Laxton Cricket Club has been disbanded, as players are on the decline and due to work and family commitments we can no longer field a full side.

The club had its origins back in 1887-88 when the first pitch was laid by the then Earl Manvers and believe that this was in the homestead at New Barn Farm as we know it was there in the 1900's, and then to its present site next to Castle Grounds, although we do not know when it moved.



*The team which represented Laxton against a team from the Bodleian Library, Oxford in 2010*

Over the years the club fielded 2 teams in the Bassetlaw League until the late 1980's and the teams consisted of many village family members including; The Nobles, Sayers and Saxilbys, plus others from surrounding villages. On leaving the Bassetlaw League the club took to playing mid-week evening matches in the Newark League with considerable success until the present time.

The members wish to say a thank you to all who have supported us by sponsorship or by coming to the ground on match nights to cheer us on.

a very special thanks goes to Jim Muirhead who over the years has served as groundsman, secretary, and umpire on match nights. We appreciate all his hard work

So after 130yrs time has been called on cricket in Laxton. We can only hope that in the future someone will revive the club and we will once again hear the sound of leather on willow ring out over the village.

Many Thanks to all,  
*Laxton Cricket Club.*

# COUNTRY KIDS

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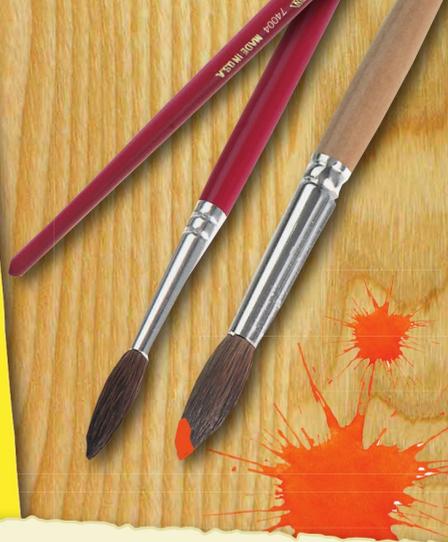
Our primary focus is to nurture children, allow them to make their own choices and lead their own learning. To take children back to nature and support them to learn through good old fashioned outdoor play. Giving them regular opportunities to achieve and develop self confidence and self esteem through hands on learning experiences gained out and about in the great Nottinghamshire countryside.

Lunch time school collection and drop off service from a number of local schools including, Tuxford, Walesby, Dunham on Trent, Norwell, Kneesall and Wellow  
This New childcare setting is brought to you by Laxton Kindergarden which is currently rated **OUTSTANDING** by Ofsted.

FREE Places available for eligible 2 Year Olds  
FREE 15 Hours for all 3 - 5 year olds.  
From Sept 2017 FREE 30 Hours for all eligible 3 - 5 year olds  
Bookings now being taken please call:  
07956 959135

# New before and after school Club

Offering a wide range of activities for children aged 5 -11 years and a free drop off and collection service to a number of local schools

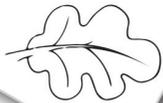


Before School 7 - 9am  
After-school 3 - 6pm

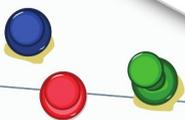
Includes wholesome nutritious breakfast and afternoon tea (all meals are freshly prepared and cooked daily)



Action Packed School Holiday Clubs for children aged 5 - 11 years  
Using the National Trust campaign - 50 things to do before you're 11 3/4 we aim to take children to explore the great outdoors, learning new skills and trying new things - Let us entertain the children for you



WHERE CHILDREN  
MAKE MEMORIES..



# Things to Do this Month

- May 29<sup>th</sup>** Wellow Maypole Celebrations, Wellow Green
- June 8<sup>th</sup>** Cast your vote in the general election (VH), then why not pop over the road to the ...
- June 8<sup>th</sup>** Coffee Morning at Diane Wood's house
- June 9<sup>th</sup>** Moorhouse Garden Fête
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>** Laxton Garden Fête
- June 24<sup>th</sup>** History Group trip to Oakham
- July 1<sup>st</sup>** Gymkhana

**Buy your tickets for the Strawberry Tea on July 16th**

**VH = Village Hall VC = Visitor Centre**

## Coffee Morning

*8th June 10.30am - 11.30am*

The third of the new coffee mornings will take place at Diane Wood's house 1 Timothy Road, opposite the church.

Why not come and join us? Everyone is welcome to this informal group. You don't have to commit to monthly attendance and are welcome to pop in to enjoy some friendly, cheerful company.



Plenty of tea, cakes, and chatter.



# Laxton History Group



## 2017 AGM and Tasting Supper

Our successful formula for ensuring a good attendance for our AGM continued with a tasting supper featuring dishes from the period of our HLF study, 1900 - 1920.



Recipes later in that period reflected wartime shortages, but overall flavour was not the feature it is today. Our cooks strive for authenticity, but having persuaded people to pay to attend the AGM we do feel they should enjoy it, so on this occasion the addition of herbs and seasonings known to be



available at the time was encouraged where the recipe, as written, was not very exciting.

Top marks for flavour went to Pat's delicious macaroni cheese, which was made by mixing all together and cooking the pasta in the sauce in the oven rather than the more usual modern method of adding sauce to cooked pasta, and to Bridget's potted crab. Both very tasty.

Maybe one year we should opt for 'Through the Ages' and have the best recipes we have found so far?

The serious issue of the evening was the AGM, when John Chambers was re-elected as Chairman and Jo Godson and Joy Allison were reappointed as treasurer and secretary respectively.

Thanks go to John Smith of Egmanton for inspecting the books, which passed with flying colours thanks to Jo's meticulous accounting for both our own funds and the much larger sums involved in the HLF project. This year significant sums had been spent on 'professional fees', which covered graphic design, printing and secondment of teachers.



We have now received reimbursement of £2685 - the final 10% of funds spent to complete our HLF project now it is all successfully signed off.

## Michael Wood Award

The children of Class 3 at Kneesall School excelled themselves in this second round of our joint project with them which is funded by Michael Wood's kind donation. They gave a presentation to History Group members and their families on 20th April at the school, when many members of the Group who have no direct connection with the school through current pupils were able to go along and chat to them about their projects.



Their work showed the tremendous interest the children and their families had taken in their research and presentation. How the class teacher will ever be able to sort out which children deserve the three awards is beyond Group members, who are so glad they don't have to make the decision.



There was a wide variety of subjects including a famous clockmaker who was the 6 times great grandfather of a student, Mansfield Brewery, Mansfield Woodhouse, Newark Castle, Newstead Abbey, Southwell, Wellow and places in Kneesall. Closer to home was a project on Blacksmiths Cottage, Laxton, Egmonton Castle and the Stone House in Egmonton and the jail in Tuxford.

This time there were a great selection of models made of everything from Lego through cardboard to cake. Yes, really cake! We didn't ever dream we might see Laxton castle in cake, but we did, although sadly we didn't get to eat it!

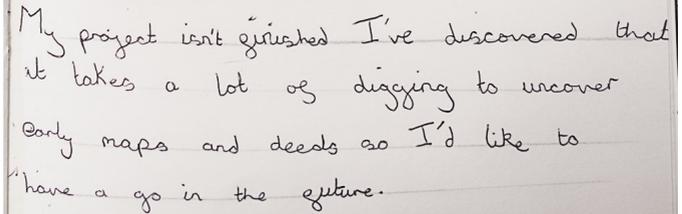
Mrs Hodgkinson, Class 3's teacher spoke about how delighted she was with the way the children and their families had responded to the idea and how hard they had worked. During the time devoted to the project in school they had come in and spoken about the places they had visited, the things they had discovered and the help they had received from other people.

One young man had taken part in a video speaking to a lady who told him all about the history of his home, and he was clearly fascinated. A



young lady had made a video of her research into Southwell and we also had PowerPoint presentations as well as more traditional books, posters and cleverly designed fold out presentations. All a very far cry from anything members could remember producing in their own school days.

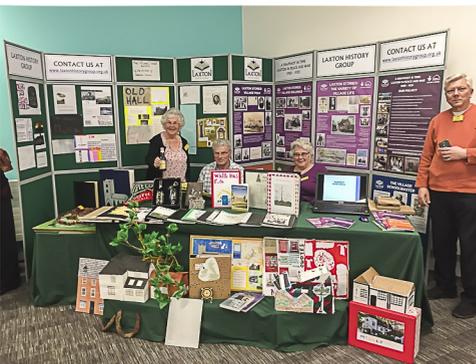
The quote shown here sums up what we had hoped to achieve better than any words from us could have done:



My project isn't finished I've discovered that it takes a lot of digging to uncover early maps and deeds so I'd like to have a go in the future.

## Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair, Sunday 7th May 2017

We once again secured our preferred corner position in the Library in Mansfield to stage our display, and with so much material from Kneesall School we had to make a little space go a long way. With a bit of creative thinking we managed to use an extra table or two and some crates to stage the display and also to feature our new HLF booklets.



It was a very good and well attended event where we were able to talk to a lot of people about our work and the Michael Wood Award. Everyone was impressed with the results and with the positive work we are doing to promote to children the truth that history is an interesting subject to be found all around us and not just in dusty text books.

We did also acquire a dusty text book from the many volumes the Library were selling off. This was a bound collection of reports from the Thoroton Society from 1902 featuring a report of their visit to Laxton, which is often quoted by others writing on the village, including our own authors in the recent works.

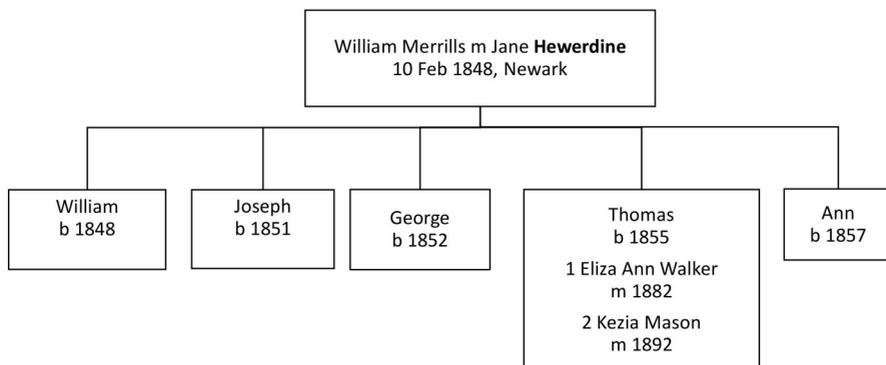
## Meetings

**In June** we will be having our annual trip out, which this time takes place on **Saturday 24th** when we shall be visiting Oakham and its castle.

We shall next meet in the Village Hall on **19th July at 7.30pm** when Carol Bannister will be speaking about the Archdeaconry Courts. We have heard some snippets in the past about how certain Laxton characters' names appeared in these reports so it should be an interesting evening. All welcome.

# The Hewerdines of Laxton - Hewerdine / Merrills Sons

This episode covers William Merrills and Jane neé Hewerdine's second eldest son, Joseph, who also remained living in Laxton.



He was baptised on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1851 and remained living with his parents, presumably working the farm with his father after his elder brother had married and set up farming himself. Joseph therefore possibly continued as tenant of his parent's farm following his father's death in 1886. He appeared in the 1891 census, still listed next to Frank Willis at the School House, in what is now known as School Farm.

His future bride, Mary Johnson, was born in 1857 and was the granddaughter of Laxton blacksmith Richard Johnson. 'Johnson' is another surname widely found in Newark and the surrounding area. Richard was born on 16th December 1786 and baptised on 27th January 1787 at Marnham, the son of George Johnson, himself a blacksmith, and Martha.

Richard and his wife Sarah already lived in Laxton by 1819 when their daughter, Mary, was baptised. She was followed by John, baptised in April 1821 but later buried in October 1821; Elizabeth, baptised 1827 and buried 1829; John, baptised May 1829, (the future father of Mary who married Joseph Merrills), and George, baptised November 1831.

The 1861 census for 'West St', Laxton on 'ancestry' mistakenly records Mary, aged 4, and her elder sister, Elizabeth, as the children of George. Fortunately the 1871 census, which shows John as blacksmith, makes clear they are his daughters with his wife Elizabeth. Their household includes Thomas Hilton, a 17 year old apprentice. In 1881 Thomas Hilton subsequently appears as husband of Mary's elder sister, Elizabeth, along with his mother-in-law, widowed Elizabeth senior, whilst

Mary is a domestic servant in the household of a retired G.P. at Old Malton, Yorkshire.

By spring 1891, Mary is back in Laxton, living in the household of Thomas Hilton, her widowed blacksmith brother-in-law, with her widowed mother, Elizabeth, next to Mary's uncle, George Johnson. Joseph was about 40 years old when he married Mary on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1891 at Laxton, but until taking over the farm, was probably unable to support a wife himself. This couple appear to have no surviving offspring. The 1911 census for them included two farm servants sharing a 10 room property, the present-day Ivy House Farm.

Mary died on 18th January 1813 and was buried on 22nd January 1913, aged 56. Joseph died 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1929 and was buried on 3rd October 1929, aged 79. The NPC records that probate was granted in London to two men, one of whom was Fred Merrills, who is presumed to be the second son of Joseph's elder brother, William.

Next time: the stories of William and Jane's three younger children, George, Thomas and Ann.



## Photo Follow Up

*Many thanks to Marian Cooper for sending a comprehensive answer to the mystery, posed last month, of who the people in this photo are. Marian says:*

The lady is Frances Bennett, neé Foster, the widow of Thomas Bennett. They were my great grandparents. The gentleman seated is Richard Foster and the one standing is Thomas Foster, her brothers. Frances was born at Ragnall, Notts in 1841 and married Thomas Bennett in Laxton in 1865. They had two sons and four daughters - Thomas jnr.,

George (died aged 5 in 1879), my grandmother Mary Charlotte, Annie, Florence and Fanny, all born at Laxton.

Thomas Snr. was born in 1837 at Normbey-on-the-Hill, Lincs. On his marriage certificate he was described as a labourer in Laxton. He later became the tenant of High Street Farm at Laxton until his death in 1918, aged 81. Thomas and Frances have a headstone in the church yard as do three of their daughters.

Thomas' parents George and Elizabeth Bennett died in 1892 and 1896 aged 82 and 84 years respectively. My great, great grandparents were labourers and tenant farmers in the village and share a headstone which includes their 5 year old grandson George (see above).

After Frances was widowed in 1918 she lived with her daughter, Florence at the shop until her death in 1933 aged 92. A Bennett through marriage, I remember her well.'

*Marian wonders if they were related to George and Ann Bennett, also farming in Laxton in 1881. Can anyone help?*

**CHURCH SERVICES FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES  
JUNE 2017**

HC = Holy Communion EP = Evening Prayer MP = Morning Prayer  
Es = Evensong WfA = Worship for All

**28<sup>th</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Easter 6**

9am Moorhouse HC  
10.30am Kirton HC  
6pm Maypole Service, Wellow

**4<sup>th</sup> June - Pentecost**

9am Kirton HC  
10.30am Kneesall HC

**11<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity Sunday**

9am Walesby HC  
10.30am Laxton HC and Kirton WfA  
4pm Egmanton Es and Wellow EP

**18<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

8am Walesby HC  
9am Egmanton HC  
10.30am Wellow HC

**25<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

9am Moorhouse HC  
10.30am Kirton HC

**Tuesday 13th June – ‘Open Vestry Hour’ for baptism and wedding enquiries**

6.30pm – 7.30pm at St Paulinus Church Office, Church Circle, New Ollerton. Alternatively phone the Church Administrator, Eileen, on Monday and Friday mornings between 10am -12.30pm  
tel: **07983946930** or email: [\*\*churchadmin1931@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:churchadmin1931@gmail.com)

Revd Zoe can be reached at the Vicarage on (01623) 862818.

**Wednesday 14th & 28th June – 10am Holy Communion service at St Giles, Ollerton Village**

The church will remain open until 4pm and refreshments will be available. Please join us for a cuppa and chat or for a few quiet moments in church. On the 2nd Wednesday we will be exploring local history in Ollerton village. Please come and share what you know and hear something new!



# *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*

2017

- May 29<sup>th</sup> Wellow Maypole Celebrations  
**June 8<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning**  
June 8<sup>th</sup> General Election  
June 9<sup>th</sup> Moorhouse Fête  
**June 14<sup>th</sup> WI**  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> Laxton Fête  
June 24<sup>th</sup> History Group Trip  
**June MU**



## **Forward Planning**

- July 1<sup>st</sup> Gymkhana (NB no Dog Show this year)  
July 16<sup>th</sup> Strawberry Tea **date confirmed**  
Sept 30<sup>th</sup> Southwell Ploughing Match  
Nov 17<sup>th</sup> Church Dance  
Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Quiz Night

NB New entries appear in ***bold italics*** for the first month.

If you know the date of a meeting or an event, please pass it on so that others can take it into account when planning.

**Copy Date for July: 16th June.**

We cannot guarantee to include items received after this date.

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## Party Time

The party atmosphere was evident from the beginning as the noise level rose prior to the meal. We were delighted to be joined by members from Weston, Sutton and Egmanton. Delicious and satisfying, the three course meal prepared by Sally-Ann Catering from Norwell was enjoyed with gusto and the desserts greeted with anticipated pleasure.



Following the meal, Brenda thanked Sally and her team. She then had the pleasure of presenting the cup to the member who had accrued the most points in the competitions throughout the year. The recipient was Bridget Smedley followed by Lesley Booth in second place and Heather Storton in third. Bridget also received a small gift as last years winner of the trophy.



Johnny Victory was next to step into the limelight and proceeded to serenade us with songs through the decades from the late 1800s to the 1960s. Most people knew the songs or their choruses and were able to join in.

A slight but dapper young man, Johnny danced as he sang on several occasions and encouraged the more daring to get up and do the same. This added to the fun and is becoming a tradition!



After a lovely evening and a vote of thanks by the visitors we were soon packed away and no washing up to do. Thanks to Sandra for organising it for us.

## May Meeting

We traditionally discuss the resolutions to be put to the National Federation's AGM at our May meeting . We had a very good attendance - possibly encouraged by the promise of delicious puddings made by the Committee.

Brenda shared the news that after being unable to construct a display for the group exhibit at the Newark Show which she felt worked, she had reluctantly decided not to enter it. We were still represented with Elizabeth Banks' four individual entries and a photo submitted by Joy Allison. Elizabeth emerged triumphant having been awarded the Craft Trophy for her beautiful 'Centenary Card' and the Cookery Section Trophy for the most points in Cookery. These two successes ensured Elizabeth competed a trio of trophies by also being awarded the Challenge Cup for most points overall. At our meeting birthday cards were distributed and Elizabeth was also presented with flowers for a 'big' one.

We heard more about coming events to celebrate the County Federation's centenary. Help is needed at the Fun Day to be held in North Muskhams on July 15th; photos of our year's activities and some text about Laxton WI is requested for the county photobook of the year and a photo and text about a textile item owned by the institute are also needed. Members recalled working on our embroidered table cloth.

It was good to hear two reports of our hospitality. Firstly after our donation last month a letter of thanks from 'Dogs for Good' included a special mention for the warmth of our welcome for her and Flash, particularly included at Kayleigh's request. Secondly Johnny Victory, the entertainer at our party, had also commented on what a nice friendly group we were.

The next event is our summer outing. This will be a daytime trip to Doddington Hall with the cost of entry subsidised from funds. It takes place on 9th August.

After all the news we turned to the formal business. Egmont was unable to represent the group of WIs which includes Laxton, so Lambley, the next WI on the list, was invited to do so and our votes will be passed to their delegate who will be travelling to Liverpool.

Two Resolutions have been put forward. The first relates to increasing awareness of the causes and impact of loneliness and urging health and social care professionals to be more aware of these and work towards finding ways to alleviate the problem. We opted for a firm vote in favour of this.

The second resolution relates to pushing for research and development into the problem of plastic microfibres in the oceans and the introduction of measures to reduce the quantities being discharged. We heard that large

quantities come from fibres shed by synthetic fabrics in our washing machines. The principle seemed sound but we agreed that we had insufficient information and opted to give our representative discretion to vote as she sees fit after hearing the arguments on the day.

The business done, we enjoyed a chance to chat over a light ploughman's supper followed by the much - enjoyed selection of puddings including trifle, Manchester tart, crumble, Pavlova and banoffee pie.



For the first time this year we left while there was still light in the sky and to make the trip home even more pleasant, there was a glorious bright, full moon over The Dovecote.

Next month we will be having a taster evening, when members will be making dishes from the book 'A Nottinghamshire Taste' written in 1977 by Joan Martin for the 60th anniversary of the Nottinghamshire Federation. This will be another social occasion when we will be welcoming members from our neighbouring institutes to join us in trying the favourites former members used to make.

## Village Hall AGM, 15th May 2017

The Village Hall had its AGM just prior to the magazine going to press. In response to our request for additional Committee members we had a great turnout with three of the five new members present. Our Committee is now really well represented (several younger people!?) and we hope to move forward together. The existing members agreed to remain on the Committee - Michael Manning, Chairman, Pat Naylor Secretary, Sam Wortley Treasurer, Jeanette Geldard, Keith Morton, Janet Cooke and Pat Grundy - and the new members are Joan and Roger from Moorgate Cottage, Lesley from Westlea, Helen from Church Cottage and Charlotte from Church Farm. A fuller report of the meeting will appear in a later addition of the magazine but we want to say thank you publicly to the new members. We don't have a maximum number of Committee Members so if anyone else would like to join please let us know!!!

*Michael Manning*

# Action Fraud Warning - Ransomware

Following the ransomware cyber attack on Friday 12 May which affected the NHS, the City of London Police's National Fraud Intelligence Bureau has issued an alert urging both individuals and businesses to follow protection advice immediately.

Ransomware is malicious software which enables cyber criminals to remotely lock files on your computer or mobile device. It is used to extort money from you before they restore access to your files. Ransomware can infect your device in many ways e.g. a link to a malicious website in an unsolicited email, or through a security vulnerability in a piece of software you use.

In-depth technical guidance on how to protect your organisation from ransomware can be at: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/protecting-your-organisation-ransomware>

## Key Protect advice

- Install system and application updates on all devices as soon as they become available.
- Install anti-virus software on all devices and keep it updated.
- Create regular backups of your important files to e.g. an external hard drive or memory stick that isn't left connected to your computer as any malware infection could spread to that too.

**Only install apps from official app stores**, such as Google's Play Store, or Apple's App Store as they offer better levels of protection than some 3rd party stores. Jailbreaking, rooting, or disabling any of the default security features of your device will make it more susceptible to malware infections.

## Phishing/smishing - make sure all users of your computer are aware

Fraudsters may exploit this high profile incident and use it against you. People should to be cautious if they receive anything unsolicited from the NHS. The protect advice for that is the following:

- An email address can be spoofed. Don't open attachments or click on the links within any unsolicited emails you receive, and never respond to emails that ask for your personal or financial details.
- The sender's name and number in a text message can be spoofed, so even if the message appears to be from an organisation you know of, you should still exercise caution, particularly if the texts are asking you to click on a link or call a number.
- Don't disclose your personal or financial details during a cold call, and remember that the police and banks will never ring you and ask you to verify your PIN, withdraw your cash, or transfer your money to another "safe" account.

# Police Charity Cycle Ride

In a ride of a lifetime four Nottinghamshire police officers and a control room operator will embark on a 200 mile bike ride on Saturday 20 May to raise money for Cancer Research UK and are due to land back in Nottinghamshire on Sunday 21 May



PCs Dave Dennis, Rich Naylor, Martyn Barber, and Simon Farndale with Control Room Operator Laura Harmer have collectively raised £8,000 since 2013 for various charities and this will be their latest escapade into endurance cycling.

The ride starts at Robin Hood's Bay in North Yorkshire and winds its way over the North Yorkshire Moors down to the Humber Bridge, through Lincolnshire and finishes at the South Forest Leisure Centre in Edwinstowe.

As well as the five riders tackling the 200 miles, another four riders will join the ride at Collingham and ride the final 50 miles. Tim Wildgust, Mark Spencer, Charlotte Naylor and Sophie Dickinson will take on the half century challenge and bring home the group home in style. Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping will be popping along to a drinks stop in Collingham on Sunday morning making sure the weary riders are well hydrated for the final push.

The cause is particularly close to the group of riders. Rich Naylor, who is hoping to complete the full 200 mile ride, had an operation to remove some cancerous lymph glands in September 2016. Tim Wildgust, President of the Sherwood Forest Rotary Club and completing the 50 mile ride, is supporting his wife, Karen, following her diagnosis in 2016.

PC Dave Dennis said "We all know someone who has been affected by this terrible illness. Some of the riders have lost close family members to cancer and we need to keep plugging away at it!

"200 miles in 24 hours is not going to be easy but it is going to be worth it! It's a huge challenge for all of us and one that we hope will raise some funds for such a worthy cause.

"Finally, a special thanks to TUXFORD's from Calverton who donated so generously and helped enormously in getting the ride off the ground."

To donate please visit [www.justgiving.com/SherwoodForestRide2017](http://www.justgiving.com/SherwoodForestRide2017)

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## How to protect yourself:

- If an individual claims to be a police officer, ask for their name and rank, force, and examine any identification presented; this is always good practice but especially important if they are not wearing a uniform.
- The Police will never ask for your passwords or PIN details. Do not give this information to anyone.
- The Police will never request that you withdraw/transfer any money to them or to a 'safe' account.

If you have been affected by this, or any other fraud, report it to Action Fraud by visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

## Milton Mausoleum

The Mausoleum will be open every Sunday, May to September, from 2 till 4pm. At this time volunteer stewards will be present to tell the story of the Duke, his wife and their family. If you belong to an organised group who may wish to visit at another time contact our email address [mausoleum1833@gmail.com](mailto:mausoleum1833@gmail.com)



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## **Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark thank their volunteers for solving people's problems & making a difference to their lives**

**Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark** is celebrating the inspirational volunteers who dedicate their time to solving people's problems and making a difference to their lives. To mark Volunteers' Week (1-7 June), the charity is shining a spotlight on the remarkable contribution of its team of 34 volunteers who give up between 6 - 10 hours each week to help people find a way forward.

In the last year, Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark has helped just over 5000 people with 13800 problems, from housing and debt issues to benefits and employment rights. The charity's volunteers have played a crucial role ensuring people in Newark and Sherwood get the advice and support they need to get on with their lives.

Citizens Advice offers a wide range of voluntary roles - receptionists, advisers, administrators and trustees.

Lesley Barrick, at Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark] said:

"Thanks to our amazing volunteers we are able to continue making a huge difference to people's lives. Our volunteers give up their time for free to help people who may be going through problems to get back on their feet.

"Volunteering also brings its own rewards and is a great way to meet new people and learn new skills. If you can spare a few hours each week, we'd love to hear from you."

Nationally Citizens Advice relies on 23,000 volunteers who help provide support in 2,900 locations across England and Wales - helping 2.7 million people every year.

Thanks to the contribution volunteers play in local Citizens Advice, two out of every three clients have their problem solved and four out of five say the advice received improved their lives.

If you're interested in finding out more about volunteering with Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark contact: Citizens Advice Sherwood and Newark admin line Tel: 01623 861769 or call into the bureau.

# Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
22/4/17	24	Derek (Dovey)
29/4/17	7	Pat and Jeff
6/5/17	30	H.Harwood
13/5/17	52	ROLLOVER (again!)

Thank you all for your continuing support for our Sports Field. The total number of balls is 59, the same as the National Lottery. There are numbers available. **If you would like to join, you can choose from the numbers 34, 52, 53, 56, 57 and 59. Anyone with a current ball is also invited to take another.**

To take a new ball please contact either Ken Shep on **870605** or myself on **870844**. Thank you. *Michael Manning*

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# Bluebell Wood Visit



Having mentioned the idea at the History Group AGM, Jean Hennell arranged an impromptu visit for members and friends to the bluebell woods within the farm owned by the Woodcock family close to

Thaymar Ice Cream near Gamston. It was a lovely evening, if cool, when we were guided into the



woods. They are opened only occasionally and always for charity. The bluebells were glorious and

everyone enjoyed following the circular route to see them all. An added delight was the selection of fairy features and green men etc. hidden around the wood for visiting children to find.



In many ways the best was saved for last as we were taken to see the baby reindeer bred on the farm. One was three days old and another had been born that morning. Their owner shared some of her extensive reindeer knowledge which added interest to a lovely evening. Thanks to Jean for arranging it.

## Kirton Quiz

*There was a good turn out of Laxton folk at this event so we are pleased to publish Georgina's report of the successful outcome.*

The Quiz Night on Saturday, April 22nd, held at Egmonton Village Hall, was a great success, and raised a total of £433.58.

Thank you to all the teams who came and supported us - you were most generous!

Thanks too, to all those who prepared the food, or helped in any other way - not forgetting our Quizmaster, Brian Bland from Tuxford, who produced some very challenging questions! It was a very enjoyable evening all round - Thank you once again!

## Kirton Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning at Hopland Cottage, on Saturday, May 13th, raised a total of £420.

£300 of this will be sent to Action Aid, for the East African Famine Fund, - and £120 will go into Church Funds.

Thankfully, the weather, although threatening briefly, did not disgrace itself entirely, and we were able to sit outside in the garden! Thank you to everyone who helped, and to all those who came and supported us. It was lovely to see so many people chatting and enjoying themselves over a cup of coffee!

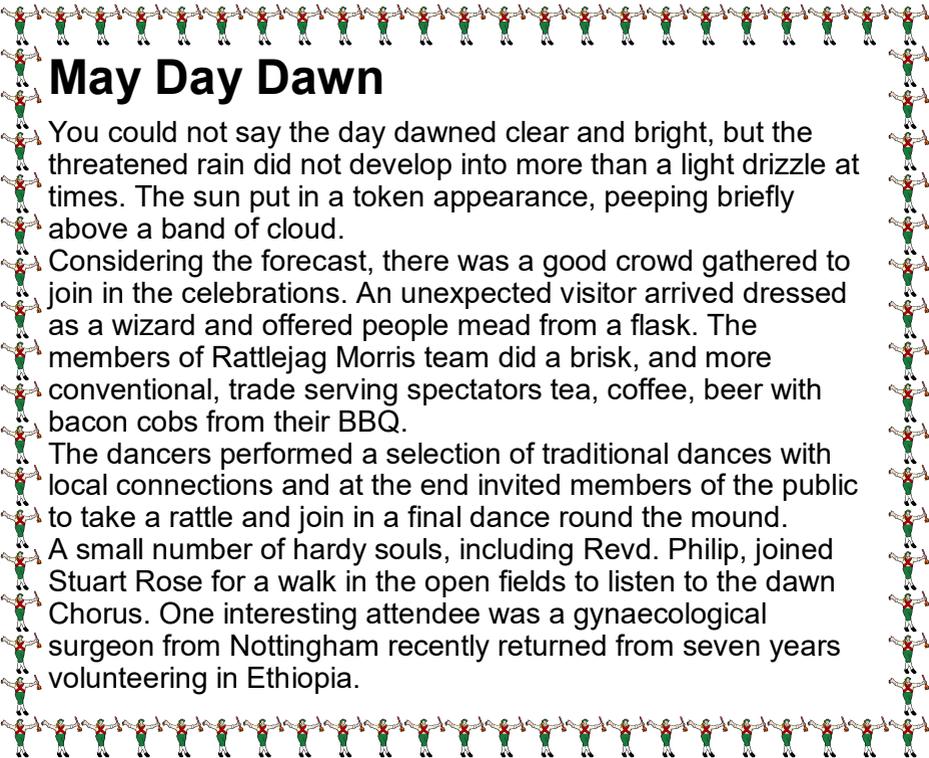
## Tuxford Young Farmers

Nottinghamshire Young Farmers celebrate their 70th anniversary this year. There is a party to celebrate this milestone on Saturday 3rd June at Brackenhurst.

Everyone is invited, so if you have been a Young Farmer during this time, you might want to go along and join in the celebrations. It costs £15 per ticket and they can be obtained from [lauren@nottsyfc.co.uk](mailto:lauren@nottsyfc.co.uk)

The evening begins at 5.30pm and includes a hog roast.





# May Day Dawn

You could not say the day dawned clear and bright, but the threatened rain did not develop into more than a light drizzle at times. The sun put in a token appearance, peeping briefly above a band of cloud.

Considering the forecast, there was a good crowd gathered to join in the celebrations. An unexpected visitor arrived dressed as a wizard and offered people mead from a flask. The members of Rattlejag Morris team did a brisk, and more conventional, trade serving spectators tea, coffee, beer with bacon cobs from their BBQ.

The dancers performed a selection of traditional dances with local connections and at the end invited members of the public to take a rattle and join in a final dance round the mound.

A small number of hardy souls, including Revd. Philip, joined Stuart Rose for a walk in the open fields to listen to the dawn Chorus. One interesting attendee was a gynaecological surgeon from Nottingham recently returned from seven years volunteering in Ethiopia.

# CHINK FASHION SHOW



## CHink Fashion Show

Once again we are holding a fashion show to raise funds for CHink (Children in Kenya). This is a popular event so get your tickets early, available for sale in the charity shop, Newcastle Street Tuxford.

TUXFORD METHODIST CHURCH HALL  
NEWCASTLE STREET TUXFORD  
FRIDAY 23RD JUNE 2017  
6.30 PM START



Our charity shop will be open after the show

**TICKETS £3.00 EACH**  
**INCLUDING LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**  
**AVAILABLE FROM CHARITY SHOP**

*Enjoy a fun night out and an opportunity to see some of the amazing items for sale*

Update on CHink's progress

- Refreshments
- Raffle
- Stalls



As usual the models are all ages, boys and girls too. We include refreshments with the admission price of £3 and after the catwalk event there will be a chance to buy items.

Also the charity shop will be open after the show. Join us, it's a fun evening.



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# Dukeries Singers

The sun is shining beautifully today. Let's hope June is as flaming as it should be and we can all get out and top up our vitamin D levels.



We recently delivered a cracking good concert at Tuxford Church. I think the Choir enjoyed the performance as much as the audience. Did you know that the toilet at St. Nicholas Church at Tuxford is twinned with a toilet in Kenya! Toilet twinning funds the work of the international relief and development agency Tearfund which helps deliver clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people. Now that's a wonderful charity you never expected to read about in this article.

We do love to entertain and we do have plenty of available dates should you wish to book us for your own charity, celebration or fund raising event. We are already taking bookings for 2018. Our Concert Secretary Phil, on 01623 822070 would be delighted to hear from you.

If you think you would like to sing with us, you are most welcome to "give us a try" for two or three weeks to see if it is your thing. We are a very friendly and supportive group of people and the pleasure we gain from singing and performing is immeasurable, a real spirit lifter. There is no audition and no necessity to be able to read music. Just enthusiasm for music is needed.

## **Our engagements are;**

**Sat 10 June** Farndon Church, Farndon with "The GentleMen 7-00pm  
*We are really looking forward to being on the same programme as this group.*

**Sat 24 June** Village Hall, Edwinstowe - Our Annual Summer Concert  
7-00pm

**Sat 8 July** St. Chad's Church, Pleasley Vale, Concert.  
*This is a charming little church in a beautiful sylvan location.*

We rehearse every Wednesday evening from 7-30pm. until 9-15pm. in the Concert Hall at The Dukeries Academy in Ollerton. This is best accessed via the Leisure Centre entrance and free car park. More information about the Choir can be found on our website, YouTube and Facebook, all under [thedukeressingers.com](http://thedukeressingers.com)

Have a lovely early and hopefully harmonious Summer to everyone.

*Jan*

# Egmanton Village Hall

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

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

- ◆ Tuxford Young Farmers - No bookings in June
- ◆ Yoga with Greg – Tuesdays at 7:30pm
- ◆ WI - Thurs 15th
- ◆ Children's Dance Classes - Saturday mornings (Jill, 07790 601877)
- ◆ **Computer Problems?** - Call 01777 871171.

If your computer is misbehaving or you need help setting up a new one, please call. Donations to Egmanton Village Hall in lieu of fee.

## Film at Maplebeck Village Hall

**The Big Short** Cert.15 **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 7.30pm**

For two years a small band of US investment bankers foresaw what was going to happen in the global financial meltdown of 2008. Based on their true story this is an amazing insight into what the big banks, media and government refused to countenance. Sub-prime mortgages, junk bonds, CDO's etc. It's one hell of a story that needs to be understood. Shocking but riveting!

Tickets £5 Contact 01636 636421;

[www.maplebeck.org.uk](http://www.maplebeck.org.uk); facebook: the village hall in maplebeck

## Maplebeck Village Hall Events

[www.maplebeck.org.uk](http://www.maplebeck.org.uk) / 01636 636692 / 636185

### Regular Activities

Yoga*	Fridays	9.30am
Light Aerobics & Pilates	Mondays	1.00pm
Walkers	Wednesdays	10.00am
Ladies Running	Wednesdays	7.00pm
Book Club	Tuesdays	7.30pm
	6 <sup>th</sup> June, 11 <sup>th</sup> July, 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	

\* More sessions being added Tuesday morning and Weds evening

### Upcoming special events

Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> Jun	7.30pm	Film	The Big Short
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> Jul	7.30pm	Film	The Bridge of Spies

## 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  
Alan & Stephanie Tunnard 07974 146967, as required  
Linda & Max McNaught 01777 870127, as required  
David & Linda, Dovecote Inn 01777 871586, as required  
Jeanette Geldard 07956 959135, daytime in Kneesall,  
evenings / weekends  
Anne-Marie & Geoff Rose 07961 933290 / 07957 991002, as required

### Police

PC Gary Sipson 07525 226575  
or 101 x 800 7673  
Email : [gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

PCSO 4741 Keith Crowhurst 07889 702823  
or 101 x 8007671  
Email : [keith.crowhurst4741@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:keith.crowhurst4741@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

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

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

### Medical

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

Fire Safety Advice (Tuxford Fire Station) 01777 870381

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

# Laxton Garden Fête

6.30pm

Friday June 23rd

The Top Barn, Crosshill Farm, High Street, Laxton

Children's Fancy Dress  
Tombola, Raffle, Plants, Cakes, Books, Games etc.

Everyone welcome  
In aid of church funds



Jean Hennell, above with the new sign on Kneesall Road, worked on the design with the Parish Council to depict Laxton's historic importance.

The signs now give an attractive welcome to the village and people are stopping to ask about 'England's Last Open Field Village'.