

Open Field

£1

June 2026



Laxton Church, May 2026

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse

www.openfield.org.uk



Priest in Charge		<u>Vacant</u>	
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	WELLOW	<u>Mrs Jean Crofts</u>	
P.C.C:	Chairman	Vacant	

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Mr Richard Allerton

Laxton Village Hall: Chairman Ian Robinson 07771 696248

Thoresby Estate Office 01623 822301

Magazine Editor Mrs Jean Hennell 01777 870276

Magazine Advertising Mrs Joy Allison 01777 871506

Email: advertising@openfield.org.uk

Photography by / Photos from Janet Cooke, Helen Sheard, Diane Hunt,
John Banbury, Dik & Joy Allison

Open Field

www.openfield.org.uk

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

We believe all illustrations to be free to use. If anyone feels their image has been wrongly used, please get in touch.

Contributions for the next edition to be with the Editor by **NOON ON 16th JUNE PLEASE. Earlier preferred.** You can send in your contributions at any time.

Great News for Open Field

We are delighted to say that 'Open Field' has had an 11th hour reprieve! Karen Singleton of Laxton has said she is willing to take on the job of turning all your contributions into a magazine.

It is likely to look a little different as she will need to use different software to produce it as the package I have used is being retired this October. She has said she wants to follow very much the same guidelines, but will obviously put her own stamp on it.

Karen will be taking over from August, so please send me your contributions one more time as I will do the July issue while Karen gets her system set up to do it.

Please bear with us while Karen gets to grips with everything—and there is a lot of it to get your head around! She is hoping to recruit a small group of friends to ensure things run smoothly.

We are truly grateful to Karen for coming forward to ensure that the magazine can continue and to work with all of you to ensure it is still valued and relevant as times change.

Joy & Jean

Christmas Tree Festival 2026



Hello everybody,

Just to say you can now put in your diaries the **Christmas Tree Festival** which will be in church on Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December 2026.

The **band concert** will be held the following week on Friday, the 11th of December.

Anyone who would like to put a tree in church is most welcome, but please let Marg Palmer or one of the committee know. More details will be circulated nearer the time, but we are happy to take names now or to explain what is involved to anyone who didn't provide a tree last time, but who would like to this year.

Jean.

Sympathy - Brenda Noble



It was a very sad day for Laxton when we heard of the death of Brenda Noble. She will be greatly missed, especially for all her work for the church.

If you couldn't find Brenda, she was in church either doing flowers or tidying up.

Laxton will not be the same without her. Our thoughts and prayers go to George, Paula, Lee and Ruby.

Jean

A New Era for Laxton Church

Following Brenda's many years of devoted work for the church, a group of interested parishioners attended a meeting called by the PCC to look at who could help with the various jobs in future.

Save the Date: Monday June 1st at 7.00 pm

It is proposed to hold a meeting for everyone in the Parish of Laxton and Moorhouse, to which everyone is invited. It will be held in Laxton Village Hall with an agenda to discuss matters pertaining to St Michael the Archangel Church.

It is nearly two years since there was a functioning PCC. At the preliminary meeting on May 11th chaired by Simon Hill, a number of volunteers came forward. We hope that, given a little more time for everyone to find out what is involved and to think about what they could do, we will be able to prove that many hands really do make light work.

It is never too late for others to offer help. This could be regular or occasional, general or in some specific area which interests you or simply to let it be known that you are willing to offer your help for special occasions or times of specific need. Please give it some thought. There are already a number of events being planned and your help will be valuable. Please note the date and come along.

Thank You - The Open Field Team

As I prepare to hand over the reins to Karen, I would like to say a big thank you to the team of people who have faithfully delivered their group of magazines and collected the subs annually. For the magazine to appear on your mat every month, there need to be people committed to making it happen.

The whole team, managed by Jean, has quietly got the job done all the time I have been involved. Even during Covid, when nobody knew quite what the risks might be, we kept going, with just one month missed to protect everyone.

Nobody has been more committed than Janet and Jean. Janet supplies monthly photos and is my 'go to' person for historical facts about Laxton. Jean has continually rounded up articles, been with Roy to Claypole to collect from the printer, sorted out the gathering of subs and helped with the proof reading of the copy before it gets printed. Jean knows my inability to get dates right and, if nothing else, she has generally managed to ensure you got birthday and anniversary congratulations in the right months and that all of our events are listed accurately.

Thanks also go to Dik, my long-suffering husband and 'Tech Support', for endless technical help in scanning pictures, turning print into editable text and helping me get to grips with software changes, not to mention putting up with me disappearing behind a computer for hours each month. He has also proof read monthly and found a good many of my mistakes before they became public.

Our other proof reader has been Jenni Dobson. Some of you may remember that she wrote a series of articles about the Laxton families she discovered personal links to. She remains very interested in the village and remembers fondly the people here who helped her. She is guaranteed to spot all my typos, extra spaces etc. and to put me straight on matters of grammar.

Of course, without all our contributors there would be nothing to read, so thank you also to everyone who has sent anything in over the years. We have had variable numbers of pages, but have never failed to have enough interesting items to make a lively magazine.

I owe all of the above, as well as the readers who give the exercise purpose, and the advertisers who make it financially possible, a big debt of gratitude. With input from you all, the finished product has been a pleasure to me as well as, I know, to many of you.

Joy

Welcome to People New to the Village

We are pleased to welcome the new people at the old Post Office / shop. They are Ian and Annabelle Emery and they are happy to be introduced to you through Open Field. Please say 'Hello' if you see them. We wish them well in creating their new home in this village landmark and becoming part of the community.

Congratulations to Eliza

Janet Cooke has shared this beautiful picture of her granddaughter, Eliza, who has just been accepted by the English Youth Ballet to appear in Swan Lake in Nottingham this summer.

Many readers will recognise her from church services - usually giving out hymn books!

The ballet will be performed three times over two days - July 17th and 18th. It

includes roughly 100 talented local young dancers aged 8 - 18 who will perform alongside international professional principal dancers.

Congratulations to Eliza and her proud family and we wish her a wonderful experience.

**ENGLISH
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EXPERIENCE



Thank you - to Joy

We must give a very big THANK YOU to Joy for all her work doing this magazine for the last 22 years. We wish her well for her retirement. She will be missed.

We are very pleased that Karen has offered to carry it on and wish her well.

Jean

Chop & Chat

The final lunch before the summer break took place on Monday 27th April. It has been a confusing time, with the Monday Bank Holiday time upon us.

For the second month running the date needed to be changed to accommodate the public holiday, and it was agreed in March that the end of April was better than going well into May.

There was a discussion about the summer break. Last year going 'On Tour' was popular, with the regular members meeting at different eating places monthly to maintain the momentum and provide the company and time to share together which is at the heart of Chop & Chat.

It was agreed that there was no need to stop a successful idea, and so we will be touring again this summer. The first venue is The Old School Tearooms, Limetree Avenue, Carburton.

We have not escaped without a small change this month either, and this, along with a good number of other venues, is not open on a Monday. We will be meeting on **Tuesday 2nd June at 12.30pm.**

The venue lends itself to dividing into two halves and we will have one half to ourselves. They need to have meals pre-ordered to enable the kitchen to serve everyone as they would wish and Helen has circulated a menu for members to respond. If anyone new would like to join in, please get in touch with Helen or any other regular asap for information.

They sounded genuinely pleased to welcome us and have been very helpful. This is in stark contrast to another local venue that turned us away. We look forward to our visit.

There will be further stops on the 'Tour', and we will be bringing you news of these later.



Laxton & Moorhouse Community Coffee Morning

All are welcome for coffee and cakes
Laxton Village Hall 10:30am - 12:30

June 20th
September 19th
November 21st

July 25th
October 17th
December tbc

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Congratulations to everyone celebrating a special event this month. We wish you all a wonderful day and a happy and healthy year to come.

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to everyone celebrating this month. The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Mary Haigh, Jessica Rose, Rebecca Creighton, Daphne Sanford, Julie Bartle, Elaine Bedford, Oliver Noble, Serena Cowland and Joan Weatherall (95)

ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to everyone on the anniversary roll call for June: Stuart & Sylvia Rose, Mark & Amanda Hennell, John & Brenda Chambers, Christopher & Julia Banks, Jonny & Lynnette Dinsdale, and Dave & Joyce Stone.

If you would like your special event recognised here, please let us know the details.



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Village Hall News

“Chop & Chat” will now be going 'on tour'. Please see the separate article. We anticipate restarting in the Hall in September.

If anyone is interested in joining the **Pilates** class, this takes place in Laxton Village Hall on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

The class is organised by Rachel, and it costs £28 for a 4 week block booking or £8.50 per session. It is aimed at all levels and beginners are very welcome. Please contact Helen Sheard if you are interested.

The Hall is available for private bookings, which can be for your family parties or events or any business meetings which require private space and facilities. There is a well equipped kitchen and plenty of equipment for all types of event.

Further details can be found on www.laxtonvh.org.uk.

There are discounted rates for village residents and you can easily check on the 'Bookings' tab to see if the date you have in mind is free. Booking is straightforward using the form on this page.

The Village Hall is run by a committee of local volunteers and depends on a mix of income from events and fundraising to survive. The trustees are: Ian Robinson, Lesley Booth, Stuart Rose, Charlotte Gregory, Margaret Palmer, Sarah Stringer, Helen Pick, Linda Malloy, Karen Singleton and Heidi Keay.

Our Quiz Nights are a popular fund raiser for the Village Hall. They are held twice a year in March and November. Teams compete for the honour of saying they came first and everyone enjoys a tasty supper. It is a fun event for all ages, so if you have not entered a team before, why not think about giving it a try?

The **'Christmas' Quiz** will take place this year on **Friday 27th November**. Booking details will be published nearer the time.

An easy way to support YOUR Hall is to sign up to the Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery, starting at £1 per week. For each ticket sold, our Village Hall gets 60p. Check for details using the QR code here.



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— HORSES —

If you would like to help Bransby Horses, please save stamps from your mail. Cut them off with about 1cm all around and pass to Sandra Clarke who collects them

for Bransby. You can also pass to Jean in Laxton or Joy in Egmanon.



Group Oil Order

Thanks to Karen coming forward to take over putting together Open Field, we will continue to be able to make everyone aware of forthcoming orders with the buying group.

In a normal year, our next routine order would be any time from the end of July to the end of August depending on prices and demand. This year, as I am sure you are only too painfully aware, is not an ordinary year! At a time when prices should be falling nicely to encourage us to order in late summer in readiness for the colder days to come, the price advertised by Boilerjuice for the 1000 litre average in England is currently falling slowly towards 90p/litre! For comparison, last year in mid May it had dropped to 46.96p.

It is still undoubtedly elevated because of the situation in the Strait of Hormuz, where oil tankers are currently unable to pass and bring supplies out. The tension in the Middle East adds to insecurities among oil producers and vendors which result in the elevated prices we are reminded of every time we pass a filling station. As domestic fuel comes from the same source, this price is also remaining much higher than it should be.

I am not planning to order in haste, but for some people an emptying tank will mean an order sooner than the price might encourage. Please let me know if you feel you will need to order within a month at any stage in the coming period and I will see if there is a general appetite to purchase. Please see the magazine for updates.

I have given my crystal ball a holiday as it was overheating after its remarkable success last time when we just beat the rocketing price when fighting broke out, so I, like you, can only watch the price chart and the news.

You can join the ordering group at any time. You just need an email address or a friend / relative who will be your contact with me. The group serves Laxton, Moorhouse and surrounding villages.

Everyone says how much they want if they need oil at the time of an order. You do not have to order each time and you are entirely free to order with any supplier between group orders.

Your oil is ordered in your name and it is then up to you to manage all further contact with the chosen supplier. I negotiate for customers to pay after delivery so that they only pay for what actually goes into their tanks.

Please use my personal email if you have it. oil@openfield.org.uk is a general address you can use if you don't have mine.

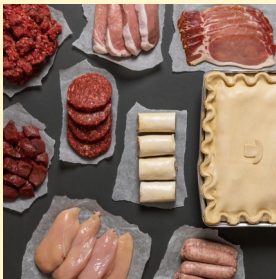
Joy

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Hydrogen Pipeline Plans - Update

There has been little further news of the hydrogen pipeline, known as the H₂ East Pipeline, which is being put forward by Cadent, to run through this area.

It is listed on the Government National Infrastructure Project web site, which gives details of projects as they pass through the various official stages.

It is identified as a 'Gas Transporter Project' to convey hydrogen from producers at North Killingholm on the Humber and High Marnham to industrial customers across North Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.



The pipeline is expected to be about 150km long and will be constructed of high pressure steel. There will be user connections and some 'Above Ground Installations', three of which are indicated by the darker blue areas on the map above, and one of which is close to West Field.

Cadent was required to consult with people and organisations in the area early in the process. They extended this period until 14th May 2026. They are now examining the feedback to see how the proposals might need to be revised before they are formally submitted.

This stage will take the form of continued discussions with landowners and stakeholders as proposals progress. Surveys and technical and environmental assessments along the proposed route will be carried out to develop and inform our plans before they submit their application for development consent in 2028.

NSDC has said there is no detail on where the provisional site inspection/exploratory groundworks would take place, or the degree of disruption it would cause or for how long, only that the work would **not** need planning approval to begin.

For more information see h2east.co.uk or

Email comments to humbemotts@h2east.co.uk

Mail: **Freepost H2 East HN** or Call: **0800 188 4479** Mon - Fri, 9-5.30pm

News From The Museums of Tuxford

The Museum of the Horse is busy preparing for the upcoming Side Saddle Exhibition. It is believed the museum has one of the largest collections in the world. There will be forty-five different side saddles, whips, spurs and other accessories. It will be a great opportunity to learn about this romantic and mysterious pastime.



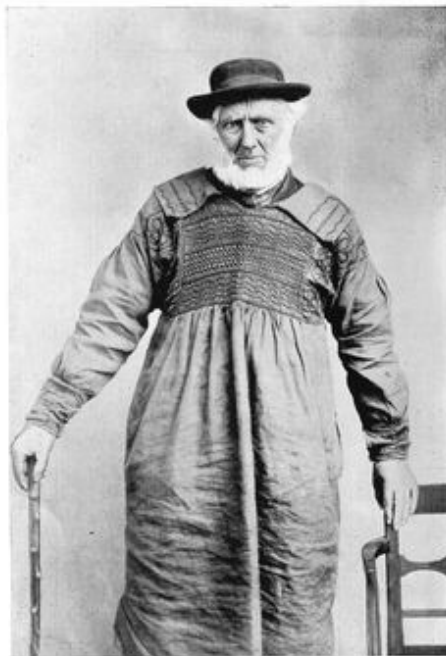
There are some beautiful 19th and early 20th century side saddle costumes, known as 'habits', on display. Several are new to the collection. They are very elegant and emphasize how we have changed physically over the last one hundred years. The habits are so small around the waist that even shop display dummies are too large for them!

Wire dummies that can have the waists pulled in to change the size had to be

obtained to display them. Of course at the time ladies used to pull their waists in with corsets.

We hope to have a side saddle available for you to sit on to experience this strange way of riding a horse which to an onlooker would seem almost impossible. In the 19th century a leading trainer declared that it would not be possible for a lady to ride astride because her thighs were too round! I wonder what he would say today.

EVENT Side Saddle exhibition opening on Sunday June, 21st 2-4pm then available for viewing



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in the museum until September
Open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4
pm Saturday 9.30am to 1.30pm.
Contact **01777 838234**.

At the **Walks of Life Museum**, we were struck by the diverse ways of dressing through the years. One of our students has been researching childhood which will be part of our displays.

In our collection we have examples of smocking, which became fashionable on children's clothing. Smocks were originally worn by agricultural workers, including for 'Sunday best'. This would have been a less restrictive garment than their more formal 'Sunday best'.

How times have changed!

Added to our rural artefacts are examples of farming life. The old catalogues make fascinating reading. Some of the farming families still exist today.

EVENT On **Sunday 19th July from 10am** we are holding a celebration of country folk. More details next time.

Open Thursday and Saturday
11am to 4 pm

Contact **01777 872776**

email

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See Facebook pages for the
Museum of the Horse and Walks
of Life

80th

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Garden Fete - Friday 17th July, 6.30pm

This will take place once again at Blacksmith's Cottage, thanks to Roy and Jean Hennell. It is an event for everyone and the proceeds will go to Laxton Church.

Jean would be pleased to receive anything for the Tombola, Raffle and cake stall. She would be grateful for whatever you could offer. Please deliver to Jean at any time or get in touch to arrange when she will be there.

Tractor Run for Diabetes UK

This event will be leaving from Bar Farm, Laxton on Sunday 14th June. Anyone who would like to donate a raffle prize is invited to drop it off at Bar Farm. Everything will be gratefully received.

See the advert on the back page for full details.

Laxton Community Coffee Morning

Unfortunately the May event had to be cancelled at very short notice due to unexpected personal circumstances. The next Coffee Morning will take place on 20th June.

Holy Rood Church, Ossington

Readers may remember reading that Ossington Church suffered a fire well over a year ago. Severe damage was caused by the smoke. The church has been closed to all services etc. ever since. The scheduled nature of the building and the precious items inside needed specialist restoration, but we have just had some good news.

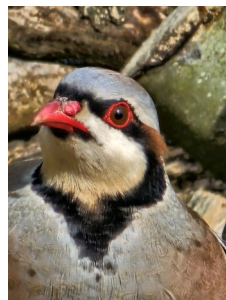
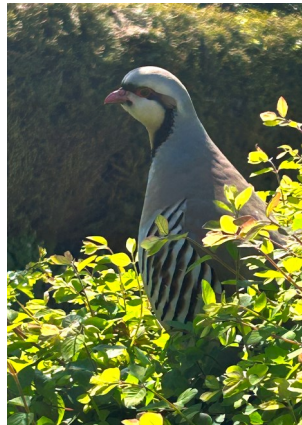
Following a funeral in mid May, the first proper service is to be held on 31st May at 11 o'clock. It is the fifth Sunday and will be the only service in the benefice. A quarter peal will be rung on the bells before the service in celebration.

Unexpected Visitors to Laxton

Helen Whitney sent in this photo of a visitor in her garden which has also been seen elsewhere around the centre of the village. Helen's friend came over to get some photos for a special personal project (see below) and we decided to find out more.

The photos were ideal to identify the bird. It turns out it is a chukar partridge, which is native to Asia, but which has been introduced elsewhere. Wikipedia states that feral populations have established in North America, Malta and New Zealand - and now it appears, in Laxton! It is also the national bird of Pakistan.

The chukar partridge differs from the red legged partridge primarily in plumage. The chukar has a continuous black line around the throat and chest, while the line around the neck of the red legged partridge breaks into 'spangled' black and white flecks across the upper breast. Its back is a warm brown-grey while the chukar's back is grey brown.



Coffee Morning Corner

2nd Saturdays Egmonton Village Hall 10 - 12 13th June

3rd Saturdays Laxton Village Hall, 10:00 - 12:00 20th June

4th Saturdays Ossington Hut, 11 - 1 27th June

The annual Ossington Garden Party will be held on 25th July, between 3 and 5 pm

THIS MONTH'S SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCH

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

We have been unable to obtain any information about a service in June. Janet Cooke will post details on Facebook if anything is arranged. Please check there.

Please note that this month's list is short because nobody has provided Laxton with the information about other village churches. If you usually go to one of the other services in the group, we suggest you contact them to confirm arrangements.

Sports Field Bonus Ball Weekly Draw

Date	Bonus Ball No.
11/04/26	31
18/04/26	48
25/04/26	23
02/05/26	19
09/05/26	5

There are currently 10 numbers spare. If anyone would like to invest £1 a week to try and win £25 please get in touch. The winning Bonus Ball (BB) is the number which matches the National Lottery Bonus Ball drawn on a Saturday. All money goes towards supporting the Sports and Recreation Field.

*Helen Pick
High Street Farm*



JUNE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY

Mon 1st	<i>Meeting of the Parish to discuss forming a PCC, helping the church etc.</i>
Weds 10th	<i>WI</i>
Sun 14th	<i>Tractor Run for Diabetes UK from Bar Farm</i>
Weds 17th	<i>History Group</i>
Sat 20th	<i>Coffee Morning</i>



Forward Planning:

JULY

Weds 15th	<i>History Group Meeting</i>
Fri 17th	<i>Garden Fete, Blacksmith's Cottage</i>

SEPTEMBER

Sat 26th	<i>Southwell Ploughing Match, Farnsfield (NG22 8HW)</i>
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NOVEMBER

Fri 27th	<i>Village Hall Christmas Quiz</i>
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DECEMBER

Sat 5th & Sun 6th	<i>Christmas Tree Festival in church</i>
Fri 11th	<i>Band Concert in church</i>

**Copy Date for July 2026 edition:
12 noon, 16th June 2026**

Please let us have your contributions in good time. We do what we can to include last minute items, but it is not always possible. Late arrivals are unlikely to make it into print.

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Laxton WI AGM and Changes



Retail therapy for a good cause

On April 29th the Village Hall transformed into a centre for fashion and style. First came the energetic and cheerful ladies from SOS, who brought their extensive range of top class clothes. These were arranged on long racks to form a 'cat walk' and accessories draped over chairs and tables. Now came the models who, with advice, chose outfits to delight. That these 'models' were people we all knew made the transformation all the more pleasing. The outstanding variety of excellent brands of clothes made choices both difficult and pleasurable.

Add to this the attractive raffle and a spread of refreshments from willing and talented WI members; the scene was set.

Shoulders were straightened, tummies pulled in, heads held high – and the models went and they looked a treat.

It was good to see Summer colours and fabrics after the thick coats and jumpers of winter time. There were such pretty styles. As one model said, it makes you feel good wearing them.

After the cat walk it was the turn of the audience to browse and buy if they wished to. It can truly be said the audience plunged in with a will. Soon there were folk with arms full of lovely clothes heading to a quiet spot to try them on. Gorgeous fabrics and fresh colours were seen on every turn.

All the garments SOS have for sale are donated for charity by top name brands. These are then displayed and sold at much reduced prices, the entire proceeds going to charity. The staff are all volunteers and the 'outlets' are small concerns like WI groups, village clubs and societies.

The staff we met were lively, committed ladies who enjoyed the evening as much as we did. Experienced as they are, the help and advice they gave to us customers was terrific.

It was a super night, lots of fun, a chance to meet good friends and make new ones, and get some lovely clothes.

I think you could call this a 'win-win' occurrence. Make sure you don't miss the next one.

Oprah Winfrey Touched My Elbow

Some people are just natural raconteurs. We met such a gentleman on May 13th in the Village Hall. Graham Keal spent thirty-five years as a show business reporter and treated us to a blow by blow account of meeting many feted and famous people – warts and all.

He described the slow start from a cub reporter on a small town paper when he spotted that the area was host to a steady stream of well known people in a particular entertainment spot. This developed into a weekly column and opened the doors to agency work and moving to larger papers, until the nationals beckoned.

Using a yellow piece of card, he noted down a brief comment as an aid to memory. This he read out to us, revealing the nitty gritty of the encounter. For example, some stars were sober, several others drunk as a skunk, another whiney, nasty and drunk, and another arrogant, as well as more pleasing comments, so it wasn't all glamorous.

We were all surprised to hear that one very famous family entertainer and comedian was arrogant, foul mouthed, totally unpleasant and drunk. There were highlights, however. Eric Morecambe, despite having travelled a long way, done a gruelling long day at a charity event before a long journey home, was delightful and gave them a long and amusing interview. When thanked for his time, he said 'It's a pleasure. It's people like you who put us where we are'.

Similarly, we were not surprised to hear that Sir David Attenborough was exceptional, surprisingly shy and diffident while being entertaining, erudite and fearsomely intelligent.

Thirty five years is a long time and Graham saw some amazing changes in the lives of people in show business. Perhaps the most touching were his memories of Frank Ifield, who he first interviewed when Frank was an international star with the world at his feet. The last interview Graham had with him was when Frank Ifield was in his eighties and performing in a seedy local venue.

Graham's interviews took place in a mixed bunch of venues, most of them very far from glamorous. He remembers with clarity the exotic ones. There was the five-day all-expenses paid sojourn in the Mediterranean, including a sumptuous meal on a billionaire's yacht. This contrasted vividly with damp, cold, disused bits of theatres and outside catering buses.

Questions came thick and fast, and Graham was soon the centre of an

avid group looking at his collection of photographs going back many years. It was a fascinating evening made accessible and enthralling by a knowledgeable and fluent speaker. There are apparently two more talks by Graham, so watch this space because we'd really like him to come and speak to us again – wouldn't you?

Sorry, I didn't tell you about Liz Hurley, did I...?

Next month we are going to 'Dress to Impress' ourselves, and Bridget Albano is going to show us how. Why don't you come along?

Laxton History Group



The most recent meetings of the Group were reported in the May edition of Open Field. The May meeting does not take place until 20th of the month and so will miss this edition.

At that meeting we look forward to hearing from Roger Blaney about the Archbishop's Palace at Southwell, next to the Minster.

His presentation will be followed in June by Bob Massey telling us about the long and interesting history of the Nottingham Goose Fair.



Helen, our speaker finder and events organiser, has booked the 15th July outing chosen at the last meeting. This will be a trip to Bomber Command at Lincoln with a lunch together in the restaurant there. All members are welcome. There will be more details later. And Jean is already busy planning the next Craft Fair in November.

Laxton History Group is open to anyone with an interest in history, regardless of whether they live in the village. We are always pleased to welcome new members and guests.

We meet on the third Wednesday of most months in Laxton Village Hall and have recently brought forward our starting time to 7.00pm. There is no membership fee. You become a member for the year by attending and everyone pays £3 a time towards the cost of the Hall, speaker and nice biscuits. Why not come and give us a try?



Side Saddle Exhibition at

The Museum of The Horse
22nd June - 5th Sept 2026
Habits, Saddles, Stirrups, Whips, etc.
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2 nights in our double room: £150 including full English breakfast or alternatives.

Phone Richard on 07836 699911

Milton Mausoleum



Open Season 2026 From now until 27th September we are open from 2pm – 4pm every Sunday afternoon and our volunteers will be pleased to show you around our historical building. Groups are also welcome to visit with prior booking on any agreed day of the week. We would love to hear from you.

Sun. 7th June 2pm Friends Annual General Meeting All welcome.

Sat. 20th June 7pm Hog Roast and Summer Concert featuring the versatile Beauty and the Bass – Tickets £18 Book your places now!

Sat. 10th October Autumn Fayre at the Mausoleum from 10am – 4pm

This event is free entry, and we are keen to welcome you to another successful event at the Mausoleum. We have many stalls inside and outside for you to browse and begin your seasonal shopping? Hot and cold refreshments available.

Saturday 5th December 3pm Carols by Candlelight is our extremely popular event which is always booked to capacity. Please book your places early to avoid being disappointed as many were last year. Mulled Wine, Hot Chocolate and Raffle.

All events are bookable now so please look at your diaries and get in touch. It's never too early to book your place!

Are you interested in volunteering at the Milton Mausoleum? Please contact us on the details above. We can discuss ways that you can assist us with sharing knowledge of this historical building linked to the Dukes of Newcastle. We would love to share our resources with you. Thank you, we would love to hear from you.

The Milton Mausoleum is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust

Milton Mausoleum, The Avenue, Milton NG22 0PW

Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 27/1/26

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

In attendance at parish council meeting

C. Wilson (Clerk), S. Michael (District councillor)

Member of the public (x1)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mrs Creighton's apologies were received and accepted. There were no other parish councillor absences. Mr Clark was absent.
2. **Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.
3. **Dispensations:** None required.
4. **10 Minutes public speaking:** No public present.
5. **Thoresby Estate report (if any):** No report.
6. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 November 2025:** The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 19 November 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.
7. **Matters arising:** *LMPC/118/25 – Declaration of interest* – Mrs Moorhouse had been unable to update her register of interests in its present format. The clerk will send a blank copy for completion.
LMPC/124/25 - Reports from district and county councillors – The clerk had sent Mr Clark the what3words location for the start of a 40 mph speed limit for the approach to Laxton from the Kirton direction. She will send a reminder.
There were no other matters arising.
8. **Reports from district and county councillors:** Mrs Michael reported that:
 - a. The appeal having been dismissed for non-compliance with filing requirements, a planning enforcement notice was now active in relation to the illegal travellers' site on Moorhouse Road with a high likelihood of an injunction. NSDC's aim was

to prevent use of the site and clearance of the site. Councillors noted that the court process will take time

- b. NSDC has resolved to purchase a drone, which was more cost effective than hiring drones, and had developed an associated drone policy
Council house rents are increasing by 4.8%

9. **Reports from councillors:** Mr J Hill reported that the new dog bins had still to be installed at Eel Lane and South Field. He will update the clerk once they have been installed and she will ask NSDC to add them to the emptying rota.
The chair reported that the NSDC Community Protection Officer had received a complaint of the hounds leaving a mess in Laxton Village following the hunt in October 2025. He had confirmed to her that the parish council had no involvement in the hunt and that it had received no complaints.

10. **2025 -26 changes to Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR):**

- a. **Update on adoption of generic email account hosted on an authority owned domain:** Councillors **approved** laxtonmoorhouseparishcouncil.gov.uk as the parish council's domain name.
- b. **Approve adoption of individual councillor email addresses hosted on an authority owned domain:** Councillors formally **decided** to move to individual parish council email accounts for councillors.

11. **Property matters**

- a. **Sports field, lease, pavilion (including approval of maintenance works and cost) and new litter bin:** The chair confirmed that discussions were underway with the Sports Field Committee members regarding maintenance of the pavilion. Councillors considered the quotes received from Larken & Co, Bird & Co and Ringrose Law in relation to the amendment to the sports field lease. Councillors **decided** to accept the Ringrose Law quote on the basis that it represented the best value. The clerk will accept the quote and take the matter forwards.
Mr Rose reported that he had had initial contact with the NSDC officer regarding the proposed new litter bin but had not heard further. The clerk will follow up with the NSDC officer.
- b. **Glebe Field:** Mr J Hill's report on his inspection of the tree is awaited.

12. Planning matters:

a. Applications: None

b. To note planning decisions by NSDC: None

c. Great North Road Solar Park – Planning Inspectorate process - Update and any required decisions including JPAG: Mr Allarton updated the meeting as follows:

- i.** As part of the DCO process, there had been various meetings in February 2026 including in relation to compulsory purchases
- ii.** JPAG had made its submissions through the planning consultant's report
- iii.** He had, via JPAG, put through Wadnell Lane for an accompanied site visit although public attendance was not encouraged by the Examining Authority
- iv.** The Examining Authority is looking to conclude the examination stage in April 2026.

d. Compliance: Illegal traveller site at Weston discussed at LMPC/8/26 (Reports from district and county councillors). Councillors noted that the planning application for the other traveller site had been the subject of a Highways objection which had been addressed. The application will proceed to committee in due course.

13. Defibrillator:

- 1. Inspection report:** Mr M Hennell confirmed that there were no issues. The clerk had ordered new pads.
- 2. Replacement – update and any necessary funding approval:** The outcome of the application to the Thoresby Trust was awaited in March 2026.
- 3. Health emergency planning – Working group report:** To continue to be carried over until the new defibrillator was available.

14. Parish environment and appearance, including:

- a. Parish benches:** The chair will send pictures of the benches and fingerposts for quote purposes.
- b. Parish roads and pavements:** Councillors discussed the ownership of the fingerposts and **agreed** that the posts appeared to belong to NCC. As such NCC would be responsible

for their repair and restoration. The clerk will make a formal report to NCC emphasising the importance of sympathetic repairs and update Mr Clark.

- c. **Flood resilience – Working party report and associated decisions:** Councillors having been unable to collect the aquasacs, the clerk will ask for them to be delivered to Mr Hennell instead. **Christmas event 2025 - Report:** Councillors discussed the history of the Christmas light switch on event. Its aim originally had been to provide a community event. The 2025 celebrations had demonstrated that this had been achieved with the wider community beginning to take the initiative. They were pleased at the good turn out for the switch on but agreed that there had been an element of duplication. Councillors **agreed** that, next year, they should look to coordinate with the church if they feel it is necessary to do something again.

15. Financial matters:

- a. **Financial position as at 31 December 2025:** Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position as at 31 December 2025 (incorporating the 2025-26 budget figures). The chair verified the stated balances against bank statements. The chair will pass the Sports Field Committee's contact details to the clerk for the purpose of claiming the reimbursement of the field rent.
- b. **2026-27 insurance arrangements:** Councillors noted the outcome of the clerk's enquiries of other insurers in relation to cover and cost noting that Zurich Insurance remained the most competitive. The annual premium having been benchmarked, councillors unanimously **approved** the 2026-27 insurance arrangements.
- c. **Accounts for payment:** Councillors unanimously **approved** seventeen payments totalling £1977.57. Councillors noted that the Visitor Centre is introducing hire charges of £20 for the use of the centre. They considered a proposal that the meetings are moved to the village hall which is a community initiative. Councillors **decided** by majority (4 in favour: 2 abstentions) to relocate meetings to the village hall with immediate effect. The clerk will make the necessary bookings.
- d. **Appointment of internal auditor:** Councillors unanimously **approved** the reappointment of Mr Ian Robinson as internal auditor.

- e. **Review system of internal control:** Councillors discussed the operation of the system of internal control and agreed that it was adequate for the size and needs of the council and continued to operate effectively, subject to the appointment of an internal auditor which was in hand.
- f. **Review 2026-27 risk assessment:** Councillors considered and **approved** the draft 2026-27 risk assessment subject to Mr Goldsborough inspecting the Rufford Lane noticeboard and Mr Pearce the Bilsthorpe noticeboard, with all inspections to be quarterly rather than monthly.
- g. **Consider need for interim internal audit:** The clerk advised councillors as to the on-going nature of the internal audit process. Councillors considered their financial affairs for the financial year to date. They decided that an interim internal audit would be disproportionate and was not justified.
- h. **To consider the financial information provided by the Clerk and NSDC's letter regarding 2026/27 precept estimates and to agree the precept for the year ending 31 March 2027:** Councillors considered the financial information provided by the clerk and discussed the merits of increasing the precept by a small amount to provide some financial resilience and avoid the need for a larger rise in a few years' time. They also noted that the charge for meetings would increase the council's expenditure by £120 a year going forward. unanimously **decided** to increase the precept to £4950. Service faults: None reported.
- 16. **Correspondence:** All items of correspondence noted. Mrs Moorhouse will laminate the lambing signs for display. 5 minutes public speaking time: No public present. The annual litter pick was discussed under this item. Councillors agreed that it should take place on 22 March 2026. The clerk will contact NSDC regarding the litter picking equipment and share the 2025 litter pick risk assessment with the chair for any necessary updates. The litter pick will start at 10 am at the Visitor Centre.
- 17. **Agenda items for next meeting:** Remembrance display and see above
- 18. **Date of next meeting:**
Next regular meeting: 7.00 pm Tuesday 24 March 2026 at the Village Hall

Please note: The Draft Minutes of the March Meeting have been submitted and will appear in the July edition of the magazine.



Laxton Garden Fête

Friday, 17 July 2026, 6:30 pm

At Blacksmiths Cottage, High Street

by kind permission of Roy and Jean Hennell

Cake stall, tombola, books, bric a brac, plants, raffle

Hot dogs, cream scones, tea and coffee

Bowls, Skittles, Ladder, Bean Bags

Come along and enjoy the evening.

***Any prizes or donations for the stalls will
be gratefully received***

All proceeds for Laxton church



Kirton Coffee Morning

June 6th, 10.30am.

'Hopland Cottage', Kirton (Georgina's)

Entry £3 - includes Coffee, Cake etc.

**Raffle - Bring and Buy - Bric a Brac - Plants - Cocktails
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Please join us - Everybody Welcome

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Egmanton Fun Day

The village is holding a Family Fun Day in the Village Hall grounds. Entry is free.

Saturday June 20th, 1 - 5 pm

Sports and entertainment for children

Take part in skittles and other garden party games

Bar, teas, coffees and snacks; BBQ for cooking your own food or bring your own picnic

Admire the displays on the stalls,

All welcome. Dogs on leads also welcome

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Dukeries Singers

Where We Stand: A Song, A Town, A Shared Story

The Dukeries Singers are immensely proud to share a very

special moment. Thanks to the generosity of Live & Local, and Newark & Sherwood DC, we were commissioned to perform a brand-new song written especially for us.



We first had the honour of singing this work at the St George's Day Celebrations in Ollerton on 26 April, and from the opening bars it was clear that this was something special. The occasion was made more special by the presence of Amy Kakoura, singer-songwriter and the composer of the work.

'Where We Stand', captures the spirit of Ollerton with warmth, honesty and deep affection. Rather than simply recounting events, the song gently weaves together generations of lived experience. It speaks of labour and craft, of roads laid and railways forged, of close-knit communities shaped by industry and care. It remembers the hop fields and the River Maun, ever moving, mirroring the passage of time itself.

The song honours those skills filled factories and workshops, and reflects on family life bound together through the colliery and beyond.

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to Live & Local for commissioning such a meaningful piece, and our sincere gratitude to Amy for a work that feels so true to Ollerton and so fitting for The Dukeries Singers. We are honoured to bring her music to life.

We are delighted that 'Where We Stand' will feature in our forthcoming concerts, alongside music from the musicals through the years. Both performances promise an uplifting afternoon of song. We will be joined by two fantastic flautists, adding extra sparkle to the programme, and we are also thrilled to feature a saxophone instrumental, bringing a rich and expressive voice to the afternoon's music.

Upcoming Concerts

Saturday 6 June 2026, 2.30 pm The Village Hall, Edwinstowe

Saturday 13 June 2026, 2.30 pm Jubilee Hall, Ollerton

Tickets: £10.00 (including afternoon tea)

For information about joining The Dukeries Singers or attending upcoming concerts, please contact John Banbury on **07759 086132** or email **john@asherwood.co.uk**.

Egmanton Village Hall

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk / 01777 871171

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

- ♦ **Yoga** – with Karen Baker Mondays, 7pm - 8.15pm.
Email karenbaker321@outlook.com mobile **07399 669380**
- ♦ **Pilates** - Thursdays from 5:00pm - 6:00pm with Rachel. Contact Rachel for details on rs_fitness@hotmail.co.uk or phone **07776 341225**.
- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Third Thursdays in the Hall
- ♦ **Coffee Morning**: The second Saturday of the month from 10 - 12 .
Next one will be **on June 12th** All welcome.

All events appear on the web site - see above

Reporting Potholes



A reminder about the pothole reporting contact details are:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/potholes/report-a-pothole

Or ring Customer Services on 0300 500 8080

Laxton Defibrillator

The defibrillator in the Visitor Centre, is always accessible as neither the Visitor Centre door nor the cabinet housing is locked. Please do remember that the defibrillator must only be used once authorised by a call to 999.

Booking Laxton Village Hall

The Hall is available for anyone to book and bookings are taken through the web site. Please visit:

<https://www.laxtonvh.org.uk/>

Useful Contact Details

Defibrillator Contacts:

Neil Randall	01777 871229 & 07710 398745, evenings and weekends
Mark Hennell	07812 908316, evenings
Stuart Rose	07939 228353, as required
Jeanette Geldard	07956 959135, daytime in Kneesall, evenings / weekends

Police

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

PC2548 Deborah Bakin supported by PCSO 8524 Richard Dunn at Southwell	07595 074292
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