

Open Field

£1

March 2020



The Official Opening of Laxton Village Hall, 8th February 2020

The monthly publication of the
parish of Laxton & Moorhouse
www.openfield.org.uk



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Open Field

www.openfield.org.uk

Flowers and Brasses Rota

Mr & Mrs S Clarke	23rd February & 1st March
Mrs M Beckett & Mrs B Noble	8th & 15th March
Mrs S Rose & Mrs R Creighton	22nd & 29th March

Coffee Morning Hosting Rota

April 9 th	Diane Wood
May 14 th	Janet Cooke
June 11 th	Mampa Haste (NB 10.45am)

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

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

Letter From Revd. Zoe

Dear friends

2020 marks the 10th year of me being an ordained minister and therefore I am eligible for a sabbatical. On Monday 10th Feb I began my sabbatical leave. Sabbatical leave means I am away from my work desk, released from my parochial/congregational responsibilities for 6 weeks leading up to Easter. The remainder of my sabbatical shall resume after Easter. Sabbatical leave is in keeping with the Biblical principle of work and Sabbath rest. In the beginning when God's work of bringing the whole of creation into being was followed by rest – 'On the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done'.

Why take a sabbatical? To ensure the wellbeing and healthiness of ministers in roles and to offer a break from the incessant call upon their time and nonstop nature of ministry. Sabbaticals benefit not only the healthiness of the minister but the health of the wider Church and can significantly enhance the ministry of the whole people of the God. This resonates with our vision of 'Healthy people, Healthy Church, Healthy Communities'.

The benefits of sabbatical include time to be with God: to listen and not have to rush away; to reduce stress, to improve the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing of the minister; to rebuild lifestyle habits affected negatively by the nonstop nature of ministry; sabbatical leave provides time to take stock, to re-invest in family life and help re-focus on priorities of Church and ministry.

The purpose of the sabbatical is rest, renewal and re-creation so that the minister can return to work refreshed and re-energised.

I return back to my responsibilities on Mon 23rd March and over the weeks leading up to Easter, I shall be in the schools celebrating their Easter services as well as journeying with our churches through Holy Week when we re-member the last week of Jesus' earthly life and then celebrating Easter Day which will be my last Sunday in our churches. In June I will be taking up new responsibilities as Vicar of Blidworth and Rainworth and Area Dean of Mansfield. Go well through March!

Blessings
Rev Zoe

Sympathy

We were saddened to hear that **Ken Woolhouse** had died on Tuesday 21st January at the age of 77. Ken had lived in Laxton most of his life, farming at Town End and then joining Grove & Rufford Hunt to work at the kennels at Barnby Moor before retiring to Sutton.

On Monday 10th February, **Rosemary Crothers** passed away at her home in Egmonton at the age of 83. Rosemary was born in Laxton, baptised and married in Laxton church before moving to Egmonton, but still kept connected to Laxton. She was a long time member of Laxton WI.

Rosemary and Tony celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year. Our sympathy to Tony, Nigel and Paul.

Tuesday 11th February brought the sad news that another old friend of Laxton, **Terry Beckett**, had died on the Isle of Arran, where he and his wife, Barbara, had lived for any years.

Terry was born at Hill Farm, Egmonton, the youngest of the six children of William and Edith Beckett of Hill Farm, brother of the late Roy. He attended Laxton School before going on to Newark.



Mothering Sunday

March 22nd

Laxton Church

10.30am

Service to be taken by Lay Reader

Joan Wood

All welcome



Thank You

We would like to say a heartfelt 'Thank you' to the Trustees of Laxton Village Hall who have worked for so long and so hard to deliver us a wonderful newly refurbished Hall.

It will be a great asset to the village and so much nicer to use for the groups which meet there regularly. Memories of the nasty smell, the grim kitchen and sitting shivering through meetings clad for the outdoors are consigned to history!

Thank you all.

From a regular user on behalf of us all.



Get Well Soon

We were sorry to hear that Dorothy, Mark, Edwin and Roy spent time in hospital recently and that Brenda C is unwell. All are at home and we hope they are recovering well. We send very best wishes.

At the time of writing Margaret was recovering in Newark hospital and Neil was awaiting a bed at Nottingham City for an operation. We are thinking of them both and hope all goes well. Again we send very best wishes.

We are pleased to hear that Brenda continues to recover. We wish everyone a speedy return to good health.

Good wishes are sent to anyone who is unwell or experiencing difficulties. We give individual mentions to people who are brought to our notice. Please let Jean know of anyone who deserves a mention, but please check they are happy about it appearing in print first.



Village Hall News

Just a quick reminder that the next Quiz is on FRIDAY 6th MARCH 2020. Please ring with details of your team asap.

It was a really wonderful day on 8th February for our "official" opening and thanks to so many people for coming along. Please see the report/photos about the day in the magazine.

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Supper Dance

Friday 20th March

Laxton Village Hall, 7.30 pm

Tickets £8 from Jean (870276) or
Brenda (870541)

Delicious supper included
Please bring your own drink and
glasses

All proceeds to Laxton Church



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ON

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AT 7.30

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Coffee Morning

12th March, 10.30am - 11.30am

The next coffee morning will take place on Thursday 12th March at Corner Farm, the last property on the right at the bottom.

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

Plenty of tea, cakes, and chatter.

See new hosting rota on inside front cover.



Things to Do this Month

☆ Get your tickets for the month's events

March

- Thu 5th** Refresh your wardrobe at the WI Fashion Show **VH**
- Fri 6th** Gather your drink and glasses for the Quiz Night **VH**
- Weds 11th** Learn about crochet at WI, 7.30pm, **LVH**
- Weds 18th** Learn about Laxton Castle with the History Group **VH**
- Fri 20th** Enjoy the company at the Church Supper Dance **VH**
- Sat 21st** Coffee Morning at Kirton

VH = Village Hall VC = Visitor Centre



Laxton WI presents **SOS Fashion Show & Shopping Event**

Laxton Village Hall, Thursday 5th March
£6, including glass of wine and nibbles

*Refreshments served at 7.00pm
for prompt 7.30pm start of show*

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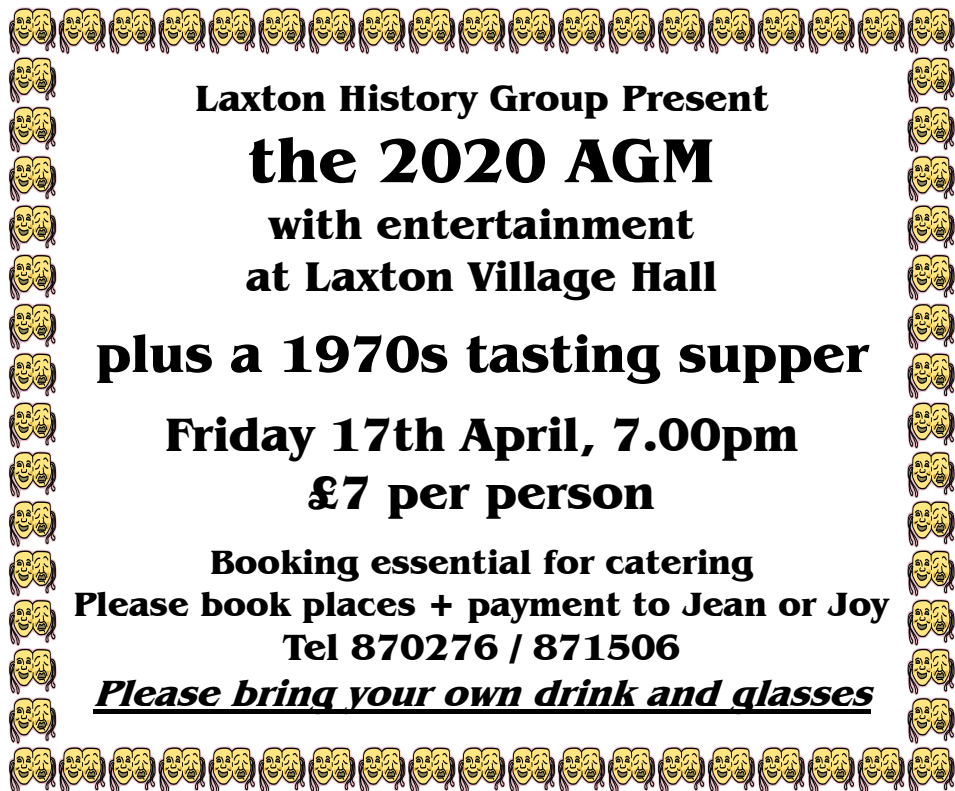
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Laxton History Group Present

the 2020 AGM

**with entertainment
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Friday 17th April, 7.00pm

£7 per person

Booking essential for catering

Please book places + payment to Jean or Joy

Tel 870276 / 871506

Please bring your own drink and glasses

Mother's Union

At the end of February we will be holding a members' meeting at Janet's house in Timothy Road.

Speaker details for the March meeting are still to be confirmed. This meeting will also take place at Janet's house. Please contact Janet for further information. Everyone welcome.

New £20 Note Released 20/2/20

A new polymer £20 note similar in feel to the new £5 and £10 notes was released on February 20th. It features 'The Fighting Temeraire', a painting by JMW Turner. His self portrait from c. 1799 also appears along with his signature taken from his Will, in which he left many of his paintings to the nation.

You will still be able to use the paper £20 note until it is withdrawn from circulation. Six months' notice will be given of this date.



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Laxton Village Hall Opening Party



All of us who had worked so hard for the opening on February 8th awoke in trepidation; would it rain, would we have enough food, would we have enough room, would anyone at all come to see the hall?

The sky was grey and there was a cold wind blowing along the village street, but it at least wasn't raining as the Rattlejag Morris Dancers commandeered the road outside the hall and began to warm us up with their lively folk dances. Colourful and energetic they made the watchers forget the bitter wind as they nonchalantly danced their way around passing traffic. It was an excellent start to the proceedings.

As they finished, Colin Cree, a former pupil of the old school, rang the old school bell to announce the start of the official proceedings. The bell has been beautifully restored by Stuart Rose.

We all gratefully moved into the warmth of the hall where Roger Cottee welcomed our guest speakers and Mick Manning thanked all who had been concerned with the refurbishment and the Opening Day.

Robert Jenrick MP spoke warmly of his affection for Laxton and complimented the Trustees on the success of the refurbishment. He and the Mayor of Ollerton, Councillor Donna Cumberlidge, cut the splendid cake which had been specially made for the occasion by Janet Cook and decorated by her daughter.



Hugh Matheson of Thoresby Estate, who officially opened the hall and commented on its attractive and welcoming atmosphere, had a special surprise for the village. He announced that only the day before at noon the contracts had been signed to enable Thoresby Estate to become the new owners of the Laxton Estate. The completion date for the change of ownership is set for 25th March, Lady Day.



He gave an undertaking there and then that Thoresby intended to preserve the three field system in Laxton. This was met with enthusiastic applause, at last the weeks of uncertainty and anxiety about who would take over the estate were over. Laxton would return to its former owners.

Rather appropriately the announcement was made in the old school built in 1863 by Lord Manvers, Lord of the Manor of the Thoresby and Laxton estates.

Four pretty and super efficient little girls then presented bouquets to our invited guests Sylvia Michael from the District Council, Stella Herbert from Sherwood Forest Rotary Club, Cate Brimblecombe-Clark from the Lottery and Councillor Donna Cumberlidge. Councillor Mike Pringle, Rotarian Malcolm Bevan, Sir John Starkey and our architect, Carl Andres were all presented with maps of Laxton's three field system.



A delicious lunch was then served by the WI and the Mothers Union, who made full use of the new kitchen and café area. The buffet was a perfect delight and all of those who baked and served the food are to be congratulated.



The afternoon fun began with the SteelGen steel band which set everyone's feet tapping to the Caribbean rhythms, which

brought sunshine into the hall and even tempted some to dance.



They were later joined by Tuxford Primary School choir and Majorettes who delightfully entertained their parents and villagers, and who helped to see off the remains of the rather wonderful buffet.

Finally, the steel band brought our village party to a close. It had all been a great success with over two hundred folk having visited our village hall. They had been given a real Laxton welcome, royally entertained and really well fed. We could not have asked for a better celebration of Laxton and all it stands for.

Thank you to all of those who took part.

Joan Cottee





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Tuxford Young Farmers



January the 22nd was games night and we had a great time with Will as our games master.

We were still on the games theme on the 29th but this time it was on the driving range at Rufford Golf Course with everyone hitting some good drives

February the 5th was practice night for our sports day on the 9th but sadly this event had to be cancelled due to the bad weather.

A Valentine's themed evening was held on the 12th with our version of Mr & Mrs. which was won by sisters Lottie and Maisie.

Our meetings are held at Hall Farm Weston on Wednesdays at 7-30pm. We are always happy to see new faces so come along and join us.

Emily



Easter Sunday
April 12th
Moorhouse Church
will reopen at 3.00pm for
Rev. Zoe's final service in the
benefice. This will be Holy
Communion.
All welcome

Laxton's Historic Open Field Farming System and Sale of the Laxton Estate

SUCCESS!!

It has finally been announced that Thoresby Estate is to be the new owner of The Laxton Estate. Hugh Matheson from the Thoresby Estate made the formal announcement during the celebrations of the official opening of the refurbished Village Hall on 8th February 2020

On the right is a copy of the letter from Thoresby confirming this announcement and confirming it will be completed on 25th March 2020.

Look What We Have Started!

The item below was sent in by Hugh Matheson of Thoresby who remembers enjoying Laxton History Group members' performance of the Laxton Mummers Play at the AGM and supper in 2019.

The longer article from the Society of Ploughmen's Spring 2020 edition refers to the 2019 British National Ploughing Championships. It reads:

"The village hall was being renovated, so we weren't sure where we could hold our social evening ...[the church and its ladies obliged] ... we were then treated to something rather different.

The Branston Players, a local amateur drama group put on a 'Plough Play' in the church. Plough Plays were performed by rough farm plough boys in the 19th century during the winter months when ploughing with horses was impossible due to frozen ground. They would put on a play in the local pubs and the houses of the aristocracy to earn a little money and food or drink.

Now the plough play we were treated to at Nocton took us quite by surprise. It consisted of seven people dressed up - some of the men dressed as women and some of the women dressed as men - it was hilarious and extremely entertaining."

It seems that where Laxton leads, others follow!



Thoresby

Dear Sir/Madam,

11th March 2020

As you will have heard from the Crown Estate we have now exchanged contracts and are scheduled to complete on Lady Day, the 25th of March, this has been the culmination of a long process reflecting Laxton's uniqueness and I want to thank everyone for their patience at what must have been a worrying time.

Thoresby is committed to transparency and will arrange a village meeting as soon as feasible after March 25th for Thoresby to re-introduce itself to the village and to express our determination to make a success of the relationship. At that meeting we will hope to fill the diary with appointments to visit each tenant in turn to discuss the situation as it is and to hear about ambitions for the future. Only when we have finished that consultation can we use it to inform our plans to maintain the Open Fields and the Manorial institutions. I hope that we can now give the village the confidence that its future is secure in the hands of an Estate that has been in this part of the world for eight centuries and hopefully will be here for a many more.

Yours,

Gregor Pierrepont

Estate Office, Thoresby Park, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG22 9EQ
Tel: 01623 822301 Email: estateoffice@thoresby.com

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SERVICES IN OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

26th Feb Ash Wednesday HC with Ashing, 7pm Bilsthorpe & St Paulinus, New Ollerton

1st Mar Lent 1

9am Kirton **HC**

4pm Wellow **EP**

8th Mar Lent 2

10.30am Laxton HC

4pm Egmonton **EP**

15th Mar Lent 3

9am Egmonton **HC**

10.30am Wellow **HC**

22nd Mar Mothering Sunday

10.30am Laxton WFA

29th Mar Passiontide

10.30am Passiontide Family Communion services at St Paulinus,
New Ollerton

Tuesday 10th March – ‘Open Vestry Hour’ for christening and wedding enquiries

6.30pm – 7.30pm at St Paulinus Church Office, Church Circle, New Ollerton. Christening enquiries, please ring Mrs Janice Hannington on **(01623) 836672** and for all wedding enquiries, contact Kate Banks, the Deanery Administrator on **(07562 222371)**

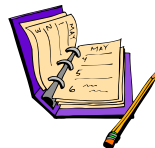
kate.banks@southwell.anglican.org



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2020

Mar 5 th	WI Fashion Show
Mar 6th	Quiz Night
Mar 11th	WI
Mar 12th	Coffee Morning
Mar 18th	History Group
Mar 20 th	Church Dance
Mar 24th	Parish Council
Mar 30th	Mothers' Union



Forward Planning

Apr 17th	LHG AGM and Supper, 1970s theme
9 th & 10 th May	County Show
26th Sept.	Southwell Ploughing Match

Regular Events:

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

Quiz Nights 1st Friday of December & March

Copy Date for April: 16th March, mid day.

Please let us have your contributions in good time. We do what we can to include last minute items, but it is not always possible. We are unlikely to be able to publish anything received late.

Thank you.

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Our February meeting greeted the return of our President, Brenda, after her illness. We were delighted to have her back with us.

Unfortunately, after thanking people for their cards gifts and good wishes, her first news was sad. Brenda announced that much loved member Rosemary Crothers had died a couple of days previously. Rosemary grew up in Laxton, the daughter of the village blacksmith, and was a lifelong friend of other members who had grown up here. She was a lovely lady and will be sadly missed by us all. Everyone will have a good memory of her kindness, patience, love of Laxton and WI and her contributions to craft and catering events. Brenda asked for a minute's silence in memory of Rosemary, who remained a committee member until Christmas 2019.

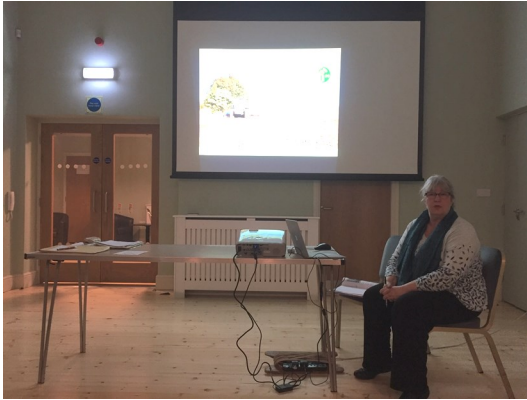
Brenda commented on the success of the Village Hall Opening Party the previous Saturday. WI had organised the catering, which had been another much appreciated effort. They were so busy that no one had a chance to estimate how many people were catered for, but it must have been a couple of hundred. Being WI this was carried out with good humour and efficiency and even some spare cakes at the end of it. Brenda thanked everyone who had helped by making food, serving teas, washing up or in whatever capacity. She reserved special thanks for Derek Storton, who was declared an honorary co-opted member as he had done sterling service collecting all the crockery and delivering it to the ladies washing up. His help was very much appreciated.

Brenda reported that we had received thanks from Mike Manning, Chair of the Village Hall Trustees, and that comments from the VIPs showed that they had also been impressed with our service.

Thoughts turned to the County Show in May. The competition theme is for 'The Roaring 20s', and it requires two craft items. Lesley discussed ideas which have been shared to date and showed members the idea she has for creating the background to our display.

The Spring Council Meeting will be in the Playhouse this year and Joyce has written our entry for the county Canada Cup competition, which was won last year by Lesley.

We have many preparations in hand at the present time with a team for the Village Hall Quiz, ideas needed for an outing on 10th June, our own party and invitations to several others at local WIs. Planning for our Fashion Show is moving up a gear now and final arrangements are being made. Members are reminded that Brenda or Lesley would like to receive items for the two raffle hampers, one to be food and one to be toiletries.



Kay Guliotta, the Education Officer for the Newark and Nottinghamshire Agricultural Society then spoke about the heritage and history of the Society and the County Show. She had the privilege of being the first speaker to be able to use the new screen at the Hall. It is not widely known that the Society, in common with all other county agricultural societies, is a charity. The

Society dates back 220 years, although the Newark Society merged with the Nottinghamshire Society when the latter was in danger of folding.

Societies were forming in times when children as young as 3 or 4 worked as bird scarers and gleaners. Employment was not guaranteed for labourers. Should a worker be unable to work through illness or injury, a harsh employer might dismiss them, turning them out of their home.

Some agricultural labourers were hired at the hiring fairs. In 1762 there were 25 hiring fares in Nottinghamshire. A potential employer would examine those offering their services and question them about their dependents or any liability which would count against them as suitable employees.

The repeal of the Corn Laws, Enclosure and threshing machines all reduced demand for agricultural labourers. There were riots and dissent in the countryside. Workers moved to the city for higher wages.

Agricultural societies formed as charities to promote good practice and to support workers. The first formed in Salford in 1768. In the last three years 16 societies have been lost, largely due to the huge losses incurred in running County Shows. Big shows such as the East of England and the Royal Show, both of which have now ceased, were losing over £1 million a year. We learned, to our amusement, that the Notts society made a profit in 2001 - due to the show being cancelled! The facilities at the Showground are hired out to generate income to support the shows and work in the community.

Kay spoke about public disengagement with where their food comes from. She gave shocking examples of children thinking cheese grew on bushes and spaghetti on trees.

The Newark and Nottinghamshire society runs the County show, the Vintage Tractor Show and the Midlands Machinery Show and supports

smaller shows such as those at Flintham and Collingham. It awards grants of up to £500 to students of both agriculture and agricultural engineering, and it awards long service awards to people who have worked in agriculture.

They work with schools, giving out seeds, compost, tools etc. to encourage children to grow their own food stuffs. They are delighted when they can eat

their produce. Kay was shocked that the teachers had no idea how to grow tomatoes and she had first to teach them so they could teach the children.

One of Kay's roles is to get across that farming need not be dirty, smelly and poorly paid. There is a very high-tech aspect to agriculture these now. Drones can scan a field to gather data to be fed into a computer on board a machine to apply fertiliser. Robotics is an area of intense study. Robots can work in conditions where humans cannot. Lincoln University, we heard, aims to be a world leader in robotics for agriculture.

Sue judged our competition on the theme of garden birds. The winner was Ann with her carved wooden bird.

Next month we will be learning about crochet from Sally Richards, and **the competition will be for an item of crochet**. In April we will learn about the REACH Flower Pod scheme for people with learning difficulties from Jane Hufton

The meeting takes place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 11th March at 7.30pm and we are always pleased to see visitors or new members.



Bonus Ball Numbers

There are currently 16 vacant numbers for the Bonus Ball draw, which supports the Laxton Sports & Recreation Field. They are:

1, 2, 7, 11, 20, 23, 26, 28, 34, 46, 51, 52, 56, 57, 58, and 59.

Please contact Ken Shepherd on 870605 or Mike Manning 870844 if you would like one of them. Meanwhile existing holders have a greater chance of winning a ROLLOVER!

Thank you.

Michael Manning



Laxton History Group



On February 19th John Whitfield brought us the 1970s, which was timely as this is to be the theme for our annual historic supper in April. We will tell more next month.

Village Hall Opening

We were pleased to be invited to provide a display in support of the Village Hall Opening Party. We featured our printed panels describing our work with our own Lottery grant.

Michael Wood Award 2020

The new year's round of activities with local schools begins in March with a visit to Tuxford Primary School by Joan and Roger Cottee. They will be encouraging the children to research an historical topic of their own choosing. They will work on this with their families for a month, after which History Group members are invited to visit the school to see and hear about their work. More details of this next month.

AGM & Supper - Friday 17th April, 1970s Theme

This year we will be holding our AGM as previously on a FRIDAY evening to allow for people who don't like a later night mid week.

Once again we will be combining the business of the evening with entertainment, still to be confirmed, and a supper. This year, by popular request we will be featuring the food of the 70s. It appears that vol au vents and blancmange are favourite memories.

We would like to be able to display photographs of people and places from Laxton during the 1970s. If you can provide any photos in advance we could scan and show them. Please contact Jean or Joy if you can help.

The AGM meeting and supper is, as always, open to friends and guests. All we ask is that you let Jean know as soon as possible who would like to come so we can ensure there is enough food for everyone. **The cost per person will be £7 and as always you will need to bring your own drink and glasses.**

We look forward to seeing members old and new.

March Meeting, Wednesday 18th March - Laxton Castle

We welcome all visitors and friends. In March we welcome James Wright, who is an accepted expert on the history of the castles of

Nottinghamshire. He has written a book on the subject and this featured Laxton Castle on the cover. He recently advised Notts TV when they came here to film. If you don't know as much as you would like about Laxton Castle, this is your opportunity to find out more.

As we have been able to book a special speaker we have invited Norwell Parish History Society to join us.

There is no membership fee for the Group. Everyone pays £3 admission at the door and we are a friendly, mixed group which always welcomes visitors and friends. We hope to see some new faces and to welcome back familiar ones for this meeting.

Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair

Once again we will be participating in this event, which will be held in Mansfield Library on Sunday 3rd May. We are hoping to feature the Michael Wood Award once again, and possibly something about the change of ownership of the Laxton Estate and its recent history. This is a free, public event aimed at the family with plenty to interest visitors of all ages, so why not come along and see us there?

'A Snapshot in Time'

The books we produced for this project, and which were published in 2016 and 2017 are still available for download free of charge on our web site. The stats produced by the site show that in January 2020 113 people came to the site directly to this section. We are obliged under the terms of our grant to keep the books available for five years from the completion of the project. It is obviously a worthwhile thing to be doing as people are still looking at and downloading them.

Taking the statistics from January 2020, the number of books downloaded was:

Village Buildings	16
The Variety of Laxton Life	16
Village Folk	13
The Village Schoolmaster	12
Open Field Farming in Laxton	8
Laxton in Wartime	8
Living in Laxton	7
Key Stage 1 Teaching & Learning Pack	17
Kay Stage 2 Teaching & Learning Pack	10

Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
18/1/20	11	ROLLOVER
25/1/20	21	Alan and Anna
1/2/20	52	ROLLOVER
8/2/20	21	Alan and Anna
15/2/20	18	Ken Shepherd

We have various numbers available. Here is the up to date list of the 14 spare numbers: **1, 2, 7, 11, 20, 23, 26, 28, 34, 46, 51, 52, 56, 57, 58, 59**. Please contact Ken Shep on 870605 / Mike Manning 870844. Thank you.

Michael Manning

Group Oil Order

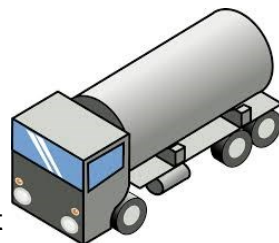
The spring order went in in mid February. Most people seemed to have been able to make their late autumn delivery last over this mild winter but it was clearly well timed because 25 people ordered. We achieved a 38.95p per litre compared with a Boilerjuice average for 1000 litres of 44.2p.

The next order is due around the end of July / early August depending on how things look by then. Existing group members are invited to email if they feel they will need oil as this usually indicates that others may be in the same position and may prompt an order.

New members are always welcome as long as they can email or have someone to do so on their behalf. It is helpful if you register before an order is due to spread the effort around order time. To register you should provide mobile and land line numbers, email(s) and full postal address plus any special instructions e.g. guard dogs, gates with locks, difficult access etc.

If you would like to order oil, you should provide your details or update what we hold about you and also specify a number of litres. 500 litres is the minimum order. Suppliers will not 'fill the tank'. If in doubt, and you really do want it full to the top, you should overestimate slightly and they will charge you for what your tank takes.

Please send orders to oil@openfield.org.uk.



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The Families Who Left 2 - The Harphams

The first information I have of the Harphams is in 1632, the birth of William to John Harpham. In 1671 John Harpham of Moorhouse left a will, naming as beneficiaries his wife, his sons, William and John, and his daughter, Mary.

There are various mentions of the family over the years in Moorhouse the last being in 1901, when William Harpham died. He had tenanted Church Farm for some 50 years, but what happened to his family?

His eldest son, William, lived at home until his father's death and then went to live in Norwell. He had become a Tenantright Valuer and later a Land Agent. When he died my uncle went to the sale and bought a few of his effects which referred back to Church Farm, including the photo shown here.



The second son, John, became an apprentice chemist and druggist in Newark, a chemist's assistant and then a chemical manufacturer and pharmaceutical chemist in various parts of London. His wife, from Fledborough, was a teacher and later became Head of a private school. Even forty or fifty years later local friends or relatives were visiting them in London.

Seemingly neither William nor John had a family and Charles, William's youngest son, died as a toddler. His daughter, Elizabeth, was

unmarried, having kept house for her widowed father.

There remained just his daughter, Sarah, to carry on the genes. She became a governess and then in 1881, she married doctor and surgeon, William White, from Copthorne and went to live near Manchester. She did have children; a daughter, one son who became a doctor and two sons who became lawyers.

After some three hundred years those Harphams connected with Moorhouse had gone! Or so I thought!

John Harpham was born in Moorhouse in 1831. By the early 1850s he had become a carpenter and joiner in Chelsea with a wife, Emma, born in Piccadilly. They had eight children born in the London area, six girls and two boys, George and John. In 1911 the family was living in the Southfields area of Wandsworth. John and Emma had been married 56 years.

But then there was Fanny Harpham born in 1826. I found a book in the cupboard under the stairs at Church Farm in 1950, a Sunday School present Fanny had been awarded in 1840; left there by succeeding tenants for 110 years.

Fanny married and had a daughter Maria in 1854. She died in 1900 aged 76 years. Maria died in 1934 aged 80 years, seemingly having lived at what is now 'The Holdings' for all her life. Violet Saxelby went to 'lay her out', as was the custom of neighbours in those days if there were no immediate relations nearby. I went with her. On her return her young son, Noel, asked 'Have you trussed her up, mam?' At three years old, his only experience of death was of his mother trussing chickens.

The last of the Harphams from here! Unless you know differently?



The Bennetts of Laxton

We tried to make the history of the Bennett family easier to follow by publishing a code for the various generations, but have had comments to the effect that it was still hard to follow. As a result the entire series is being prepared to publish as a single item on the web site. We will let those readers who wish to look there for it know when it has been published.

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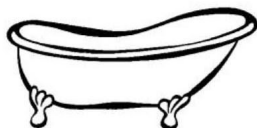
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Dukeries Woodturning Society



Our AGM in January was well attended and a new member went home happy with some 'turning wood' from our raffle. Why not come along? For the annual membership of £15 you will enjoy the excellent monthly professional demonstrators and 'hands on' nights when you can have a go on a lathe. We welcome all ages and levels of experience for a free taster night, after which it costs just £5 a time.

We enjoyed demonstrations from Gordon Fisher and Pat Murphy on the lathe. If we needed inspiration this was it! Gordon made a fascinating vase using off centre turning while Pat showed what you can do with green elder, creating a vase of flowers.

We now have our programme for the new year, which includes the dates when Steve Wright will be bringing wood for sale.

MARCH 25 th	Richard Findley	
APRIL 22 nd	Steve Heeley	Steve Wright
MAY 27 th	Tony Kitchen	
JUNE 24 th	Sue Harker	Steve Wright
JULY 22 nd	Joey Richardson	
AUGUST 26 th	Tiny Turner (Emma)	Steve Wright
SEPT 30 th (5 th Weds)	Richard Kennedy (will also demo at Wolds Club)	
OCTOBER 28 th	Robin Barlow	
NOVEMBER 25 th	Rick Dobney	



HANDS ON EVENINGS:

All Wednesdays 19/2/20, 15/4/20, 17/6/20, 16/9/20 and 18/11/20

We hope to see you at **the Jubilee Hall, Ollerton on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm**. On March 25th we welcome Richard Findley to demonstrate to us and on April 15th there is a 'hands on' evenings.

For more information please visit www.dukerieswoodturning.org.uk or call Gordon Fisher on **01623 464986** / Michael Manning on **01777 870844**.

The Dukeries Singers

Welcome to Spring.

"In March, Winter is holding back and Spring is pulling forward." (Jean Hersey)

Let's hope Spring wins this "tug of war."



The Choir has welcomed Vicki Melling as our new Musical Director. She studied at Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London and is an accomplished singer and musician and enjoys a wide variety of music styles. As well as accepting the invitation to be M.D. for the Dukeries Singers, this busy lady is also M.D. for the region's Women's Institute Choir. She is M.D. for the Forest Singers and has been for the last ten years. I think this shows her interest in Choral Music.

Vicki is keen to encourage more people to get involved in singing with a choir and we are always looking for new singers to come and join in the friendliness and fun. We have spaces for all voice parts and you are welcome to come and hear us or try us out. Singing with others is fun and very high on the "feel good" scale.

You can find more about us on our website thedukeriessingers.com

on Facebook and You Tube and our email address is:

thedukeriessingers@gmail.com

We rehearse every Wednesday evening from 7.30pm until 9pm in the foyer of the Theatre at the Dukeries Academy in Ollerton. This is accessed via the Main Entrance and car park on Whinney Lane. Go through the Main Door and through Reception and out across the Courtyard to enter the Theatre area opposite. Our Concert Secretary, Margaret on **01623 642464 / 07896 491314** would be delighted to hear from you if you wish to book the choir for your fundraising, charity or celebratory event.

Look out for those "Daffodils, fluttering and dancing in the breeze."
(W. Wordsworth)

Jan

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Kirton Coffee Morning

*Saturday, March 21st
at Kirton Hall Farm, Kirton -*

10.30am.

Entry £2.50

includes coffee and cake.

*Cakes, White-Elephant, Bring & Buy,
Raffle etc.*

*The fifth draw of the Kirton 100 club will
take place at this event.*

Proceeds to Kirton Church

All welcome!

Palace Theatre, Newark

The theatre is celebrating its centenary during 2020. Various events are being organised.

They are delighted to invite the public to attend their second Open Memory Morning on Saturday 28th March from 10am -12pm they would love for you to bring along your photos, old brochures and memorabilia from the Theatre

along with your stories and memories to contribute to a fascinating exhibition this September. They are particularly interested in anything from 1920 to 1986 as very little material remains in their collection from this period.



Useful Contact Details

Defibrillator Contacts:

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

Police

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

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

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

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Ollerton Surgery - Middleton Lodge Practice	01623 703266
Newark Hospital	01636 681681
Bassetlaw Hospital	01909 500990
King's Mill Hospital	01623 622515

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

Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk



Villagers and friends at the Village Hall opening party

