

Open Field

50p

March 2017



*The History Group HLF Project Team at the Booklet Launch,
Laxton Village Hall, 20th January 2017*

The monthly publication
of the parish of Laxton & Moorhouse
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 MARCH PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED.

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Cover photo: Laxton History Group Project Group

Photo by: Derek Harris



Letter From Rev Philip

One of the things I'm most proud of in life is in being married to my writer wife. The genre she writes in is science fiction and fantasy in which she freely admits that the joy of writing for science fiction is that you don't really have to know anything about science fact and can explore strange new worlds and possibilities.

By writing in this genre she is freed to overcome the tedious realities of life, playing with and playing out the idea of something extraordinary that just might happen: What would it be like if we could fly? Or generate power with our minds? Or shape-shift? And what would that be like if we could do it on a different world far in the future? What would be the same as now and what would be different? There's no end of fun to be had.

For the reader, of course, they get a bit of escapism; of living in a different world that's different but the same: frightening but safe in a book. And in entering into this alternative world, life in our world as it is becomes a little easier, we get a break from our realities where we can draw breath and start again.

For many in our communities, religious belief is little more than this: escapist fantasy that gives us a break from reality. An atheist I'm close to rather brutally summed this up when I was about to start vicar school, saying "do you realise, to me you might as well be going off to study unicorns?"... Ouch!!!

So as we start thinking about the Easter season, where Christians re-affirm their belief in both the death and resurrection of Jesus I suppose I'd better address this question. Is Jesus and Christian faith all about unicorns and fantasy because we need an escape from the grim realities of life? Or is there a God of love who loves us so much he came into and overcame grim reality because he knew we needed more than stories and fine words to really flourish?

I've written and spoken about this before, so I won't labour some of the reasons I believe it reasonable to believe in Jesus' resurrection.

So instead, just for a few minutes, imagine what would be the same yet different if God really was that interested in your world, in your grim reality. What if God loves you that much? And what if it's not fantasy or fiction? What if it's fact? And what if God wants to write you into his story?

That would be quite amazing wouldn't it?

All the best

Revd Philip

Get Well Soon - Margaret and Pat

We are sorry to hear that Margaret Maddison and Pat Freer are both in hospital as *Open Field* goes to print. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to you both.

Church Yard

I hope everyone has noticed the difference in the churchyard after the trees were pruned. I think it looks a lot better - they were getting out of hand.

We were advised by our insurance company and our architect that they needed attention and they were hanging over the paths and porch.

Thanks go to Will and James of Britnell Tree services for all their hard



work and to George for his help in preparing, during the work and clearing up afterwards. Thanks also to Roy Hennell for all his help and to Steve Noble for the loan of his trailer. We mustn't forget thanks to Sam Wortley for keeping the workers supplied with tea on what must have been the coldest and snowiest two days of this winter.

Congratulations Keith & Anne

We are delighted to send congratulations to another Laxton couple who have notched up another year in a very long marriage. Keith and Anne Dutton celebrated their 64th anniversary on Valentines Day. We hope their special occasion was a lovely day for them both.

Laxton Parish Defibrillator Update



The Defibrillator is now housed in the Visitor Centre in a wall-mounted case. It is positioned so it can't be seen though the window but is obvious when you walk in.

The case looks locked and armed but at the moment it is neither, simply open the door and remove.

The awareness training took place in the V/hall and there was a brilliant turnout. Over 12 people were prepared to give their name and contact details if the Defibrillator is needed. Their details and

when they are available are listed below . Fingers crossed we never need to use it!!!



- 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 and weekends
- Linda and Max McNaught, 01777 870127, as required
- Anne-Marie and Geoff Rose, 07961 933290 & 07957 991002, as required

The Dovecote Inn at Laxton

Your Local Village Pub



Tuesday 28th February, Pie Tuesday 5.30pm - 9.00pm, £13

A choice of chef's home made pies with a glass of best cask beer

Monday 6th March

Steak Night between 6.00pm and 9.00pm

Whole joints of finest local beef or Aberdeen Angus from Yorkshire.

Cut to size at the butcher's block in the restaurant then cooked to your liking in our kitchen. Price dependent on size of steak

Friday 17th March

St Patrick's Irish Night 7.30pm

Join us for a champagne fizz reception followed by a lovely hearty three course Irish supper with a glass of Guinness (or similar) included. £25 per person. Guinness on offer at £2.50 per pint all day.

Sunday 26th March

Mothering Sunday 12 noon - 6.30pm

Where better to take Mum for a proper Mothering Sunday treat? 2 courses of the finest home cooked food for £19.95 or 3 courses for £21.95. Children's portion and menu also available.

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 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**

- Alan and Stephanie Tunnard, 07974 146967 as required
- David and Linda, Dovecote Inn 01777 871586 as required

Anne-Marie is prepared to run a 4-6 hour, more extensive, course which includes First Aid and one or two people expressed an interest. Anne-Marie said there were a couple of options for delivering the course. It could be done in one go on a Saturday or 2/3 evenings at either 2 or 3 hours a time. She could take a maximum of 12 candidates in one go so it may be ideal for people to indicate which day(s) are best for them and group people together. If any one is interested (and it would be free) please contact Anne-Marie on 07740 085190



Many thanks to the Parish Council for funding the new wall case and to Catherine, our Clerk, for registering the unit with East Midlands Ambulance Service. This means that when a call is made to 999, they will know there is a defibrillator in Laxton and where it is located as soon as the address is given.



LAXTON VILLAGE HALL



PRESENT THEIR

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 3RD MARCH

AT 7.30PM

PRICE £7.00 INCLUDES HOT
SUPPER

RING 870844 TO BOOK YOUR TEAM

PLEASE NOTE TO BRING OWN DRINK
AND GLASSES - READING AND WINE!



Things to Do this Month

- Mar 3rd** Quiz Night **VH**
- Mar 8th** WI 7.30pm **VH** Kurling - like Curling without ice
- Mar 9th** Coffee Morning at Corner Farm 10.30 - 11.30
- Mar 15th** History Group @ **Norwell VH** - Carenza Lewis ex Time Team
- Mar 17th** Church Dance **VH**
- Mar 27th** Mothers' Union
- Mar 25th** Kirton Coffee Morning, 10.30am, Kirton Hall Farm
- Mar 28th** Parish Council **VC**

VH = Village Hall VC = Visitor Centre

Coffee Morning

9th March 10.30 - 11.30

The first of the new coffee mornings will take place at Corner Farm from 10.30am - 11.30am.



This house is the last on the right as you go down the hill towards Kneesall .



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.



Please note time change!

Mothering Sunday Service

Sunday 26th March, 9.00am

Laxton Church

**The service will be taken by the Rev Anna Alls
Everyone welcome**

**Posies of flowers will be given out. The
service will be followed by refreshments**



Palm Sunday

Family Communion Service

Sunday 9th April, 9.00 am

Laxton Church

**The service will be taken by
the Rev Margaret Groves**

Everyone welcome

**Please come along and bring the children.
The service will be followed by refreshments**

COUNTRY KIDS

Day
Nursery

Where Children Make Memories



Day Nursery &
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aged 3 months - 5 years

Opening Spring 2017

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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 Kindergarten 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

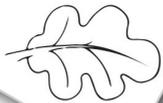
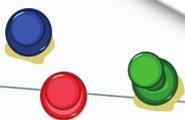
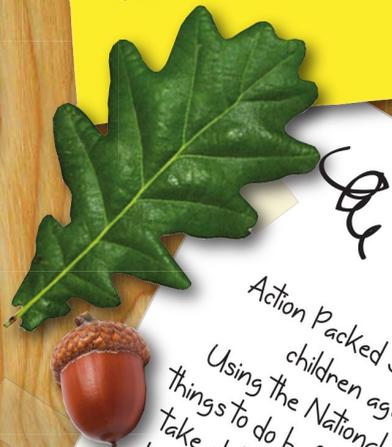
Offering a wide range of activities for children aged 5 - 11 years and a free drop off and collection service to a number of local schools

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

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Farewell Lunch for Roberta and John



Roberta Purle and her husband John Smith are soon to leave Crosshill House to downsize. Roberta has lived in Laxton for 25 years and will be sorely missed. She has provided many a pan of

mushy peas for Quiz Nights and her black cherry trifles are well known. A little bird tells us that the bowl she always served them in is staying in Laxton, so we can but hope the recipe will stay too and reappear on village occasions.

Roberta has hosted many a party at her home for villagers and always volunteered to provide breakfast after the llamas service on 1st August every year. Hopefully someone will come forward to host that village tradition in future.

Roberta, and more recently John, are known to many people through the Bed & Breakfast business Roberta ran there for many years. Her first customer was rather mysterious about what brought him to Laxton, which was slightly unsettling to someone new to the business. He promised that all would be revealed in due course and so it was. He was in fact the artist who painted the illustrations of Laxton which were used on stamps and which were 'top secret' until they were revealed. When the information was public the gentleman wrote to Roberta telling her all about it. His efforts now regularly appear for sale on eBay in the form of first day covers.

A group of the couple's friends felt there should be some recognition of the affection in which they are held and to thank them for all they have contributed to village life. So it was that they gathered for a lunch at The Dovecote at the end of January.

Roberta and John will not be far away in their new home and will be pleased to see old friends when they pass by. Jean is already planning to drive over so the friends can continue their cycle rides together. We all wish them much happiness in this new chapter in their lives.

Michael Wood Award

Broadcaster and TV historian Michael Wood came to speak to the Thoroton Society in Newark some years ago. As his visit coincided with the Laxton History Group's 50th meeting, we went as a group.

We were delighted when Michael donated his speaker's fee to us to be used to promote historical interest / research. We decided to use it to engage children in looking at the history around them and dispel the idea that history is only to be found in books or lessons.

Two years ago we ran the first round of what is now known as 'The Michael Wood Award' in collaboration with Kneesall School. It was a huge success and the children far exceeded everyone's expectations in the quality of the work they produced.

We are excited to announce that the second round of the Award has begun with a visit by Class 3's Year 5 and 6 children on February 9th. The class teacher, Mrs Hodgkinson was not at the school when the first round was held, so she came to Jury Day in November to learn something about Laxton.

The purpose of the visit was to prepare the children for their own research into their chosen topic - their village, house, family or anything that takes their interest, using Laxton as an example.

We met Class 3 at the Visitor Centre at 1pm where the children were given a short talk about the three field system and given some advice about how to go about their own research.

We walked from the Visitor Centre to Rig Gate in South Field, stopping on the way to look at buildings of interest and to seek clues about their age and purpose and how place names and some family names could help with understanding more about the people who lived there.

In South Field we were able to look at how the strips differed from those on the 1635 map and to consider why this is so. We also learnt that unusual formations in the landscape, such as the remnants of ridge and furrow ploughing, could give us clues about what had happened in the past.

The group walked back to meet their bus which took them back to school for 3pm

The children will now work on their own projects before they present their work to their families and History Group members on Thursday 20th April. They will be encouraged to involve their family in the research and we look forward to seeing what they produce.



Recognition for Ken Shepherd

The Parish Council has been for some time, thinking of the best way to recognise and celebrate Ken's long service to the Parish and we asked our new Clerk to make some enquiries as to how we could do this properly, either with a long service award or a certificate.

We were overjoyed to receive a formal invitation for him to attend the Queen's Garden Party in May this year. The invitation is for himself and partner/ escort and John his son will be going with him.

We are so pleased that his service is being recognised in such a wonderful way and we have asked John to take photos of the whole event for the June/July Open Field.

Michael Manning



Village Hall News Funding Update

As you will be aware, Laxton Village Hall Committee have been awaiting the result of our stage 1 Big Lottery application. In December we were advised that this had been successful and we were invited to submit a stage 2 application. We were given feedback that our strongest aspect for success is based around providing local amenities for older residents namely a village shop and post office. These will support independence and remove people feeling isolated within our community because of access deprivation or loneliness.

In addition the National Lottery were very keen to provide an area where children can go to play, interact and socialise. This included providing a playgroup, youth club and putting on events in the village hall for children of all ages. The overall benefits of the project are that we all get a village hall that is fit for purpose and accessible to all members of the community. Furthermore we all get a village shop and access to a post office.

As part of this process we need to increase the size and experience of our Committee. We have recently lost two members and are now down to an impractical 6. We desperately need to show that as a Committee we represent everyone in our community including parents of young/ school-aged children and residents in Moorhouse, so please put your names forward. This project will not be able to continue if we don't get good local support. If anyone would like to join (and we hope you would) and be part of the exciting changes to our Village Hall, please contact one of the current Committee members.

Alphabetically they are: Janet Cooke, Jeanette Geldard, Michael Manning, Keith Morton, Pat Naylor, Sam Wortley



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430593

Carenza Lewis

*formerly one of the presenters of Time Team and is
now a professor at the University of Lincoln*

will talk give a talk entitled

'Archaeology in the 21st Century'

at Norwell Village Hall
on Wednesday 15 March 2017
at 7.30pm

Entry £3.00 includes refreshments

All welcome

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Mothering Sunday Service - Time Change

Please note that our service this year will be held on Sunday 26th March at 9.00am.

Coffee Mornings

We have some more volunteers to hold coffee mornings, but it would still help if anyone else would like to hold one.

They are on the second Thursday of the month and we will see how it goes. The first one will be on 9th March



New Village Signs

We are still expecting the new signs to be completed ready for installation mid-March/April 2017.

Laxton Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union will meet again at our regular venue in Anne Dutton's home on the last Monday of March. Everybody is welcome - we are always looking for new members.

Kidspeak

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

Milton Mausoleum

Over the last few years we have published articles about Milton Mausoleum - the regular summer Sunday afternoon opening and their events as part of their HLF project. These have been written by Beryl Venables.



Beryl came to the Launch of Laxton History Group's booklets in June but she missed the recent launch for the best of reasons. She had to go to London to receive an award in connection with her Volunteering for the Churches Conservation Trust, who care for the Mausoleum. The Trust has connections with the Marsh Christian Trust which supports and gives awards for excellence in volunteering.

The CCT has three geographic areas of England and Beryl was named Volunteer of the Year for their North Region. At the event in London she was presented with a certificate by the Trustee with responsibility for the conservation projects in the North Region, Humphrey Welfare. The awards presentation was held at the Renaissance Hotel, St Pancras, part of the original St Pancras Station, which has been brilliantly restored and which provided a beautiful setting for the ceremony.

Beryl was told she would be asked to give a thank you address, which was a nerve racking prospect. She described how she became involved with the Mausoleum, where there are now ten stewards for the summer season. Beryl is the only one who does not have a direct connection with Milton either through residence or family members.

Beryl also visits the seven churches that the Trust cares for in Nottinghamshire on a regular basis. Cobweb removal is a speciality! She has a checklist of details like any broken glass and the safety of paths and steps. She also counts the names in the visitor's book and pays the wall safe money into the bank.

We congratulate Beryl on all she has done for a part of our local history and hope to see her at Laxton events again soon.

For more information or to enquire about a group visit mausoleum1833@gmail.com.

Laxton History Group



There was a great attendance at the launch of the final big element of the Group's Heritage Lottery Funded project 'A Snapshot in Time: Laxton in Peace and War, 1900 - 1920'.



A packed Village Hall heard Mr Hugh Matheson, owner of the Thoresby Estate, speak about the importance of taking the initiative to lift the lid on sources of information to whet the appetites of others to do more. His ancestors had the foresight to deposit the papers from some 300 years relating to their

Estates at the University of Nottingham and this formed the bedrock of our research into much of what happened in Laxton during our chosen period.

Mr Matheson praised the Group for the quality and depth of the research and the resulting booklets and commented on his enjoyment of the first four, which he had read with interest. He has offered to donate to the Group former Agent Hubert Argles' own copy of the book 'The Open Fields' by CS and CS Orwin, signed by both authors and we look forward to receiving it.

We were very pleased to have the opportunity to display some of the original items which were referred to in the booklets at the Launch and send our grateful thanks to those who loaned their precious possessions.



We are also particularly grateful to the members of Laxton WI, many of whom are also History Group members, for managing the catering for us. It was marvellous for the Project Team to simply forget about this important job, knowing it was in excellent hands. It is not for

nothing that Laxton WI's catering activities are so well thought of in the area and we are enormously grateful to Brenda and her team for their efforts at both Launches.

We have produced 7 booklets, which, had they been presented in a single book, would have amounted to over 800 pages - a substantial work by any standard. And this represents only a 20 year period out of the 300 for which papers are available for study. Quite a challenge awaits anyone with the enthusiasm to look into another period in Laxton's past.



Surprisingly our Launch in June, which was originally planned to be the end of the project, proved to be the springboard people needed to come forward with information, stories, photographs and memories. Because we had unused research which much of this supported we were able to make immediate use of it in the recent booklets.

By the time you read this you should have received your free copies of the latest three booklets. We still have some for anyone who had a set of the originals, so we invite anyone who would like to complete their set to contact Jean on 870276 or Joy on 871506. We know they have travelled far and wide to relatives, including America and Canada, so if any far flung recipients would like copies they are available. All the booklets are also available for free download from www.laxtonhistorygroup.org.uk

A big THANK YOU to anybody and everybody who has contributed. We are still keen to collect any Laxton memorabilia, so before you throw out those old papers, bills, newspaper cuttings or parish magazines, please give us first refusal.

The other big item we now have thanks to the HLF is our smart new noticeboard near the telephone box. We will be putting notices in there to provide a reminder of our forthcoming meeting and any other activities we organise. We hope that you will get into the habit of having a look there. It is also aimed at the many visitors to the village to tell them about our activities and web address.



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Laxton History Group



We were pleased to welcome Michael and Elizabeth Jones from Norwell as our first speakers of the year. They told us we were the guinea pigs for their new talk on Woods, Trees and Timber. We had no idea what to expect and were not disappointed by a fascinating insight into some of the local areas of current or historical woodland. Their backgrounds in history and biology respectively made for different perspectives which together made for an intriguing presentation.



We began by looking at woods which remain from the trees which originally covered 60% of the land area of Great Britain. The main areas close to Laxton are around Kneesall Crossroads. To one side is Kneesall Wood and to the other Laxton Wood and Laxton Middle Wood where there are examples of old oak and ash trees. In the Domesday Book this area was recorded as measuring one league by half a league - a substantial area. By the 17th century it had been reduced to 300 acres. Among the brush and scrub growing between the trees it is possible to pick out some lines of trees which suggest it was once a plantation.

We learned that Moorhouse developed as a separate manor under Robert de Lexington in around 1210. He was a royal judge and prebendary of Norwell Palishall - one of the richer prebends of Southwell.

Other examples from the area around Norwell Woodhouse, Norwell and Caunton were shown and discussed. Many of the lands had been given by the kings of the day to noblemen and clergy. Where senior clergy were supported by the lands they were given, they are known as prebends and a good number of the local woodlands were prebendary woods.

We moved on to look at a number of planted woods around Caunton. One slide showed how trees had been planted on mediaeval ridge and furrow when arable land was reorganised to grow timber as a cash crop. One nearby planted wood is Speaker's Plantation at Ossington, named for John Evelyn Denison, 1st Viscount Ossington PC, who served as Speaker of the House of Commons from 1857 to 1872.

Elizabeth gave a fascinating account of the detective work she has done on an area of lost woodland near Norwell known as Swinhay (pronounced

Swinney) Wood. There is little to see there now in this area between Norwell and Norwell Woodhouse. The name implies it was once a place where swine were able to graze the acorns and beech mast.

A relatively modern map of the hedgerows shows a roughly rectangular site with hedges dividing it into fairly regular quarters. In 1530 the wood is shown in this layout on a map. A 1781 map shows it as still a wood, but by 1813 the land is described as arable. Only a few years later in 1832 another map shows it has been planted as a wood again but the original hedges remain. It is still there on the original footprint in 1840 but is arable once again by 1900.

Elizabeth discussed how indicator species can tell you about what may have been in an area previously. The presence of dog's mercury in the hedgerow just between the hedges which surrounded the original wood are evidence of its former existence there. Bluebells as a similar indicator or n old woodland.

Oak, ash and elm were the three major species valued in the past. Elizabeth read a number of quotes from early leases which reserved the right to take the wood of these trees from the land referred to. Such clauses also reserved rights should these species be planted later.

The presentation finished with a look at how timber was used locally, including some wooden carts found at Clipstone but made in Norwell. Old premises associated with the village wheelwrights in Norwell had survived

into the 1990s. A local man made clocks from bought in parts. We saw interesting examples of old timber framed buildings in the village, albeit now encased in a brick skin. More local was a picture of an oak chair dating to 1662 which stands in Moorhouse chapel.



The conservative Lords of the Manor who owned Norwell had insisted on reusing building materials and adapting properties, so there are examples of older constructions in the village. At present the Norwell Parish Heritage Group are trying to obtain funding to purchase and restore such a property.

For our March meeting we will be joining Norwell Parish Heritage Group to listen to Carezza Lewis, ex Time Team, and now a professor at the University of Lincoln speak about 'Archaeology in the 21st Century'. The meeting at 7.30pm on 15th March is open to anyone.

**CHURCH SERVICES FOR OUR GROUP
FEBRUARY 2017**

HC = Holy Communion EP=Evening Prayer WfA = Worship for All

1st March - Ash Wednesday

7:00 Wellow Parish Church

5th March

9:00am Kirton Parish Church HC

10:30 Kneesall Parish Church HC

12th March

9:00 Walesby HC

10:30 Laxton HC

4.00 Wellow Parish Church EP

19th March

8:00 Walesby HC

10:30 Wellow Parish Church HC

26th March - Mothering Sunday

8:00 Egmanton Parish Church HC

9:00 Laxton Parish Church HC or WfA

10:30 Kneesall Parish Church WfA

Contacts:

Church administrator, Eileen Monday mornings
9am -12 noon
tel:**07983946930** or
email: churchadmin1931@gmail.com

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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2017

March 3rd Quiz Night

Mar 8th WI

Mar 9th Coffee Morning

Mar 15th History Group at Norwell Village Hall

March 17th Church Dance

Mar 27th MU

March 28th Parish Council



Forward Planning

April 19th History Group AGM & Historical Supper

April 20th Kneesall School Class 3 presentation

May 19th Concert in Church

May 23rd Parish Council and APM

May 29th Wellow Maypole

Sept 30th Southwell Ploughing Match

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 April: 16th March.

We cannot guarantee to include items received after this date.

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Laxton WI



There will be no shortage of things to keep WI members occupied this summer. County have a full programme planned. Thanks were read out for arranging the refreshments at the History Group booklet launch and for the funeral catering for our friend Jean Marchbank of Egmanton. The Notts County Spring Council Meeting in Nottingham on April 6th will see the launch of the Notts are asked Federation's Centenary celebrations.

Brenda read out the list of centenary events and quite a year it sounds. We have to submit two ideas for a game or stall for a Fun Day at North Muskham and with 116 institutes' someone will have the unenviable task of working out who will do which.

Brenda had details of three quizzes to which members have been invited, the first being in the Village Hall on 3rd March. A table was organised. It will be a warm up for the demanding County Quiz on 16th June at Edwinstowe.

Highlights of our own year will be Kurling next month, a taster evening in June, and our annual outing in March. Sandra is well ahead with organising our own party in April.



Caroline Froggatt came to speak about the Children's Bereavement Centre in Newark, previously known as Sue's Place. After around 10 years founder Sue retired in 2012. Under new management the organisation took its new name to be more visible to

searches for 'children' and 'bereavement' on the internet.

They offer support to children and families affected by loss or bereavement through death, divorce, separation and, occasionally, imprisonment. All referrals are made for a child but once that basic criterion is met the whole family is supported.

In recent years their outreach centres in nine other communities in Nottinghamshire have been added to reach those outside Newark. All these use rented or donated





rooms as and when required. Expansion has been based on availability of premises, but crucially on where demand is seen to be.

People can refer themselves to the service via the web site, requesting a form or be referred by professionals they are seeing. The family will be invited to an assessment which enables the service to understand their situation and how best they can be helped. They will be matched with a member of staff or a trained clinical volunteer and will be advised when they will be scheduled to receive their course of therapeutic sessions.

If a referral is made support can begin before bereavement in the case of someone with a terminal condition. The family can be helped to face the future and to understand how to help the children to cope. When the time comes both children and adults can receive bereavement and loss support.

Children are helped through play therapy, filial support and Saturday Support Groups when they are able to meet others going through similar things. Another important time when children can meet together is the annual bereavement camp in Derby.

The statistics Caroline shared were thought provoking. Last year they saw 586 cases, of which around 80% related to bereavement. 146 had lost their father, 129 their mother and 44 had experienced the effects of suicide. 97 of the bereavements resulted from cancer but a further 80 were from sudden death.

The organisation is planning for a future beyond their Lottery funding. They already offer training to schools and professionals, which generates income to plough back into their work. They aim to expand this and to cultivate relationships with businesses where they may also offer training or be involved in corporate events as beneficiaries of their fund raising.

Caroline passed around sample publications and also some of the therapeutic craft items made with the children. These can be personalised in many ways and included a tiny bottle for that final message to the lost one, a



candleholder to hold a light for the loved one on special occasions, a 'shout box' with which to give vent to strong emotions and a comfort bear which is given to every child to keep.

Members were very impressed with the work the organisation does and asked their questions after the talk. Margaret Palmer gave a vote of thanks and wished them well for the future.

Caroline judged our competition for a childhood memento. Pat Naylor won with her spinning top Bridget Smedley's family photo including many children was second and Margaret Palmer came third with her father's National Health card. Next month, to complement the sporting activity the competition will be for **'My Sporting Moment'**.

Concert in Laxton Church
Friday 19th May, 7pm
With Kneesall School Choir and friends
Further notice next month and tickets for sale

Lambing Begins

We know spring has begun when the lambs start to arrive, even if the weather really doesn't feel like it at the time. The Hennell family had a bad start when a ewe delivered triplet lambs but they lost her and one lamb in the process.

Emily is now looking after the two remaining lambs which she has called Spot and Holly. They are thriving under her care. She is bottle feeding them and was happy to share the task with Janet Cooke's granddaughters Eva and Eliza when they came to visit.



A quick reminder that the March Quiz will be on **FRIDAY 3rd March 2017**, more fun and frustrations at Cath's crafty questions!! Bring drinks and glasses (reading and drinks!)

Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
21/1/17	51	Russell (Dovey)
28/1/17	20	Jock Jolly
4/2/17	22	Margaret Rose
11/2/17	28	Pat and Bert

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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Dukeries Singers

March is said to "come in like a lion", but I'm looking forward to the "going out like a lamb" half of the month when Spring seems to suddenly arrive trumpeted in by the early daffodils.

No trumpets in the choir but we are encouraged by Ash our M.D to sing out with enthusiasm. Not difficult to do as we are learning and rehearsing lots of new pieces to include in our repertoire. Singing is such an uplifting activity where you can "lose yourself" in the music. I would encourage anyone to give it a go. We welcome you to give it a try, just turn up to a practise and enjoy and see if it is for you.



We meet in the Concert Hall at the Dukeries Academy in Ollerton every Wednesday evening from 7-30pm until 9-30pm. This is best accessed via the Leisure Centre entrance and car park. You will find more information regarding the choir on our website;

thedukeriessingers.com

We also have some entries on YouTube from a few years ago when we sang at Laxton Church with the Notts. Recorder Group.

We have two Concerts for Spring 2017, both venues yet to be confirmed

A Concert for St. George's Day at St.Giles Church in Old Ollerton
and

A Concert at Tuxford Church.

However we love to perform and we have plenty of available dates if you would like to book us for your charity, celebration or fund Raising event. Our Concert Secretary Phil. would be delighted to hear from you on **01623 822070**

We all wish you a super Spring.

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Group Oil Order



The price of oil has been creeping up so we were pleased to achieve a price of 39.6p/litre from Bayfords. Over 20 people took advantage of the group order on this occasion.

The next order will be at the end of the summer. The precise timing will be decided depending on how cold it gets and when people begin to say they need a fill up. We always watch the prices and try to match the point when people want to order with the lowest price at the time within a few weeks. The end of summer order is usually placed between the end of July and early September.

If you need oil from the next order please remember to send any new email addresses or contact numbers as otherwise you will not be contacted. You are welcome to send updated information at any time.

New members of the group in Please email oil@openfield.org.uk or call 871506.

Events at Maplebeck Village Hall

Howden Jones

the musical duo who entertained in Laxton in the autumn

Saturday 11th March 2017

Doors open at 7pm. Starts 8pm

Tickets £10 Available from on 01636 636185 / 636421
[email brendan@carson41@orangehome.co.uk](mailto:brendan@carson41@orangehome.co.uk)

Bring Your Own Drinks (glasses provided).

Tuesday 21st March 2017 at 7.30pm

Waltz With Bashir 18

Based on the true story of director Ari Folman, an Israeli army veteran, who realises he can remember nothing of the 1982 Lebanon war, in which he fought. Winner-Golden Globe.

Tickets £5 on the door Contact **01636 636421**
[e mail derek@sayer.f9.co.uk](mailto:derek@sayer.f9.co.uk)

Kirton Coffee Morning

**Saturday, March 25th at 10.30am
at Kirton Hall Farm, Kirton
(home of Jonathan Price)**

£2.00 entry - includes coffee and cake.

**Stalls - raffle
Proceeds to Kirton Church**

**The 5th and final draw of the Kirton 2016 100 club will
take place at this event!**

Everybody welcome!

Yoga at Kneesall

We have been informed that there is a Yoga class starting on
Wednesday 1st March 7.00 - 8.00pm in the Bill Hemsley Community
Centre at Kneesall.

All levels welcome. £5 per class.
Contact Kerry to book: 07779 030102
kerrymichelleclarke@icloud.com.

Children's Dance Classes at Egmonton

Children's classes with a qualified dance teacher are now taking place
at Egmonton Village Hall on Saturday mornings.

Have your children got the 'Strictly' bug? Latin, salsa, ballroom and a
variety of other fun dance styles are on the menu. Classes are divided
by age to be suitable for all. New members are very welcome.

If you would like classes close to home, then please contact Jil on:
07790601877.

Jil would also like to hear from adults interested in learning to dance
as she will run classes if the demand is there.



Laxton History Group

will be holding their popular annual

Tasting Supper

on Friday 21st April

7.00pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall

followed by the 2017 AGM

**It will once again feature food from a
specific period of history.**

Tickets £7

Full details next month



Creative Exam Answers

Q: Name the four seasons.

A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q: How is dew formed?

A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: What causes the tides in the oceans?

A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized? (e.g., abdomen.)

A: The body is consisted into three parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A, E, I, O, and U.

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Health Matters - Insomnia

We thank Dr. Chris Shearstone Walker of Tuxford Surgery for his continuing series of articles on health matters. This article continues from part 1 published last month.

How can poor sleep be improved?

Stimulants - avoid stimulants for a few hours before bedtime – this includes alcohol and smoking. You might want to discuss with your doctor taking some medications at a different time of day if they are thought to be affecting sleep. Caffeine should be avoided after 6pm – some people find it is best avoided completely – caffeine free tea and coffee is now widely available.



Exercise – exercise during the day can help sleep at night.

Food – avoid large meals before bedtime.

If you are unable to get off to sleep after 20-30 minutes it is best to get up, go into another room and do something else such as read or watch television and return back to bed when you feel sleepy. This is much better than brooding in bed and causing the vicious cycle of worry causing poor sleep.

Sleeping tablets - contrary to popular belief sleeping tablets make little difference to sleep. In a recent study only 7% patients sleep better (a whole 25 minutes per night!), in 76% patients sleep is unchanged, but quite worryingly 17% have adverse side effects. If waking occurs during the night, clumsiness and confusion can cause serious falls. Drowsiness the next day may be sufficient to cause accidents, and tolerance to sleeping tablets occurs after only 2-3 weeks – they no longer help with sleep and indeed can cause rebound (dependence) symptoms if stopped suddenly. If you have been on treatment for some time then it is probably a good idea to discuss discontinuation with your doctor next time your medicines are reviewed. If sleeping tablets are prescribed to help you cope with a particularly bad patch they are best taken only 2 or 3 times a week to avoid the problems of tolerance and dependence.

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Minutes of Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council held on 24 January 2017

Present: Councillors:

M. Manning (Chair), D. Brown, R. Hennell (from 7.45 pm), M.Hennell, J.Godson

In attendance: C. Millward (Clerk), Councillor Michael

Apologies for absence: Mr R Hennell had been delayed. Mr Laughton was unable to attend (family reasons).

Declarations of interest: Mr Brown declared a disclosable pecuniary interest as landowner and applicant with regard to items 11 a (Planning applications). The chair declared an interest as member of the sports field committee in item 15 (Defibrillator).

There were no other declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda.

Dispensations: None required.

10 Minutes public speaking: No public present.

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 10 November 2016: The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Reports from district and county councillors: Mrs Michael regretted that she was unable to assist regarding an internal auditor appointment. Councillors noted her report that NSDC is looking at the condition of empty properties in the district. Councillors asked her to record the condition of Old Bar Farmhouse to see if she could secure some progress in relation to its poor condition. Mr R Hennell arrived during this item.

Reports from Councillors: No reports.

Financial Matters:

Financial position as at 31 December 2016: Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 December 2017. Councillors noted the deficit for the year.

2017-18 insurance arrangements: Councillors reviewed the renewal documentation. Councillors **decided** to enter into the 2017-18 insurance contract with Zurich.

Accounts for payment: The council unanimously approved three payments totalling £458.89.

Approve appointment of internal auditor: The chair will approach a resident suggested by Mr Godson

To consider the financial information provided by the Clerk and NSDC's letter regarding 2017/18 precept estimates and to agree the precept for the year ending 31 March 2018: Councillors considered the financial information provided by the Clerk. They agreed that the reduction of the precept by £600 for 2016-17 must have been due to a breakdown in communication with NSDC as they had not approved any such reduction. Even taking this into account, they recognised that the intended precept was inadequate on this year's figures and

there was and would be no spare funds with which to fund any improvements for the parish.

They were also concerned at the erosion of the value of the precept attributable to increasing prices historically and going forward. They were also aware of the possibility that, at some point, the government will introduce the previously threatened referendum requirement.

After lengthy discussion and careful consideration, they **agreed** unanimously to increase the precept for the year ending 31 March 2018 to £4,600 to ensure a realistic level and allow for the impact of inflation and rising costs.

Property matters including sports field and ownership of mowing equipment:
No property matters to discuss.

Planning matters:

Applications: 16/02198/FUL | Renovation of existing barn conversion to create a further letting bedroom and bathroom. | The Dovecote Inn Cross Hill Laxton NG22: having declared an interest, Mr Brown withdrew from the meeting. Councillors considered the application and unanimously **decided** that they had no objections to the proposal. Mr Brown returned to the meeting.

To note planning decisions by NSDC:

16/01582/FUL | Erection of dwelling | Land Adjacent Bar Farm The Bar Laxton Nottinghamshire: Refusal noted.

16/01919/FUL and 16/01920/LBC -The Old Vicarage High Street Laxton NG22 0NX - Demolition of conservatory, reinstatement of veranda roof and the construction of an Orangery, removal of internal doors, boiler room and wall – Approval noted.

Compliance: Nothing raised.

Village development including approach to the Crown regarding future plans:

Long term strategy: The clerk apologized that, due to a family bereavement, she had not had the opportunity to draft the letter to the Crown with the level of attention which it required. She will prepare a draft for approval at the next meeting.

Village environment and appearance, including:

Village Hall refurbishment project: No update available..

Moorhouse “bumps”: NCC Highways has referred the request for warning signs to its design and inspection team. Councillors will await their response.

New village signs, Laxton and Moorhouse: The chair reported that the four signs should be delivered in March/April. Councillors noted the chair's confirmation that the Crown's grant in the sum of £6000 has now been transferred to the council. The clerk is waiting to hear from NCC and NSDC regarding any necessary consents.

Mr Hill reported that the outcome of his initial canvassing of views indicated that Moorhouse residents would prefer a fingerpost sign with “Moorhouse” across the top. He will undertake further research in April once his work commitments ease following the end of the financial year.

Dog bins: Councillors **agreed** that, subject to clarification of the ongoing emptying cost, a dog bin should be acquired in the new financial year.

Defibrillator update: The chair reported that the defibrillator had been delivered. Councillors welcomed this addition to the village's facilities and

thanked all involved in securing this valuable asset. Having declared an interest, the chair did not participate in discussions further.

After discussion, councillors **decided** that, in the interests of continuity of ownership and responsibility, the defibrillator should be a parish council asset and insured on the parish council's insurance policy. On this basis, they **agreed** that, the precept having been increased to enable the council to invest in the enhancement and improvement of the parish, the council should fund the purchase of a cabinet for the defibrillator.

Councillors also noted the clerk's advice that the British Heart Foundation insists on defibrillator cabinets being unlocked as part of its grant terms. Councillors authorised Mr Brown to obtain an external sign alerting the public to the location of the defibrillator up to a cost of £100. The clerk will ask EMAS to add the defibrillator to its records once the chair has confirmed to her that it is active.

The chair rejoined the discussions. Councillors asked him to place an order for the cabinet.

Service faults: The clerk will report the following:

Streetlight by the bus shelter opposite the church

Streetlight entering Laxton on Egmonton Road outside Bar Farm

Kerbstone damage at Corner Farm

Correspondence: Item c – Safer Nottinghamshire Board – Rural Crime strategy consultation - The clerk will email the consultation document to all councillors.

All other items of correspondence noted.

10 Minutes public speaking time: No public present

Agenda items for next meeting: As above

Date of next meeting: 28 March 2017

ChinK Quiz Night.

By popular demand ChinK (Children in Kenya) have arranged a quiz night for Saturday 18th March 2017.

Admission is by ticket only, available in ChinK Charity Shop, Newcastle Street Tuxford. The price is £5.50 including supper and refreshments.

Teams or individuals are welcome so come along and join in. It's always a fun night.

We look forward to your company.

May the best team win!



ChinK Charity Quiz Night

with Quizmaster Brian Bland

Saturday 18th March - 7.00 pm
St Nicholas Church Tuxford

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Sherwood and Newark Citizens Advice warns about callers offering smart meters

Local residents have been contacting Sherwood & Newark Citizens Advice for help after agreeing to have smart energy meters fitted to their properties and then finding themselves to be worse off - in some cases by more than £140 a year.

“Smart meters are being rolled out across the country by 2020 but we really want to remind energy account holders that it is their energy supplier who will change their meter”, says Carol Jennings, Energy Adviser.

“We have been hearing that residents have had doorstep visitors or phone callers claiming they want to make an appointment to install a smart meter. In some cases, householders have been led to understand this is on behalf of the landlord or the council and have agreed - only to find that their energy supplier has been switched without them realising what was happening. One of our volunteers had direct experience of this when a salesperson knocked on the doors of a member of her family and an elderly neighbour and tried to pressure them into making an appointment for their meters to be changed”.

Energy customers who are on a low income, retired, or in households where people are disabled or in ill-health could be entitled to Warm Home Discount which gives them £140 off their annual bills. Not all suppliers offer this and not all account holders who are eligible are awarded it automatically. A number of the companies visiting homes in our district do not offer it – which means some of the most vulnerable people in our community are losing this valuable help towards their bills.

Sherwood & Newark Citizens Advice have also been dealing with enquiries from people concerned after watching programmes on TV or reading articles about smart meters. Their energy project provides individual appointments with impartial advice to anyone who wants help to find out if they can get a better deal on energy bills, or has problems with their supplier.

“We are happy to talk to anyone who is worried, but people who are on a standard tariff or a fixed tariff that is coming to an end soon could certainly find an appointment helpful. The range of tariffs on offer can be quite complex and people are not getting the detailed information they need to make an informed choice based on their personal circumstances, pattern of usage and preferences”, says Carol. “We can also offer help to people who have a balance owing on their account”.

To arrange an appointment, call 01623 861769 and ask for the Energy Adviser.

Energy customers who do not have a smart meter should be offered one by their existing supplier. More information about smart meters can be found online at <https://www.smartenergygb.org> and about consumer rights at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Kirton Quiz Night

**Saturday, April 22nd, at 7pm
(for prompt 7.30pm start)**

**at Egmonton Village Hall
Tickets £5.00**

from Georgina (861232) or Jonathan (860249)

Inc. refreshments - but please bring your own drinks!

Teams of 6 - strictly no mobile phones !

Raffle, Prizes for the winners.

Quizmaster -Brian Bland

This is always a fun night, so please come and join us !

Everybody welcome!

Proceeds to Kirton Church

Maplebeck Village Hall Events

www.maplebeck.org.uk / 01636 636692 / 636185

Events specifically for children in bold.

Regular Activities

Yoga	Fridays	9.30am
Light Aerobics & Pilates	Mondays	1.00pm
Walkers	Wednesdays	10.00am
Ladies Running	Wednesdays	7.00pm
Kurling (without the ice!)	TBA	Early 2017
Book Club	Tuesdays	7.30pm
	28 th Mar, 2 nd May, 6 th June, 11 th July, 5 th Sept.	

Upcoming special events 2017

Sat 11 th Mar	7.30pm	Music	howdenjones Blues
Tues 21 st Mar	7.30pm	Film	Waltz with Bashir
Tues 11 th Apr	7.30pm	Film	The Social Network

Egmanton Village Hall

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk / 01777 871171

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

- ◆ Tuxford Young Farmers - Wed 22nd March
- ◆ Yoga with Greg – Tuesdays at 7:30pm
- ◆ WI - Thursday 16th
- ◆ 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.

Useful Contact Details

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

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



The Launch of Laxton History Group's HLF Funded Booklets



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