

Open Field

£1

March 2021



*Work on the Site of the Former Infants School,
Laxton, mid February 2021*

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



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Flowers and Brasses Rota - suspended until further notice

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Coffee Morning Hosting Rota - will be published when they are resumed

**We always welcome contributions and 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 2021 PLEASE. EARLIER
PREFERRED. You can send at any time.**

Church News

The PCC are so sorry to say we do not know at the moment when the church will reopen for services.

On March 14th it is Mothering Sunday, a highlight of the church calendar, but I don't think we shall be open by then. We missed last year's service as well.



Sunday 28th March is Palm Sunday, which is the beginning of Holy Week and the lead up to Sunday 4th April, which is Easter Day.

We will have to wait and see when and if we come out of lockdown.

On Thursday 28th January I had a meeting with the Rural Dean (in the churchyard). Afterwards George and I went into the church to check that everything was alright, only to find some of the pews and floor standing in water, which was very upsetting. This was in the middle on both sides of the main aisle. We assume this was from the heavy rain storms we had had the day before. I have never seen it like that before. Another job that needs attention.

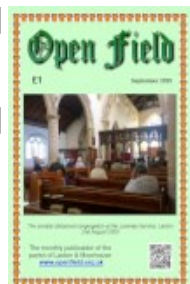


As some of you might have noticed, the church clocks have also decided to go on strike. We have tried to restart them, but I think it will be a job for the clock engineers now.

Brenda

Open Field Subscriptions

Thank you to everyone who has paid for the current year. We would like to close the account asap, so if you are one of the very few who have yet to pay, please will you **put your name and address on an envelope** and arrange for it to be delivered to Corner Farm.



Thank you

Sympathy - Pat Freer, formerly Grundy

We were saddened to hear of the death of Pat Freer in hospital on Monday 15th February 2021. Pat had been unwell for some time. We send prayers and sympathy to her son, Richard and to all friends and family.

The date of the funeral is yet to be finalised. It will be held at Laxton under Covid-19 restrictions, which unfortunately mean it will be by invitation only to ensure number limits are observed.

Congratulations - Pat Haigh



Many congratulations to Pat Haigh who celebrated her 90th birthday on 19th January.

Pat came to Laxton in 1960 with her husband, Bill and children Robert and Christine. They also live in Laxton and Pat is a proud grandmother and great grandmother.

Unfortunately Covid –19 meant it was a quieter day than it might otherwise have been, but it is great to see that it didn't stop Pat from enjoying the good wishes and the pleasure of blowing out the candles on her beautiful cake.

Many Happy Returns, Pat.

Congratulations - Lynda Moore

We are pleased to welcome Lynda Moore to the ranks of the retired in Laxton. Lynda has cheerfully cared for patients at the surgery in Sutton on Trent for some time and will be missed by all who go there. Thank you Lynda and enjoy having the time to follow other interests,. We hope to see more of your lovely photos and to see you about with your new greyhounds soon.



Get Well Wishes

Sadly, once again, we have a long list of people who are not, or have not been in the best of health during the last month.

Barry W, Brenda C and Margaret M have all been in hospital and we send good wishes to them there or at home as the magazine finds them a week or so on from writing this.

Brenda N, Janet C and Roy H have all been unwell at home and we send them all good wishes for a speedy recovery.

Good News

We are delighted to record that after many months of illness, Colin has been seen out and about recently. He must be made of strong stuff and everyone is delighted to know he is so much better.

We are also very pleased to report that Heather is now very much improved and well on the way to a great recovery.

Best wishes go, as always, to anyone who is unwell and who has not been mentioned. If you would like to see someone wished well, please let Jean have details.



Parish Council News

We are acutely aware about the dreadful state of repairs to the numerous potholes on the roads in and around the village and this has been taken up by our County Councillor, Mike Pringle, at a senior level. Hopefully we should see some improvements in the near future.

However are you aware that potholes can be reported direct to NCC Highways by phone or online? The number and online details are below and it allows photos to be attached as well.

0300 123 5000

or Google,

Report a pothole/Nottinghamshire County Council

Michael Manning

Pat's Plant Stall

I will soon be sowing seeds for plants for the stall.

Kitchen Garden plants will include runner beans, French beans, broad beans, leeks, tomatoes, kale, courgette and cucumber.

If you would like any of the above please place your order on

01777 870601

They will be ready for sale/planting by the end of April to early May.

Flowers will include the usual bedding and basket plants. These can just be purchased from the stall from May onwards. As always donations of plants suitable for sale will be very welcome. The charity to be supported by this year's stall will be announced soon.

Pat

Definition of a Word - Weekend

The snow has gone and tropical temperatures are expected by the weekend! Remember the weekend? A time that marked the end of one week and the beginning of the next. How we forget.

Recycling Ollerton & Boughton (ROB) Collections

In line with the National Lockdown and to keep our staff safe, we have ceased our glass collection rounds to all areas.

We will be leaving large glass containers outside our units on Road E, Boughton Industrial Estate which will be emptied regularly. Please use them sensibly and please stay safe.

We will see you all again in a couple of months.



Tuxford Young Farmers



Once again we are doing online Zoom meetings and Notts competitions. So far this month we have done different things such as a guessing game, where we had to pick an object from our house and we were asked yes or no questions and the rest of the members had to guess what the object was.

We did a theme tune quiz where we were given clips of a song/ theme tune from a show or film and had to guess what show or film it was.

Next we had a game of 'Read My Lips'. We had to guess what a member was saying without hearing them. There were some weird and wonderful answers!

We have had a murder mystery themed night with riddles we had to solve.

We have also had a talk from Ben Theaker, who was talking about when he went to America to do a years harvesting, and all the opportunities he has had from going and doing it.



We had a Notts Young Farmers challenge this month. We were asked to make a Valentines table centrepiece and, as a club, we got first, second, and then fourth which is very good.



We have also had another Notts YFC 'Dairy Duo' challenge where we show our support for the British dairy farmers. We have to drink or eat 2 dairy products then nominate 2 other members to

do the same and then finally donate £2 if possible for the county funds.

We hope you are all staying safe and keeping well.

Emily

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MARCH CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special event this month.

We would love to give a mention to anyone who is celebrating, so please send in details with dates in good time for the right month.

The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Sandra, Jeanette (70), Sally B, George N, Colin (91) Annie M, and Janet G. Belated special wishes to Pat H for 19th January (90).

We wish a happy anniversary to anyone celebrating this month, but we have no names to give.

If you are celebrating please accept best wishes and let us know so that we can congratulate you in the next edition.

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



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Classes now held at Laxton Village Hall Mon 18.30 & Thu 09.15 and at Hall Farm, Weston, NG23 6SY. Please call if you are interested.



Coffee Mornings

The Coffee Mornings remain suspended for the time being. We will let you know when we can start again. The rota on the inside cover will remind hostesses so that we can start as soon it is right to do so.




“Now that I’m older” Part 1

- ★ If you can’t think of a word, say “I forgot the English word for it.” That way people will think you’re bilingual instead of an idiot.
- ★ I’m getting tired of being part of a major historical event.
- ★ I don’t always go the extra mile, but when I do it’s because I missed my exit.
- ★ At what point can we just start using 2020 as profanity? As in: “That’s a load of 2020.” or “What in the 2020.” or “abso-2020-lutely.”
- ★ A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.
- ★ Remember when we were children and every time it was freezing outside they closed the schools? Yep, me neither.
- ★ I love approaching 80, I learn something new every day and forget 5 other things.

Lockdown Advice

Everyone PLEASE be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home! I was just talking about this with the microwave and the toaster and we all agreed that things are getting bad.

I didn’t mention any of this to the washing machine, because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING!! Certainly couldn’t share with the fridge, cause he’s been acting cold and distant.

In the end, the iron straightened me out. She said the situation isn’t all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out!

The vacuum, however, was very unsympathetic and swept my concerns aside. The fan was VERY optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon!

The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn’t say anything when I asked its opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip!! You can just about guess what the curtains told me: they told me to “pull myself together!”

We will survive!!

The Old Infant School in Laxton

On a walk around the village recently, we were interested to see the building work taking place in the playground of the old infants' school. It will soon become a private dwelling and little trace may remain of the original school building which in years gone by played such an important part of village life.

The Infant School

27th January
2021



Up until the 1858 education in Laxton was confined to eleven boys who taught by the village schoolmaster in the Everingham chapel of our church. When Lord Manvers

restored the church in 1860, however, the chapel was demolished, so Lord Manvers took advantage of a government grant to build a new school, which has now been converted into the Village Hall. Both boys and girls in future years would be taught in the same building. Then in 1870 Lord Manvers went even further and built the infants school on land opposite the village hall. His accounts show that he paid £88 in 1870 and £55 in 1871 for the building work. My guess is that is considerably less than the current building work will cost!

In 1870 the government building regulations recommended that schools should be built like barns, with tiered seating for the children so that they could see their teacher. Lord Manvers followed the recommendations and until quite recently the ruin of the old infant school showed a distinct likeness to a barn. It was also still possible to see where the tiered seating fitted against the wall. The old fireplace and the chimney remained showing the heating system of

the day. As a school it had once been one large room, built of brick and pantile. It was described in 1910 as having poor ventilation and being in only moderate repair.

Elizabeth Hickson, who started school in 1898, when writing about the infant school said "The tiers of the little school gallery resembled stairs, with no carpet or back support other than the step above, (and) with small boot toes in close proximity" (to our backs). It must have been very uncomfortable for little five- and six-year-olds to spend most of their

school day sitting still on what was in effect merely a set of shelves.

Daniel Pick was the first Head Teacher of the combined schools and in 1871 he



appointed Elizabeth Childs as the first infant teacher in the "Little School", as it was known in the village. When Daniel Pick left in 1873, Elizabeth became the Head Teacher of both schools. She was one of the first female Head Teachers in Nottinghamshire. She was paid £71.11s annually, and her mother, who also worked at the school was paid a mere £5. 12s. 6p for teaching needlework to the older girls. That is approximately £4,500 in today's currency, so she obviously didn't get rich as a consequence of being Head Teacher in Laxton.

Florrie Bennet, later Florrie Barnes, was appointed by Elizabeth as the infant teacher. She later took over the village shop and was remembered with great affection by the pupils, despite the discomfort of the infant classroom and the boredom of their very basic lessons in reading, writing, arithmetic and religious knowledge.

Change came after the second World War when the evacuees from London and Birmingham left the village and school numbers plummeted. During the war Mrs Clipsham had taught the infants and Colin Cree, one of our more senior villagers, spoke of her kindly in an interview which he gave to us. But he said Miss Cox, the Head Teacher, was very strict.

Despite the petition organized by Marjory Sayer, a former teacher at



the Big School, both schools were closed in 1947. The Acting Head Teacher, Kathleen Godson, wrote on December 19th 1947 "School closes today for the Christmas holidays and will not re-open."

The infant school then began a new life as a farm building, until it steadily became even too derelict for that role. But now a new transformation is coming, the old bricks are being preserved and we look forward to the building rising again as a private home.

Joan Cottee

Latest Photos



As 'Open Field' was being prepared, the new footings were being prepared. See also cover photo.



Laxton Village Hall

Our monthly reminder about the Village Hall; it remains closed and with the current lockdown and future uncertainties it is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future.

As mentioned in the December/January issue, weekly checks are continuing to be made to ensure all is well and to comply with the Hall insurers. As the heating is on a low temperature all the time, the Hall is wonderfully dry and odour free.

Please keep safe and well.

Best wishes.
Laxton Village Hall Committee

Bonus Ball Draws

It seems an appropriate time to mention the Bonus ball fundraiser as it has been running now for 15 years this month (Feb 2006)

For all this time it has been run based on the National Lottery weekly draw; the Lottery bonus ball number is also our bonus ball winner.

There were 49 balls for a number of years but this has now been increased to 59 and explains the increased occasions when we have a "Rollover"

We have kept records of all the winning numbers and the top 8 numbers and the number of wins is as follows;

No 08	24 wins	No 11	21 wins
No 15	23 wins	No 04	20 wins
No 27	21 wins	No 36	18 wins
No 45	21 wins	No 37	18 wins

With 17 wins are numbers 3,10,12,24,31,48.

Many thanks to all of you who take part and contribute in this draw which is used to support the Sports Field and Pavilion for the future. Saturday nights wouldn't be the same with out it!!

Michael Manning

Moorhouse in early 1930s and later.

I was told that many 1931 census returns were destroyed in a big fire in London. I don't know if Moorhouse was amongst them, but in any case these are my memories of people I associate with each farm or cottage.

There may be visitors among them or visiting older children. Everyone knew everyone. When I was old enough, I remember going to every house, from time to time, only into the kitchen of course. Everything took place in the kitchen – the only place with a fire... icicles on the insides of windows in every other room. Cold winters!! Do you remember them?

Sorry for anyone forgotten, but these are my memories of the folks who lived here. MWS.

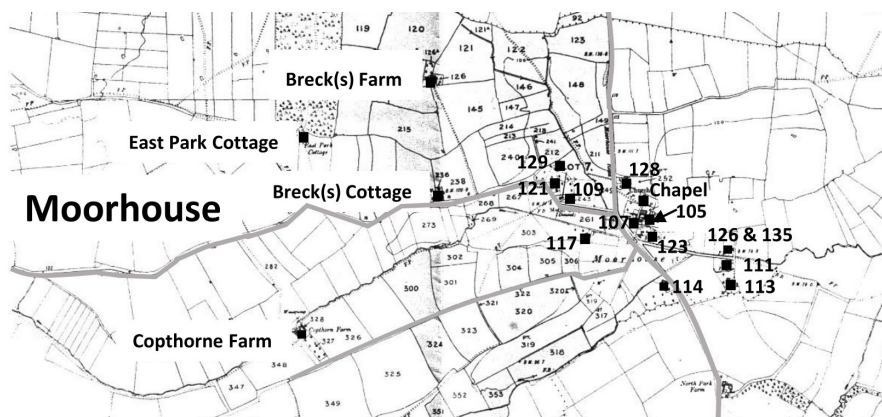


Image courtesy of Laxton History Group from 'Village Buildings'

Copthorne Harm: William Quibell, Reeny Rebecca Quibell; Madge, Bill and Jack.

Brecks Cottage: Mr and Mrs Reed. Later, William and Alice Hills: Sylvia and Leaphia.

Brecks Farm: Mr and Mrs Turner. Later Edward and Leslie Hoggard.

129 The Cottage: Mr and Mrs Dennell.

121 Aggie Farm: Unknown Later c 1931 Edward Noble. Betsy Noble; Leslie, Ernest ,George, Eileen and Annie

- 109 (Betchemers Cottage): Mrs Cammack: Bill Cammack.
 128 Sunnyside Cottage : Mr and Mrs Heathcote.
 107 (Wilmington Farm): Mr and Mrs Rickitt. Jack, Rosie and Arthur
 105 Church Farm: George Saxelby, Violet Saxelby; George Kenneth, Margaret and Noel. Jessie Flatters.
 123 (Rose Cottage): John Rose and Mrs Rose. Perce, Clara and Peter.

Sandy Lane: 2 Cottages together.

- 126 Mr and Mrs Cotton. Later Mr and Mrs Dalby. Connie.
 135 Edward Noble. Betsy Noble; Leslie. Later Mr and Mrs Walters. Cecil, Eileen Frank
 113 (Watson Farm): William Rushby, Eleanor Rushby; Wilfred
 111 (Thorpe Farm): William Rushby and Maisie Rushby; Mavis
 114 Ship Inn: Robert Turner and Mrs Turner. Irene, Ronald and Jean .
 117 Capps Farm Mr and Mrs Capps.



Mrs Capps

What the Papers Said ... Part 1

The following item was sent in as a cutting from a local paper, assumed to be the Retford Times or Newark Advertiser, dated 21/1/1967:

"Vicar Calls for Bingo at Laxton

Funds for alterations to Laxton Village Hall have been increased by £8, proceeds of a bingo session and 12-hand whist drive on Saturday.

Bingo caller was the Rev. John Camenisch and MC for whist was Mrs L Bex. A competition organised by Mrs W Ward was won by Mrs E Rayner, Mrs W Ward and Mr C Cree.

A children's prize was won by Richard John Camenisch.

Mrs A Frecknall and Mrs P Shepherd served refreshments.

An additional £1 17s (1.85) was raised by a guess the weight of the cake competition organised by Mrs F Rayner and Mrs E Allis."



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Road Works and Closures in Egmonton

Residents of Egmonton have been informed of roadworks, including road closures in the village. The original notice was a copy of the legal notice of road closure, stating that

From **Monday, March 8th to Friday, March 12th Tuxford Road, Main Street & Weston Road will be closed between 0730 & 1600**. The only routes open in and out of Egmonton will be via Laxton Road and Kirton Road. People wishing to travel to Tuxford will have to go via one of these routes.

A telephone call to the contact number given produced a very helpful reply, summarised below.



In addition to the week covered by the legal notice, the week previously (**March 1st - 7th**) will see traffic lights controlling traffic for installation of a new gulley and kerb drainage repairs in the vicinity of the church / Village Hall.

The main works to be carried out in the **week beginning March 8th** involve resurfacing from approx. the

post box to the speed signs on Tuxford Road. No works are planned on other roads affected by the closure.

The legal notice describes Weston Road as closed because through traffic will not be able to use it and so legal closure is required. It does not mean people cannot drive along the full length of it from the Sutton end for access. Indeed, during that week, that will be the only way in and out of the village for people living on and off Weston Road.



The shortest route for anyone in Laxton wanting to come into that part of Egmonton, who doesn't want to park outside the closed area and walk, will be left at the bottom of Laxton, through Moorhouse to the junction and left up Moorhouse Road. You then have the option to turn left into Egmonton or right to the Old Great North Road to go to Tuxford.

How the bus service will be affected will be published nearer the time.

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Bookbag : "Top ten pick 2016"

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Sherwood Forest Rotary - Cycling 1220 miles Rome for Prostate Cancer Research.

Two months into the new year and here's a report on progress so far re my cycle to Rome, to be achieved by the end of June 2021. Having on paper spent Christmas in Dijon I have now made it into Italy and with about 300 miles to go I'm currently in Genoa. It has not been that conducive to comfortable cycling recently with snow and wind chill in the negatives so a little warmer weather would be appreciated for March. Many of us have now had a first jab which hopefully will bring us a little closer to normality but social distancing and face masks, well ventilated rooms, chatting to friends we meet outside, and regular hand washing are still the order of the day for our own survival. Keep Safe.

Finally I would like to thank JK of Laxton for sponsoring me throughout January
Jeff

Laxton History Group



Unfortunately we are still unable to meet in person, and March sees the first anniversary of our missed meetings. This month we are asking for your help with a new venture.

We have always participated in the Great Nottinghamshire History Fair at Mansfield in May. This year it is clear that the usual crowded event in the Library will not be possible and it has been moved online for the whole month of May.

History Groups are being invited to contribute to the collected offering and we plan to submit a selection of 25 - 30 old photos as a PowerPoint presentation. The number is the maximum each club's space can accommodate.

Do you have any old photos that have come to light recently and which others have not seen? We have a wide selection to choose from, but it would be great to give priority to pictures which have yet to be shared with a wider audience.

Please contact Jean (**870276**) or Joy (**871506**) if you can help.

A Village Walk

Finally we have a date for the village diary!!

Very early in this current epidemic there was a time when many of us appeared outside to acknowledge the work of the NHS. Since then the only reason to venture outside within the village has been the daily 'Boris Walk' and because we all do our exercise at different times and on different routes we rarely meet anyone - which I know is a really good idea.

There are, however, many in the village who live on their own and there are many couples who perhaps are working from home who would value a little social and distanced five minute chat. There are also new residents in the village who have arrived during this past year.

The Proposed Walk - Weather Permitting.

As an experiment I wish to propose a one way village walking circuit which will take place **on Saturday 6th March from 3.30pm - 4pm** so that those who wish to walk can walk the circuit and chat to others across the street or perhaps chat to people who want to stay in their gardens.

The one way circuit will be:

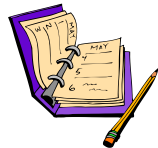
- ⇒ walking on the left hand pavement and will include the phone box
- ⇒ up to the Village Hall, crossing the road and then
- ⇒ from the old post office down and round Timothy Road.
- ⇒ Continue past Cross Hill and cross over to the Dovecote
- ⇒ Walk down to Bottom Farm.
- ⇒ Cross over to Corner Farm and
- ⇒ walk back up the village to the phone box.

You can start your walk at any point and finish when you've done your circuit(s). Keep socially distanced and remember - a smile, a nod, a cheery wave or a full blown 5 minute 'putting the world to rights' can all bring a warm glow to others. If it works, great. Do it again the following week. If you were the only person out there then I'm sorry, and I hope you enjoyed your walk. Pat and I will be walking.

Jeff Naylor



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



2021

Mar 6th **Village Socially Distanced Walk 3.30 - 4pm**

Mar 8th - 12th **Road closures in Egmonton**

Mar 21st **National Census Day**

Mar 23rd **Parish Council via Zoom**

Forward Planning

Suspended during the pandemic

Regular Events:

Parish Council 4th Tuesday of January, March, May, July,

Copy Date for April: 12 noon, 16th March

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

Thank you to the 21 people who sent in contributions this month. It has been a great pleasure to have so much material to work with this month.

Police Aid Clothing Bin Reminder

The clothing bin provides a small income from your donations, which is held by the Parish Council to fund any future village plans. It is still being emptied regularly. The following can be donated.

Clothing and Towels

Curtains

Handbags

Sheets and Blankets

Paired Shoes

Many thanks *Michael*

A Month of Varied Weather

Since the last edition of Open Field we seem to have had every type of weather and readers have been sent in their photos from in and around the village.



Two shots of the Trent near the A1 at Carlton on Trent on 1st February, after



the water level had started to go down.

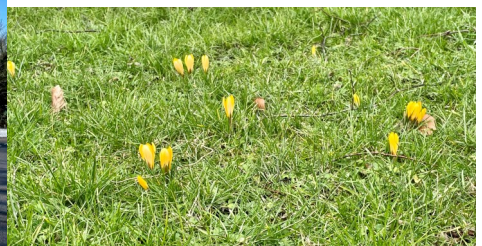
Ivan and Christine's pond and fountain are good examples of the 'big February freeze'.



Snowy Laxton



And finally a sign of Spring - the WI croci beginning to bloom on the Green.



Laxton WI



In March it will be a year since we had our last WI meeting. It seems a long time since we were all together. I'm sure everyone has missed going out and meeting family and friends. We hope that we will all be back together soon, catching up and having a good old natter.

The County Executive are trying to keep things going for members as much as they can. Members will see from their copies of the county 'Hornblower' magazine what speakers they have had via Zoom meetings.

In February the speakers included subjects like 'Ditch the Plastics', 'Women in Technology', 'Lord Byron' and talks such as 'Perennial Pleasures' by Dr Ward of Norwell Nurseries and one by Fiona Watt from the Centre for Stem Cell Research.

This year the County Annual Meeting is on 22nd April at 7pm. This is also by Zoom. The speaker will be Mildred Freeman with her entertaining talk on 'The History of Gin'.

All these Zoom meetings are free to members. If you are interested in any of them, you just need to get in touch with County Office and book in. Members, don't forget to look in your Hornblower for details of the March meetings.

On Sunday March 21st the 2021 Census will be taking place. If you have a problem with using the online form and submission, you can ring the WI Office on 01636 673550, and they will help you by getting a paper copy for you. Details are in the Hornblower. The form needs to be completed by 21st, so do ring early if you would like them to get a paper copy to you.

Brenda

COVID-19 Vaccinations

It is good to know that, at the time of writing in Mid February, the over 65s are now eligible for vaccination and the programme is going well. Local experience shows that using the following routes are the best way to book yours. You can also use the web site to check if the age range has been extended.

Book online: <https://swiftqueue.co.uk/nottinghamc19vpatient.php>

Book by phone: 0115 883 4640

Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
16/1/21	27	ROLLOVER
23/1/21	56	ROLLOVER
30/1/21	42	Brian/Ruth W
6/2/21	06	Janet Cooke
13/2/21	48	Sam (Dovecote)

We have various numbers available. Here is the up to date list of the 14 spare numbers: **1,2,7,11,20,23,26,27,34,51,52,56,57,59 (14)?**

Please contact Mike Manning 870844. Thank you.

Michael Manning

The National Census 21st March 2021

The census is coming. Your answers help inform decisions on services such as healthcare, education and transport.

The census is a unique survey that happens every 10 years giving a snapshot of all the people and households in England and Wales.

It's important you fill in your census questionnaire because the information you share affects the life of every single person living in England and Wales.

Because these things matter to us all, everyone needs to complete the census. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) runs the census in England and Wales and is independent from government. Do not worry, your information is protected by law. That means government officials dealing with payments or services you receive cannot see it and information published is always anonymous.

Census Day is Sunday 21 March. You can fill yours in online as soon as you get your access code in the post. If your household circumstances change on Census Day, you can let The Office for National Statistics (ONS) know.

If you need help, you can visit www.census.gov.uk where there's a wide range of support services available.

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What the Papers Said ... Part 2

MU Dine at Sutton

Members of Laxton Mothers' Union and evening class students travelled last week to the Old England Hotel, Sutton-on-Trent, for dinner.

Afterwards, a social was held and winners of games were Mrs A Frecknall, Mrs I Bex, Mrs M Frisby, Mrs M Camenisch, Mrs A Smith and Mrs M Rose. Arrangements were by Mrs J Cook and Mrs G Cree who were thanked by Mrs L Bex.

Laxton Dance

Competition winners at Laxton old-time dance in the village hall last week were Mrs W Lester, Mrs A Pepper and Mrs W Spence. MCs were Mr and Mrs W Lester, Mrs A Pepper.

Refreshments were served by Committee Members.

Laxton Party

Children were entertained by a magician from Manchester, Mr Ronald Bunby, at Laxton Methodist Sunday School party in the village hall last week. The party was organised by Mrs G Saxelby, and on leaving, each child received a present.

... And a Modern Communication

A Senior's Version of Facebook

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists:

I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations and give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them.

And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

Speak Plain and to the Purpose - I'm Tellin' Thee

There seems to be a movement by the permanently offended fraternity to suck colour and life out of our language, Let's meet a group who could tell them a thing or two – straight.



Our small rural special school in West Yorkshire was under siege. The dreaded 'Her Majesty's Inspectorate' was almost upon us. The Boss was a worried man and for some strange reason could see my beautiful class of infants as a possible cause for concern. The children noticed his drawn face on his frequent visits to 'check things', and when Emma stroked his arm and asked him if his piles were playing up he didn't seem reassured.

The whole class was on a mission. It was our task to decorate the school entrance hall with a mass of fruit and veg created from papier mache covered balloons painted and displayed with style. Enthusiasm was rampant. The children, me and my two adult colleagues were ready do our best.

The inspection day arrived and the august team of four trooped into our classroom. The obvious leader was a tall, well-built man in his forties. From the top of his beautifully groomed hair and beard via his impeccably tailored suit to his gleaming shoes he epitomized command and self assurance – he was terrifying.



They mingled as the children began work. I could hear Ian telling the severe-looking lady (in graphic detail) the terrible trouble Uncle Melvyn had with a reluctant heifer and a frustrated bull up at the farm last weekend and the younger of the two men gazed in fascination as David painted the lenses of his glasses red – again.

After about 20 minutes, though it seemed longer, they left and Pauline, Frances and I heaved a massive sigh of relief, only to gasp in horror as the leader of the inspectors re-appeared and said he would like to stay a while. We all nodded dumbly and tried to smile. We must have looked grotesque.

The vision then peeled off the beautiful jacket, pulled up one of the tiny chairs and sat himself at the marrow painting table. From now on we will call him Bill. My heart sank even further because there in all their glory sat Andrew and James.



Andrew was our television-addicted seeker after truth. He wanted to know how, why and where, and would question relentlessly until he knew. He had never heard of tact. After one late night, highly unsuitable documentary about marital relations, his dinnertime interrogation of a female member of staff was the stuff of school legend. He also assumed the persona of whoever

had impressed him on the telly. We had shared the classroom with John Wayne, Bugs Bunny, Mary Poppins and many others. The day spent with Andrew's version of Yul Brynner as the King of Siam was memorable.

James' tiny frame had absorbed more punishment than was fair. Born with a bad cleft palate and hare lip, he'd had more operations than most. Incredibly, because of his fantastic family, he had emerged as a self-confident, cheerful talkative little boy with a droll sense of humour. James was a gem!



Unfortunately, the previous Christmas James had become Superman and wore his older, much bigger, brother's cast-off costume constantly. It hung on his meagre figure like a melted barrage balloon. Andrew called him "Super". I called him James. He called me Batman.

All progressed calmly with Frances, Pauline and I trying not to sound like trainee Joyce Grenfells, when sounds of strife drifted from the marrow painters.

"Tha great daft wazzock!" rang out Andrew's voice to Bill. "Tha nivver puts two colours of *wet* paint on owt! Look at the 'orrible mess. Does tha know nowt?"

Bill, waving his brush wildly (splattering his beard with yellow paint) protested vehemently that Andrew had pinched all the green paint and it was all Andrew's fault.

James, not one to stand aside, addressed Bill with awful emphasis on

each word.

"Tha... wants... to... watch... it! Batman'll... get... thee. An' she's got eyes and ears like a ferret!"

I approached the battling threesome warily. How do you get the Chief Inspector of Schools (West Yorkshire) to stop waving his brush about and be quiet?



A small figure bustled past me and stood squarely in front of Bill. It was Hayley, our six-year-old earth mother. From Bill's low seat their eyes met almost equally. In a firm but kindly voice, Hayley spoke.

"Just look at that good shirt!" We looked. "What thi mother'll say when she sees that I... do... not... know..."

From the look on Bill's

face, neither did he.

"Get this on yer." And Hayley deftly popped one of our painting tabards (size age 8) over his head.

"Now, 'old that brush properly and get on with what yer *supposed* to be doin'."

Moving back to her table, Hayley threw me the age-old toss of the head and roll of the eyes that passes between 'us wimmin' that clearly says "Men!"



The gruesome threesome settled down in harmony with Andrew showing Bill how to paint over his mistakes with fresh green paint and James telling Bill about his 'Dalek' lessons with Batman (speech therapy to you).

Bill left us later that afternoon to chair the high-powered de-briefing session which followed our school inspection.

I hope he remembered to wash his face first. His marrow was beautiful.

I don't know where Andrew, James, Bill and Hayley are now, but perhaps some folk like them could have a straight talk to those somewhat vociferous linguistic censors.

Lesley Booth (Batman)

The Art of Being Cheerful

We've just had a full English, pot of coffee, wholemeal toast,
I've just turned up the Aga to put in the Sunday roast.
And when I've had a cuppa, just to keep you in the loop.
I'm off into the kitchen to make squash & orange soup.

The snow is slow to leave us, lying cold upon the ground,
But looking round the garden, signs of Springtime can be found,
For snowdrops are aplenty and the sap begins to rise,
My favourite little snowdrop?, well, it's Spindlestone Surprise.

We've had our AZ vaccine, an amazing job I guess,
We had ours in the village – our amazing N.H.S.
The plans to exit Lockdown are now whispered sotto voce,
Let's hope they get it right this time, and no more Covid 'botchie'.

Did you know the Chaffinch is an early sign of Spring?
It's name derives from gleanings in the fields and on the wing,
They root about the stubble, such efficient birds, no phaff,
Enjoying all the famer leaves, that good old fashioned chaff.

When we can go out shopping, we may find ourselves asunder,
Since some shops won't reopen, so many have gone under.
Let's spare a thought for retail when we while away the time,
Browsing on the lap top and we order stuff on line.

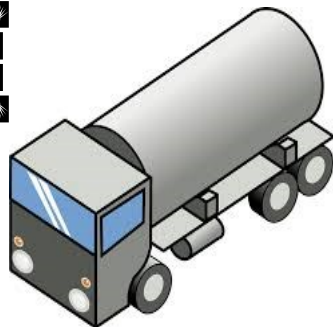
I don't feel isolated, I'm proficient now on Zoom,
It's not the same as meeting folk, but they do come in the room.
I watch the Art Society, Classic Music are just two,
But I am still impatient to see in person, you & you.

And in this freezing weather, what a joy and total thrill
To walk across the hardened land, enjoying winter's chill.
So, if you're feeling fed up, put your boot on, go a stroll,
And come home to some tasty soup, perhaps a warm bread roll.

For nothing lasts forever, seize the day and make the most,
Since soon, before you know, this old Covid will be toast!
We will be back together, having lunch, a glass of wine,
And maybe say a firm goodbye, to a pretty rotten time.

Brenda Wilson
February 2021

Group Oil Order



The first order of the year was delivered, despite a lorry breakdown and the 20 customers were pleased with the price of 35.75p per litre. Once again Chandlers were the most competitive, offering 1.75p less than the nearest quote and 4.24p less than the worst. At the time of writing this, the Boilerjuice price has risen to 44.60p per litre, no doubt due at least in part to the very cold weather of late and increased demand.

It seems probable that, with more people being required to work from home and the recent sustained cold weather, we may need an extra delivery. This is not planned, but if several people ask for one around the same time then I will see if others also want to top up. In that case if people leave it until the last minute, it will be based on need rather than what seems a good time to buy. To give us the best chance of a good price, please let me know in good time if you don't think your supply will last you through to the end of summer regular order.

If you have my personal email please use that as it reaches me more quickly. If you are new then please use the general address of **oil@openfield.org.uk**

New members are welcome at any time. I need an email address, full name, address, land and mobile phone numbers and any special access instructions for your delivery e.g. locks to be removed, dogs... Our group extends from Tuxford to Carlton on Trent and Kneesall.

The group process covers selecting a supplier and arranging the best price with a volume discount. Everyone pays the same per litre for the order and every household deals directly with them regarding payment.

Our range of suppliers have a good reputation and all accept a group order via a spreadsheet. They allow our established members to pay after delivery. New members may have to pay in advance the first time unless they are already known to the company.

Sometimes a family member needs to make the arrangements on behalf of someone else. If you are in this situation, please make it known that the supplier should deal with you and with not the person at the address for the delivery.

Keep safe and warm,

Joy

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Laxton & Moorhouse Parish Council - Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 26/01/2021 via Zoom

Present: Councillors: M. Manning (chair), M. Hennell, J.Hill, S,Rose, J. Godson (by phone)

In attendance at parish council meeting

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr S Hill and Mr R Hennell. Councillor Pringle had also sent his apologies.
2. **Declarations of interest:** The chair declared an interest as a member of the sports field committee in item 11 (Property matters – including sports field and Glebe Field and sub-tenancy).
There were no other declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any items of business on the agenda
3. **Dispensations:** None required
4. **10 Minutes public speaking:** No public present. Councillors noted reports of damaged road surfaces at:
 - a. Kneesall Road just outside the village near the bridge
 - b. Green Lane where the dyke was running onto the road near East Park Wood
 - c. Ossington Road
 - d. Outside Church CottagesThe clerk will report the damage to NCC Highways.
5. **Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 22 September 2020:** The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2020 were agreed as a true record to be signed by the chair at a later date when face to face contact is possible.
6. **Matters arising:** *LMP/C26/20 – 10 Minutes Public Speaking –*
The clerk will press Mr Pringle with regards to the weight limit.
LMPC/37/20 – Service Faults – Councillors were grateful for the replacement grit bin. However, the old one remained in situ. The clerk will request its removal.
No other matters arising.

7. **Reports from district and county councillors:** Mr Pringle had provided a written report which the clerk summarised.
Mrs Michael reported on progress with the Covid 19 vaccination programme in the district. She will share the telephone number and link for those aged over 80 to book a test with the clerk. The clerk will then publicise the availability of that information on the website for release to those who are eligible.
8. **Reports from councillors:** No reports save as addressed at LMPC/4/21 above (10 minutes public speaking).
9. **Remote/virtual meeting arrangements:** Councillors discussed whether to purchase a professional Zoom meeting package jointly with another local parish council. They **agreed** that the free service was sufficient for the council's needs and the cost of a subscription was not justified.
10. **Financial Matters:**
 - a. **Financial position as at 31 December 2020:** Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 31 December 2020 (incorporating the 2020-21 budget figures). Councillors viewed the balances as stated in the bank statements on line.
 - b. **Accounts for payment:** The council unanimously **approved** ten payments totalling £957.22.
 - c. **To consider the financial information provided by the Clerk and NSDC's letter regarding 2021/22 precept estimates and to agree the precept for the year ending 31 March 2022:** Councillors considered the financial information provided by the clerk. They noted the level of reserves, which were partially attributable to the clothing bank donation and set aside to support appropriate future projects in the village. They had intended to build a reserve which would allow them to enhance the village environment with items such as the dog bins acquired in recent years. They are exploring then installation of an electricity supply (item 16 e on the agenda) for the benefit of residents. Councillors unanimously **decided** to retain the precept at £4600.
 - d. **2021-22 insurance arrangements:** Councillors reviewed the renewal documentation. Councillors **decided** to enter into the 2021-22 insurance contract with Zurich.
11. **Property matters including sports field and Glebe Field and sub tenancy:** Fisher German being land agents, the clerk will

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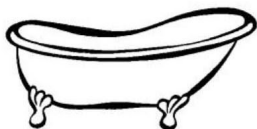
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instruct Tallents in Southwell to advise in relation to Glebe field and the tenancy/sub-tenancy.

12. **Future of Newark livestock market:** Councillors discussed the on-going closure of Newark cattle market and the impact locally of the loss of this valuable facility.

After discussion, they **agreed** that the clerk should contact NSDC formally to express their concern at the lack of local market facilities, in particular:

- a. The lack of a local market for local farmers forcing them to take livestock further afield for sale
- b. The animal welfare implications of livestock travelling out of the area, in one instance, from Newark to Thirsk market to a buyer based in Boston
- c. Similarly, the environmental impact in terms of food miles travelled and request details from NSDC of its plans to ensure that market facilities are restored at Newark without delay.

13. **Planning matters:**

a. **Applications:**

- i. **21/00135/S73 | Removal of condition 3 (agricultural occupancy tie) of outline consent OUT/99095 (alternative ref: 99/50925/OUT) in relation to 'The Orchard' and impose agricultural tie on Church Farm in lieu of this (resubmission of 20/01653/S73). | The Orchard Moorhouse Road Moorhouse Newark On Trent NG23 6LU:** Councillors discussed the application and unanimously **decided** that they had no objection to the proposal.
- ii. **20/02553/HOUSE | Construction of first floor to outbuilding to form home office | Vicarage Cottage High Street Laxton Newark On Trent NG22 0NX:** After discussion of the nature of the application, councillors **agreed** that they had no comment to make.
- b. **To note planning decisions by NSDC: 20/02510/TWCA - Land Adjacent Twitchill Cottage Cross Hill Laxton – Beech tree -** Noted
- c. **Compliance:** No issues raised.
- d. **Village planning restrictions:** Councillors noted that, aside from that part of Laxton within the conservation area and property specific listed restrictions, the village was subject to the same planning restrictions as other local hamlets.

14. **Defibrillator inspection report:** Mr M Hennell had completed the inspection. There were no issues. The chair reported that the

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defibrillator had been added to the national database accessed by all ambulance services.

15. Village environment and appearance, including:

- a. **Relocation – 30 mph speed signs to village entries:** The clerk will request a progress update from Mr Pringle
- b. **Fibre broadband for Moorhouse:** The clerk will forward the concerns raised by Mr S Hill to and request a progress update from Mr Pringle
- c. **Speeding traffic including possible weight limit:** See LMPC/4/21 (10 minutes public speaking).
- d. **Bar Farmhouse:** Mrs Michael reported that the matter is with the planning officer for a decision on what action should be taken. She noted councillors' view that the property presented a hazard to road users.
- e. **Electricity for Christmas tree:** The clerk will explore the possibility of supplying electricity for a tree on the green from a street light. She will also investigate the installation of a supply to the triangle of land at Main Street, High Street and Bar Road

16. Service faults: None save as reported at LMPC/4/21 above (10 minutes public speaking time)

17. Correspondence: All items of correspondence noted

18. Agenda items for next meeting: As above

19. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 23 March 2021 via Zoom

Milton Mausoleum

We hope to be able to carry out our intended programme of events (Covid 19 restrictions permitting). The Mausoleum will be open every Sunday from 2pm – 4pm, beginning Sunday 2nd May until the end of September 2021.

Our AGM will be held on Sunday 6th June at 2pm when refreshments will be available. We welcome visitors to this meeting which will be held inside the Mausoleum.

As in previous years the building will be open every Sunday but refreshments will only be available on the first Sunday in the month on a trial basis.

More details will be provided next month.

Enquiries, please to Email: milton.mausoleum@outlook.com
Phone Gillian (01777 248310) or Jenny (0779 1527569)

Egmanton Village Hall

www.egmantonvillagehall.org.uk / 01777 871171

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

- ♦ **Yoga with Greg** – Suspended. Watch for details of restart.
- ♦ **Egmanton WI** - Suspended at present
- ♦ **Zumba Class** - Cancelled for now **Call 07817 311627**
- ♦ **Computer Problems?** - Call **01777 871171** for phone advice
If your computer is misbehaving or you need help setting up a new one, please call. Donations to Egmanton Village Hall in lieu of fee.

Village Notices

Mike Manning maintains a list of email addresses for villagers and other local people who want to receive up to date information.

If you are not already on the list and would like to be kept informed, please contact Mike on **870844**.

Laxton Defibrillator

The defibrillator in the Visitor Centre, is always accessible as neither the Visitor Centre door nor the cabinet housing it is locked.

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

Michael Manning



Sandra Clarke is still collecting stamps for Bransby Horses throughout the year.

If you receive any during the year, please collect them trimming the stamp off the envelope, leaving at least a centimetre all around to ensure that the stamp is not damaged.

You can leave yours with Jean Hennell in Laxton or with Joy Allison in Egmanton and they will be passed to Sandra.

Thank you.

Useful Contact Details

Defibrillator Contacts:

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

Police

Sgt 2949 Christial Hurley, Sherwood Neighbourhood Policing Team,
Ollerton Police Station
PC Richard Dunn 07595 074292

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

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

Medical

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

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

Parish Council website: www.laxtonandmoorhouseparishcouncil.co.uk



2009



2010



2011



2012



2012



2016



2019



August 2020



August 2020



Aug 2020 ↓ Jan 2021



Aug 2020 ↓ Jan 2021



Aug 2020 ↓ Feb 2021

