

# Open Field

£1

November 2021



*Anna Hill with Michael and Mary Mawer at the wedding of Jem Hill to Frankie Wheelhouse at Laxton, 2nd October 2021*

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



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# Open Field

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**Flowers and Brasses Rota** - suspended until further notice

Mr & Mrs S Clarke  
Mrs M Beckett & Mrs B Noble  
Mrs S Rose & Mrs R Creighton

**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.**

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

**Contributions for the next edition TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY NOON ON 16th NOVEMBER 2021 PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED. You can send at any time.**

# Harvest at Laxton

Friday 8th October was our annual Harvest Festival service in church, with Heather Brown our preacher for the evening. It was nice to be back in church singing good old harvest hymns and with Graham playing the organ.

The lessons were read by Simon Hill and Ben Wells.

Heather, in her sermon, told us she had been looking at some old village papers from Eakring and read that in 1888 the vicar of Eakring came to preach in Laxton at a service in harvest time. Janet and I presumed that would mean it would be Lammas, and we said, "You will have to come next year to ours", but she declined when we told her it used to be at 5:30 am. Now we have it at a more sensible time of 10:30 am.



After the service, refreshments were served. Thank you to everyone who gave refreshments and helped in any

way.

It was disappointing that we did not have our usual Saturday Harvest Competition and a Sunday Family Service and auction. Hopefully we will be able to have those next year, that is if we can get someone to preach and people to come to the service and auction. Our numbers were down this year mostly because of illness. We have to hope that we can keep going and try to find vicars and people to attend.



*Brenda*

## Registers - Marriage Congratulations



The wedding took place on Saturday 2nd October at Saint Michael the Archangel Church Laxton between John Everitt Michael Hill and Francesca Bianca Wheelhouse of Holme View Farm, Laxton. The service was conducted by the Rev. Alistair Littlewood of Boughton.

After having to put off their wedding arrangements before because of Covid, they were eventually able to go ahead this time. Although the weather was against them, it didn't spoil their day.

John Everitt Michael Hill (Jem, as we all know him) is the eldest son of Simon John and Anna Mary Hill

of Moorhouse and grandson of Michael and Mary Mawer of Cophorne farm Moorhouse.

Francesca (Frankie) is the daughter of Jayne Annette Claire Barton.

We wish them every happiness for the future.

## Group Remembrance Service



For the first time in five years, Laxton will be hosting a Group Remembrance Service. This will be held on Sunday 14th November and will be taken by our new Area Dean, Rev. Canon John Chambers.

This will be the only Remembrance service for our Group of churches and we especially welcome children as we don't want them to forget this special day.

The service will include the traditional laying of wreaths and it will be followed by refreshments.

Everyone is welcome. We will be very pleased to see you.

**Group Remembrance  
Service  
Sunday 14th November,  
10.30am**

**St. Michael the  
Archangel Church  
Laxton**



**Please come and join us**

**Get Well Soon**

We hope Mavis will soon be on the road to recovery after her operation in Sheffield hospital. We are very pleased to hear that she is doing well and has spoken to people from home on the telephone. We send best wishes from everyone.

We also hope Colin is feeling better and send him good wishes.

We wish a speedy recovery to anyone feeling unwell at the present time.

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# LAXTON & MOORHOUSE CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERIES, 2021

We are pleased to say that we will be having the Christmas Card Post Box in church this year as usual. The income for the church is very valuable, especially in another year when we haven't been able to have the Dances, Church *Fête* or the Harvest Auction.

All you have to do is to post your cards into the box, with a donation to the church, from Monday **6<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December**, for delivery soon after.

1. Deliveries are made in Laxton and Moorhouse only.
2. Please make sure each envelope has a **clear name and FULL address on the envelope**.
2. Please place your cards in a plastic bag along with your donation and place in the box at the back of the church.
4. Please support the church this Christmas.
5. Remember, "To Sue" is unlikely to get to Sue and "Sue, Timothy Road," will not fare much better.



## LAXTON VILLAGE HALL



# QUIZ NIGHT

TO BE HELD AT LAXTON VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER

AT 7.30PM

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AND GLASSES - READING AND WINE!



## Christmas Trees

The Parish Council are organising for 4 Christmas Trees to be installed over the Christmas period with a "light switch on" at the Dovey Inn.

The trees will situated at:

- ☆ Jeanette's, at the top of the village
- ☆ outside Sally and Kevin's on the bottom green and two at Cross Hill,
- ☆ one outside The Dovey by the big flower tub
- ☆ opposite The Dovey outside Twitchill Farm House..



**"Switch On" at 5pm on Sunday 5th December at the Dovey**

Traditional Refreshments will be provided so please come along.



## Egmanton Christmas Trees

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## Open Field Subscriptions

Thank you to all contributors for their articles, photos etc. over the past year and to our subscribers for supporting the magazine. Subs for the year 2022 are due in January, but can be paid at any time from December onward. Unfortunately the price has had to go up to help cover increased costs, and it will now be £5 for your 11 editions. The real cost is about £1 a copy, so we must send a big thank you to our advertisers for enabling us to offer this discount to subscribers.

**Please put your £5 subs in an envelope with your own name on it and hand it to your distributor, put it through their door or drop it into Jean's letter box at Corner Farm (on the right at the bottom of Laxton village) before the end of January.**

Thank you.



## Vaccination Update



Flu jabs seem to be becoming more readily available. If your surgery is not able to offer you a date, you can get them done in specific stores and pharmacies. Details can be found online. Boots are offering a service at both their Newark town and Northgate branches.

The NHS is reminding the public about the importance of the Covid-19 booster vaccine ahead of winter. Boosters are being offered to over 50s, people over 16 with a health condition that puts them at high risk of getting seriously ill from Covid-19, and health and social care workers.

These groups can have their booster once six months has passed since their second dose. This means that many local people will now be coming due for their booster. As vaccinations were offered originally to the oldest first, for many the six month period means they will also be eligible in age order relative to friends and neighbours.

Those eligible for a booster vaccination are being contacted by the NHS inviting them to book in for their jabs. However, if you are eligible and have not received an invitation, you can look online to see if you could attend a local centre. In addition you will be able to walk into certain sites to receive your booster. These include:

King's Mill Hospital Vaccination Site – from 16th October onwards

Mansfield Vaccination Centre – from 16th October onwards

Forest Recreation Ground Vaccination Site – from 21st October onwards

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## **NOVEMBER CONGRATULATIONS**

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

*The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Margaret R, Janet, Jean, Eric, Ivan, Frankie , Jackie, Julia B, Richard B, Lesley T, Marti W, Dik, Heather.*

*We wish happy anniversary to anyone celebrating this month.*

*If you are celebrating a special date, we send best wishes.*

*We would love to give a mention to everyone for their special day, so please let Jean or Brenda have details with dates in good time.*



# Firework Time Again Please Think of the Animals

*The approach of bonfire night seems a good time to remind people to take care when having firework events. This year we have an unusually high number of residents new to Laxton and Moorhouse, some of whom may not have previously lived close to farm animals and stables.*

*Fireworks can be terrifying for animals and some people as well. At this time of year everyone with animals tends to be on alert for a week or so before to a week or so after 5th November.*

*If you are planning to let off fireworks at any other time during the year, please let your neighbours with animals know so that they can take precautions.*

*Animal owners, and horse owners in particular, will quickly spread the word amongst each other so everyone will be safe and happy and your tip off will also let people who would like to watch and enjoy the spectacle know when to be at their windows.*

*Thank you on behalf of the animals and owners*

## Coffee

## Mornings

Coffee Mornings remain suspended for the time being.

We will let you know when we plan to start again. The rota on the inside cover will restart to remind hostesses of when their turn is coming round.



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## Laxton Village Hall

As mentioned last month we now have a Laxton Village Hall web site [www.laxtonvh.org.uk](http://www.laxtonvh.org.uk) and many thanks go to Roger for organising this. It is full of useful information/photos and the history of the Hall and refurbishment.

We are pleased to say we have a new Secretary for the Hall, Clare, and we hope she will enjoy the role. For booking the Hall please see below for the current arrangements.

Please book through the website, which is easy to use. However if anyone wishing to make a booking would prefer to telephone then please note the new number for bookings is now **01777 871137**.

We are still looking to hold the **December Quiz on FRIDAY 3/12/21**, so please book your table. In view of the continuing Covid situation we will be restricting the number of tables so please book early.

*Michael Manning*



## Laxton and Moorhouse Parish Council

During the Parish Council meeting on 29/9/21 grave concern was expressed about the condition and the number of potholes on the roads in and around the Parish. Also of concern was the quality of the repairs as many of the potholes are previously repaired holes!! Our Notts County Councillor agreed that there was a problem and suggested that we should report as many of the potholes and repairs needed direct to the NCC using either the simply "Report a Pothole" web site or by telephone their Customer Services.

The details are below:

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/potholes/report-a-pothole](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/potholes/report-a-pothole)

**Or ring Customer Services on 0300 500 8080**

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# The Religious Census, 1851, Part 3

Last month MWS told us about how her mother supported the local chapels, and we have reported the census figures for Moorhouse and Laxton in the last two months.

This month MWS gives the census figures for Egmonton Parish:



## **EGMANTON PARISH (30) PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL, HORN LANE [Holme Lane]**

Erected: 1841

Space: free 32, other 32, standing 10

Present: Morn Aft

Eve

General Congregation           –       20       43

Robert Price, Local  
Preacher

Robert Price was  
instrumental in building

this chapel. The congregation had previously met at his home and had grown too big. Both he and his daughter, Hannah, preached here. The building is now derelict on the right opposite Holme Lane



## **(31) WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL**



This has been converted to a house since the chapel closed.

Erected: 1806, separate building

Space: free 50, other 60



Average for 12 months:

Morn Aft Eve

Total 50 60 55

Richard Mettam, Steward



## Another Wedding at Holme View Farm

When Janet Cook heard about the recent wedding of Jem and Frankie from Holme View Farm, it made her think of one of her many photos of past events in Laxton in particular. This was the wedding of Lilly Johnson to Jack Laughton, also of Holme View Farm on 11th November 1901. Its 120th anniversary will be any day now!

Janet has allowed us to reproduce the photo opposite, which is a really excellent early example of a group photo in the days when you would have to be very still indeed to avoid appearing merely as a blur.

Janet has the photo because her great grandparents, Richard and Kate Clark are in it. She doesn't have all the names, so maybe some other folk with long family trees in Laxton may be able to help identify some of the people.

L-R across the back row:

?, Mr Butcher, Richard Clark (Janet's great grandfather), Herbert Bartle of Kneesall, Sid Johnson (father of the bride). None of the others is known until we come to the lady to the right of the man behind the seated gentleman. This lady is Kate Clark, Janet's great grandmother. The couple at the far right hand side are Mrs Laughton and Mr Laughton, the miller. Janet is not sure of the relationship between these Laughtons and the groom. Maybe someone can help with this.

Centre front: Jack Laughton (groom), Lilly Johnson (bride)

Do you have an interesting old photo of Laxton or Laxton folk? Perhaps you would like to share it.

## Bell Ringing in Laxton

A couple of corrections to the items on bell ringing in last month's edition:

In the picture of the hand bell ringers, the two small girls were Clare Cooke and Rebecca Morton;

In the article about the tower bell ringers, David Chambers was Tower Captain.

Apologies for the inaccuracies.

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCHES

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

### 31st Oct

10:30 am Kirton   **MP**   Rev Canon John Chambers  
*All Souls - Come along and light a candle and remember a loved one*

### 7th Nov

9am Kirton   **HC**   Rev Margaret G  
**10:30 am Laxton**   **HC**   **Rev Margaret G**  
4 pm Wellow   **EP**   Janice H

### 14th Nov

**10:30 am Laxton**   **HC**   **Remembrance Service**  
**To be taken by Rev John Chambers,**  
**the only service in our group**

### 21st Nov

9am Walesby   **HC**   Rev John Chambers  
10:30 am Wellow   **HC**   Rev John Chambers

### 28th Nov Advent

9am Walesby   **HC**   Rev Alistair Littlewood  
10:30 am Kirton   **MP**   **Janice H**  
4 pm Egmontan   **HC Mass**   Father James

Please note Laxton HC services are on the first Sunday of November.  
The rota is now largely dictated by the availability of priests.

For enquiries, please contact churchwarden, Brenda, on **870541**



# *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*

## **2021**

Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>	Rotary 'Brass Plays the Proms', Ollerton
Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	WI
Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parish Council
Nov 25 <sup>th</sup>	Jury Day



## **Forward Planning**

### **December**

Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Court Day
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Village Hall Quiz Night
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Village Christmas Tree Lights Switch On
6 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Card Post Box open in Church

### **Regular Events:**

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

**Copy Date for December / January combined edition: 12 noon, 24th November**

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



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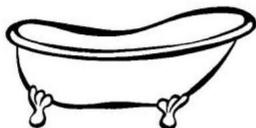
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# Laxton WI



Wednesday 13th October was our first official meeting after lockdown and since March 2020.

After the business part of the evening we had a members' craft evening. Anna again delighted us all by bringing along her bobbin lace cushions. Everyone was fascinated by how she worked the lace, trying to follow a pattern, moving the pins, using very fine thread and then crossing over the bobbins. She made it look easy.



Anna was asked how many bobbins she had. She thought there were over 500. Most had a meaning, such as the three she bought when she went to the WI 100th anniversary a AGM at the Royal Albert Hall, London. They had the special lettering on and green and cream beads on the ends. The bobbins with all her family names on them are also special ones.

Anna also brought some crochet work in squares and different colours and lengths, which she will then put together to make throws and blankets. Some members even had a go at crochet.

Lesley brought some of her artwork, with framed paintings of birds, scenes etc.

Janet brought her knitting to show us. Over the years Janet has knitted many items including baby cardigans, hats and mitts, and squares. These are given to the Mothers' Union and then distributed to the hospital premature baby units. She also brought a beautiful knitted baby shawl with a lovely patterned edge which she is in the process of making.

Thank you to all our clever members.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 10th November in the Village Hall at 7:30 pm when Lisa Hollingworth will be coming to show us how to make an autumn wreath. This should be very interesting. The competition is for an article with an autumn theme: a picture, card, material, scarf etc.

We were very pleased to be joined by Linda, a newcomer to the village, who is interested in joining in things. We all had a good chat to her and hope we made her feel welcome.

# Minutes of the Parish Council's Village Meeting held at 7.00 pm on 22/02.21 Laxton Village Hall,

## To introduce the Thoresby Estate to the parish of Laxton and Moorhouse

The meeting opened at 7.15 pm when Mr Gregor Pierrepont introduced himself and the Thoresby Estate Trust as the new owners of the Laxton Estate having purchased it from the Crown Estate.

The village hall was full.

Mr Pierrepont's presentation and subsequent Q&A session focused on the following in particular:

1. The structure of the Thoresby Estate trust which is overseen by the trustees with Mr Pierrepont as the Chief Executive Officer and life tenant.
2. His regret that the opportunity to meet the whole community, including those indirectly affected by the ownership change, had been so delayed by the pandemic which had crossed with the transfer of ownership.
3. His recognition that, although the trust and its properties were the focus of all decisions made, those decisions had implications for the wider community and the trust did not want to ignore their concerns.
4. Thoresby Estate had been interested in purchasing the Laxton Estate because of existing personal connections in the form of ownership of land in Laxton and the desire actively to observe the statutory obligation to preserve the manorial institutions and open fields.
5. Inevitably, the Crown Estate had been a remote and distant landlord which had made little investment in the Laxton estate leaving a lot of the properties in poor condition and requiring extensive works. Covid 19 had then delayed the commencement of the works schedule. This is now underway but, of necessity, certain properties had had to be prioritised.
6. In addition to repairing and restoring the estate's assets, enhancing the Laxton Estate is also a priority. In enhancing Laxton, the trust is alive to the tension between keeping the village a living, working place rather than a tourist attraction and its special nature which should be shared and appreciated more widely. This, in turn, was linked to its future prosperity by raising awareness and appreciation of its unique and special nature. The trust is looking to achieve this by developing the estate and, in particular a new purpose built visitor centre, as an educational destination from primary age to higher education. This will take time and discussion is underway with the Visitor Centre trustees,

NCC and others with regard to visitor facilities with a view to, with the parish council's support, producing and submitting a grant proposal for a scheme which increases and enhances the village's visitor facilities whilst avoiding commercialisation. Mr Pierrepont emphasised that all parties had a stake in the proposal which the trustees recognised would be a collective proposal on behalf of the whole community and not just the trust.

7. The trust is also looking to increase the level of retirement housing available in the village for its residents. The provision of alms houses would allow older farmers to retire and remain in their village and community. These would not be a commercial development but would be run through a charitable entity. The trust is working with NSDC in this regard.
8. In addition, the trust supports a review of the conservation area to bring the open fields themselves within the conservation boundary. This would constitute further recognition of Laxton's unique heritage. The trust is aiming for its tenant farmers to build viable post subsidy businesses which combine farming their relatively small acreage with on farm diversification into activities such as liveries, breweries and other complimentary rural businesses. All diversification would need to be effected in a way which observes the spirit and letter of the court leet. Mr Pierrepont referred to the operating model represented by the first new tenancy of the trust's ownership, explaining his hope that it will be a model for more.
9. Beyond all this, the trust is looking to work with other parties to promote the village and keep it viable.

The meeting then moved to the Q&A session. This focused on the following:

10. The new alms houses, their impact and appearance – The trust is working with NSDC with the alms houses likely to be a mix of redeveloped existing buildings and new build. The latter will be necessary because of the shortage of existing single level, no step buildings.
11. How the trust plans to meet the demands of climate change – The trust had discussed this already with the farmers. In the absence of a final ELMs funding scheme, it had been difficult for the trust to plan appropriate landscape changes. The hope is that the ties inbuilt in ELMs will allow the trust to develop and landscape scale scheme specific to Laxton which would unlock significant funding. In any event, the trust will work with farmers and the court leet to devise a least worse system which preserves the open fields and provides a realistic income for the tenant farmers.

The trust recognises that it needs to secure the co-operation of the majority of its tenants. It intends to achieve this through discussion with the court leet but there is an argument that the court leet has a yet untested power of enforcement. The trust would not be aggressive but Mr Pierrepont believes that the parliamentary undertaking and viability of the Laxton estate demand that the court leet has some teeth and uses them. However, this meeting was not the time to discuss that.

12. Trust plans to develop farm buildings – The trust is not in the business of selling and will not be splitting up farms. However, it supports the appropriate use of buildings as part of business diversification, such as Airbnb accommodation. Where a vacant tenancy arises, the trust would discuss the prospective tenant's business plans for the land and buildings. Where there were competing applications for a tenancy, the prospective extent of active involvement in and promotion of the open field system would be an important factor.
13. Trust plans for a collective Laxton brand – Mr Pierrepont explained that any branding was downstream of a new visitor centre. The increase in visitor traffic and interest would create the profile which would underpin the brand, which was a medium to long term goal. In terms of a co-op, this would require a co-operative approach which historically had been difficult to achieve in Laxton. It would need to be led by the farmers and facilitated by the tenants with a need for volunteers to support any initiative. Mr Pierrepont observed that the court leet is a form of co-operative.
14. The number of farms required to ensure that the Laxton estate is viable – Mr Pierrepont explained that, working with various organisations, thirteen farms had been identified as the minimum number for a viable estate. This number would ensure a sufficient number of farms were being farmed actively and well. Too many more would impact on the viability of the individual farms. If the number could increase that would be welcomed but that possibility would be determined by commercial viability. He observed that there would be no point in splitting a successful farm into two and creating two vacancies which would need to be filled.
15. The support for farms which tenants were looking for from the Thoresby Estate in contrast to their neglect by the Crown Estate – Mr Pierrepont was clear that the trust would not support any proposal which undercut or compromised another part of the Thoresby Estate. The trust is looking to develop a complimentary portfolio of activity. It will not be the instigator but will support tenants who want to develop their businesses. As a tenanted village, Laxton is unique and all its farmers are self employed. Inevitably, 120 acre farms require some off farm work and the trust is here to support tenants in that regard.
16. The time line of each phase of the trust plan for the Laxton estate – Mr Pierrepont explained that a trust surveyor had been surveying the

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village during 2020 which had led to the production of an informed work schedule. This includes a plan for how long it will take to clear the backlog of repairs. This will not be a short time. In conjunction with the Visitor Centre, the trust is looking for significant progress over the next three to four years. Covid is proving a funding obstacle with grant awarding bodies focusing all their attention on Covid recovery schemes, meaning that new development such as a visitor centre are a hard sell in the present environment. Prior to Covid a key funding focus had been connecting with nature, a priority which Laxton was ideally placed to meet. Funding priorities may change moving to carbon education or the green recovery. Planning would depend on the grant profile and the inevitable time constraints attendant on working with partners such as NCC and the funding process. A realistic estimate was three to five years.

17. The potential location for a new visitor centre – Mr Pierrepont explained that the vision was something of sufficient size to incorporate good size classrooms, a museum, shop and possibly a café. The plans would need to include a back up site and a back up to the back to keep all options open. The trust would be looking to use an existing underused building but Mr Pierrepont would not be drawn on where in particular. Mr Pierrepont was asked about the potential to use the village hall which is underused which he indicated could be discussed with the parish council. However, the intention is to have a permanent display rather than constantly packing and unpacking a display. His vision is of a single visitor and education centre.

He was asked about how the focus would be maintained on the tenanted farms which were the main draw for any visitors. In response, he stated that a new visitor centre would bring in income funds which could then be invested.

The funding for the development will come from outside sources. The trust is looking to replicate the success of Cresswell Crags but needs the funding to achieve that. In order to do this successfully, the trust has to be guided by the organisations with the money, NCC and Visit England. Flexibility in the planning and site will be essential to get the funding bid over the line.

Mr Pierrepont agreed that parking would be required. Whilst parking for the visitor centre is adequate now, it is not heavily visited. A resident observed that, if the car park is full because of the visitor centre, it puts off customers. Mr Pierrepont stated that a new centre would need a proper car park which would have to be a green field which would be controversial but necessary.

18. The education sector to be served by a new visitor centre – This would be primary because that sector naturally aligned with the subject of nature. However, the centre would also serve the secondary and

tertiary sector, affording the opportunity to study geography and history. In addition, there was a close link with university education because of the research and agriculture opportunities afforded by the Laxton estate. The trust had been actively developing these links with Sutton Bonington and Nottingham Trent University but Covid had brought these to a halt as face to face teaching had ceased entirely. Now that this has returned, the development of these links is back on the to do list and will be key to the success of the project.

19. Signs designated areas as of specific scientific interest - These had been erected to help reduce the problem of inconsiderate parking. The siting of these signs had proven controversial but had been provided without directions as to where they should be located. The real issue was Main Street and the trust will be enhancing the signage there.
20. The football field as visitor centre location as suggested by one resident – This was likely to prove controversial. The trust will consult with the parish council when it identifies particular sites. The first priority will be to establish to a funding body why the centre is needed, the benefits it will bring and why its should attract the funding. Once the funding has been secured, the trust will look at the specific site plan and proposals in conjunction with a design company and the parish council. There would be no discussion of sites at this stage.
21. How those involved in education and teaching will be involved in the planning – Mr Pierrepont has had initial informal discussions with the Perlethorpe centre manager. If significant funding is secured, the trust will need to involve those who design and build such facilities for a living.
22. The open fields – These are the main focus. A successful visitor centre would help subsidise Laxton and underpin its future prosperity. New tenants will be required to have a second business which would help achieve a realistic rent. The open fields will require tenant farmers with viable secondary businesses which are historically appropriate. Arable farming is notoriously difficult so an alternative but complimentary income stream would be essential. Mr Pierrepont gave livestock, horses, pedigree sheep and using farm produce in some way as examples of side businesses which were absolutely agriculture focused and therefore acceptable.
23. Life tenancies for new tenants – The trust would be granting these because life tenants have the motivation and incentive to invest and commit. Concern regarding the court leet's powers of compulsion were raised. Mr Pierrepont expressed the view that there was scope for it to take action where the manorial court or open fields are not being supported.
24. What part Thoresby Home Farm would have in helping Laxton farmers

– The Thorsby Home Farm is a large operation and it is not looking to come into Laxton and farm the Laxton estate as it farms in Kneesall and Kersall. Indeed, the trust's preference is to keep the two separate. That said, the Thoresby Home Farm manager would be cooperative if the Laxton farms needed support although Mr Pierrepont is keen to maintain a distance between the operations and avoid any suggestion of puppet farming. There had been a concern that the Thoresby Estate would do that. That has never been the intention and he does not want to give those with concerns any ammunition.

25. Modern farming techniques and machinery do not fit with the open field system – The Thoresby estate is well aware that this is a problem. The trustees would not want to be dictatorial but, working with the court leet, Laxton will evolve as it has over the centuries. This evolution needs to be led by the court leet and the manorial court will be the key driver.
26. Residents observed that the tension between modern machinery and the open field system was getting to the stage where farmers are unable to farm with the available machinery. This was coupled with the additional issue of finance. The people who are able to farm can be found but they are not able to afford to do so. All Laxton farmers have secondary incomes to support the uneconomic open fields. It was suggested that the situation could become so acute that the trust had to pay the tenants.
27. Mr Pierrepont assured the meeting that that was not his plan. However, he recognised that making a living from the open fields in the present conditions at the prevailing prices was nearing impossible. For this reason, he wants to work with tenants to develop all on farm income streams which integrate with and support the open field system. The onus must be with the farmers to evolve these incomes issues and come up with constructive proposals which the trustees are able seriously to consider and support where appropriate. The Laxton estate is a tenanted estate and it is the tenants who need to take the lead.
28. The inefficiency of the open fields and the weight of trustees' undertaking to Parliament to support them cannot be passed on to tenants – Mr Pierrepont accepted that this is for the trustees to carry but schemes had to be ones which the tenants want and are able to deliver.
29. How thirteen farms will be able to find thirteen on farm businesses – Mr Pierrepont assured the meeting that trustees would ensure the tenants and the tenants' farms but they need to find those with the entrepreneurial drive to develop businesses. There is a limit to what the trustees are able to do.

30. Residents commented that there is a limit on how many businesses Laxton is able to support. Mr Pierrepont responded that the most recent tenancy incorporated an activity which was not directly related to Laxton but which provided employment. More businesses will bring more employment opportunities.
31. He went on to add that the preference is for a long term commitment from tenants. However, it is a balance of multiple factors. If a potential tenant was very impressive but might move on elsewhere that would be a difficult decision. These were not things which could be decided in advance and trustees will not be prescriptive.
32. Recognition of the significant number of residents who are not part of the Laxton estate and need to engage them in any plans to increase visitors – A resident suggested a village woodland to engage the rest of the community. Mr Pierrepont gave the example of Perlethorpe where there is an active group who work and plan together to maintain and enhance the appearance of the village. He recognised that, as established institutions, the parish council and visitor centre were the obvious representative groups to talk to and woodland would work well with ELMs. Permission would be required to alter the landscape with significant tree planting but there are one or two spots with difficult access or poor ground which could be used for trees.
33. The children's visits already successfully run by the History Society which is a village organisation – All are welcome to help
34. The small number of school trips since Covid 19 and lack of any guarantee that they will come back – Mr Pierrepont observed that good facilities would be key in restoring and increasing numbers. Prior to Covid 19 there was a lot of focus on the green recovery and connection with nature. He expressed the view that the Laxton estate had much more to offer than the Civil War Museum in Newark.
35. A request from the parish council for support from the trust for planned Christmas 2021 festivities including new Christmas lighting, carol service, refreshments at the Dovecote to bring people together – Mr Pierrepont confirmed that the trust would support with the donation of trees if the number and specification were provided. If any good causes require support they should apply to the charitable trust which manages donations. Mr Pierrepont will send details and the application form to the parish council chair.

The meeting was closed at 8.55 pm.

*These minutes are in draft form to enable speedy publication.*

## Recent Bonus Ball Winners

Date	No	Name
18/9/21	12	Roy and Jean
25/9/21	53	Ian and Rebecca
2/10/21	43	Jen and Edwin
9/10/21	55	Angela Jackson

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**. Please contact me on 870844. Thank you. *Michael Manning*

## Group Oil Order



The next order is expected to be towards the end of November to avoid the usual rush and the price rise associated which accompanies Christmas.

Unfortunately at the time of writing, the price of oil has risen dramatically from the prices we were seeing over the last few orders. At present it is over 66p/litre, which compares very badly with the 41.99p/litre we paid for the last group order. There might be a sign of hope as the price is just over 1p below the peak. Let's hope it is on the way down.

Rest assured I will be watching the trend to find a good time to order, so please let me know what you need soon so that I can order quickly when the time looks right. The first person to make contact usually indicates that people are starting to need to order.

Please include with your request your latest contact details and delivery instruction such as lock, need advance notice of delivery etc. I pass your land line, mobile(s) and email address to the chosen supplier. If you haven't ordered for a while you may have overlooked passing changes on.

Anyone whose order can be placed by email is very welcome to join. Please contact me on [oil@openfield.org.uk](mailto:oil@openfield.org.uk)

The group currently covers an area of roughly 5 miles radius from Laxton.

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# Answers from British Quizzes, Part 2

## **MAGIC 52 (NORTHEAST ENGLAND)**

Presenter: In what year was President Kennedy assassinated?

Contestant: Erm . . .

Presenter: Well, let's put it this way - he didn't see 1964.

Contestant: 1965?

## **SIMPLY THE BEST (ITV)**

Phil Tufnell: How many Olympic Games have been held?

Contestant: Six.

Tufnell: Higher!

Contestant: Five.

## **FORT BOYARD (CHALLENGE TV)**

Jodie Marsh: Arrange these two groups of letters to form a word - CHED and PIT.

Team: Chedpit.

## **LINCS FM PHONE-IN**

Presenter: Which is the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world?

Contestant: Barcelona.

Presenter: I was really after the name of a country.

Contestant: I'm sorry, I don't know the names of any countries in Spain.

## **RADIO 1 EARLY MORNING SHOW**

Presenter: How many toes would three people have in total?

Contestant: 23.

## **NOTTS AND CROSSES QUIZ (BBC RADIO NOTTINGHAM)**

Jeff Owen: In which country is Mount Everest?

Contestant (long pause): Er, it's not in Scotland, is it?

## **THE MICK GIRDLER SHOW (BBC RADIO SOLENT)**

Girdler: I'm looking for an island in the Atlantic whose name includes the letter 'e'.

Contestant: Ghana.

Girdler: No, listen. It's an island in the Atlantic Ocean.

Contestant: New Zealand.

# Egmanton Village Hall

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

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- ◆ **Egmanton WI** - Thursday 18th November in the Hall
- ◆ **Computer Problems?** - Call **01777 871171** for phone advice  
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## 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 at [kneecott@googlemail.com](mailto:kneecott@googlemail.com)

## 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*

## Court Leet

The Court Leet is held on the first Thursday of December and is open for all to attend. It will move to the Village Hall this year to provide more room for everybody.

**If you would like to attend on Thursday 2nd December, please call Robert Haigh on 07968 215777** to ensure there is adequate seating.

Further information will be published in next month's 'Open Field'.

Best wishes

*Michael Manning*

## Useful Contact Details

### Defibrillator Contacts:

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

### Police

Sgt 2949 Christial Hurley, Sherwood Neighbourhood Policing Team,  
Ollerton Police Station  
PC Gary Sipson 07525 226575 or 101 x 800 7673  
Email : [gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gary.sipson@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

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

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

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### Medical

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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](mailto:robert.jenrick.mp@parliament.uk) 01636 612 837

County Councillor: [cllr.mike.pringle@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mike.pringle@nottscc.gov.uk) 0115 977 5661

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

# Queen Eleanor's Cross at Geddington



This is well worth a visit if you are in the Corby area. It is the best preserved of the 9 Eleanor Crosses built by Edward 1st in memory of his wife who died in 1290 aged 49 years. Only three of the nine crosses have survived. Some were pulled down in the Civil War because of their Royalist connection.

Eleanor and Edward stayed at Laxton Castle from 13th to

17th November 1290. Edward was taking his wife from Clipston Castle to Lincoln for medical attention. They crossed the Trent by ferry at Marnham and reached Harby on November 20th. Sadly Eleanor could go no further and she died on November 28th at Harby.

Edward took Eleanor's body back to London. At each place that the funeral cortege stopped for the night a memorial cross was built.

Geddington was well loved by Edward and Eleanor because they possessed a hunting lodge there together with mews for falcons. Edward was keen on falconry whilst Eleanor liked hunting with greyhounds.

Eleanor was a very competent lady who built up a sizeable land portfolio on her own account. She was very much hands on with regard to the management of the Estates. There is a record of her evicting one of her farm tenants because of non-payment of rent. This was at Gartree near Market Harboro'.

Some of the information in this article comes from Sara Cockerill's book about Eleanor.



*Mike Jackson*