

# Open Field

£1

September 2020



*The socially distanced congregation at the Lammas Service, Laxton  
2nd August 2020*

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



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# Open Field

[www.openfield.org.uk](http://www.openfield.org.uk)

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

Mrs L Booth & Ms H Keay	30th August
Mrs J Cooke & Mrs P Freer	6th & 13th September
Mr & Mrs S Clarke	20th & 27th September
Mrs M Beckett & Mrs B Noble	4th & 11th October

**Coffee Morning Hosting Rota** - for reference when they are resumed

October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Wood
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Cooke
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mampa Haste

**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 SEPTEMBER PLEASE. EARLIER PREFERRED. You can send at any time.**

# Message from Brenda, our Churchwarden

## Church Cleaning

My thanks must go to Janet and Lesley who kindly helped get the nave ready for the Lammas service, after which we had to lock the church for 72 hours.

On Monday 10th another cleaning session was held in church, this time the MU Chapel and the Lady Chapel were spring cleaned. This time I was joined by Janet, Jean, Rachel and a new volunteer, Sarah, who recently moved into the village.

On 13th August the next move was to clean the chancel, altar and choir stalls. Everything will then have been thoroughly cleaned and sanitised as per our instructions.

Our next service will be on 23rd August, after which the church will have to be locked again for 72 hours. This is the recommended quarantine time to ensure any viruses there will have died, otherwise it would mean another deep clean and sanitise—another rule to adhere to.

*Brenda*



## Delay to the August Magazine

Apologies to anyone who received their copy of 'Open Field' late last month.

The magazine is printed by Revd. Tony Tucker, through Jubilate Community Interest Company, which is a not-for-profit company printing all sorts including invitations, service sheets and magazines.

Tony moved during last month and the printer followed when he was settled. Unfortunately he then discovered that it needed a new part which took a while to source and this meant that we were not able to collect the magazines for around a week after we sent him the copy.

Our distribution team went to work as soon as the copies arrived in Laxton, but some may still have just missed the 1st August date. Things should be back to normal this month.

## Sympathy - Ken Shepherd

Our sympathy goes to the family of Ken Shepherd who died at Kings Mill Hospital at the age of 85 on 6th August. He was married to Mary Shepherd, nee Cree, and brother in law to Colin.

Ken served Laxton and Moorhouse as Clerk to the Parish Council for many years. There is to be a family funeral at Ollerton Crematorium on Friday 28th August.

We send sincere sympathy to Diane, Clive, John, Anne-Marie and all members of his extended family including grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Diane has written a tribute to their father, opposite.

## Sympathy - John Rushby

We were sorry to hear that John Rushby of Ollerton had died on 15th July 2020 at the age of 90.

John was born at Laxton on 7th October 1929. He was the son of William and Daisy Rushby (nee Cree) who farmed at Ide Farm.

His funeral was held at St Paulinus Church in Ollerton on the 6th August. His burial took place at Ollerton Cemetery with his late wife, Cath, and late daughter, Heather.

John often came back to Laxton to visit relatives and friends and to tend the graves of his parents and sisters, Doris and Pat.

Many people will remember him from working in the paper shop in Ollerton for Bill Boole, who used to deliver the papers round Laxton every day.



## Get Well Soon

We are sorry to hear that Margaret P, Mavis and Roy H had to spend some time in hospital recently. Fortunately all soon returned home where they are recovering, We wish them all well and hope for a full recovery very soon.

## Kenneth Shepherd (Ken)

On Thursday 6th August at Kings Mill hospital Dad sadly passed away aged 85 years.

Dad was married to mum for 51 years until her death 12 years ago and together they had the 5 of us, Diane, Clive, John, Anne-Marie and Stuart who we sadly lost 6 years ago.

Dad also had 12 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

He very much enjoyed his days at School Farm having moved there from Timothy Road 47 years ago. It was always Dad's wish to end his days there. John tried to get him home but in the end his condition deteriorated too quickly.

In the latter years Dad's mobility hasn't been as great but he loved to go a ride in the car with myself. He enjoyed going to collect his great grandchildren from school or anywhere else I had to go. Since losing mum he'd been to Meadowhall and round garden centres with myself and was quite happy for me to push him in a wheelchair whereas he was rather reluctant to use one at home.

He was always keen to go but usually said "I'll be ok to come in my slippers".

It was so hard not being able to be with him at the end.

A very big hole in all our lives.

With the restrictions at the moment we are having a family cremation and then when the situation is better and we are able to do so we are going to have a service at church for all to come and remember Dad's life and then we will have the interment of the ashes.



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## Lammas

We opened our church for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic on Sunday 2nd August for our usual Lammas service.

This is one of our traditional rural services, but it was not quite the tradition we are used to.

Everyone had to socially distance, use hand sanitisers and we had to keep a record of the names and addresses of everyone there.

In this service the first sheaf of corn of the harvest is blessed and at least we were able to do that. Our Lay Reader, Joan Wood took the service for us trying to follow the service sheet without hymns and no communion, but we managed very well and we were pleased to be joined by five friends from Kirton.



The lessons were read by Mike J and Stuart C. Prayers were said by Brenda N, Anna H, Pat N, Margaret L and Jonathan P. The gifts were presented by Simon H, Janet C, Mavis B and Jeff N.

Unfortunately we were not able to have our breakfast afterwards, which was disappointing for everyone.  
*Brenda*

## Harvest at Laxton

A decision has had to be made regarding our Harvest Festival events. We know it is not until October, but we don't think it will be possible to have our usual Harvest Service because of social distancing. We will not be able to have the Village Hall for our Harvest Supper, the same with the competition and the Family Service. It is something else we shall miss this year.

The decision had to be made before the ministry team meeting and the Open Field goes to press. We are sorry about this but we need to abide by the rules.  
*Brenda*

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## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

*We would like to congratulate anyone celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special event during September.*

*Please send us the first names of people you want us to send good wishes to for any month.*

*If we have missed anyone, we apologise. Last month we missed three anniversaries- Jean and Wilf, Heather & Derek and Joy & Dick.*

*This month we congratulate Neil and Rachel on their wedding anniversary*

*Please let us know who we should be including.*

*The birthday roll of honour for this month is: Jo, Paula, Jean, Madeline, Mel, Christopher H, Neil R, and Diane W*

*Many happy returns to you all.*

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



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## Team Hennell Hay Making



The Hennells certainly made a family team effort out of making hay on Long Syke this year. Firstly Roy and Mark attended the Grass Sales and Mark's bid won this lot. Roy cut the grass, then the family team rolled into action.

Mark was rowing up. Neil baling and Amanda, Rachel and Emily followed

along stacking the bales ready for the ride home. All in a days work.

When all were safely in the stack yard, the family celebrated with a KFC takeaway and a mixture of liquid refreshments. Family team work at its best.



## A Little Light Relief - From Parish Notices

A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers' Union meeting. This will be followed by a bring and buy sale.

Don't miss the Young Wives' Victorian Evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.

We are delighted to announce that the youth group has raised almost £500 for drug abuse.

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'

Any church member over 18 is welcome on our new lay ministry programme. It requires minimal training and time: just six weekly classes of about 200 hours each Tuesday night.

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, and a sweet, all in a covered dish.

# Lockdown Wildlife

*Many thanks to Lesley Booth for sending this item for the magazine.*

Goats, wild pigs, sheep and many country dwellers have appeared in urban towns during the pandemic in numerous countries.

We in Laxton cannot boast such exotica, but have we seen the similar sort of thing here? What effect have the quieter, cleaner roads perambulating natives clearing the rubbish, hedgerows left to do their own thing had? A quick straw poll was needed, a look at the garden indicated.

Blackbirds must be the worst in the road sense league. In Spring the roads are often littered with bundles of black feathers. Not this year, and we have a very healthy population of young blackbirds raised in the hedges. Their song rings from as many vantage points as can be provided. Is it their clarion alarm calls that have helped the beautiful thrushes at the bottom of our garden raise a good brood in safety this year?



Hares are more numerous and have been seen where they haven't been seen for some years. Toads and frogs, again missing from our garden for two or three years, are back –



not to forget Norma the Newt, a new arrival.

Where did that very small baby rabbit who decided to have a Peter Rabbit moment in the netting in the

garden come from? We have never seen a rabbit in the garden in 10 years since we moved here (he/she hopped it safely into the potato patch after release).

Predator numbers are down and this seems to have resulted in more broods of various garden birds, and far more healthy young chicks are



flocking to the bird feeders and feeding well on the more numerous insects which have benefitted from the cleaner air near the roads.

Pheasant and partridge chicks have been seen here in far

greater numbers than ever seen before

(though the injured badger we found in the conservatory raiding the birds' fat balls was a less than welcome guest).



Those who have walked the quieter roads and footpaths all remarked on the increase in wild flowers once common-cowslips, orchids and cranesbill with their fresh colours.

Lockdown many have seemed a long time to us, but natural things have responded quickly to clean air, the lack of noise and much emptier roads.



One bit of icing on the cake must surely be the repeated appearances of the magnificent Emperor dragonflies, both male and female, resplendent in the afternoon sun.

Perhaps the best of all for us is that, three years after having their nest ruined, the swallows have nested again in the woodstore. They and their newly flying chicks are a delight and a sign that maybe, just maybe, we can learn something.

*Lesley Booth*



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# Cycling to Rome with Rotary

As with all the groups within Laxton, the Rotary club is not currently meeting in person. Each Wednesday we have a Zoom meeting which often culminates in a quiz. It has become very apparent over the weeks that quiz writing is an interesting art. Quite often the quizmaster believes they have questions set to represent all interests and abilities - how wrong some of them have been.

Our most recent quiz was fascinating in that the lowest score won. There were five categories, Politicians, Sportsmen, TV People, Entertainers and a catch all section. In each we were given the names of eight people representing that category. All we had to do was write down their current age.

Scoring was quite straightforward in that the number of years you were wrong represented your score. For instance I thought Monty Don was about 52 but unfortunately he's about 64. Scored 12! At the end of Round One's Politicians, Pat and I were in the lead with only 15 points. From there on we plummeted. There was an assumption that my knowledge of footballers, cricketers and TV personnel, current and retired, was adequate. Woefully not. It's amazing how many points one can accrue when you think a name belongs to a retired cricketer only to find he's the youngest player in the Liverpool football team. Also our knowledge of Love Island contestants was woefully inadequate too, a meaningless name being very difficult to age. Interestingly the younger members did much better.



The Cycle-To-Rome event was suggested by our two youngest members as currently raising money for charities and local organisations is virtually impossible, we only hope we are able to hold our Christmas Collection at Tesco in December.

Some members are cycling on exercise bikes, some are out on the road and one member is on his rowing machine. After the first month and fourteen rides out and about round Laxton I've now accrued 220

miles which in the scheme of things takes me as far as Dover.

During the course of this month I've ridden one 15 mile circuit without seeing another person (it was relatively early one Sunday), and on

one circuit I was going flat out with the assistance of gravity down a hill and was outrun very easily by a hare.

All cash or donations go through our Just Giving page and will go to Prostate Cancer Research. Anyone who would care to join our challenge would be most welcome. All we ask is that each rider agrees to donate £20.

All rides are recorded on the free Strava App and, once you've signed up, all rides are automatically added to your total. While 1220 miles to Rome is our furthest challenge shorter distances are also catered for. If you are interested just give me a call.

Please continue to wave if you see me out and about with my yellow Rotary tabard on. Its a long way to Rome over the remainder of the Rotary year. I might wave back, just nod or be so tired I didn't see you in the first place.

*Jeff*

## Pat's Plant Stall

Following last month's announcement of newly delivered shrubs from a friends garden, these have all found new homes.

However, a second friend turned up with a 'few' plants. A car fully loaded to be precise. There are now a variety of typical herbaceous plants, ferns and hellebore along with bergenia and calla lilies.



As Inner Wheel, like every other organisation, has been unable to meet or hold fund raising activities, some items of bric a brac have also found their way to the table along with a small range of individually designed cushions (all new) and colourful bunting.

The funds have exceeded £1,000 as I write and I understand the training of the Medical Detection Dogs is progressing. An appeal for clothing worn by Covid sufferers has been made to aid in the training.

Thank you for your on going support.

*Pat Naylor*

# Ruby's Fund Raising for Beaumont House Hospice, Newark



Ruby Doyle, granddaughter of Brenda and George Noble, is undertaking a sponsored walk of 6 - 7 miles from the Hay Barn Café in Kneesall via Laxton and Egmonton to The Birds' Nest Café at Hall Farm Granary in Weston on the morning of Friday 21st August. She will be walking with Mum, Paula, and some friends. Unfortunately we could not bring you the news in July as details had not been finalised.

The children are all from Kneesall Primary School, aged 6 - 8. so their age is about the same as the number of miles they plan to cover!

The children wanted to spend their summer holidays working towards this fitness goal whilst raising some money for a worthy cause. They chose Beaumont House as it is a charity that is very close to our hearts and does some amazing work in our local community.

There is a Just Giving page under the name of 'The young and the breathless' and Paula has a sponsorship form for those who would like to support these young people. There are also collecting boxes. The one at the Birds Nest will be available for a while after the event.

To find the Just Giving page, please go to Just giving on the web, search for Beaumont House and then for Paula Doyle and it will bring up Ruby's page. Ruby would greatly appreciate your support.

Please give them a wave as they go through the village.

Thank you.

## Down Memory Lane

*We received this unexpected contribution from someone whose roots go way back in Laxton and Moorhouse. A big thank you to Leaphia Darko for writing it and sending a photo to illustrate it and to her daughter Janet for getting it to us with this comment:*

*“There was a story in the July 20 issue about Leaphia Hill’s father, my grandad.*

*Margaret Saxelby asked my Mum to write another piece of her memories when she and her family lived in the cottage on the Saxelby farm.”*

*We hope you enjoy her trip down memory Lane.*

### **The Pantry**

The pantry was a wonderful place. It was lined with shelves groaning under the weight of home-made jam, bottled fruit and pickled onions and shallots. There were salted runner beans, eggs in buckets of isinglass and hams and more sides of bacon hanging from the ceiling.



There were socks of onions and plenty of plums in season.

There might be apple pies, plum pies, blancmange, Victoria jam sandwich cakes (Mam never made small fancy cakes) and Christmas and birthday cakes and jam tarts. Mam made forty pork pies from the pig killing and at Christmas, fourteen Christmas puds. She didn't like the number 13.

Mr Cragg, the baker, cooked the pork pies and was a recipient as well as friends and relatives. We ate the last Christmas pudding at Easter.

As you opened the pantry door, lined against the wall, alongside buckets of preserved eggs, would be pancheons of pig dripping and brawn. Sylvia liked brawn sandwiches for school but I threw the brawn in the hedge and ate the bread.

Cloves, peppercorns and other seasonings for pickling were on the shelves along with dried peas, pearl barley, vermicelli, sago, ground rice, cornflour, plain and self-raising flour, black treacle, golden syrup, dried fruit (unpitted) and demerara and white sugar. There was even a block of saltpetre for preserving the hams and sides of bacon.

Fruit and vegetables were picked as necessary and put in the cool pantry.

There might be a piece of cheese and the remains of Sunday meat and boiled ham.

Jam jars and bottling jars plus the heavy pan for jam making along with other cooking utensils had their place in the pantry.

How I miss Mam's egg custard and mince pies and would often say 'Oh Alice can cook!'

Never mind I'll just look in the cupboard. There might be a packet or tin of something that hasn't passed its sell by date.

*Leaphia (Hills) Darko*

## Work Begins at the Old School



No doubt everyone travelling up and down the main road in Laxton will have seen work beginning on the old Infants' School. As the vegetation which has been overtaking the building for years was taken away,

some of the features of the old building became visible. There was the fireplace, which looks entirely inadequate to have heated such a large space. The infants of years ago clearly didn't



have nice warm places to learn. Also visible are the supports for the staging - see back page. The pupils sat on staging around the walls looking down at the teacher who would have been at the front. It was interesting to have a brief glimpse into the old building and now we await seeing what it is to become.

## Rota of Services for September

The Bishop had hoped all churches would be open by September, and it seems others in our benefice are doing so. This has caused difficulty finding people to take all the services there could now be and so this month's rota had not been finalised at the time of Open Field going to print.

As soon as it is available it will be posted on the church door.

We are sorry for any inconvenience caused, but it is something beyond our control here.

Brenda

## Well done Jessica

Congratulations to Jessica Rose of Laxton, who recently had a letter and her photo published in Woman's Weekly.

She wrote of reading it on holiday in Spain last year and of always reading her Nan's copy when she visits her.

No doubt Nan was thrilled to see her granddaughter in print in a national magazine. Woman's Weekly must be one of the oldest of its type in this country, having had the first edition published on 4th November 1911.



## 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.*





# *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*

2020

## Forward Planning

Sept 26<sup>th</sup> .                      Southwell Ploughing Match - cancelled

Dec 4<sup>th</sup>                              Quiz Night (tbc)



## Regular Events:

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

*Quiz Nights*                        1st Friday of December & March

**Copy Date for October: 16th September, mid day.**

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

Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to send in contributions this month. We have been very grateful to people for coming up with ideas to make something for everyone to read at a time when all our usual events have not been happening.

We hope readers have enjoyed the variety and maybe even been inspired to contribute something of their own. If you are not sure how to write it, we are happy to help out.

Thank you.

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## Laxton WI



Another month has passed and we don't seem any further forward with getting back to normal. Until we can have us all together in one place, like the Village Hall, we will not be able to meet because of the usual - social distancing.

As I said last month, we will be having 3 months free from paying our subscriptions. That will mean paying in April, so that will be our Annual Meeting. This means a change in our annual Programme, as we have always held our Annual Meeting in December, and so affects our programme planning.

A new mandate will have to be set up so that we can move the date of the end of our financial year to December 31st so that our books can be audited by the time of our AGM. If anyone has any thoughts on this proposal, please let me know, as permission has to be sought from County Office.

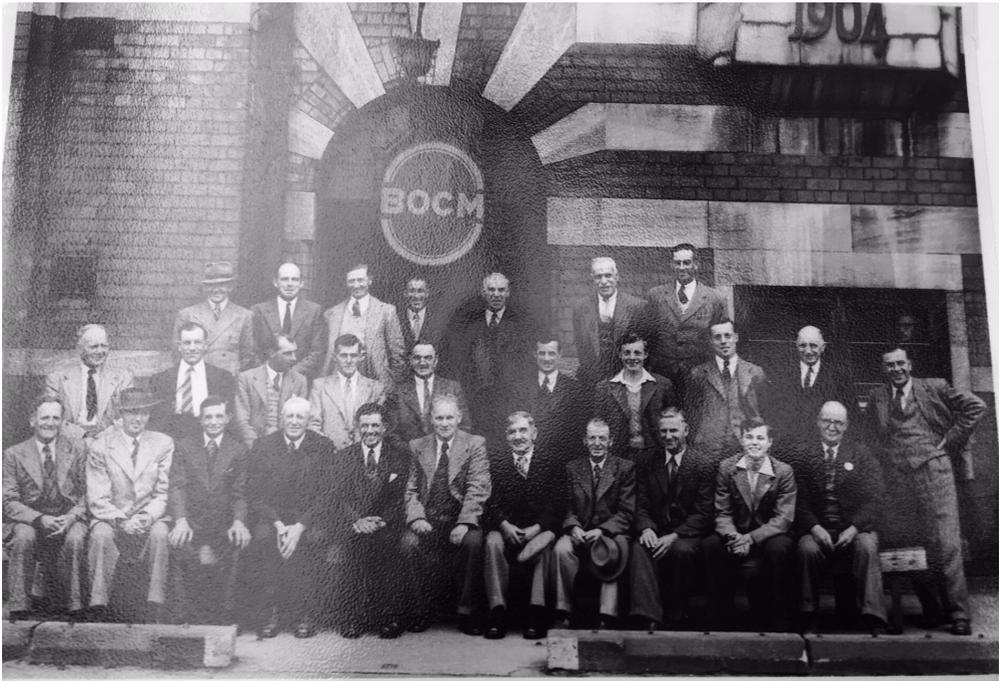
The Annual Autumn Council Meeting, which was to have been held in September at the Palace Theatre, Newark, has been cancelled and it will now be a virtual Zoom meeting. The prize draw tickets, which we all bought at our last meeting in March, will also be drawn on that evening.

Other disappointing news is that Denman College in Oxfordshire is to close. Denman is the WI college where courses are held on many different subjects. They were originally just for members, but recently have been open to non-members as well.

The courses are usually for 2 - 3 days or weekends. The college has been open for many years, but it is a big old building which needs a lot of upkeep. If the courses are not full, it is not viable cost-wise. The courses are expensive as they include the cost of the tutor, materials, as well as full board and accommodation which are included. It is also not very central for the membership and so the cost of getting there can be prohibitive for those living in far flung places such as Guernsey and Jersey as well as the far north.

Yet another cancellation is our Annual Group Meeting in October, which was to have been at East Markham. The Group Committee made the decision for the same reasons - we do not know what things will be like in October either. Everything has been rebooked for 2021.

Don't forget to get knitting for Team 4Us if you are looking for something to do. These items will be going abroad a little earlier this year, probably the beginning of October, ready for the children for Christmas presents.



Thanks to Janet Cooke for this slightly clearer copy of the photo of the BOCM outing first shown last month. She could not add any more names, but maybe readers can with a clearer view. There seems to be some debate about whether the gentleman third from the right on the front row next to Roy Beckitt is Mr Banks or Mr Codd. Can you help?



## Southwell Ploughing Match & Show

Many of our readers will have been looking forward to this very popular local event. Unfortunately it is not to be. Their web site now announces

***“The Society have reviewed Government Advice and, following a meeting of Chief Stewards, have concluded that it will not be possible to run a show in September 2020.”***

“The Southwell Ploughing Match is the largest agricultural one day show in Nottinghamshire, established in 1855 and run by a committee comprising of local business people and rural enthusiasts. The annual show is held at a different venue every year.”

Given the present uncertainty about gatherings and the imminent need to commit funds to any hope of going ahead this year, the decision was taken to cancel.

We will all have to wait for next September when the event is due to be at Farnsfield. We can put Saturday 25th September in our 2021 diaries and cross our fingers we will be back to enjoying this great countryside show once again. More news as we receive it.

## Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council for Laxton & Moorhouse are planning to try meeting by Zoom towards the end of August. The timing was not right to include details this month, but assuming all goes to plan, hopefully we will be able to bring you the minutes before too long.

## Conservative Outing to London.

Janet sent in the photo (left) of a group of ladies including her grandmother, Alice Bailey, the tall lady at the back, and on the front row Mrs Laughton, Mrs Bagshaw, and Mrs Cree (far right).

The gentleman in the centre is the Marquis of Titchfield, MP for Newark, later the Duke of Portland. He sat in the House of Commons between 1922 and 1943. The shoes and clothes would seem to suggest that the photo was possibly taken in the late 1920s.

Does anyone know any more about this occasion or the people featured? It would be good to be able to fill in some more of the names. If anyone can help, no doubt Janet would be pleased to show you the original photo which is rather larger than we can show here.

# Group Oil Order



Many of our regular members had a good stock after capitalising on the excellent summer prices, so fewer ordered than usual, but they still benefitted from a very good price. They paid 25.75p/litre this time, compared with 38.95p in February this year.

Who knows how long the prices will remain depressed. Our next group order will be towards the end of November.

Looking back, this is the third lowest price the group has paid since the first order in September 2006, when it was 27.00p. The lowest price, 23.89p, was in March 2016 during a period of generally low prices. It had been 27.20p in November 2015. The worst price of all was in March 2013 when we paid 58.87p, but actually had two quotes of over 63p.

The list has members in Laxton, Moorhouse, Egmonton, Kneesall, Tuxford and Carlton on Trent. Anyone who can receive and send email in this area can ask to join the list at any time by providing mobile and land line numbers, email and full postal address plus any special instructions e.g. guard dogs, gates with locks, difficult access etc.

We are working from the list which was updated after the introduction of GDPR. If you did not receive the round robin message advising of this order it may have gone to your Spam / Junk file or we do not have your up to date details. If in doubt please check.

If you did not respond to the GDPR request to confirm that we can hold your details you will need to give your details again as everyone who did not confirm or subsequently join has been removed.

Please send orders to [oil@openfield.org.uk](mailto:oil@openfield.org.uk) asap.

Please will long term members of the group ensure you have notified any changes to your contact details e.g. new phone number or email address. More importantly, if you do email your requirements having seen the alert in the magazine ,the supplier will not be able to contact you.

Please don't assume new addresses will be noted from incoming emails.

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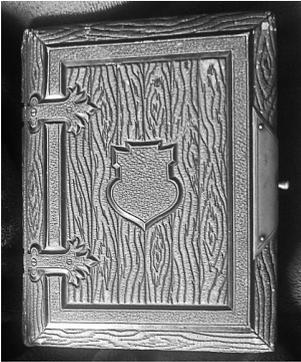
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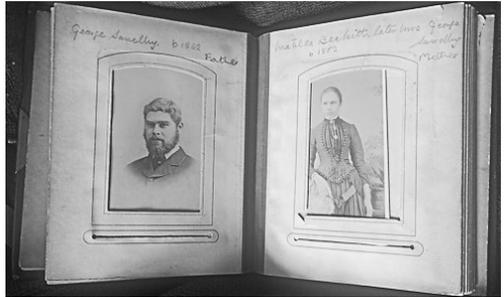
# From the Family Photo Album



I am lucky enough to have a family photo album with about 50 photos going back well into the 19th century. The album was begun about 1855, the oldest photo being of my great, great grandfather, who was born in 1789 - he was already about 26 by the time of the Battle of Waterloo!

I think it was first put together

by my great granny, Sarah Saxelby, nee Birkett, and was carried on by my aunty Mary, who was brought up at Egmonton Hill Farm and who wrote in many names. Many of the people in the album are my ancestors or wider family members but some are family friends and many have a Laxton connection.



Some I can place in Laxton, some I can't. Here are a few people I think might be connected with the village and I thought someone might recognise the name of an ancestor and be able to place them here or know their dates.

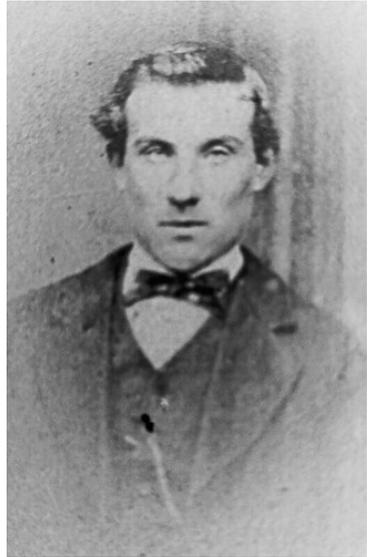


1(R) Mrs Harpham. I think the Harphams were at New House Farm



2(L) Mrs Harvey. I believe she was a Laxton lady but I can't place her.

3,(R) Mr William Quibell. He was from Manor Farm, I think, but there were a few William Quibells. Some Quibells lived at Cophthorne when I was young in the 1930s.



4,(L) Fred Dalby (or Dolby),

There were Dalbys in Moorhouse at one time but this was another family.

5 and 6, (Below) Mr and Mrs Richardson. The name sounds familiar but I can't place them.



I hope someone will be able to identify their ancestors or at least Laxton people of the past.



MWS

## A New Crop in the Area

People have been talking about the appearance of a very pretty addition to the landscape this summer. The Common has been covered with a mix of buckwheat and phacelia (aka purple tansy). Behind the road to Egmonton the mix has included mustard, adding yellow to the mix. It is clearly very popular with the bees, which have been seen on it in large numbers.

All these species are fast growing and can be left in the ground for 2 - 3 months. One field photographed with the first sign of emerging shoots on 21st June was in full bloom by the first week of August.

Collectively, and with various other plant species not specifically seen locally, they are used as green manures. The roots fix nitrogen from the air and they make use of nutrients in the soil which might be washed away by heavy rain such as we seem to get most summers nowadays.

At the end of the growth period they can be cut and left to wilt before being worked into the soil to return the nutrients and provide organic matter for the following crop.

They also have the merit of covering the ground with thick growth which smothers other plants which try to grow, which leads them to be known as a cover crop.

A recent article in Farmers' Guide featured a farmer who has started to use this crop as part of a changed rotation which is now winter wheat, summer cover crop, winter wheat, spring wheat, spring barley, summer cover crop.

The farmer featured claimed that he was noticing a reduction of black grass of between 80 and 90%. This has been a problem in local fields and now that the spray used to control it has been withdrawn, this effect could be very helpful.

For once something seems to have been found which benefits everything and everyone. The farmers growing it see the benefit in much reduced black grass infestations and increased yields from their first year wheat after growing it, the bees absolutely love it and it is a very attractive addition to the rural scene during the flowering period.

The fields on the Common were topped at the beginning of August, but wild poppies have sprung up in the margins where some of the crop remained creating an even more attractive mix. See back page for photo.

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Date	No	Name
18/7/20	30	H Harwood
25/7/20	15	Anne Dutton
1/8/20	22	John and Carol S
8/8/20	41	Diane and Richard
15/8/20	21	Alan and Anna

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

*Michael Manning*

## Spot the Birdie



Rachel Hennell sent in this photo of one of her ducks being followed by a duckling.

This collar dove (below) is nesting in the gutter on the south facing side of Dik and

Joy's house. It is the second time one has nested there.

She survived 1.25 inches of rain falling in barely an hour on 16th August.



# Family History Enquiries

Last month we had family history enquiries about members of the Bartle, Lacey and Hewerdine families. Janet Cooke was able to help regarding the Hewerdines, as was our correspondent, Jenni Dobson, who is also related to this family.

Janet has supplied a photo of the children at Kneesall School (right), thought to be in the mid 1950s, when there were Hewerdine children there. There are a lot of other names familiar to those who have lived in Laxton for a long time, so we are reproducing the photo along with the names of most of the children. If anyone can help with the missing names, please contact Janet, via Open Field if you don't have her contact details.

**Please rotate the page to read the names in association with the photo opposite.**

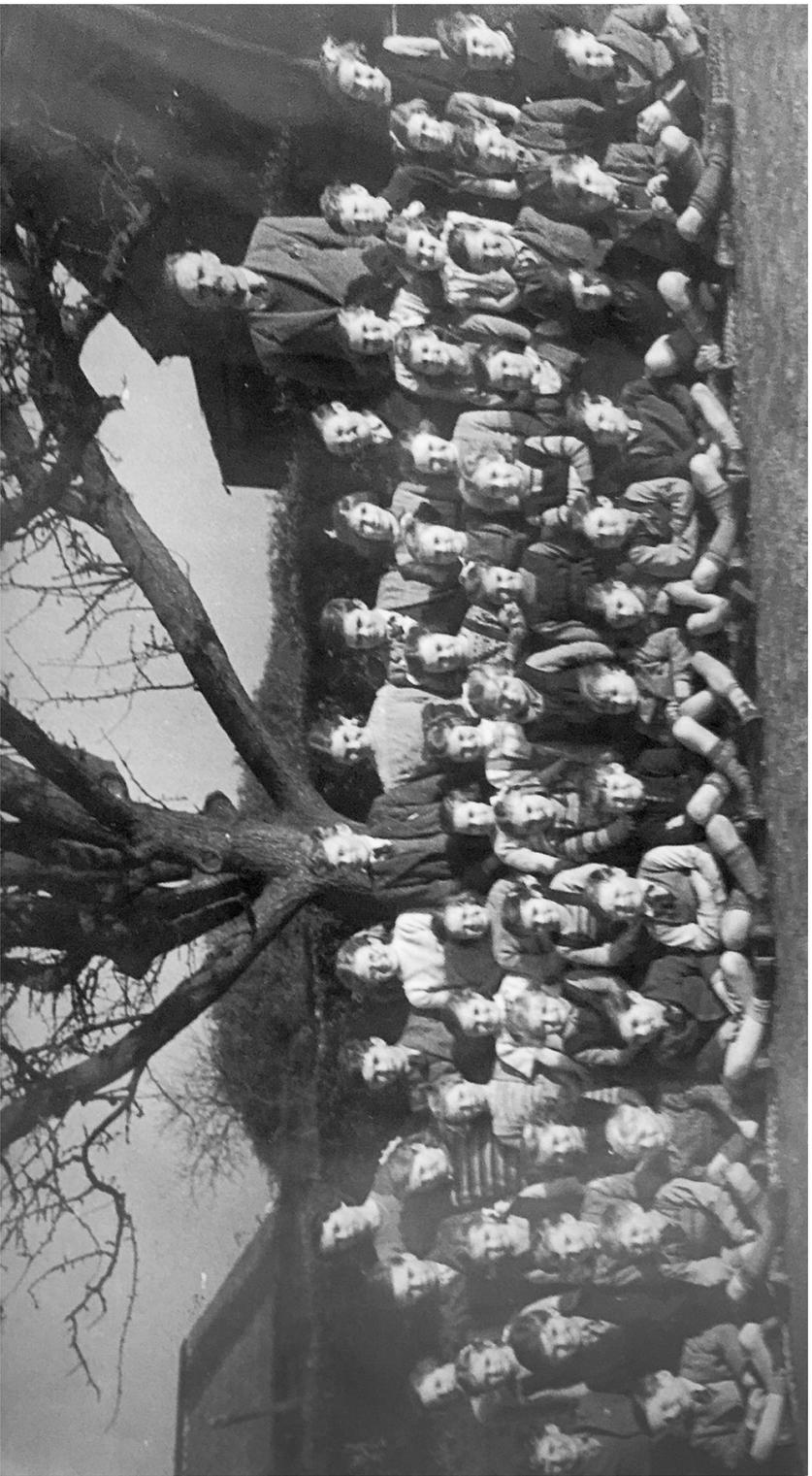
## **Kneesall School, early 1950s**

**Back Row:** Miss Marshall, ?, ?, Nina Martin, ?, Steve Brown, Audrey Dodd, Keith Stafford, Dorothy Bartle, Robert Favill, Nora Maddison, Raymond Pashley, Jean Bills, Mr Brown.

**2nd Row:** Avril & Glenis Cilpsone, Renee Rose, Sheila Roebuck, Valerie Rutledge, ?, Janet Price, Margaret Smith, Margaret Rickett, Janet Sayer, Brenda Prinold, Pat Hewerdine, Maureen Watson

**3rd Row:** ? Prinold, Peter Hewerdine, Geoffrey Key, ? Bills, Joyce Hennell, Daphne Prinold, ?, Janet Hennell, Daphne Warriner, Monica Pool, Cynthia Bartle, ? Roebuck, Gerald Prinold, Roy Hennell

**4th Row:** David Sayer, Brian Pashley, Mildred Hennell, David Bartle (Kersall), Neville Sayer, ?, ? Brown, ?, David James, Michael Laughton, ?, Tom Prinold



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# The Dukeries Singers

Sitting indoors whilst the garden wilts into dust, I am reminded of the quote "Horses sweat, gentlemen perspire and ladies merely glow." Well ... I am glowing all over my laptop at the moment on one of the hottest days of the year.



Although I am writing for the Dukeries Singers we are not actually singing in concert. I cannot vouch for all the Choir, of course, but lots of them will be singing everywhere and charming / annoying friends, families and neighbours as they warble in the garden.

When the Choir **IS** back into rehearsal mode, I sing alto and my close neighbour sings bass so folk around here are entranced with a duet--- but not necessarily with much of a tune, the sopranos tend to have that. Perhaps we could have a "Name that song!" competition based on the two parts!

What a joy it will be when we can sing together in four part harmony. When normality returns, be assured that I shall let you know in CAPITAL LETTERS. Meanwhile our contact details are; [thedukeriessingers.com](http://thedukeriessingers.com); email [thedukeriessingers@gmail.com](mailto:thedukeriessingers@gmail.com) and our Concert Secretary Margaret is to be found on **01623 642464** or **07896491314**.

Enjoy the Summer, Keep well, Keep safe

Jan

# Flood Alleviation Works at Egmonton

The works are apparently virtually finished as we go to print, and it seems the weather is trying to put them to the test!



# Egmanton Village Hall

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

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

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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 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*

## Returning Bus Services

This information was received too late for the July edition. In case anyone missed it, the 333 and 334 services were due to return to normal on 28th July, The Ollerton – Laxton – Egmanton – Tuxford service runs Mon, Tue, Thu and Sat  
The Laxton – Egmanton – Newark service runs on Weds and Fri.

## 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,  
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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

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

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County Councillor: <a href="mailto:cllr.mike.pringle@nottsc.gov.uk">cllr.mike.pringle@nottsc.gov.uk</a>	0115 977 5661

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



The old Infants School showing the supports for the staging where the children sat looking down towards the teacher



Buckwheat, mustard and phacelia in bloom and in a margin with poppies.