

## EXHIBITIONS

## WESTON GALLERY

ON15

**TALKS: PLACES ARE LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK YOUR TICKETS WITH THE BOX OFFICE ON 0115 846 7777.**



**THURSDAY 9 APRIL - SUNDAY 16 AUGUST**  
**ADMISSION FREE**

### LAXTON: FARMING IN AN OPEN FIELD VILLAGE

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM'S  
MANUSCRIPTS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The village of Laxton in North Nottinghamshire is unique in preserving the medieval traditions of open field farming. An otherwise typical agricultural community, it escaped being fully enclosed in the nineteenth century. The three open fields, divided into strips farmed by tenants of the Laxton estate, are still managed today by a jury reporting to the manorial Court Leet.

An exceptional series of records from the Thoresby estate, owners of the manor of Laxton from 1640 to 1952, is held by The University of Nottingham. On display will be a copy of a magnificent coloured map of Laxton dating from 1862. Supplemented by material from other collections, including manor court records and photographs of modern-day Laxton, this exhibition highlights aspects of farming life in Laxton. It is a story which illuminates agricultural routines and processes which have long since disappeared from similar villages in the Midlands.

A series of talks and events will be held to accompany the exhibition. Places are limited so please book your tickets with the Box Office on 0115 846 7777.

Image: Photograph of the Laxton Manor Court Jury assembling to inspect the wheat field, c. 1960-1961.

### LUNCHTIME TALKS

**PERFORMING ARTS WORKSHOP**  
**WEDNESDAY 13 MAY**  
**1PM - 2PM**  
**ADMISSION FREE**

### LAXTON WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION

The sykes of Laxton's open fields are rich in wild flowers, and the fallow field provides shelter for ground-nesting birds. Stuart Rose, a Laxton farmer, explains how the village's unique farming methods support wildlife, and how Countryside Stewardship encourages conservation of the historic landscape and biodiversity.

**WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE**  
**1PM - 2PM**  
**ADMISSION FREE**

### CASTLES AND COMMUNITIES: EXPLORING LAXTON VIA LIFELONG LEARNING

Dr. Sarah Speight of the School of Education looks at a long-term research project to understand a major medieval site in North Nottinghamshire within a context of the history of its community.

**WEDNESDAY 15 JULY**  
**1PM - 2PM**  
**ADMISSION FREE**

### WHY HAS LAXTON SURVIVED?

Laxton is an anomaly. Open fields existed in many parts of England, but they were gradually enclosed from the later medieval period onwards. Hardly any now survive, and only Laxton has a functioning Court Leet. In this lecture, Professor John Beckett of the School of History asks why Laxton retained its open field heritage while thousands of other villages succumbed to enclosure.