



Village Voice

The newsletter of the villages of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton September 2002 . No.1

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of Village Voice, the new bi-monthly newsletter delivered free to every household in Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston and Normanton. In last year's Village Appraisal you said you'd like a newsletter to help keep up to date with what's going on. We aim to bring you news, events and information from all four villages and to represent your views.

A big thank you is in order to Bottesford Parish Council, the Village Appraisal Group, Masterfoods, Leicestershire Rural Projects Fund and Melton Mowbray Building Society for their generous grants that helped us get off the ground. Thanks also to pupils at Bottesford Primary School who came up with the name 'Village Voice'. We presented the school with a £10 book token as a small gesture of our thanks.

Village Voice is written by villagers for the villages and we'd welcome contributions or letters, from anyone who has some news that would be of interest to our villages. Please let us know what you think of the first issue – good or bad – we want to continue to improve and if there's something you would like to see in Village Voice we need to know! Contact Susan Meech on 01949 843402.
We hope you enjoy it!



Sam Fells (Acting Editor) presenting a book token to Rachel Avison (10) and Rebecca Wilson (10) of Bottesford primary school

Chernobyl's Children come to Bottesford

On September 14th, families in Bottesford will welcome 10 Belarussian children and three of their teachers for a month of respite care as part of the Friend's of Chernobyl's Children's national campaign.

Everyone remembers the explosion of April 1986 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the Ukraine and the devastation it brought to its people.

Children born in this part of the world can expect to live an average of just 30 years. A month of respite care with a host family in this country could add two years to their life expectancy, and progressively more with repeat visits.

Whilst here the children will attend school for half a day each day. The rest of the time they will enjoy a

number of activities; trips to a fun fair, the seaside or even just a picnic by the river, things our own children take for granted.

When the children arrive they are very pale and have very few clothes or possessions with them. The Vale of Belvoir Friends of Chernobyl's Children group hopes to send them home with rosy cheeks and warm clothing for the winter.

Anne Ablewhite, who will be host to one of the children said, "This is the first of what we hope will be a series of five annual visits. We hope to raise funds and donations during their stay and we'd love to hear from anyone who would like to help."

For details of how you can help with donations of clothes or money, contact Anne on 842259.



The editorial team, some of whom are shown left. (Carol Hulse, Dilys Shepherd, Anne Ablewhite, Pim Mabbitt, Susan Meech, David Taylor, Betty Kay, Sam Fells, Marilyn Robinson, Lyndsey & Jason Young,)

Irene retires after 36 years at the helm

There were tears all round on Friday 19th July when Irene Pacey, founder and officer in charge of the Bottesford Pre-School Play Group, retired after an amazing 36 years of service.

In 1966 Irene opened the original play group in the village hall for 2 mornings a week to provide a place where mothers could take their children to meet with other toddlers. Amongst the first to attend were her very own children.

As word spread, the play group grew, and in 1979 it moved to the old primary school. Further success meant that in 1988 not only had it extended its opening hours to five days a week, it also moved to a purpose-built facility in the grounds of Belvoir High school, where it still is today.

Irene has lost count of the number of children that have attended the playgroup throughout the years, but what she does find encouraging is that children she looked after in previous years now bring their own children



Irene Pacey in the play area

After many happy years Irene said she was, "sorry to leave the children, who had been marvellous," and "she had enjoyed being with them all very much." She added that after 36 years of hard but rewarding work she would be "glad of a rest".

Although Irene has no immediate plans for her retirement, aside from resting, she hopes she will still see 'her children' around the village and wishes the play group continued success.

Bottesford Pre School Playgroup is open to children between the ages of 3 and 5 years, 5 days a week. Children can enjoy a variety of activities including painting, reading and drawing as well as playing with a huge selection of toys, both indoors and outdoors.

Places are popular and there is a waiting list.

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Spotlight on Bottesford Youth Club

Each edition we will focus on one of the many organisations in the Village Voice area. The first organisation to get our spotlight treatment is the Bottesford Youth Club.

• What?

The youth club gives local young people a place to meet up and have fun. There are a wide selection of activities available, including a pool table, computer games, skateboarding area – with grind bar, table tennis and coffee bar. As well as the regular activities the youth club has speciality nights; past ones have included learning how to juggle and ride a unicycle. Events planned for future nights include henna tattooing and monthly discos.

• Where?

The Old School, Grantham Road, Bottesford

• Who?

There are two clubs open to all local teenagers between 10 and 16 years old.

• When?

Monday nights are open to young people, year 9 upwards, whilst Friday nights are open for 6 to 8 years.

Opening times are 7pm to 9pm for both nights

• How?

To join simply turn up and pay 50p per visit.

If you are a parent and would like to find out more about the clubs before your child joins, you are welcome to pop along to either night to have a look and a chat with the youth club leaders.

If you would like to become more involved with the youth club there are vacancies for paid members of staff to help out at the Friday night club. Alternatively, if you would like to be involved in the direction of the youth club, parents are invited to join the management committee which meets every 3 months.

For further details about the youth club and the management committee, contact Sandra Welsh on 844531.

Graffiti

Did you know...?

Melton Borough council will remove graffiti from any domestic property free of charge subject to the owner signing a disclaimer.

Call 01664 505502 for details

Patient Participation Group

Belvoir Vale Surgery has set-up a PPG. These groups provide a link between the GP's and their patients. They identify and try to find solutions to those needs that aren't answered with a doctor's prescription e.g. help for carers, travel, tips for healthier living, etc. There will be four open meetings each year with a speaker, refreshments and a chance for questions .

A questionnaire will be distributed at the first meeting to help us to decide topics for future talks.

For details of our first talk "An Apple a Day and All That" by Dr Janet Glen-cross- Public Health Officer for SW Lincs. PCT see "What's On?"

Contact Carol Hulse 842027.

The Lazy Gardener Ian Kitchener



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Record new pupils for Bottesford Primary

A record number of four year olds will begin their school careers at Bottesford Primary School this autumn.

Forty four children make up the largest number of pupils ever admitted to the school since it was founded in 1698! Newly-built houses in Bottesford, and the school's glowing Ofsted report are thought to be the main reasons why more families with young children are keen to move to the school's catchment area.

Additional funds secured from central government will allow the new pupils to be divided into two separate classes. The two reception teachers, Mrs Sue Carr and Miss Becky Adams will also have support from one new classroom assistant and a nursery nurse.

Headteacher, Dr Anne Davies explained, "We're delighted to welcome so many new children. We knew well in advance that this year would have a large intake, and we were able to plan ahead by applying for additional funding some time ago."



New Pupils of Elm and Ash Class at their Induction Day

This year's increased numbers are thought to indicate the start of a trend, which will require expansion of the existing school accommodation. The school is already working closely with Leicestershire Education Authority on plans for additional classrooms for the future.

Anne Davies added, "We would urge

parents to register their children with the school as early as possible – even if they are only one or two years old! The more information we have about pupil numbers, the sooner we can get to work on securing additional funding."

Call 842224 to find out how to register your child.

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Spotlight on Local Businesses

Local businesses are the lifeblood of our rural community and they rely on our support for their survival. In each issue we'll be taking a look at new and established local businesses.

3 Shires Nursery Roots to Roots – A full circle for Tony

Tony Murphy left school to begin his working life in Woolworth's. Part of his responsibilities involved tending the bedding plants. This sparked his life-long interest in gardening. Previously the gardener at Normanton Lodge, he decided it was now or never for his venture and, in May, opened the 3 Shires Nursery on Orston Lane.

The nursery supplies a good range of compost, bedding plants, perennials, alpines, conifers, trees shrubs and vegetable plants at competitive prices. All the plants are locally grown. The low

level displays and spacious layout make it ideal for wheelchair access. It's early days for Three Shires but Tony wants to add a second poly-tunnel next year for seed propagation together with a building housing toilets and a small shop. As the nursery becomes established he hopes to employ part-time staff.

Tony's recipe for a successful garden? Perennials for height and form, trees and shrubs for backbone and bedding for colour. He is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society and Horticultural Traders' Association.

Three Shires Nursery opening hours are 9am-5pm, Tuesday to Saturday and 10am - 4pm on Sunday.

At present Tony regrets he can only accept cash or cheques. Card technology arrives next year!

Remember to bring along Tony's advert for 5% discount on your plants!

Using their Loaf

Jean and Ian Markham - of Jean's Bakery have received an award from the national magazine "Evergreen". The Nation of Shopkeepers Award was presented to Jean and Ian in recognition of the service they provide in Bottesford.

The certificate – soon to be on display in the shop - states they have preserved the traditional style of their premises and "maintained that **friendly and personal service** for which they have become renowned in the locality".

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Congratulations Jean and Ian!

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What's On?

- September
 3rd Planning autumn programme for Vale of Belvoir Theatre Group 7.30pm, Bull Inn, Bottesford – new members welcome
- 9th Enrolment day for part-time day and evening classes 10am-1pm and 6.30pm-9.30pm, Belvoir High School, Barkestone Lane, Bottesford.
- 12th Bottesford History Society AGM 7.30pm, Fuller Rooms, Bottesford
- 14th Bottesford and District Gardens Association Annual Horticultural Show 2.30pm, Village Hall (see main article for details).
- 20th Bingo evening 6.30-9.30pm, Bottesford Primary School, Barkestone Lane.
 An Evening of Humorous Readings with Grantham Writers 7.30pm, Village Hall.
- 28/29 Vale of Belvoir Art Society art exhibition & sale 10am-4.30pm, Granby Village Hall.
- October
 1st Dr Janet Glencross- "An Apple a Day and All That" - Bottesford County Primary School at 7.30pm

11th Family Learning Weekend at the Library-help using a computer and the Internet. Beginners welcome. Booking advisable-call in

or phone the library-842696

- 12th Family learning Weekend – free courses Belvoir High School, Barkestone Lane, Bottesford.
- 22nd 'Thank God for Cod' performance by New Perspectives Theatre Group 7.30pm, Village Hall

November
 14th Christmas Fayre, Village Hall

- 29th Christmas Fayre 2-4pm, Bottesford Primary School, Barkestone Lane.

If you have an event in Nov/Dec or Jan you wish to include in What's On for the November/December issue please contact Susan Meech on 843402 with details no later than October 11th.

New face at St Mary's

St Mary's Church, Bottesford welcomes its new Curate, Stephen Burnham and his wife Nathalie to the village. This will be Stephen's first role since training for ministry at Westcott House and is the culmination of a life-long ambition to work in the church.

"We're both enjoying the friendliness in the villages as you walk around. Being a Curate is a bit like being an apprentice so I'm really looking forward to working with Charles, Robin and everyone else in the church and to learning from the experience"

Nathalie who is French, indulges Stephen's passion for Cricket. "Being French, she didn't realise how long and

boring it can be!" he confesses. "She does miss France for its food, language and sunshine so it's great to be made to feel so welcome. This is an exciting time for us both and we'd like to thank everyone for the encouragement and support we've had since we arrived."

Walk This Way

If you enjoy walking or want to take it up, the Vale of Belvoir Ramblers Group has a new programme of walks. The group meets alternate Sundays and newcomers are especially welcome. Walks vary between 6 and 12 miles. For more details or if you would like a programme, telephone 01476 574987.

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£213,000 Lottery money for new village hall

Bottesford could have a new Village Hall by Autumn 2003 following an award of £213,434 from the Lotto's Community Fund. The new Hall, designed by Nottingham architects, Groundworks, is to be built on the existing site and work is due to start January 2003.

The total cost of the project is £355,000, and the award by the Lotto has led to further awards totalling £95,000 from other organisations including WREN, Onyx and the local authorities. The VC Hall Management Committee has already raised £24,000, leaving approximately £20,000 to raise.

The new building will have the same floor space as the old one, but the design makes more efficient use of the space and provides an extra room to accommodate local community groups, as well as a larger main hall. A modern kitchen, toilet and disabled facilities will also be included. The existing hall building dates back to the First World War. It has fallen prey to repeated vandalism in recent years, and has become very expensive to maintain and heat. The new design will combat all of these problems.

Marilyn Robinson, vice-Chairman of the VC Hall Management Committee said: "We've been trying to get funding for a new Hall for almost 5 years, and following a rejection by the Lotteries Board in 2000, we decided to aim for a more modest building than originally planned - and it's worked!"

"Despite being limited by cost constraints, we've reached a good solution. The additional meeting room will give us the flexibility to accommodate more groups and attract additional income. Also, the more energy efficient design means we won't need to increase letting fees.

"We have to build on the existing footprint, so unfortunately we must close during rebuilding work. We're doing all we can to support our regular users to find temporary alternative accommodation."

Jubilee Garden Competition

To mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee the Bottesford and District Gardens Association asked the primary school children to design a garden that they thought the Queen would enjoy. Noel Carolan, chairman of the association, went along to the school together with Pat Lightfoot, who judged the gardens, to present the prizes. Pat is one of the judges at the annual horticultural show. Noel said the standard had been very high with many aspiring Charlie Dimmocks and Alan Titchmarsh's! The winning garden was made by Lizzie O'Leary (10). It was chosen for its many features that included a seat for the Queen and a pond with sequins around it.



Lizzie O'Leary with her winning competition entry for the Jubilee garden with the judge Pat Lightfoot

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Sports Round-up

Cricket

A combined Bottesford team beat Harlaxton by 193 for 1 to win the Thompson Cup in Grantham in August. A Ablewhite scored 87, Simon Claricotes scored 83. Harlaxton, in reply were all out for 103.

The under 11s kwik cricket team won a tournament at Trent Bridge in August.

The under 15s team has reached the final of the Cup at Newark.

The Saturday 1st Team is second in the league and hoping for promotion.

Bowls

One Bottesford team has reached the semi-finals in the Newark league at Balderton and also the Grantham League Hospital Bowl against Vaculug.

Bottesford is currently top of the Country Bowls League and has teams in the top three of the Newark league and Belvoir league.

Sports Update – Profile

In each edition we'll be profiling local sports people who have achieved national or international success. This issue we meet Richard Howitt, Cricketer.

When at Belvoir High School, Richard represented Leicester as captain of the under 13, 14 and 15 teams before moving to Notts. where he played for the under 16 and 17 teams and captained the under 19s. At 15 he played for Notts. 2nds. After graduating from Swansea University, he was awarded a blue for Cricket as a post-graduate at the University of Cambridge. He now plays for minor counties and England ECB. Richard recently achieved 83 runs for England, the highest score during its winning match against Ireland in the European championship in Ireland in August.

Rugby

Sean Lamont from Bottesford played rugby for Scotland at the recent Commonwealth Games &, according to the Scotsman newspaper, he 'emerged from the tournament with particular credit'.

Horticultural Show Silver Jubilee

Bottesford Horticultural Show celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Once again competition promises to be hot among the many gardening enthusiasts who put all their energies into producing the giant vegetables and magnificent blooms which, among other things, make this annual event a real spectacle. But if you don't have green fingers, don't despair; there are plenty of other classes to try your hand at.

The Gardens Association, which took over the running of the show in 1977, is keen to encourage more entries in the arts and crafts, homecrafts, home made wine and beer and photography classes. Entries from children are especially welcome.

Chairman Noel Carolan said " We want as many people as possible to have a go. They don't have to be experts, they just need to bring along whatever they have in their garden and try their luck. My neighbour cut a rose to enter last year and got a first prize."

The show is on September 14th in the village hall. Schedules are available at the Key Store, Jean's Bakery and other shops in Bottesford. Entries will be taken at the village hall on Friday 13th September from 7 to 8.30 pm and on Saturday 14th September from 8.30 to 10.30 am, at a cost of 20p per entry. The show is open for viewing of entries from 2.30 pm.

Miss it and miss out

The Village Appraisal showed that many people want to know more about the clubs and societies in the 4 villages.

Village Voice plans to publish a guide early next year to include full details of all the clubs and associations which run in the villages.

If you want your group to be included contact Susan Meech (843402) with details of name of group; what it does, how many members, when & where it meets, how people can join, and your contact details.

1066 and all that

Are you interested in history – local or otherwise? Why not join the Bottesford Local History Society? The group meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month in the Fuller Rooms in Bottesford. The programme is varied and last year, for example, ranged from a talk on the Six Wives of Henry VIII a look back at Bottesford's celebrations of previous Jubilees and a quizzical 'So you think you know Nottingham?'

Meetings start at 7.30pm and end with refreshments around 9.30pm. The 2002/3 programme is currently being compiled, and will be available at the AGM on Thursday 12 September at 7.30pm in the Fuller Rooms. New members are always welcome.

Furniture Collection

If you've got any old furniture you don't want anymore, Melton Housing Project will take it off your hands.

This volunteer-run project will collect old furniture for free and distribute it to good causes. Call 01664 410380 Tues, Weds or Thurs between 9.00am and 12.30pm to arrange collection or leave a message any other time.

Parish Council supports Village Voice

The Parish Council recognised the need for a Village newsletter following the results of the village appraisal. They agreed to support the new Village Voice through the donation of a cheque for £100.



Pru Chandler (Chairman of the Parish Council presenting the cheque to Susan Meech of Village Voice).