



Village Voice

The newsletter of the villages of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton May 2003 . Issue No.5

Bottesford Guiding goes International

Kim Etherington, a Senior Section Member at Bottesford, has been successful in her bid for International Selection, by gaining a place on a visit to Austria, whilst Kate Shepherd will be attending the first ever International Guide Camp near Minsk, Belarus as a leader.

Kim, 16 and Kate, 19 – who will also continue their work in local communities – intend to use these opportunities to foster international relationships and encourage young people around the world to maintain this rewarding and enjoyable activity. Kim and Kate have between them already achieved 24 years in Guiding.

In order to achieve their aims, they need to raise funds. Please watch out for their local events and support them where possible. Any local businesses interested in sponsoring any elements of the trip – and therefore supporting these local girls – please contact the Village Voice.



Kim Etherington

Kate Shepherd

Groups, Clubs, Societies

To ensure that everyone knows what goes on in the 4 villages, we are putting together a Village Guide – thanks to funding from Community Champions. We want to include all groups in the village and so far have details of about 20.

There is no charge for an entry in the Guide.

Please fill in the yellow sheet from the Library or Post Office, or ring Susan Meech on 01949 843402.

Concerned about development in Bottesford?

If you have concerns about development in Bottesford then now is the time to act. All future development in Melton Borough is laid down in a document called the Local Plan and this is currently under review. This is a **very important document** and it is the responsibility of all residents concerned about planning to comment on it.

Melton Borough Council (MBC) has started its public consultation on the review of the Local Plan and the first of a series of discussion documents 'Aims and Objectives' was published on 3rd March and the second paper on "The Amount & Location of Development" which identifies Bottesford as a key rural centre, was published in early April. **Comments on this important issue must be returned to MBC by the 26th of May.** In the autumn there will be another paper on 'Settlement Structure' which will include a draft village envelope for Bottesford and its important open areas.

There is a 6 week consultation period on all these discussion documents, so it is important to keep an eye out for them. They should be available in the Post Office and the library in Bottesford. Also, the timetable for the plan review, including dates for the discussion papers (where set) and all discussion papers should be available at www.melton.gov.uk/LocalPlan.

If you wish to have paper copies or have any queries about either the documents or the process then email ldf@melton.gov.uk, or ring the Local Plan Section on 01664 502383. You can also write to Melton Borough Council at Council Offices, Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray, Leics, LE13 0U.

What's going to happen to our rubbish?

Are we going to get wheelie bins? If so, when? What's happening to the recycling bags?

Village Voice has asked Melton Borough Council for information that may help to answer some of these questions. The Environmental Services Team has replied with the following information:

A wheelie bin trial will take place starting some time in 2004, although it has yet to be decided in which area of the Borough it will take place. If the council considers the trial successful, wheelie bins may be introduced across the borough. Apparently, 72% of the country uses bins rather than bags. This is not just a cost saving exercise – the use of plastic bags produces its own non-recyclable rubbish.

In October 2003, all residents of the Borough of Melton will be in receipt of recycling boxes (the size of which is still being discussed) that will replace the familiar coloured bags. A 'kerbside sort' vehicle will collect the boxes on a weekly basis and take the contents for recycling i.e. paper, card, glass and plastics – the boxes will be returned to you.

When the changes take effect, 'special arrangements will be made for people who currently have their refuse/recycling collected from the back door'.

Remember, you can contact your Borough Councillors David Wright on 842610 and Pam Bagguley on 842652 if you have any views on this issue.

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Village Voice Babies

Since we started work on producing the Village Voice just over a year ago, there have been four babies born to the committee! From right to left they are: Molly Fells, Rose Pompa, Harvey Young and Beth Martinez.



Bottesford and District Gardens Association

Interested in gardening? Need Advice? Want a bargain? Look no further than the Garden Association Shop on Nottingham Road (opposite the Jubilee Green). Annual membership is £1 and open to everyone. Opening hours are Sunday 10.15am - 11.30, and Wednesday 6.30pm - 7.30pm (summers only). Items for sale include seeds, fertilisers, compost and garden sundries, in any quantity and at competitive prices. It's run by a band of well-weathered gardeners who are all volunteers, shown above, and any profit made is used to finance the Annual show in September. We need more entries for the show to continue, so come on give it a go. Start nurturing those plants, and later on we'll give details of classes for

children - let's start the search for the next Alan Titchmarsh!

For more information, contact H Derry on 01400 282263.

From Russia with Love - Again

At the first meeting of the year for the Chernobyl Children's Group, fund raising plans for the 2nd of 5 visits were discussed, and, at the moment, it's 'all systems go' for the same children and teachers as last year to visit. The group will arrive in September - very tired from their 2-day journey - after enduring an incredibly cold winter of minus 50 degrees!

Those wishing to make a contribution to fund these visits often find the easiest way is to set up a standing order with their bank, many give £5 per month, but any amount is appreciated. If you wish to contribute in this way please call Anne Ablewhite on 01949 842259. Funds raised allow the group to provide the necessary transport to and from Russia, and for the duration of their trip.

If you have any clothes that would fit a 10 - 12 year old boy or girl please give Anne a ring and she will arrange to pick them up.

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Walking Bus

The Bottesford Primary 'School Walking Bus' is a County Council initiative to provide a safe way for kids to walk to school in supervised groups and to reduce traffic around the school. The 'Bus' stops at various pick-up points along its set route through the village. It is 'driven' at the front and 'conducted' at the rear by two trained adult volunteers.

Teresa Patchett, School Road Safety Champion, explains, "We hope this idea will really catch on. Walking to school helps keep kids fit, reduces congestion and pollution. It provides children with a little bit of independence and it can be great fun too." For more information or to register your child contact Teresa Patchett Tel: 842173

BATS

Will be holding a meeting to discuss their next production, which will take place in the last week of November this year (once the new Village Hall has been built). They are looking for volunteers to get involved in all aspects of the production from 'treading the boards' to selling raffle tickets.

If you're interested in getting involved, the meeting will be held at Bottesford Baptist Church (next to the Co-Op) at 8pm on Tuesday the 20th May. For further details contact Andy McDonald on 01949 843531.

Benefit Payments – The Options

The Post Office is changing the way it pays benefits. The changeover for pension payments will begin in April 2003 and will be complete by April 2005. During this period each benefit recipient will get a letter explaining the options. If your benefit is already paid directly into a bank account, you will not be affected. Many banks offer a free service for cash withdrawal from the Post Office, and a list of these is available from the Post Office. If you prefer to have your benefit paid in cash from the PO, you will still be able to do so through the 'Post Office Card Account'.

If you need any advice the PO staff will be happy to help, alternatively telephone the helpline number: 08457 223344.



Gilbert Wandby

Bottesford has many characters, all with their own distinct qualities and Gilbert Wandby is one such character. Despite being in his eighties and not enjoying good health, he hasn't stopped putting his practical skills to good use. As his wife, Meg, has difficulty walking, he has adapted the kitchen to make it easier for her to use. This doesn't mean that Gilbert doesn't use the kitchen himself, he puts Delia to shame with his bread and cakes! He is also an accomplished seamstress, making clothes for himself and Meg - including suits, trousers and dresses - and has, for many years, made alterations to clothes for neighbours. Nothing is a problem and altering curtains is another of his skills!

One would think that Gilbert would have enough to do, but, to ensure he isn't wasting any time, he writes poetry and has even had a book published. His poems cover subjects such as seasons, people, trees and birds. This man is truly a remarkable person, and I wish I had met him and Meg a long time ago.

Pensions Advice

If you have reached retirement age, you can get information on your Retirement Pension, other benefits you may be entitled to, and help with completion of forms from the Pension Service local representative who visits Bottesford every month. Look out for posters giving details, or call the national phone line on 0845 6060265 (calls charged at local rates) for further information.

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History in the Making

Bottesford Library – photo, right – is taking part in the National 'Local History Month' – why not join in?

Bring your old photographs of Bottesford and the local area to the library on Friday 23rd May between 10am and noon, and the staff will take a copy as an historical record. This will ensure everyone will have an opportunity to see how the village looked in the past. Come along, have a chat and some refreshments and take the opportunity to browse the history of Bottesford. For more information Contact Jane Berry jberry@leics.gov.uk.



Neighbourhood Watch

A meeting was held on 25th March for existing co-ordinators, parish and local council representatives. These schemes have proved to be an excellent way of reducing crime, so it is disappointing that, whilst some schemes have continued, many have folded. The scheme will be re-generated so that we can cover the Bottesford District effectively once again. A meeting will be held at the end of September and details will be printed in the Village Voice.

Extra Police Officers

Two additional policemen have been appointed to cover the Bottesford area. PC Gilmour started on 7th April and PC Heblewhite on 21st April. The starting date for a third officer is to be confirmed.

Crime Statistics

During March, there were 6 reported crimes; a car theft and property stolen from a garage and garden, damage to a garden and two burglaries.

What to do if you have a road accident

If there is a life-threatening injury or an allegation about the circumstances of the accident, or the accident is in a dangerous place, ring 999. If you don't need an immediate response or just want advice, ring 0116 222 2222 when in Leicestershire.

If it is evident that the damage is only to vehicles and there is no personal injury, exchange details - there is no need for police involvement.



Mud, Mud Glorious Mud

Mud was very much in evidence when the Bottesford Environment and Conservation Volunteers walked the local 'rights of way' in the parish as defined by the Ordnance Survey and Leicestershire County Council. They took place in February and March, and Barbara Pizzey, BECV secretary said, 'We aim to walk all the paths in the Parish in the next few months and report back to the authorities any problems with access or difficulties with stiles etc'. With a long-term aim of producing a Footpath Guide to the area, the group is keen to hear from anyone interested in helping them.

The Bird Box project is continuing apace and members of the group have erected further boxes around the parish in late March.

If you are interested in the work of the BECV, call Barbara on 844026,

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What's On...

May

- 3rd 'Pocket Opera', 'songs from the shows', St Peter's Church, Redmile. 7.30 p.m. Tickets £5/£3.50 concessions to include an interval drink. Available from Judith Wells, tel. 842804. In aid of St Peter's Restoration Fund.
- 10th Barn Dance in aid of church funds. Peacock Farm Barn, 7-11pm. Contact Christine Saunders, 842596 for details.
- 13th Belvoir Vale Patient Group 7.30pm. Contact Paul Nicholson, tel. 850053
- 20th WI Meeting 'Discussion of Resolutions'. Bottesford Baptist Chapel, 7.30pm For information on the WI contact Mrs A Kapellar 842043
- 23rd Local history month event, Bottesford library 10am-midday. Bring any old photos you have of the villages and have them scanned into the computer and added to an electronic archive. Contact Jane Berry jberry@leics.gov.uk.

June

- 3rd 7.30pm Belvoir Vale Patient Group Contact: Paul Nicholson on 850053
- 7th 300th Anniversary of the Dukedom of Rutland Concert, Belvoir Castle
- 10th Summer Safety Family Evening 6pm at Bottesford Primary School
- 17th WI meeting talk 'Silk Things'. Mrs M Graham. Bottesford Baptist Chapel, 7.30pm
- 22nd Muston Open Gardens
- 29th Melton Mowbray 21st Century Country Fair – heavy horses, ferret racing, arts festival and more! Contact Amanda Turner on 01664 410007 for details.

July

- 1st Belvoir Vale Patient Group Contact: Paul Nicholson, tel. 850053
- 12th – 13th Open Gardens in aid of restoration of St Marys church bells. Entrance by programme £2.50 from St Marys. Refreshments available at Rectory Court. Contact B.Cain for details 842305
- 15th WI meeting talk 'Rubber Stamping' by Mrs B Woodcock. 7.30pm., Bottesford Baptist Chapel.

Silver surfers in Bottesford library

If you are over 60 and want to know how to use the Internet then come along to a free session at Bottesford library in May. You will be shown how to find out all sorts of useful information as well as learning how to send emails. If you want to know more ring Bottesford library on 01949 842696.

Golden Years



'Take the rough with the smooth' – the secret of a happy marriage according to Bill and Joan Burrows of Bottesford who celebrated their 50th wedding Anniversary last month. 'And say yes a lot!' adds Bill!

Born in Bottesford and Kilvington respectively, Bill and Joan have stayed local all their married life. Since tying the knot at Melton Register Office in the Coronation year 1953, they have only moved from No 2 Queen Street, to No. 6! Their plans for celebrating their big day took them a little farther – they enjoyed a long holiday in Spain with friends they met 3 years ago who share their Anniversary. They exchanged rings once again, with diamonds for Joan, and a signet for Bill.

Bottesford Train Service – on the Internet

If you need information about our local train service, you can now visit a new website – www.bottesfordonline.co.uk.

The website has separate pages showing the timetables for weekdays, Saturdays and Sundays, and has additional information about how to use the yellow automated information points, the location of the public phone, and how to buy your ticket on the train.

The website has been created by Dorothy Floyd, owner of Small-Life Supplies based at the Bottesford Station buildings, in response to the many people who drop by asking about train times. An operational railway station greatly benefits Bottesford, and it is in all of our interests to use this facility as much as possible

Letters



Sustrans

The First Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Transport have decided not to hold a public inquiry into objections to the Compulsory Purchase Order for the bridleway bridge. Instead, the Secretaries of State will consider the objections and decide whether to make the order. Before doing so, however, they have given the objectors until 25 April to submit any further evidence in support of their objections.
Dale Oscroft, Government Office East Midlands.

Building Rumours

I would be very grateful if the Village Voice would look into the rumour that there is a 5 million pound housing development being discussed with local builders to build on the ground used by the football, cricket and bowls clubs on Belvoir Road.

If this happens the clubs may close or have to move to the outskirts of the village. The Clubs, in their present position, are a valued part of village life, not only just for the young or elderly but for everyone. If they went, Bottesford will lose part of its beauty.

Another thing that disturbs me is the amount of concrete that will be laid in the name of 'progress'. Where is all the water going to go and how is all the traffic going to get out in the morning.

One also presumes that the houses that would be built would be of 4 or 5 bedrooms, with nothing in the price range of our youngsters to help them stay in the village. Also whilst writing I would pass on a further comment that 'just because we are having a new village hall does not mean that any land that goes with it will be sold off.'
Name & Address Supplied

Family History

My father, Archibald Swanson, was born in Derby in 1903 and we believe that he was fostered by the Exton family at Bottesford some time in the period 1903-1921. We think he attended a primary school in Bottesford and then attended Sedgebrook Grammar School.

Parish Council News

Parish Council Meeting

10th March 2003

(From notes taken by a Village Voice committee member)

The Chair gave details of the Parish Council's achievements over the last 4 years, including the BMX track, play area, Jubilee celebrations, the Parish Memorial Garden and the Youth Club expansion.

The charity commissioners had responded to the questions raised by the Parish Council and the Village Hall committee*

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I would like to learn about this period of his life and would be particularly interested to confirm which schools he attended and to access his school records. Contact Garth Swanson at garth.swanson@iee.org

Broadband for Bottesford

Previously you ran a front page article on Broadband in Bottesford, however it was slightly inaccurate.

It stated that 200 people were required to register an interest for us to get Broadband, yet the Bottesford exchange is not one of those listed where a trigger level has been set by BT.

Berni Carey

Editors reply:

When BT first announced broadband they said any exchange with 200 expressions of interest would be considered for broadband. Subsequent to that BT announced a list of exchanges with trigger levels as Berni correctly says.

Please keep on registering as a 200 plus level allows us to pursue BT to provide facilities.

The Winterbeck will be cleared out again in the spring.

The Football Club is waiting for planning permission for a mobile changing room to be placed near to the Village Hall.

Youth Club: Tuesday night sessions will be cancelled from 31st March, and 2 new Youth Leaders are starting on Mondays and Fridays.

The Parish Council AGM will be held in June 2003. Look out for details on village noticeboards.

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*Further details are also outlined on
the Village Hall website at
www.bottesford.org.uk - Editor*

Sports News



Crime Scene



Police Community Volunteers

Since the beginning of March four volunteers, Ros Blackmore, Richard Marshall, James Hubbard and Rodney Farley, have been busy putting their eight weeks of training to the test. It covered far more than they thought; law, police force structure, local area, form filling, documentation and much more. They operate in pairs and open the police station on Wednesday, 6pm to 8pm, and Saturday 9am – 11am.



What can they do?

Obvious tasks include checking driving documents, but this has proved to be only a small part of their duty. As well as checking documents, they are trained to spot forgeries, take in found property, and assign crime report numbers to insurance claims, allowing them to fax them back to Melton saving time for all involved. Finally, direct radio contact with local police officers, together with telephone access to Melton, makes crime reporting much quicker.

Although it is early days, all have agreed that this ongoing training programme of volunteers by Leicestershire Constabulary, was proving invaluable in helping to keep rural police stations such as Bottesford open.

Contact Numbers

General Enquiries

0116 2222222. Leicestershire Police Headquarters.

The switchboard will direct the query to Melton Mowbray Police Division.

999-Emergencies

Dial 999 when a crime is in progress or immediate assistance is required.

Sports News



Bottesford Under 14's Football Club

Bottesford Football Club have proudly announced that their Under 14's have won the Grantham Youth League. In a remarkable achievement, they won 17 of their 18 league games – only drawing one – with a magnificent total of 163 goals scored and only 12 conceded. Many thanks go to Bingham estate agents Hammond Harwood who sponsor the team.

Coaches Martyn Hallam and Geoff Spencer are shown here with the successful squad.

Andy Bond, Mike Hallam, Edward Rawlings, James Cartledge, Rik Harris, Oliver Rawlings, Max Clarke, Will Henson, Will Richmond, Richard Copley, Joe Jesionowski, Nick Robinson, James Cossins, Matt Jordan, Matt Scowcroft, Liam Cree, Lee Mann, John Shepherd, James Frost, Joe Mile, David Spencer, Adam Thurlby, Conrad Watson, Tom Webster

Call Martyn on 843976 if you want any information on the team.

Darts

In the Vale of Belvoir Darts League, Mark Hutchinson has won the singles

Cricket

Bottesford Colts presentation night saw 15 year old Nick Silverwood receiving his county cap after playing 8 games for Leicestershire. Nick, who plays for both the Newark and Notts U15s, is opening bat for the Leics U15s. With an average score of over 50, he recently scored 90 not out in the Grantham League.

Bottesford Internationals

3 young men from Bottesford have represented their countries this season.

Luke Wright has been playing for England under 19's cricket team in Australia with

his brother Ashley playing cricket in South Africa.

Sean Lamont has been playing Rugby for Scotland, this time representing them in the Hong Kong sevens. Well done all 3!

Badminton

Junior badminton sessions will be held at the Sports Hall at Belvoir High School on Saturday mornings and Monday evenings. If you are interested in coming along contact Mike Bennett 843041 for more information.

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Village Voice

Contact information

Editorial: Dilys Shepherd or
Susan Meech on 843402

Advertising: Jason Young on 843868

What's On: Sam Fells on 844263

Deadline for July Issue Monday 2nd June.

E mail: villagevoice@bottesford.org.uk

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