



Village Voice

The newsletter of the villages of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton Septemebr 2003 . Issue No.7

Know Your Onions

The competition for the best allotment in Bottesford took place at the beginning of July with Mr Seagrave, recommended by the Gardeners' Association, judging approximately 50 plots. There were two classes, and the winners were:

Large: 1st Mick Harris, 2nd Sid Wilson, Joint 3rd Noel Carolan and Robert Pacey
Small: 1st George Pearson, 2nd Brian Milne, 3rd Ray Money

Visiting Mick Harris' plot (pictured) you could easily see why it had won. Almost 20 years of experience has helped to produce both abundance, quality and variety in his array of vegetables; enough to feed his family and some local pensioners. Amongst his greens are scatterings of bright colour with majestic gladioli, red lucifer crocosmia and clematis climbing up the shed wall. Mick's secret for success is planting early and putting the hours in before May when the bowling season starts! Mick confessed his passion is onions; not only were there dozens still in the ground but hundreds were drying under his carport! Apart from onions the ground is filled with the usual vegetables and some surprises; chillies, garlic and an established asparagus bed - another of Mick's passions!

If you would like an allotment contact Barbara Taylor on 842229

Beginners welcome at the Bottesford show

Beginners are very welcome to enter any of the classes at this year's annual horticultural show on 13th September at the VC hall. At 20p per entry it is cheaper than buying a Lottery ticket and you will feel a million dollars if you win.

So look around your garden or get your oven on and enter the show this year. Children's entries are especially welcome and they have 14 classes to choose from. Schedules are available from the Spar shop or ring Harold Derry on 01400 282263 for more information.



Muston and Bottesford are blooming wonderful

On Sunday 22nd June the weather was kind to those householders keen to show off their labours of love in the 'Open Gardens' at Muston. £480 was raised for the interior restoration of St John the Baptist Church thanks to the eight gardens open to the public. The restoration has begun and any volunteers would be gratefully appreciated - contact Mr Ives on 842179.

On 12th and 13th July, 19 gardens in Bottesford were opened. They ranged from compact and colourful, to a mini Eden Project on Grantham Road! A great deal of work was put in by all the gardeners, together with a wonderful display of flowers in the church. A magnificent £1,500 was raised for maintenance work on the church bells

making them well on their way to raising the £4 - 5000 needed. The organiser, Barbara Cain, said "It had been a lot of hard work but very worthwhile. The only complaint was the heat

Muston Youth Club - A Village with Big Ideas

Laura and Dawn Hallam have recently taken on the mammoth task of running the youth club in Muston. The club opened on 15th July and will be held every Tuesday from 7-8.30 pm in the Old School. Activities include pool, darts, table tennis and, weather permitting, quick cricket and rounders on the playing field.

A reduction in government funding for staff has meant that the youth club is, once again, run on a voluntary basis. So, if you're interested in joining, either as a member or helper, please contact Margaret Reed on 842166

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Debdale building opened at Belvoir High School



Mrs Jackie Strong, Director of Education for Leicestershire, officially opened 6 new classrooms and a dance/drama studio at Belvoir High School in July. The new facilities, which are intended for school and community use, are seen as a much needed enhancement to the school site and have been made possible by the fundraising efforts of a group of parents. To mark this special occasion, the school orchestra entertained the audience whilst each pupil released a balloon with their name on it.

Update on the planning documents from Melton Borough Council

Melton Borough Council is in the process of producing a document that will affect building in Bottesford for the next 10 years. A series of papers have been produced for consultation and many people from Bottesford have responded - we are showing more interest than any other village in the Borough.

The last paper was on 'village envelopes' - the boundary within which building can take place. The Council has received comments on 'how' village envelopes should be drawn and the next step is to consider 'where' they should be drawn. The village envelope for Bottesford will be looked at in the

coming months and, as soon as a draft envelope has been prepared (in the autumn), the Borough Council will make it available for public comment. Colin Wilkinson of MBC will be talking with our Parish Council about this issue at their meeting on 8th September at Muston School at approximately 7.50pm. To keep up to date with developments you can also look at www.meltononline.co.uk/mldf

Broadband for Bottesford by Christmas?

Thanks to everybody who registered Bottesford has now reached the 200 trigger level for BT to review the exchange and set a level for either Broadband to be made available, or declare it non viable.

An alternative service has been announced by Wireless Rural Broadband <http://wrbb.net> who intend to provide a service via wireless networking at speeds up to 40Mbps. They will launch this September in Stamford and plan to have a service in Bottesford within 3 months with a 10Km service range from their transmitter. They are taking pre registrations of interest at the above address.

So you never know it could be Broadband by Christmas for Bottesford.

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Can you walk the local bridle ways?



If you have problems walking the footpaths or bridle ways in this area, ring the Parish Council who may be able to carry out the repair and improvement. For bigger problems – like the one in this photo caused by trail bikes, ring the footpaths section at Leicestershire County Council on 0116 2657083 or email: footpaths@leics.gov.uk.

Life Saving Through Art

A poster competition was organised by Belvoir Vale Patient Group for the pupils of Bottesford C of E Primary School in July. The theme of "Summer Safety" was a focus for preventing road accidents during the school holidays as well as the effects of sunshine, stings and dangerous play. The children had clearly put a great deal of thought and effort into the designs. The winners were Jessica Palmer (over 7's) and Bethany Mawby (under 7's).

The scarecrow festival

The Scarecrow Trail in June was a great success with hoards of people turning out to track them all down and reveal their names. The trail and associated activities raised a magnificent £1,200 for the 'Friends of Bottesford Primary School'.

A tremendous amount of effort went into the organisation with an equal amount being expended in 37 fantastic scarecrow characters - created with much flair and imagination.

Winners included:

Most Lifelike "One man & his dog" Joseph Robinson, Belvoir Road

Best use of an Unusual Object Bottesford Pre-School Playgroup

Best Lookalike : "Svengali", Bowbridge Gardens

Most Scary "Bill" Team Dunsmore, Devon Lane

Best Overall "Spud" Butcher Family, Beacon View

If you were wondering just who was in the old school photo ...

Mary Owen (nee Topps) sent us this email – 're: details of the "Infants" in the class of 1948/49, I think I can identify most of them'. Here goes -

Back Row: Teacher: Miss (much loved) Kathleen Walker. Alan Rayson, Michael Bradshaw, Ken Roberts, Geoffrey George, Keith Samuel, ? Michael or Tony Bradgate, not known, Geoffrey Halliday, Richard Coy, David Rippon, Peter Simpson, Peter Dewey (Headmaster's son) Tony Marshall, Roger Pacey

Second Row: Barbara Taylor, ? Valerie Bell, Mary Ducker, Jill Howitt, Margaret Jallands, Joyce Gale, Maureen Cooper, Judy Ireland, Janet Francis (the cleverest person on this photograph), Maureen Tinkler, Pauline Gilbert, Mary Topps (self- and sister of Peter & John Topps), Pamela Jackson, Elizabeth Marsh, Kathleen MacIntyre

Third Row: Richard Bond, David Cordon, Brian Towsey, Richard Cole, Pat Turner, Gill Newton, Christine Lightfoot, Robert Taylor, Jeff Norris, Barry Gamble, Ian Markham, Raymond Bolland

Front Row; Douglas Lee, John Tinkley, Barry Jallands, Cedric Lancton, ? Gordon Topps, Peter Jackson, Alan Millington, Tony Ashley, John Wilkinson, Robert Moulsher, Mervyn Miller, Richard Sellers' *Thanks very much Mary.*

£10,000 grants available to groups in Bottesford

Leicestershire County Council provides grants to groups in the county for a number of projects every year and these can be as much as £10,000.

They give grants under 9 headings – environmental improvement, historic buildings, village halls, sports, community safety, independent museums, arts development, voluntary youth organisations and small grants.

For more information ring 0116 265 2905 or go to www.leics.gov.uk/shire

Children's Chance

The Village Voice logo is currently the peacock—the symbol of the Dukes of Rutland. We would like to change this on a regular basis and would like the children of the Parish to provide us with pictures with a local theme. Watch out for more information in the next issue.

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Is there gold at the end of the Rainbow?



2nd Bottesford Rainbows have been working hard to collect funds for 2 good causes. They have sponsored an orang-utang called Satu at Twycross Zoo, and raised over £100 for Children with Leukaemia through the Mr. Men and Little Miss Marathon - the Rainbows took part in a challenge to write 20 words beginning with the same letter as their own name. Here are Rhianna, Amy, Katie, Kirsty, Hannah, Georgia, Bethany, Sarah and Sophie with Young Leader Claire Shepherd and Rainbow Leader Sue Tempest proudly showing their certificates for this good work.

New Rainbows are always welcome – why not give the District Commissioner a call to find out more on 842934

Lincs to Minsk 2003

Over the last ten years Girl Guiding UK Lincolnshire South has helped the development of Guiding in Belarus. This year local Rainbow Guider Kate Shepherd had the fantastic opportunity of being one of the leaders of a team attending the first ever international camp in Belarus. The group was invited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Guiding in Belarus and their special link with Minsk.

Thanks to support from local people, especially Jean's Bakery, in fundraising, she flew to Minsk and travelled 5 hours by coach to the campsite. The 10 day camp saw English and Minsk Guides working together completing challenges, producing entertainment and making many new friends. They continued with 3 days "Home Hospitality" in Minsk, learning about the culture and meeting up with friends old and new.

Highlights included teaching English songs - and learning Belarussian songs in return - and visiting a Belarussian heritage village to learn about their history (including vodka sampling!) Kate also renewed her promise as an adult leader during a Belarussian Guides traditional ceremony.

The warmth of the hospitality they received was wonderful, and the Guides are already fundraising to bring a group over to England very soon to continue this link.

Making Big Strides

Bottesford could have a permanent pedestrian crossing on Main Street by 2004 thanks to the efforts of those involved in the "walking bus" scheme - The School Travel Plan group. They have been liaising with Leicestershire County Council and have been told that there is a good chance of the money being allocated from the 2004-5 budget for a crossing.

"The need for a permanent safe crossing is becoming a real issue for the village. Not only do parents and children find it difficult to get across the road in the mornings, we now have a situation where a large proportion of the pensioners in Bottesford need to cross the road to get to the Post Office and the bus stop", explains Teresa Patchett, School Travel Plan co-ordinator. "We hope that, with the support of LCC, the Parish Council and Melton Borough Council, we'll be able to get this badly needed crossing. I'd hate to see it go the same way as the cancelled project to introduce a roundabout and traffic calming at the Belvoir Road junction," she said.

The walking bus is a regular sight around Bottesford on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. There are plans to increase the number of days it runs and to add a second route from Walkers Close/Beckingthorpe Drive. "If anyone is interested in volunteering to help supervise the new route I'd be really interested to hear from them. You don't have to be a parent or even connected with the school, just fit and able to offer your time on a regular basis," says Teresa.

Call Teresa Patchett on 842173 if you would like to get involved or know more.

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What's On...

September

- 1st Forget-me-Not meeting. 2pm VC Hall.
- 5th Lions Quiz night, VC Hall, Bottesford. 7.30pm Contact Phil Salthiel, 843034 for details
- 8th Community Centre Open Day 10am – 2.30pm and 6.30pm to 8pm. Find out more about the courses and meet the tutors ' creche workers and other learners.
- 11th Local History Society AGM plus "Bottesford Houses" Speaker Mr R J Sparham. 7.30pm. Fuller Rooms.
- 13th Gardens Association Show. Entries 8.30 – 10.30am, viewing from 2.30pm, auction of produce 4pm. VC Hall
- 18th Conservation Volunteers Annual Projects review All welcome Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 20th Jazz concert, 7.30pm "Twelve to the Bar" in aid of Chernobyl's Children. Tickets available in advance £7 or £6 for unwaged. (Bar applied for) Call Ian 842383
- 22nd Crime Prevention- Open Evening. 6pm to 9pm in the VC hall
- 24th Fitness with Swing starts at 7.15 at the Village Hall call 0115 9118905 for more information
- 28th Harvest Service. 6.30pm. Muston church.
- 29th Bingo at VC Hall. 7.30pm.

October

- 4th Forget me Not Autumn Fair. VC Hall.
- 4th Harvest supper at Bottesford Primary School. Contact Christine Saunders for details on 842596
- 5th Baptist Church Harvest Service 11.00am
- 5th Harvest service. St Mary's church.
- 9th Local History Society. "A Grave Story" Speaker Mr P Hammond. 7.30pm Fuller Rooms
- 11th Race Night, 7.30pm The Green Man, Ropsley in aid of Bottesford Primary School.

Please contact Sam Fells on 844263 or samandmarkfells@aol.com with all your 'what's on' dates for January and February 2004 by 19th November 2003.

More than survivors

Baptist Church Harvest Service is on October 5th at 11.00am. It will focus on the Baptist Missionary Society and will be an interactive, all age service highlighting their work in Trapia, Brazil. It will be led by BBC's Young People and will not be a traditional Harvest Service. For information contact Richard Lane on revrichardlane@9vaughan.freeserve.co.uk or telephone 844311

Update on Bottesford playgroup

Bottesford playgroup had a busy start to its new year with the building of a new activities room, which has proved to be invaluable in the wet weather. The committee has also been very busy fund raising and has bought a large sun canopy to provide shade for the children whilst playing in the sandpit. We are now fundraising to build an outdoor soft play area, so please support our efforts. Lucinda Tongue & Kim Doleman.

Why do YOU live in a village?

Do you choose to live in a rural parish so you can enjoy a walk in our lovely countryside – exercising your canine friends perhaps. A recent spate of dogs running close to fields of livestock has resulted in animals being killed and injured.

Keep to the paths and, if you have a dog, it is essential to keep this on a lead when livestock are nearby. Please be warned - farmers are legally entitled to shoot dogs that are worrying their animals.

Share your concerns with the Parish Council

The Parish Council are holding 'surgeries' on the last Saturday morning of each month in the Fuller Rooms (next to the library) 10.30 am. - 11.30 am. There are also open sessions at the beginning of each monthly meeting of the Parish Council, usually on the second Monday of each month. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Notes of Parish Council meetings.

9th June

E mail communication is being trialled by the Council for 6 months. Skate park – a committee comprising Parish Councillors, young people and the youth worker (Sam Evans) is to be formed. The Council will look into the lease for the piece of ground.

14th July

During this "Open House" vandalism in and around both the area of the new Village Hall and Walford Close was discussed. Also the problem of pharmacy customers parking in Albert Street which can create problems for access by emergency vehicles.

Police report: The Police have been called to Walford Close 32 times during the last month. 3 sheds and 2 houses have been broken into.

Possible solutions to the problem of parking in Devon Lane include planting trees or shrubs or installing kerbing or posts.

Grants have been given to the 2 village youth clubs, both of which are very successful.

The new 40 mph limit on Grantham road has reduced the speed of incoming traffic.

Developers who want to build an Industrial Site on Orston Lane would be willing to put in a football field if they are granted planning permission. The Council pointed out that there are already various industrial sites all around the Parish.



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Skate park: £8,000.00 is available from Leicester County Council for a Skateboard park, but £60,000.00 is still needed. A youth shelter and climbing apparatus for young children is also being considered.

**L-R Barbara Taylor (Clerk),
Barbara Pizzey, Brian Kelk,
Pru Chandler, David Wright,
Ian Kitchener, Fred Stott,
Barbara Coleman**



Did you know our Parish Councillors all have special responsibilities within our Parish as well as their council work. Chairman David Wright (842610) can sit on any committee.

Primary School Governor	F Stott (842522)
Footways/Lighting	Brian Kelk (842241), Barbara Coleman (842070) & Jackie Goode (843062)
Playing Fields	I Kitchener (842123), Brian Kelk & Jackie Goode
Youth Club	Irene Pacey (843138) & Jackie Goode
Right's of Way	Barbara Pizzey (844026)
Village Hall	Jackie Goode
Charities	Pru Chandler (842355)
Allotments	Pru Chandler, Irene Pacey & Ian Kitchener
Finance	All members

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Sports News



Crime Scene



Bottesford Junior Badminton Club



The Junior Badminton Club finished a pleasing season with a club tournament with the 8-12 years winner being Jake Biddle, and runner up Luke Bennett, far left. Alex O'Leary, far right, won the 13-16 year old tournament with the runner up his younger brother William O'Leary. Congratulations to them all! Coaching begins on Saturday 13th September 11-12.30 for the 8-12 year olds and the 13-16 year olds on Monday 8th September 7.30-9.00pm. There is a new slot available on Mondays from 9-10pm for coaching anyone 16+ - including adults. Contact Mike Bennett on 843041 to register – or for further details

Crime Prevention - Open Evening. Monday 22nd September in the New Village Hall from 6pm to 9pm

Do you want to know more about how to reduce your risk of being a crime statistic, then come to an open evening being held by Leicestershire Police. Your local police constables will be at the meeting - come and meet them. There will be lots of information available and the setting up of Neighbourhood watch schemes will be discussed. Will it be worthwhile? Look at the list below to see that there is something for everyone:

- Neighbourhood Watch-how to make it work
- Drug Awareness-know the tell-tale signs
- Countryside Watch-how it works and what is involved
- Crime Prevention-demonstration of security devices and advice
- Bicycle coding-the easy way to reduce bike theft

New computers for old

If you have an old computer or any other IT equipment that you don't need then don't put it in a skip – give it to Enprove. They may even be able to collect it from your home. Enprove is based in Mansfield and will recycle your computer and train an unemployed person at the same time. If you are a charity they can also sell you reconditioned computers, printers and scanners at very reasonable prices. Look at their web site www.enprove.org.uk or ring 01623 666710 and ask for Paul Webster.

Village Voice Contact information

Editorial: Dilys Shepherd on 843505 or Susan Meech on 843402
Advertising: Anne Ablewhite on 842259
What's On: Sam Fells on 844263

Deadline for November Issue Saturday 27th September.

E mail: villagevoice@bottesford.org.uk

Whilst every care is taken in the printing of notices and advertisements, the committee accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies which may arise or consequences from them. Views expressed in the Village Voice do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

A new Inspector has been appointed to the Bottesford area-Bob Folwell. A new shift system is being brought in which will mean additional night cover around Bottesford. Details of how to contact a particular officer by voice mail are posted on the notice board outside the police station.

Latest Crime Figures

There has been a reduction over the last two months; however, there have been two disturbing trends.

- 1) A number of incidences of children throwing eggs at cars. This damages paintwork. Sounds daft but parents, keep a check on your eggs!
- 2) Two reports of malicious fires. A fire in a wastepaper bin can easily get out of control.

Volunteers

They are at the Police Station on Wednesdays 6pm to 8pm and Saturday mornings 9 to 11am

Contact Numbers General Enquiries

01162222222 this is Leicestershire Police Headquarters. The old number for Bottesford Police should not be used.

999-Emergencies. Dial 999 when a crime is in progress or an immediate response is needed

Take it home with you

Come on kids – let's set the adults a good example and take our rubbish home with us.

There is a lot of litter around the village, particularly down Barkestone Lane. It's not only an eyesore, but a threat to wildlife and all animals. You should also try and get extra bins provided for rubbish around your schools and play areas.

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