



Village Voice

The newsletter of the villages of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton January 2004 . Issue No.9

Bottesford's roads – developing problems?

Did you know that Leicestershire County Council (LCC) is considering a scheme that could bring even more lorries into Bottesford?

Bottesford is a residential community with an important conservation area at its centre and deserves better protection by the County Council from the HGVs for which its roads were not designed. Many local people feel that HGVs, unless delivering to local farms and businesses in Bottesford, should be subject to legally imposed weight restrictions on every entrance to the Parish.

LCC's is currently considering a "County Wide Lorry Plan" - which could result in heavy traffic being funnelled along Long Lane to the junction with the A52 and Belvoir Road - and, inevitably, through the centre of Bottesford and via Normanton to the A1 at Long Bennington.

We must take every opportunity to press our County Councillors to act on behalf of local residents and limit the HGVs passing through our villages before the "Bottesford Short-Cut for HGVs" becomes an established route.

If you want more information on LCC's scheme contact Mr MJ Bradford, Leicestershire County Council (Tel:0116 265 7127) or, if you have an opinion on traffic developments and problems in the parish, call our County Councillor Byron Rhodes on: 01949 860029

Main road ... or car park?

Do you have trouble manoeuvring around Bottesford High Street? Can you cross the road easily – with or without a pushchair? Since the paper shop relocated it has provided a good service to shoppers but, with most of the customers coming by car - which they park as near as possible to the shop itself - this presents problems to drivers and pedestrians alike.

Anyone trying to drive down this stretch of road usually meets a vehicle coming the other way, or will find that the car that they assumed was parked was just tucking in to let another vehicle through or, if it was parked, a door will soon be flung open to block

their way yet again.

Pedestrians are, likewise, never sure if a car is suddenly going to set off as they are half way across the road – and have to dodge those vehicles making a run for it whilst a way appears to be clear. In the last month someone has already been knocked off their bike – don't let it happen again.

What can be done to make this area easier – and safer - for all of us to use? Answers to the Village Voice or the Parish Council by either attending the 1st 15 minutes of the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 12th Jan 2004 or calling 01949 843611



Letter - concern about traffic in Normanton

We were particularly interested to see the proposal for a 7.5 ton access to Bottesford & sincerely hope that this will also include Normanton. We have only lived here 18 months but what was a fairly quiet lane when we moved in, is more like the third lane of the A1 now! Our only worry being that lorries will still come through the village as access to the Industrial units although they can get in from the A1 direct. Good policing might be necessary.

We look forward to good news on this subject & for a lorry-less pair of villages. Thank You

Jen & Susan Caley

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Rainbow Regalia!



Rainbows Georgina, Kirsty, Sarah and Katie dressed for the Regalia

1st and 2nd Bottesford Rainbows spent a wonderful day in the summer with lots of other little Rainbows from the Grantham area – Girl Guiding UK's youngest group, aged 5–7 years, at their annual Rainbow Regalia which, this year, was held in St Anne's Hall, Grantham. This year the theme was "Romany" and the girls, Guiders and helpers all dressed in lavender and lace, wearing scarves and ribbons in their hair. The afternoon was spent playing traditional games such as "bat the rat", singing traditional songs and feasting on popcorn and chocolate biscuits! New rainbows are always welcome – so why not call our District Commissioner on 842934 if your daughter would like to join.

Bike jumping enthusiasts to help the Parish Council

The bike jumps are an amenity much used by the younger element in the village. Sited opposite Jubilee Green, they have been provided with the help of our Parish Council – but they have recently run into a problem.

Tim and Joe are two of the regulars at the jumps and they were there on their bikes, when the Parish Council chairman visited the site, to let them know the jumps had failed an "inspection" due to the amount of rocks in the soil. Although they agreed there were a lot of rocks (never nice to land on!) they were concerned about what would happen next – would they have to close? They both decided to attend the next Parish Council meeting and they were there when the discussion took place. They contributed to the meeting (when invited) and have volunteered to help a Parish Council Working Party in making the jumps safer – a credit to our community!

Childrens Rural Outreach Project (CROP) starts work in the Vale

Laura Smith and Emma Salmon recently designed this logo for the new Children's Rural Outreach Project - CROP. The project is just starting and is run by Rachael Garside, based at Belvoir High School. CROP aims to benefit children aged 8 to 13 to improve their access to inclusive, educational activities. It is a Children and Young people Unit initiative to develop preventative services in schools and the community. The project is in the initial developmental stage, but Rachael will soon be in touch to offer more information. You can contact Rachael on 845342.



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Bottesford's Big Read

Bottesford's book group (the Bottesford Bookworms) recently voted for their "Big Read" books and have carried out their own mini 'big read'. The 10 members asked five friends for their top five books. 138 different books were nominated and the out right winner was Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. The five books in second place were: The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien, Hi-fidelity by Nick Hornby, To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, 1984 by George Orwell and Prisoner of Azkaban by JK Rowling.

Leicestershire libraries also organised a competition to find the alternative Big Read book for Melton District in the summer. Readers were asked to nominate their favourite books and this was reduced to a shortlist of 6 in September. Readers then voted for their favourite from these 6 books, with one lucky entrant receiving a free book token. The results will be published on 6th December from the selection of, 'Northern lights' by Philip Pullman, 'Girl with a Pearl Earring', 'The Diary of a Young Girl', 'No 1 Ladies Detective Agency', 'Affinity' and lastly 'Coastliners'. All of these books are available in Bottesford library.

Expanding Horizons at Bottesford Community Centre



A new double mobile building, exclusively for the use of adults attending classes, has recently been installed at the Belvoir High School site of the Community Centre. The new building will allow the Community Centre to extend the range of courses. The new mobile - funded by Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council - will be used for a wide range of courses including arts and crafts, yoga and languages and will have disabled access and toilet. The rooms are much larger than those in the main community centre, giving scope for practical work.

Manager Shanti Patman says- "We still find there are people who are not even aware of the many choices for learning on offer- from GCSEs to woodcarving. Our programme changes every term so that new learners can join classes at any time of year."

Centre manager Katie Clarricoates says- "It is particularly pleasing that learners will have a brand new building to work in very shortly. We intend to create a study and refreshment area for learners and staff."

NOTHING TO DO?

If you don't like the thought of 'time on your hands' why not start Woodwork at the Community Centre on Friday mornings? You can make anything you like and can go from a garden planter to a garden seat and table. There are a few spaces left on the course so why not give it a try. People of all ages go, but not many men. Come on boys, don't let the ladies show you up! For more information ring 844199.

Start the New Year at the Community Centre

New courses for Spring 2004 include aromatherapy, first aid, childcare, Japanese language and culture, home textiles, stress management, beginners French and Spanish, Shakespeare for all and 10 steps to a more confident you.

Courses can be just for fun or you can get qualifications. Last year learners gained certificates from, for example, the Open College Network (accreditation with no exams). They also studied for GCSEs, A Levels, the European Computer Driving Licence and for qualifications in book keeping and accounts.

There are also courses running in many centres in the Vale if you cannot get into Bottesford. Anyone interested in coming along should telephone the Centre on 01949 844199.

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The Countryside around here – it's thriving!

We have never had it so good. Incredible numbers of some of our native species are now resident around Bottesford in spite of this season's weather extremes – what is starvation and desolation for some is manna from heaven for others. All our farmland birds have had an excellent breeding season with large broods reared and several clutches to each pair. Mallard have had youngsters with them from February to September and hen pheasants are still going about with 4 week old chicks at foot. Song thrushes have never sung so loud as this spring or been so plentiful on the topmost branches of our ash trees.

The raptors, hawks, owls and buzzards in Bottesford are not difficult to see soaring high over the newly drilled corn or along our wide verges at dusk.

The ponds around Bottesford which have been dug, the grass field margins which have been drilled or the conservation headlands planted, they all make a contribution to the numbers of species and habitat diversity. Many of the ponds drain wet corners of fields or create flight ponds. Field margins provide corridors between breeding sites and food sources both create and improve habitats for all species.

Waterfowl that enjoyed the ample waters of the spring are now enduring a tough time as their habitat is lost to drought. They are quickly falling prey to predators such as the mink and the fox. However, our reptiles at these same sites are having a great summer, grass snakes abound and tonight, after many months of drought, the first splash of rain and from where they have come, who knows? Mr Toad and his many relatives are on the move.

It's keeping the balance! Farms and farmers, custodians of the countryside, country sports folk who shoot, hunt and fish, they provide the momentum, the thought and the vision, all this didn't just happen.

New plans for Bottesford

Do you want to see what plans have been submitted for developments in Bottesford and find out if they have been approved? Then go to the Bottesford village web site, www.bottesford.org.uk, and follow the link to the Melton Borough council web site.

If you type in 'Bottesford' you will see a list of all the applications and whether they are application permitted, pending decision, withdrawn, pending consideration etc. You can also follow the progress of an application if you know its reference number. For example you can see a map of the proposed new access road off the A52.

Moving on Up!

What next after the incredibly successful Village Appraisal carried out in Bottesford two years ago? Early in 2003 an enhanced appraisal, known as a Healthcheck, will be launched for Bottesford, and the Rural Community Council needs YOU to get involved. The healthcheck looks at the 'health' of the village – not it's people—and will start from where the Appraisal left off. Looking at every aspect of life and work in Bottesford, it will draw together an Action Plan for positive change. The Healthcheck wants to work positively with the Parish Council to complement and support plans already underway. Together with a dedicated Project Manager, local residents will then set about bringing the action plan to life – practical 'common sense' and long-term 'flagship' projects are all up for grabs! Working together to secure funding for many sources, the Healthcheck team will have the support of a Project Manager until December 2004 in the first instance, with the possibility of this continuing until 2006!

So what happens next? There will be a well publicised launch event by early March 2004 where anyone interested in finding out more will be invited to come along. For further information contact: Tim Gill, Rural Centres Project Manager 0116 268 9711 or email tgill@ruralcc.org.uk



Bottesford & District Women's Institute



Originally known as Elton and Bottesford WI, it was founded back in 1925. Elton held their own meetings but, during and after the last war, numbers dwindled but the Bottesford side flourished and, eventually, the Institute was renamed 'Bottesford and District WI'. Present membership stands at 35 and newcomers are always welcome. They meet once a month on the third Tuesday. The WI is not only national but also world-wide; being affiliated to Associated Countrywomen of the World.

promoting the raising of standards of living for women and children throughout the world. Bottesford is in the Nottinghamshire Federation with headquarters in Newark.

Don't think it's all jam and knitting, far from it! Did you know that the darts team has finished top of their league most seasons and been Nottinghamshire champions four times? There is plenty more going on; theatre and garden visits, quiz and supper nights, walks, holidays and many sporting activities. At monthly meetings there are speakers and demonstrations; annually there is a walk and, of course, the Christmas party. Joining this organisation is a good way to meet new people and learn new skills. Want to give it a try-contact Angela Kapellar on 842043

Citizens' Advice Bureau comes to Bottesford

Did you know that the CAB is holding drop-in sessions at the library every Monday morning from 9.30am to 12.30pm?

Why would you need their advice? The range of skills and expertise offered, free of charge, covers a wide range of topics including:

Benefits: Assessment and entitlement covering housing, council tax etc. Did you know that you can have a combined income of £58,000 and still be entitled to tax credits?

Relationships: Family breakdown, debts, and bank accounts.

Housing: Advice on dealing with rent arrears, eviction, homelessness, tenancy issues, and landlord-tenant disputes.

Employment: Not only to employees on issues such as unfair dismissal or wage arrears but also to employers on employment law.

Debts: Managing debt and how to deal with it.

Consumer problems: Knowing your rights and how to achieve them.

The advice is free, confidential and independent. It can range from listening, writing letters, to contacting a solicitor, if necessary. Volunteers are highly trained and have access to a national network of information. There is a solicitor allied to the Melton branch, which saw 8,800 clients last year. The Bureau is partially funded by Melton Borough Council who are trialing these sessions to see what the response is in Bottesford. They realise the difficulty our Parish has in access to organisations such as CAB's. If we are to keep this service make sure you take advantage of it or it will go.

Melton branch is at 9 Burton Street, Melton, 'phone 01664 484050 or, remember, you can drop in at the library on a Monday morning between 9.30am and 12.30pm

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What's On ... in January and February

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Good Telecommunications are vital to the future of Leicestershire and broadband benefits communities in many ways. The County Council is working to ensure that every household and business in the County can access this technology. Go to their web site www.leics.gov.uk/broadband to register if you think this area should get broadband, or if you wish to monitor the progress of registrations, or you want to express an interest in being a "champion" for Broadband in Bottesford.

BTBroadband has recently set its "trigger level", requiring 500 households in Bottesford to register an interest which is well off the current level. A private company and a local group are both suggesting a possible "wireless Broadband".

Hopefully one of these options will result in some progress soon.

Please contact Sam Fells on 844263 or samandmarkfells@aol.com with all your "What's On" dates for March and April by 22 January 2004

Firework takings rocket

The firework display organised by the Vale of Belvoir Lions took a record £3500 this year, a profit of £2439, that can all be used for charity. This is a great achievement for the Lions and the Village Voice would like to congratulate them and thank the group for all their hard work.



This was the 24th firework display to be held in Bill Roberts' paddock - the Lions have been organising displays since just after they started. Bill Roberts (a founder member) of the Lions said 'we like to do this because there are no accidents and it is a safe event for children'.

A lot of work goes into the firework display and bonfire with Bill starting work on building the bonfire months before 5th November. The event has always been held in the paddock behind Bill's house and he said 'I am happy to host this event as I love to see the pleasure on the children's faces when the fireworks go up and the bonfire is lit'.

Sadly, this year's event was marred by mindless acts of vandalism. Three wooden items of Bill's were thrown onto the bonfire and destroyed - a wooden ladder, a wheelbarrow and a manure fork - total value is over £300. The Lions are very disappointed that an event that is run for charity and for the benefit of the whole village should be targeted in this way.

Lets hope this does not happen again next year.

Letters



May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their warm welcome to myself and my family, and for their support of "Storyshapers", listening and communicating skills for children aged 3-13. We moved to Bottesford in September from St Albans and, in this short time, have discovered the areas excellent family amenities, activities for toddlers and wonderful walks.
What A Village! Happy New Year!

Julia Damassa

Theatre Zone



The popular New Perspectives Theatre Company return to Bottesford VC Hall on Friday 9th January at 7.30pm with their new production "When Icicles Hang by the Wall" – by Mike Kenny. A simple love story with elements of pantomime, slapstick and song. A real family show. Tickets (£4.50 or £4 concessions) from Jeans Bakery or Beryl Stott on 842522

A highly enjoyable evening was had by all who watched BATS 30th Anniversary production of "Harvey" which graced the stage of the new Village Hall perfectly. Directed by Julia Burton, this gentle comedy about a man and his invisible rabbit friend, was charming - yet with serious undertones of social hypocrisy. Acting plaudits go to the strong ensemble cast – including David Burton as the central character along with Hazel Halle as Veta and Lyndsey Young as the manipulative daughter and Geoff Spencer as formidable Judge Gaffney. Let's not forget the backstage crew who produced seamless set changes. The play suggests that dreams are better than reality – in this production the reality was pretty good too!

Village Voice Letter Box

Want to write to the Village Voice? We now have a letter box in the library. You will find it on the windowsill. All contributions will be gratefully received!

Thank you!

This edition sees the last of the contributions from Village Voice committee members Phil Salathiel and Pim Mabbitt. Thank you both for all your hard work for the Village Voice.

Parish Council Notes

13th October

The Parish Council are investigating ways of managing the number of ducks around the church.

If the lid for your recycling box is lost or damaged the council will provide a new one.

Two more dog mess bins have been installed on the High Street and Grantham Road and both are well used. New litter bins have been placed at the school and stocks and more will be available in the near future.

The football club have had a grant toward the cost of the temporary changing rooms.

A beehive has been requested on one of the allotments.

Parking for disabled people is being considered in the Parish.

10th November

Tim Gill, from Leicestershire and Rutland RCC, introduced his 'rural areas health check' project which will be underway in Bottesford next year (Village Voice will keep you up to date with this project).

Posts are to be installed around the Green in Devon Lane.

Duck numbers are high due to the good weather but nature will take its course in the winter.

Concern was expressed about the youth club and the behaviour of its members. The police reported 2 attempted burglaries. 3 people were arrested at Halloween.

The parish warden has been working on the play grounds to bring them up to standard. He has also been very busy planting bulbs around the parish.

The Youth facility group has met twice regarding the skateboard park and youth shelter. They are looking at funding and insurance. Leicestershire County Council can provide some funding in an effort to reduce crime in the area.

The bridge over the A52 at Barkestone Lane is still pending.

The plans for the new access road to the A52 were discussed. These can be viewed on the web site

"<http://www.Bottesford.org.uk>" under planning applications.

Litter and graffiti continue to be a problem.

A bus shelter is being considered.

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Sports News



Luke Wright - a name to remember and one to watch for the future.

Luke(18), the youngest son of Keith and Anna Wright of Pinfold Lane, Bottesford, has lived in the village for more than 10 years. From an early age Luke and his brother Ashley were actively encouraged to play cricket by their father Keith who is currently the captain of the Bottesford 2nd team. Luke spent his school years at Redmile, Belvoir High and Radcliffe College, before finally going to Loughborough University to study Sports Science and Sports Massage. He played county cricket for Leicestershire under 13s, 14s, 15s and under 17s before playing for the Leicestershire 2nd Team.

Luke continued to work hard and, in June 2003, he played for Leicestershire 1st team. In 2001 he toured in Australia with the England Under 19s competing in the Junior Ashes. He was a member of the first English U19s team ever to win a Test match. Following this, he was again selected to play in a Test Series against South Africa in the cricket bastions of Chelmsford, Worcester and Headingley. In a one day match he took a hat-trick (3 wickets with 3 consecutive balls) and became the first England player at that level to do so. Overall, he took 5 wickets. He was selected as 12th man for the full England test team for their match against South Africa—Alex Stewart's last International game. Luke was on TV and he even gave a live interview for Bob Willis from Sky TV.

It was a pleasure to meet Luke - a very honest and unassuming young man who has worked tirelessly on his game and one who continues to have the unequivocal support of his justifiably proud parents and older brother. The Village Voice wishes him well in the future and especially when he represents the England Under 19s in 2004 during the World Cup Series in Bangladesh.

Crime Scene

Did you know that burglaries in the countryside have trebled since 1983, rising by 5.7% last year alone? Daytime burglaries, often by forcing windows or doors at the rear of the house, are on the increase. Don't leave vehicle keys on display. Don't forget

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 March Issue :
22nd January.

E mail: villagevoice@bottesford.org.uk
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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.

security of your shed or garage. Burglars will steal tools from these to break into your house. Don't store valuable items such as golf clubs and fishing tackle, etc in a shed. Mountain bikes and mowers, etc should be secured using chains and locks, secured to a fixing which has been concreted into the ground. Remember shed alarms are on sale at the Police Station. Prune hedges to waist height and install exterior lights using movement detectors, light sensors and time switches.

There have been a number of bogus callers posing as gas/electricity officials. The gas and electricity boards will usually notify you if their officials need access. Always ask for identification. If you are not sure, deny access.

To find out more about security, contact PC Graham Smith, Crime Prevention Officer, on: 0116 2222222, ext. 4976.

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