

# Village Voice

The newsletter of the villages of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton March 2004 . Issue No.10

## TIMES PAST – times present

In April 1854 the Grantham Journal showed the Railway Timetable for Grantham to Nottingham line, allowing us a direct comparison with today's service. Then, 6 trains a day stopped at Bottesford in both directions; today there are 8 trains to Grantham and 11 to Nottingham. The journey time from Bottesford to Grantham is now almost identical to 1854, with the fastest trains from Bottesford to Nottingham only 8 minutes faster! So, a similar service - although no choice of 1st, 2nd, or 3rd class accommodation these days! What price progress?

### The joys of the Bottesford commuter on public transport

No bus shelter, unreliable buses and a reduced service – these are the joys of the bus commuter from Bottesford. Travelling into Nottingham takes a long time, with many people having a very early start and catching the 6.45am service.

A Bottesford train commuter said "Given the encouragement for people to use trains to avoid clogging the road with cars, I would prefer the train companies to offer a service to us at times when we want to travel. More trains please."

How can we get the bus and train companies to provide us with a better service?



### Grants to parishes for transport

The Countryside Agency has grants of up to £10,000 which Parish Councils can apply for to improve transport in their parish. Details of these Parish Transport Grants are available on the web site

[www.countryside.gov.uk/vitalvillages](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/vitalvillages) or ring 01949 876200.

### No more mum's taxi

Come on parents - stop ferrying your kids around and make them use the bus to Melton. The Paul James bus service (number 24 and 26) stops at all the villages in the Vale and the last bus back from Melton is at 10.30pm. Fares are very reasonable and don't forget 'use it or lose it'.

### When is the next bus or train?

If you would like to travel by bus but are not sure what services are available or when, then ring Traveline on 0870 6082606 or look on their web site [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

### Muston-Buses? Or NO buses?

There have been problems in getting buses to stop in Muston recently. Do the buses have an obligation to fulfil their stated route? This is where we get into the red tape tangle. Guess what - the County Council aren't sure and are looking into it. So, for the time being, we are left guessing "When is a bus stop really a bus stop?" Editors note: If you have a complaint about buses you should contact Mrs Smith, Traffic Commissioner, City House, 126 – 130 Hills Road, Cambridge. CB2 1NP.

### Normanton traffic

I am concerned with the amount of heavy traffic and speed that vehicles travel through Normanton at present. The cars seem to think it is just a long stretch of road to race along and the lorries use it as a short cut. I am hoping the lorry drivers will find another route and PLEASE PLEASE, ROAD USERS THROUGH NORMANTON, SLOW DOWN. Gail Arnett

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## Didn't you do well?

This year's Belvoir Lions Christmas fund raising activities – the Father Christmas Float and the Duck race - produced almost £3000. The Vale of Belvoir Lions were particularly impressed with all the young residents of Laurel Way waiting on such a cold night to greet Santa! The proceeds from this collection were donated to the Dove Cottage Day Hospice. Money collected for The Duck Race will be used for the benefit of local children and young people.  
If you are looking for a way to put something back into life and the community, why not consider the Lions? Check out our website for more information:  
[www.voblions.org.uk](http://www.voblions.org.uk)



## Run for Fun on May Day

The Fun Run is being reinstated as part of the May Day gala activities on Monday 3rd May, starting at 11.45am on the football field and funds raised this year will go to the Friends of Chernobyl.

Trophies will be given by age category - under 10, 10-14, 14-17, 18+ and 40 & over. Entry prices vary and the maximum cost is only £5. For an entry form please ring either Richard Taylor on 842272 or Tony Slipper on 844136.

## Walk into Spring

Would you like to go on a spring walk around the Parish but are unsure of a suitable route? The Bottesford Environment and Conservation Volunteers (BECV) have produced a number of interesting local walks, from 1 to 7 miles in length, around Bottesford and Muston.

To find full details - including some historical information - look on the BECV section of Bottesford Today website by taking the link from [www.bottesford.org.uk](http://www.bottesford.org.uk)

## Laurel & Hardy did you see them 50 years ago?

Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, the best loved of all comedy team acts, made 106 wonderful film comedies together – ending in “Another Fine Mess!” Exactly 50 years ago, many locals would have seen Stan and Ollie in person during visits they made to Bottesford. As top of the bill artists they travelled around the country and took every opportunity for Stan to visit his sister and brother-in-law, Olga and Bill Healey, landlords of the Bull Inn, Bottesford. They were only granted Sundays and Christmas Day off, and that was when they enjoyed the hospitality

of the people of Bottesford.

The local branches of the Laurel & Hardy Appreciation Society would like to construct a booklet of memories from local people who saw them - including when they were in the village or at the Bull Inn, and would like to see any photos or items that Laurel & Hardy may have signed or given out. All information would be credited.

If you have any information please contact Dave Tomlinson on 01332 673685 or email [Dtomlinson@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:Dtomlinson@tinyworld.co.uk)

## High Street closed in March

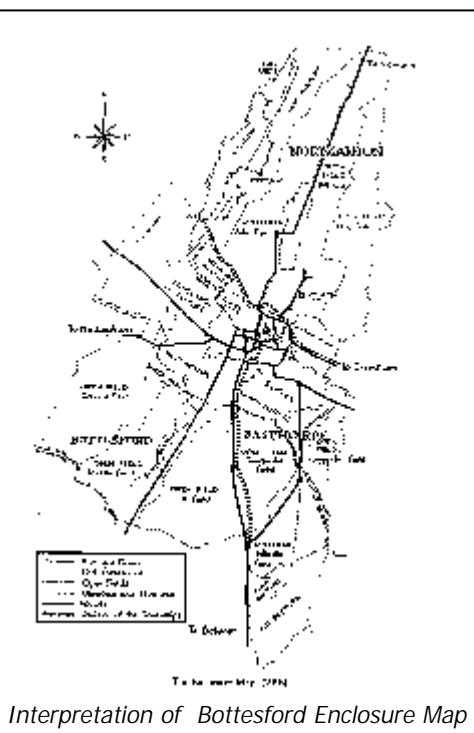
High Street, Bottesford will be closed for resurfacing work in March. Parking and travel restrictions will be in place.

# Local Boundaries

## - Do you really know where you live ?

Over the next few issues we'll be showing how the boundaries of our Parish have changed; some significant, others more subtle and the map shows the borders of surrounding villages in the 1770s.

The village of Easthorpe is not as small as you think - disregard road signs! The boundary of Easthorpe is south of the river Devon and can be traced around the footpath in the churchyard, then to the Red Lion (which once had a smithy in its yard). It includes the Wyggeston Avenue area, to Daybell's Barns, through the sports' field and on into Easthorpe village as we know it today. In the late 1800's many visitors, brought by railway and carriage, to the Vale and Belvoir Castle travelled through Easthorpe and many took advantage of the village's tearooms and bed and breakfast establishments.



Interpretation of Bottesford Enclosure Map

### Would you like to help with a local museum?

Mike Saunders provided much of the information for the boundaries article and is keen to start a local museum. If you are interested in helping, contact Mike through the Village Voice phone numbers, letter box or email.

## Upper Devon Flood Risk Partnership

After a dry summer many will have forgotten the flood in Bottesford in July 2001, but it is still a vivid memory for those whose homes were flooded. The Devon, Winterbeck, Rundle, and the Grantham Canal form a complex system of water courses with responsibility for maintenance and flood prevention spread among many diverse parties.

Resulting from a report written by the Bottesford Action Group [BAG], representatives of the Environment Agency, Newark Area Internal Drainage Board, Leicestershire County Council, Melton Borough Council, Bottesford Parish Council, Belvoir Estate, and BAG met on 19 January to inaugurate the Upper Devon Flood Risk Partnership. It is hoped that British Waterways Board and Seven Trent plc will also join the partnership.

The principal aim of the partnership is to co-ordinate its members in the development of an overall flood risk management strategy for the whole Upper Devon catchment area. Independent action by any one body, without a full understanding of the inter-relationship of the components of the drainage system would be ineffective, and might increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. Accordingly, the partnership intends to finance and commission a hydrological study and analysis to improve our understanding of the flood risk to villages along the Devon. This knowledge will become the basis for an integrated strategy owned and administered by the partners acting together which will, it is hoped, decrease the chances of another disastrous flood in Bottesford.

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## No computer at home, but interested in Internet?

Have you wanted to look up some information on the Internet, or perhaps thought about keeping in touch with old friends by e-mail - but have no computer? If you visit Bottesford Library you can access the Internet, at no cost. You can also take advantage of one of their free monthly Internet taster sessions to help get you started. Tel: 824696 for details.

## Renew or reserve your books on line

Leicestershire libraries have introduced a wonderful system that enables you to reserve any item in the catalogue on line via their web site [www.leics.gov.uk](http://www.leics.gov.uk). You can check which books you have

out and renew them if you so wish. You need a PIN number which you can get from your local library - so call in now and have access to all the books you ever wanted to read but could not find.

## Ink Cartridges - Do the Environment a Favour

Did you know that an estimated 250 million print cartridges have been disposed of in landfill sites and the plastic used takes 1,000 years to decompose? Here's a way to help the environment and a charity (RNLI) to raise vital funds. Accutecc will provide bins or envelopes (depending on how many you use) free of charge, contact: Marnie Welsh - 01279 401320, or write to: Accutecc UK Ltd, West End road, Templefields, Harlow, Essex CM20 2AL.

## Bottesford Broadband Update

The Vale of Belvoir Broadband Consortium (VBBC) has been formed recently in order to provide Broadband in this area, since BT seem unwilling to do so. Funds are available but we must show a business requirement for Broadband "leading to economic development". If you are

a business, need access to business information from home or, indeed, would like to start up a business from home utilising trade over the Internet, log on to [www.bottesford.org.uk](http://www.bottesford.org.uk) for more detailed information and register.

## Melton Local Development Plan

The current local plan was approved in 1999 but, as it is becoming out of date, it is undergoing a review. "Effective consultation" started in March 2003 and the results are now available on the internet at [www.meltononline.co.uk/mldf](http://www.meltononline.co.uk/mldf). The results of the fourth paper will be available shortly.

## Playgroup Project

Bottesford Playgroup has been undertaking a project on transport and emergency vehicles. As part of this it had two "Yellow" days where both staff and children paid to wear yellow tops, and donated £40 to the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance. This helps raise awareness to both parents and children of the vital role this service plays in our community.



## BYG PYG - 'the youth club with the friendly feel'

Young people aged 11 and upwards regularly attend BYGPYG in the Methodist Church Hall in Bottesford- and have a really great time! There is a variety of activities including pool, computer games, darts, videos and crafts. There is even a band, 'PYG's Ere', to join. The group has four adult leaders, but ideas for activities come from the young people themselves, with some being planned well in advance (a trip to Euro Disney, for example) and some spontaneous – 'let's go bowling!' They also support charitable causes such as the Children of Chernobyl appeal and Children In Need by either making goods to sell or through sponsored activities.

There has been a youth group in the Vale

of Belvoir, more or less continually, since the mid 1950's and BYG PYG (Belvoir Young People's Youth Group) has been meeting in the Methodist Church Hall in Bottesford for about six years. One of the group leaders, Caroline Cooksey, describes the group as 'non-denominational with a Christian feel'.

The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, twelve months a year from 6pm to 9pm. Meetings start with food – bacon or sausage cobs, fruit, crisps and drinks.

If you would like to join, look on their web site [www.come.to?bygpyg](http://www.come.to?bygpyg). or e-mail Caroline on [carosian@hotmail.com](mailto:carosian@hotmail.com). Or just turn up for one of their Sunday meetings – new members are always welcome.

## **'Laughter Lines' at the Village Hall**

Grantham Writers present their very successful performance of 'Laughter Lines' in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 26th March, tickets cost £3 and are available from Jeans Bakery.

'Laughter Lines' was first performed at the Grantham comedy festival in 2003 and includes humorous prose, comedy sketches, amusing poetry and monologues. The Grantham Journal said of the performance "Grantham Writers 'Laughter Lines' performance at the Guildhall Arts Centres was packed with their inimitable humour".

The Writers guarantee that you will have an enjoyable evening.

## A Gardening Club for our young people

Mrs Willis and children from Bottesford Primary School have started a Gardening Club in the school's memorial garden and around the school grounds. The "Friends of the School" have provided spring bulbs to plant and bought the group some gardening equipment to help the club thrive. The children have told Village Voice they come along to the Gardening Club "Because I want to plant bulbs", "I like gardening", "To make the school nice", "I like digging and putting things in holes". Well done to these promising gardeners!

And a Gardening Club for those a little older??

Perhaps not. Village Voice has heard that our Gardens Association is concerned that despite record numbers attending their wonderful Annual Show last summer, the numbers of those prepared to help run this worthwhile and traditional village amenity are falling. If you are interested in gardening and can spare a little time to help with the Association please give the Secretary a call on 01400 282263.

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## What's On ... from March to May

8th Mar Mon	Cake Stall Community Centre 10 am onwards. In aid of the Rosie May Memorial Fund	30th Mar Tues	Launch of Village 'Healthcheck'. 7pm VC Hall
9th Mar Tues	U3A 'Lets Circle' 2pm in Village Hall. Ideal opportunity to view the activities of U3A	4th Apr Sun	Outdoor nets start Bottesford Cricket Club
11th Mar Thurs	Local History Society 'A Century of Lincolnshire Explorers: Banks, Flinders & Franklin' Speaker: Michael Honeybone 7.30pm Fuller Rooms	8th Apr Thurs	Local History Society 7.30pm Fuller Rooms
20th Mar Sat	Table Top Sale 1.30-4pm Village Hall	3rd May Mon	Fun run in aid of 'Friends of Chernobyl' 11.45 am at football field. Entry form from R Taylor on 842272
26th Mar Fri	An evening with Grantham Writers - 'Laughter Lines'. 7.30pm VC Hall	6th May Thurs	Storyteller Taffy Thomas at Bottesford Library. Tickets from the Library 842696

Please contact Sam Fells on 844263 or [samandmarkfells@aol.com](mailto:samandmarkfells@aol.com) with all your "What's On" dates for March and April by 25th March 2004

## Bill Roberts - The Birth of a Funeral Director

Everyone in the village knows Bill Roberts today but how did he become a funeral director? Born 87 years ago at Sutton cum Granby of farming parents, he was one of six. He began school in Granby and, at ten, transferred to Bottesford School in the building that now houses the library. He admits to not liking school except woodwork, where he showed a real talent. Leaving school at 14 he began working for a wheelwright and funeral director in Langar. After 18 months, work was short and Bill's father got him a job as an apprentice joiner at Henry Pike's, the building and joinery contractors in Nottingham. He began travelling by train but, at 35 shillings for a season ticket, he took to his bike and was late only once during his five year apprenticeship! He was always busy making hay racks, tumbrels and sheep troughs and, during one holiday, there were so many orders that he decided not to go back to Pike's and set up in business at the ripe old age of 20 with a workshop on the farm. Harry Parr and an apprentice, Olwyn Taylor, were his first employees. In 1937 Bill moved to Bottesford, renting premises in the Red Lion Yard and employed a blacksmith, Mr Bateson, and a joiner, Denis Minckley. Business was booming, new premises were needed, and Bill bought a piece of land on the Bullock and Driffield site for £100. During the war Bill maintained the vast amount of equipment at Bottesford Aerodrome. After the war the building boom began and Bill's workforce was massive employing, at one time, 71 apprentices whom he kept a close, but fair eye on! His longing was still to be a Funeral Director and, on 5th March 1940, he realised his ambition. A 24st man died at Sutton and there was no-one able to bury him. Bill asked to do the job. He built the coffin around the man in his bedroom where he stayed until the day of the funeral. Unable to get him down the stairs, Bill rigged up scaffolding and lowered him through the bedroom window. The Funeral Director had been born. Still working part-time today, you can see a gifted man who could turn his hand to anything. He still enjoys gardening and last year won the National Award for Funeral Directors' Gardens.



# Rosie May - A Life to Remember



Our community is all too aware of the tragic death of Rosie May Storrie. With the passing of a child we have only the memories of that short life; but in Rosie May's we realise how much was packed into those ten years. I saw her, not just as the child over the road, but as a character so vibrant and full of life, she seemed to have a secret energy store. A curious mixture of poise and activity that drew others like a magnet to this beautiful, talented child. Her memorial service brought together the groups she belonged to; from schools to brownies; dancing and singing all pursued with an enthusiasm we can admire. In the words of her dancing teacher, Nickie Slater,

"She was a lovely little girl, both inside and out, who had the talent and dedication to be a professional artiste". To perpetuate her memory a memorial fund has been set up which will be divided equally between the paediatric intensive care unit at Sheffield's Children's Hospital, who cared for Rosie May in her last hours, and something which will benefit the village and allow us all to remember her. This tragedy has touched each and every one of us and our thoughts are with her parents, Graham and Mary and her two brothers, Luke and Laurence. If you would like to make a donation you can go to any Nat West Bank. The account number is: 69015597 and the sort code is 60-02-41. Cheques should be made payable to; Rosie May Memorial Fund. You can also address them to: 10 Queen Street, Bottesford

## Parish Council Notes

### Notes of PC meeting 8 December

Objections were raised to the plans for posts around the Green by Bill Roberts. Problem of drinking and litter on the football field is to be addressed.

Drug problems are decreasing as the police identify the dealers.

PC is investigating the accessibility of playgrounds in the parish and the impact of the Disability Discrimination Act

PC agreed in principle that the proposed site of the skatepark is satisfactory.

The litter group is looking to place more bins throughout the village.

PC to write to flyposters to ask them to remove them after the event.

police station being empty most of the time.

The Leics county councillor, Byron Rhodes, was unhappy with the Village Voice article on transport and gave his views on how the proposed Melton plan would work.

The parish groundsman has planted 200 trees in the parish as well as hedging round the playing fields. It was reported that Council Tax will go up by 7% next year.

The PC is getting information on costs for tarmac around the Village Hall.

The Belvoir Surgery hopes to relocate within the village.

### Parish Council 12th Jan

Many Normanton residents were present at the meeting. They had collected 500 signatures to highlight the traffic problems.

Concern was raised about the absence of police officers in the village, and the

### 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!

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# Sports News



## Bottesford Cricket Club gets ready for 2004 Season

The Cricket Club started its training programme on Sunday 11th January 2004 (6 to 7pm) using the winter nets - the Sir Richard Hadlee Indoor Nets - at Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, West Bridgford, Nottingham. The nets are available for existing members and new players looking to join the club. Nets will take place every Sunday from this date until, and including, Sunday 4th April, after which time outdoor nets are available at Bottesford Cricket Club.

Bottesford Cricket Club is a successful, thriving club which fields two teams on Saturday

in the South Notts. Village League in Divisions 1b and 1g/h. Also two teams on Sunday Division 2 Newark Alliance and Division 1 Grantham and Melton District. There is also a Thursday night team along with Colts, Kwik Cricket for under tens and hard ball cricket for under 13, 15 and 17. The standard of coaching and cricket facilities at Bottesford is very good so why not take advantage? If you require any further information then please contact Simon Silverwood on Bottesford 842148.

## Football

Representatives from our Football teams have asked Village Voice to mention that the ever-increasing amount of dog mess on and around the football pitches is causing a great deal of concern and inconvenience. Recently the referee only just let a match go ahead as he was concerned about the state of the field. They have asked us to let you know they have started to "name & shame" those owners who are witnessed not cleaning up after their dogs.

## Letter

### 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 May Issue :  
24th March

E mail: [villagevoice@bottesford.org.uk](mailto:villagevoice@bottesford.org.uk)  
Or: 12 The Paddocks, Bottesford

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.

Dear Village Voice

As a concerned father and Bottesford resident, I am writing to you about the increasing amount of dog "mess" on our village pavements and most notably around Belvoir Road and the primary school. This is not only disgusting but a health hazard. We walk our 5 year old to school along Belvoir Road and, although we choose to walk rather than drive, we are currently reviewing this situation as, at least once a week, my son will tread in the mess due to the amounts in our path.

I am a dog lover and do not wish to antagonise the responsible members of our community who own dogs, it is the irresponsible few who are causing this situation.

Tony Limby.

gering and it's illegal. Before there's an accident get noticed; fit lights and wear a reflective jacket.

Boogus Callers

Callers trying to sell orthopaedic beds are targeting Melton. Don't be conned; be aware of any suspicious characters and always ring the police if in doubt.

Womens' Aid

A new service for women and children experiencing domestic violence has recently become available in the Melton area. If you would like to contact them call 0116 2858079

## MERLIN PET SUPPLIES

UNIT 13 WINTERBECK IND ESTATE  
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OPEN MONDAY- FRIDAY  
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**John C Davies**

BA (Hons) CT ABRSM

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## STORYSHAPERS

Fun and learning for children aged 3+  
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Weekends at the Village Hall and children's parties  
Phone Julia Damassa (M.A. P.G.C.E.) on 844189

## Bottesford Accounts

Bookkeeping & Accounts  
preparation for  
sole traders, partnerships  
and small companies

Tel: 01949 844681

email: [enquiries@Bottesford-Accounts.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@Bottesford-Accounts.co.uk)

## ANDY MARTIN DOMESTIC APPLIANCE REPAIRS

**TEL: 01400 281244**

NO CALL OUT - CHARGE  
REPAIRS TO FRIDGES, AUTO/WASHERS,  
TUMBLE-DRIERS, COOKERS,  
AND DISHWASHERS.  
**ALL WORK GUARANTEED.  
16YRS EXPERIENCE.**

## Crime Scene



## Neighbourhood Watch

The police are keen to relaunch this worthwhile scheme but it won't get off the ground without support. A meeting will soon be arranged; look out for details around the village and in the local press. If you need any information 'phone Gwilda Holmes on 0116248457.

### Cycles

Cyclists-be seen! The amount of bikes ridden at night without lights is stag-