



Village Voice

The newsletter of the villages of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton May 2004 . Issue No. 11

Bottesford Guide Off To Mexico

Claire Austin, a senior section member at Bottesford, has been successful in her bid for International Selection, by gaining a place on a visit to Mexico, in August this year. Claire, 16, has been a member of 2nd Bottesford Guides for 7 years and is also a young leader at Bottesford Beavers.

During her trip, Claire will be staying at Our Cabana, one of the four World Guide Centres and taking part in some community work with children in Mexico.

In order for her to achieve her aims of fostering international relationships and promoting Girl Guiding UK, Claire needs to raise £1500. Fundraising is well under way thanks to brilliant support from her Guide unit, especially her leaders Jill Bagnall and Gill Smith. Fundraisers have included a jumble sale, a coffee morning, and quiz sheets. Claire even persuaded her dad to run the Belvoir Half-Marathon. "This is a tremendous opportunity for me and I would like to thank everyone who has supported me", says Claire.

Look out for any future events such as a Bingo Night (date to be confirmed) and a lyrics quiz. Any local businesses interested in sponsoring any elements of the trip, please contact the Village Voice.



The Skate Board Park

Plans for the Bottesford Skate park are progressing well and there was a fantastic turnout from both young people and parents in support of the skate park and the photocall for the Grantham Journal.

The funding has begun to roll in with the first big cheque received being from the County Council and more money is pledged from other sources – including £3,000 from Bottesford Parish Council who are also providing the lease for the land.

However, fund raising from within the group is also going to start soon and, anyone wishing to help, should contact Russ on 0779 6954055.

Finally, congratulations to Ruth Parsons the winner of the 'Name The Skatepark' competition with her entry 'The Grip' which was judged to be the most original entry and wins £50!

Village 'Healthcheck' Claire Austin

Village residents agreed to work with Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Community Council on a 'healthcheck' of the village and surrounding area, at a meeting in the village hall on 30th March. The Healthcheck will build on the work of the Village Appraisal and will look in more detail at four main topic areas: environment, economy, social and community issues, and transport and accessibility, resulting in a detailed action plan.

The group will work with the Healthcheck co-ordinator – Sallie Wocha – and start by producing a 'snapshot' of the village as it is now, using published information on population and employment. Part of the project will include using local knowledge from the group to feed into "worksheets". This first part of the work is expected to be completed by mid May.

Village Voice will update you with developments and, if you wish to be involved, please contact Sallie on 0116 268 9711 or email s.wocha@ruralcc.org.uk. For more details of the healthcheck process go to www.countryside.gov.uk/market-towns.

BT says 'YES' to Broadband for Bottesford

Vale of Belvoir Broadband Consortium's spokesman David Slater reports that the campaign for Broadband in Bottesford has reached BT's target of 500 sign-ups. BT will now go ahead with enabling the Bottesford exchange for Broadband, and early indications from BT are that this may happen in July. Said David "Thanks to everyone for all the effort in reaching this milestone, it just shows what can be achieved with a community campaign. VBBC will be continuing to apply political pressure to ensure that enablement of our exchange is seen as a priority. Thanks once again for all your efforts."

VBBC will be reporting further progress at vbcc.org.uk and bottesford.org.uk

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Spring cycling routes from Bottesford and Muston

As we head into spring with the improving weather and lighter nights, you may be considering venturing out on your bikes and there are some new routes that you may like to be aware of.

Muston to Grantham via the railway path and canal towpath: This route starts

just south of Muston by joining the old railway line at its present terminus on Woolsthorpe Lane. Look out for the Blue Sustrans National Cycle Network signs on the timber entrance gates visible through a gap in the hedgerow. The cycle path follows the course of the old mineral railway as it runs parallel to the canal and eventually joins the towpath near the Dirty Duck pub.

The canal towpath is signed National Cycle Network route 15 which will eventually stretch from Nottingham to Skegness. The section heading East to Grantham is complete and emerges onto Harlaxton Road near the A1; further sections are currently being constructed to link it with the town centre. Allow 2½ hours for this ride including the return journey.

Open late spring 2004 Bottesford to Newark via quiet roads and the railway path: This route leaves Bottesford heading west along Orston Lane, turn right after the level crossing and follow the road until the junction with Spa Lane at Lodge Farm, turn right towards Kilvington. Follow this road past Staunton Industrial Estate and take the left turn signed to Cotham. Follow the road until you reach the bridge over the old railway, take the ramp down onto the railway path and follow it into Newark. The railway path terminates at Newark Railway station car park. Allow 3 hours for this ride including the return journey.

Please note: These routes are generally on gravel or tarmac surfaces but you may encounter some mud if the weather is wet. You should also be prepared for punctures and allow more time if you are accompanying children.

Richard Marshall (Local cyclist)

BECV

BECV invite YOU to an OPEN MEETING to hear about their 4 ongoing Local Conservation Projects on Tuesday 25 May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Come along to hear about the work the group is doing and how you could get involved.

BECV has worked with Leicestershire Rights of Way team to produce 2 leaflets of "Parish Walks" - giving information on 4 walks of varying lengths around Bottesford and Muston. These leaflets have been developed by the group and will be available free of charge at the library and other local outlets. The Bottesford and Muston walks are also on the BECV website – accessible through the Bottesford today site www.bottesford.org.uk

The A52 "Bridleway"

When our by-pass was built in the 80's, local people heard that additional costs to work with Muston's "moving sands" made it impossible to build planned tunnels under the road to allow walkers, cyclists and horse riders under the bypass - and avoid the dangerous crossing of this busy road. Increases in traffic have aggravated this problem and it has come as a surprise to locals and to our Parish Council – who were not consulted about the work - that Leicestershire County Council is spending a reputed £100,000 on a bridleway to run alongside the A52 at Muston.

Village Voice has been told that The Highways Agency consulted the British Horse Society earlier last year and was advised that they were not happy with this idea. Local riders have also confirmed that the existing wide verge had offered a satisfactory surface for horses – who can normally only use this as a crossing point at very quiet times at weekends. Janet Kyle, a person who has many years experience with horses has told Village Voice "The authority should have asked riders who know only too well the dangers of crossing this busy road. This bridleway will not take away the fact that you still have to cross a busy main road and could actually increase the number of horses trying to do so".

Leslie Calcraft - A Fishy Character!



Eighty one year old Les was born at Wood Nook village just outside Grantham and moved to Muston at 2½, where he lived for 70 years, before moving to Bottesford. Life began in Muston at Syke Lane farm. Schooling was, initially, at Muston and then Bottesford, leaving at 14 to work on the farm. Farmwork made Les exempt from National Service so he joined the Home guard. Memories of these times brought a smile to Les' face recalling crawling from Normanton Aerodrome to Bottesford only to be surprised by another troop of Home Guard who threatened to shoot them!

Land Girls and prisoners-of-war were recruited to work on the farm. The Land Army Girls' camp was at Allington; another twinkle in Les' eye remembering cocoa and bread and dripping suppers! After the war Les went to work for his uncle, Edward Calcraft, at Breeder Hills for 20 years. Arthritis made him look for lighter work and he finished his working days at Chandos House. At 14 he discovered his lifelong passion for fishing. Many a day was spent on the river at his uncle's farm. He joined Bottesford Angling Club, eventually becoming Chairman, and now has the honour of being a life member. His son, Michael, succeeded him as Chairman. He married Ruby in June 1948 and they have two daughters and a son. Apart from fishing Les enjoys gardening and collecting antiques.

Fancy a trip out?

The Forget Me Not Club are arranging a day out on Tuesday 13 May to the Yorkshire Outlets at Lakeside and all are very welcome to join them. Non-members pay £6.00 for the cost of the Coach, which leaves the Scout Hut at 10.15 am. and will stop at the Durham Ox, Wellow for lunch at 11.30am (a meal there is £2.50). The Coach will then carry on to Lakeside. The Coach has a tail lift to help wheelchair users and Lakeside is very wheelchair friendly. For further information call Annie on 842198.

Theatre Zone



Taffy Tells Stories.

Taffy Thomas, master storyteller, will visit Bottesford Library on Thursday 6th May and bring with him his Tale Coat. Taffy's coat is a unique piece of textile art and after a warm-up story and riddles, Taffy will put on the coat and the audience can select stories by pointing to a picture on the coat and asking to hear that story. This is a show for all the family and will please all ages from 6-96 years. Taffy will be performing from 7 – 9pm and tickets are priced at £3.00 each or family tickets are £10.00. There will be a short break in the performance and refreshments will be provided free of charge. Enjoy a rare performance of magical entertainment for all the family. Tickets available from Bottesford Library.

Pop Goes the Century

"Pop Goes The Century" is taking place at the VC Hall on Friday, 21 May at 7.30pm. The idea is to take 100 songs, each one of them representing one of the years from 20th Century and perform them in 100 minutes! The date of each song is revealed on a giant scoreboard and as the 100 minute clock ticks away, the Bakelite Boys race through the century at break-neck speed, singing, joking and talking about everything from feminism and apartheid to keep fit and ukuleles, with a mixture of Celine Dion, the Beatles, Mick Jagger, Wham, Louis Armstrong and Frank Sinatra thrown in!

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My Visit to Japan

The Rev Charles Bradshaw recently visited Japan to take part in a memorial service for a priest he had known many years ago.

"Kyoto is one of the most beautiful cities in Japan containing fine temples and palaces. When I got lost in the enormous Kyoto railway station a policeman walked me to the correct platform, bowed and thanked me for giving him the chance to serve me! I saw only one small bit of graffiti in Japan – everywhere is so clean. Even public toilets have fresh flowers in them!

One of the most wonderful parts of my visit was when I was taken, as a treat, to stay in a guesthouse in Hakone. This is Japan as we imagine it. When you arrive, your personal geisha greets you and takes you to your room and serves tea. You then remove your clothes slip into a Yukata and go and sit in the hot spring for an hour or so. Whilst this is going on your room is being turned into a dining room. Then follows dinner, nine courses of wonderful food served with Saki. I will try and eat anything and coped with most Japanese food. My real problem was soup for breakfast; raw eggs and fish yes, soup? After a wonderful sleep in a wooden walled room listening to the sound of bamboo in the wind, you then go back to the hot spring whilst the beds are removed and breakfast is laid. It was a bit of old Japan, a sharp contrast to the enormous concrete jungle of Tokyo. The guide book says few tourists master the underground trains, so I took the challenge and succeeded. I had learned a little Japanese before I left and found that a little bow and a courteous introduction got me far. I got on the wrong train one day and asked the lady at the side of me where the train was going. At the next station, she got me off the train, waited for the right one (having missed her own) and then put me on the right train. You do have to be brave to visit Japan because the language and culture is so different, but it's a country I look forward to seeing again."

Charles Bradshaw

Crime Scene  **BE ON YOUR GUARD**

You never think that it's going to happen to you. I am a Bottesford man in my early 70's and late last year something happened that changed my life. I had been out to collect my pension and do some shopping. Not long after I got back home, the door bell rang and there stood a young man in the uniform of the Gas Company. He said "I have come about a suspected gas leak and I am checking all the houses close by". I asked for some form of I.D. and he showed me his Card that had a photo of him on it, so I let him into the house. We went into the kitchen where he asked me all sorts of questions and asked if I could turn the T.V. on – which was strange as he was from a Gas Company. I again asked to see his I.D. Card, which he gave to me. I started to copy down his details but heard a noise in the front room and, on checking, found another man standing by my china cabinet holding a small china box of mine. He said something about 'looking for gas leaks'. By this time I felt there was something very wrong and told him that I was going to phone the Gas Company and the Police at which point the pair of them ran out of the front door. I did phone the Police, who came in a very short time, but I found several items to be missing, irreplaceable things belonging to my late wife. This has really shaken me and I feel I can no longer trust anyone. PLEASE never let anybody in the house without an appointment, no matter what.

Thank you!

Sam Fells—who has been with Village Voice since we first started—is now leaving to pursue other interests. Thanks for all your help Sam.

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What's On ...

May	
1 st - 3 rd Sat - Mon	Vale of Belvoir Arts Society Show, Methodist Chapel, Devon Lane
3 rd Mon	May Day Gala VC Hall 11.30am – 5.30pm Fun Run, live music, beer tent, BBQ, stalls, clown and rides for the children. Fun run sponsorship forms for Rosie May Memorial Fund from Jean's Bakery and Key Store. Rosie May lilac helium balloon launch (5pm) - £1 per balloon.
6 th Thurs	Taffy the Story Teller visits Bottesford Library 7-9m. Tickets available at the Library.
7 th Fri 6.30pm	Annual presentations to the junior footballers VC hall. All welcome
9 th Sun	Rosie May remembered by candlelight on her 11th birthday - Bottesford Baptist Church. Launch of CD - Brown Eyed Girl as played at her Memorial Service.
11 th Tues	USA - "Nature in Miniature" Gerry Burrows the life and work of Thomas Bewick the Northumbrian wood engraver
13 th Thurs	Bottesford Local History Society. 7.30pm Fuller Room. "The History of the Newark Advertiser". Speaker: Miss J Parby
15 th Sat 7.30	to midnight: 80's Revival Night, VC Hall. Quiz, disco, video, fancy dress, auction, bar etc Tickets cost £5 from Alan Mellor 844302.
18 th Tues	WI - 7.30pm Village Hall - Resolutions - Associated Country Women of the World. Speaker: Mrs Joy Staples
21 st Fri	"Pop Goes the Century" with the Bakelite Boys at the VC Hall. 7.30pm.
21 st Fri	"Silver Surfer" day at the library. Contact the library to book a place.
22 nd - 23 rd Sat - Sun	Scarecrow Weekend look out for more information
25 th Tues	Bottesford Environment and Conservation Group AGM, 7.30pm in the Village Hall
June	
4 th Fri	Annual presentations to the senior footballers at the Cricket club. All welcome
8 th Tues	USA "Life on the 'Lincolnshire Life' magazine" by Judy Theobald
10 th Thurs	Bottesford Local History Society trip to Kings Lynn and Blickling Hall, Norfolk. For details call Mrs Critchell - 843220
10 th Thurs	European Elections at the VC Hall.
15 th Tues	WI - 7.30pm Village Hall - History of Nottingham Castle Speaker: Mr Gordon White
26 th - 27 th Sat - Sun	Melton Mowbray Country Fair. To book a stall, or for more details, call Sue Gowans on 01664 563327

Please contact Village Voice (see details on back page) with all your "What's On" dates for July/August by 20th May.

Correction

The Traveline phone number was incorrect in the last issue and should be 0870 608 2 608.

Parish Council Notes



February

Moles on the football field have disappeared
Irene Pacey has resigned as a Parish Councillor
Speed cameras are to be considered for installation on the A52
Extra chairs are to be ordered for the Fuller room

March

This meeting was the Annual meeting of the Parish Council with 45 minutes for 'open house'
New leases have been agreed with the football club, the bowls club and the skateboard park
Posts have been installed on Devon Lane
Barbara Coleman is to join the Village Hall Committee
A notice board has been put in East-horpe
Dog poop bags can be obtained from the library and disposed of in dog bins
2 more dog bins and 3 large rubbish bins are to be purchased

Bottesford Parish Council on-line

The Parish Council now have a web site which contains lots of useful information including: about the Parish Council, what is a Parish Council?, councillor profiles, news, meetings & minutes, calendar, contact details, Bottesford Skate/BMX Park Project.
Log on to www.meltononline.co.uk/pp/parish/detail.asp?id=55, or go to www.bottesford.org.uk and click on the link from this site.

Letters

Can anyone help? I am looking for information on James Moore, organist and teacher. He lived at 3 High Street in Bottesford and appears on both the 1881 and 1901 census. Information can be forwarded by e-mail to d.b.savery@talk21.com Thank you!
Donald Savery

The Rosie May Memorial Fund organisers are looking to hold a ball in 2005. If anyone is hiring a marquee could they perhaps share it over a couple of days to help reduce costs? If you can help please ring Carol Hulse on 842027. A big thank you to all those who bought or made cakes for the recent cake stall which raised £243. The total memorial

Maps and plans for Bottesford - on line or in person:

The Melton Borough Council planning web site (<http://www.meltononline.co.uk/planning/>) shows a map of where all developments are planned in the village. Just go to the site and type in 'Bottesford' and click the map box. On the site you can also see copies of the planning applications and any maps that have been submitted. If you wish to comment on the application there is a form that can be completed and returned to the council on line.
Alternatively plans can be viewed either in the Library or by contacting Mrs. Barbara Taylor, Clerk to Bottesford Parish Council on 843611. She is happy to let you come to her home to view these plans - call her Monday to Friday from 9 am. to 4 pm. for an appointment.

TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU!

The recent 'Litter Pick', organised by Parish Councillor Fred Stott, produced 36 sacks of rubbish from around the village - including a gear box and a fire extinguisher just dumped by the roadside.
It doesn't take much effort to put your empty wrappers and sweet papers into your pocket until you can find one of the 59 rubbish bins in the village - or just take it home with you! There is no excuse!
Whatever rubbish you have, or whatever your dog drops, please pick it up and dispose of it sensibly.



fund now stands at £7700. Visit www.rosie-may.com for information and on-line condolences.

Carol Hulse

Following the death of Rosie May Storie it became apparent that there was a need within our village for a place of quietness and retreat. A place where people can come and sit, pray if they want to, and gather their thoughts. If you need somewhere to be quiet, to sit and think, then Bottesford Baptist church is available for you and is open on Wednesday evenings from 6.00pm - 8.00pm as a place of quiet reflection/prayer. If you need to talk to someone there will always be people available.

Richard Lane (Rev)

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Sports News



If you want a sport that gets you fit and is enjoyable – try boxing!

Joe Forsey (15) and Billy Binch (14) from Bottesford are both dedicated and enthusiastic boxers who enjoy every minute of their extensive training programme. Billy has been boxing for about 2½ years at the Bingham Boxing Club and, after moving to Bottesford, encouraged Joe to join him. 'I enjoyed boxing from the first time I tried it' said Joe. Instead of teaching them to be violent, both are convinced that boxing has taught them control and discipline.

The boys travel to Bingham at least 3 times a week to train or, if they have a fight, every night for the 2 weeks before. The boxers train all year round except for 2 weeks that

they have off at Christmas. Boxers can start as young as 8 but, of those who train, not all will be chosen to fight. The sparring and fighting is well controlled by their trainer, Derek Groombridge, and fighters rarely get hurt. Billy said that 'I don't feel the pain when I am fighting because of the adrenaline, but it hurts the next day when the bruises come out'.

The boys go to about one fight a month and the fights take place in clubs across England. They took part in the Northern Zone/ Midlands Counties School boys championships in March and both reached the finals.

'On the night of the fight there may be up to 200 people watching and the atmosphere is amazing. When the lights go down and the boys are in the ring with the spotlight on them, I feel full of admiration for their courage', says Joe's dad Kieran. 'I used to feel sick when I watched the fights but now I shout with the best of them', said Joe's mum Miriam.

Joe and Billy hope to continue to fight for as long as they can and to do better in the Schoolboy championships next year. For information about boxing and the club in Bingham ring Derek Groombridge on 837224.



Boxers Billy Binch (left) and Joe Forsey

Football

Under 8s team have had a fantastic first season and have only lost 2 games.

Under 10s new team has improved considerably and were narrowly beaten in the semi final of the cup. Well done to Ryan Hutchinson who has been picked for trials

at Nottingham Forest Grass Routes.

Under 12s team is playing very well and may win the league.

Under 14s are currently leading the league; this team stand a good chance of winning some silverware in both the league and shield.

Under 16s performance has improved considerably and has won its last 2 games. The senior committee would like to express their thanks to Rob Griffiths and Roy Walton for all their help with the new senior changing facilities.

Village Voice Contact information

Editorial: Dilys Shepherd on 843505 or Susan Meech on 843402
Advertising: Anne Ablewhite on 842259

Deadline for July Issue : 20th May

E mail: 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.

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16YRS EXPERIENCE.