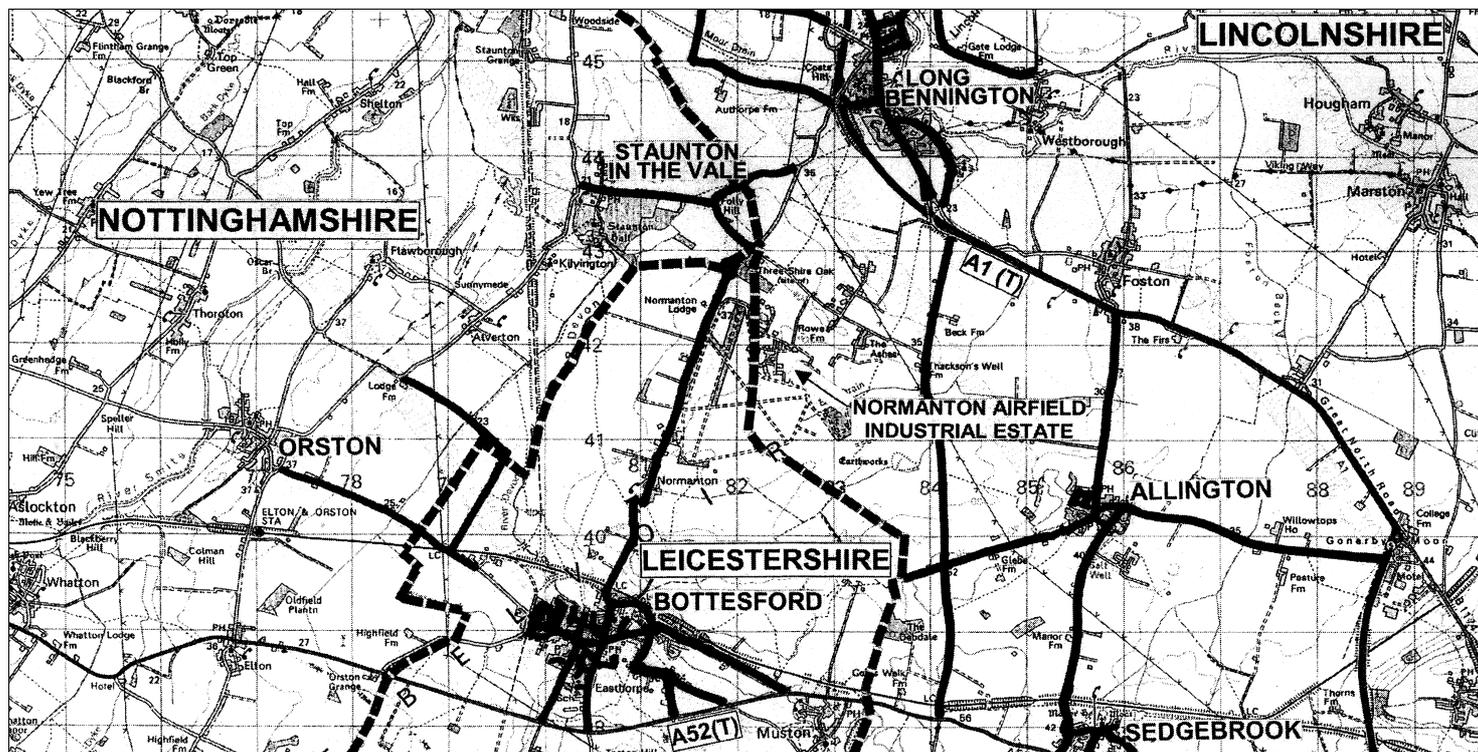


Village Voice

The newsletter of the villages of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton January 2005 Issue No. 15

Lorry plans open to the public on 1st February



————— Proposed 7.5 tonne gross weight restriction, except for loading - - - - - County boundaries

Map supplied by courtesy of Leicestershire County Council. © Crown Copyright 2004

Plans for a 7.5 tonne weight restriction on lorries travelling through Bottesford and Normanton will be displayed at a public consultation event in the Fuller room (next to the library) from 3 to 9pm on 1st February. Ian Vears, Leicestershire County Council Highways department spokesman said 'it has taken a lot of negotiation with the 3 County Councils involved in order that we can come up with the proposed weight restrictions'. He also said 'it is very important that as many people as possible come to the consultation event so that we can assess the views of residents'. Plans for the weight-restricted route will be available for inspection on 1st February. Mr Vears and a colleague will be in attendance to answer questions and comment forms will be available. If you wish to look at the plan prior to this meeting please contact the Parish Clerk, Mrs Taylor, on 842229.

Have your say on planning and development in Melton

A relatively small number of residents have already responded to consultation about changes to planning and development in Melton Borough. Replies to the first 5 discussion papers on planning can be seen at www.meltononline.co.uk/mlidf_. Over the next 12 months Melton BC will be working on the remainder of the discussion papers - identifying sites for development, transport, sport and recreation, housing choice and opportunity, housing land and supply.

If you wish to receive or comment on these papers you should write to Melton Local Development Framework, Melton Borough Council, Council Offices, Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE13 0UL. Or ring 01664 502383, or email: ldf@melton.gov.uk.

The Council has prepared a 'Guide to Replacing the Melton Local Plan', which explains a little more about the planning system, the reasons why the current local plan is being replaced and how it is intended to undertake the necessary work. This can be obtained from Melton Borough Council.

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A Flood Warden's Tale

Our last issue of Village Voice featured an article on the work of the 'Bottesford Action Group' (BAG) following the flood in July 2001. BAG felt that the village should know which areas were most at risk or in need of help in the event of the surrounding water courses bursting their banks again. So, in the spring of 2002, along with the Parish Council, the group established a list of volunteer Flood Wardens who could meet this need by being responsible for specific areas of the Parish. The Wardens would attempt to ensure that everyone got the earliest possible warning of rising water levels, and all available help could be focused on the most vulnerable, for instance, the disabled and the elderly.

A cynic might think there would be a problem getting volunteers; if you weren't flooded, why should you bother? If you were, you know that next time you'll be too busy taking your own precautions to have much energy or inclination to fuss about neighbours. Nevertheless, a team of volunteers was assembled, which we hope gives some reassurance.

Our first two and a half years proved relatively uneventful and we hope it will remain that way. In 2002 we had four of the early 'Flood Watch' warnings from the automated flood gauge at Woolsthorpe, and another in January 2003, which showed us how much time we have to respond if the water reaches more threatening levels. Only a precious few hours - but better than a few minutes or less! As ever, as time passes, volunteers move away or feel unable to remain in the team. New blood is needed to ensure that we remain effective, and we would welcome your joining us.

If you are interested in becoming a Flood Warden please contact Tony on 844823, or the BAG chairman, Brian Kelk on 842241.

Flood Signs

Recent weather has caused the River Devon to come onto the road by St Mary's Church. Although flood-warning signs are used, are they in the right place? Is the sign from the main road too close to the river? Village Voice has been told that lorries and other vehicles are reversing up the road as far as Chapel Street if they are unable or unwilling to drive through the river. So, should the sign be moved and placed before Chapel Street? Send your views to Village Voice.

Bottesford re-launches Neighbourhood Watch

At a meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday November 23rd, a group of interested residents from Bottesford and the surrounding villages got together to discuss the revitalisation and restructuring of Neighbourhood Watch. Historically there had been 10 Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Bottesford, most of which still exist, but some had fallen by the wayside, and some had become largely inactive.

At the meeting PC Mark Longden expressed his view that ideally one principal co-ordinator for Bottesford, supported by a number of area co-ordinators to cover the whole of Bottesford and satellite villages, would be a more workable structure. This was agreed by the meeting, and Dr Brian Kelk very kindly agreed to take on the mantle of principal co-ordinator.

Before the meeting closed there were several volunteers to take on the role of area co-ordinators, and a meeting will take place in the near future to progress this new structure to promote community safety in Bottesford.

Anyone who would like to become an area co-ordinator, or find out more about what is involved can call Brian Kelk on 842241, or the Community Co-ordinator for Melton Police on 0116 248 4571.

Road and Path Maintenance

If you spot a problem with our roads and pavements call our County Council on 0800 626203 or e-mail them on ht&wm@leics.gov.uk.

Any ideas?

We are always looking for new and interesting stories and information to put in Village Voice. If there are any items or stories you would like to see included please contact either Dilys Shepherd or Susan Meech - see back page for details.

Joan Matthews

Joan Matthews moved to Bottesford 48 years ago and, apart from a short time in Kenya, has lived here ever since. Her Bingham family insisted she get 'a profession' before she could marry her fiancé Bill so, after leaving West Bridgford Grammar School, she worked as a Pupil Teacher in Lowdham for a year prior to taking a place at University in London. However, the day before she took that journey her college was bombed and she completed her education in Cardiff instead.



As a qualified teacher in 'Arts and Juniors', Joan has taught a variety of people from evacuees in West Bridgford to nurses in Grantham. She started teaching in Bottesford when a flu epidemic left the local school short of staff. Her son Howard's class was affected so Joan spoke to Bill about helping out, but Howard was not happy – "You can't go Mummy, you're a lady not a teacher!" They celebrated Bills 60th in Africa with a trip to climb Mount Kenya. Bill made it to the top but Joan stopped at the 'tree line' – on her own until the local baboons decided to come and share the sandwiches!

As a member of the WI, Joan was the first to volunteer when the Toddler Group asked for help with making refreshments and, through this, many Mums and little ones knew her well. They also knew her from the lovely old Snowman in the bay window of her High Street home, who appeared in mid-December.

Joan considers Primary Teaching is a 'Finishing School for life' teaching you to develop both yourself and children. It introduced her to hobbies that have lasted a lifetime – art and needlework. In her latest home she has painted a beautiful 'window' in a dark corner, with plants and birds that have links with family and friends from a long and happy life with her 2 sons and 7 grandchildren.

Joan is now very happily settled in Warwick Flats where she has greatly appreciated the kindness shown to her by the residents and staff.

Village Guide 2005/6 – make sure your group is included

The Village Guide for Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston and Normanton will be published in March 2005 and we hope it will be as successful as the first edition. Many clubs and groups reported an increase in membership after the publication of the first Guide and all residents know what is available for them in the Parish. If you wish your group to be included in the Guide you have a number of options: complete the on line form at www.bottesford.org.uk, ring Village Voice editors, or put a note in the box in the library. You have until January 21st 2005.

Theatre Event in the Village Hall on 11th February

New Perspectives Theatre company returns to the village hall with their production 'The Ghost Downstairs'. This is an exciting winter drama for adults, and children 11 and over, and is written by the popular children's writer Leon Garfield. The play shows the bargain of a lifetime – seven years off the end of his life in exchange for a fortune now! The adaptation uses puppets, multi-media and music to conjure up the ghost story. For details and tickets ring Beryl on 842522.

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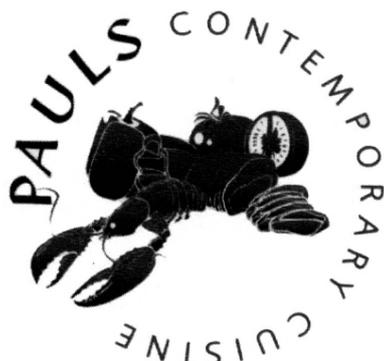
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Would you like to know more about HG Wells?

The Bottesford book group (Bottesford Bookworms) is very pleased that Mr John Hammond, founder of the HG Wells Society, will be giving a talk in the Baptist Chapel on Saturday 19th March 2005 from 2 to 4pm. Refreshments available. The event will start with a short talk on the life and times of this famous author. This will be followed by a discussion of one of HG Wells' most popular books, the History of Mr Polly. As Amazon describes it, "Mr Polly is one of literature's most enduring and universal creations. An ordinary man trapped in an ordinary life, Mr Polly makes a series of ill-advised choices that bring him to the very brink of financial ruin. Determined not to become the latest victim of the economic retrenchment of the Edwardian age, he rebels in magnificent style and takes control of his life once and for all".

The event is open to all. For more information ring Susan Meech on 843402.

The 100 Club

The Village Hall is looking for members for its 100 Club. The cost is only £12 a year, and the prize draws are £25 per month, with the exception of December, which is £150, and April, which is £100. All proceeds go to Village Hall Funds, where the current priority is to raise enough money to tarmac the car park. Anyone wishing to support the Village Hall and join the 100 Club, should contact Norman Robinson on 01949 844289 or e-mail villagehall@bottesford.org.uk.

Bottesford Primary School News

Re-awarded Basic Skills Award

Bottesford Primary School has just been awarded, for the second time, the Basic Skills Award. Having first achieved this three years ago, Headteacher Louise McGrory says she is very proud of her staff and pupils for the amount of effort they put in renewing the award.

The Battle of Bosworth (Mark 2!)

Hawthorn Class enjoyed a day at Bosworth Battlefield this term. This photo shows the class taking part in a 'pike drill' - as taught by members of 'King Richard's Army' who were helping them on the day.



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What's On ...

January

Sun 2 nd 10am	Ramblers' Association, Vale of Belvoir Group. Join them at Mackley's Bridge car park between Kinoulton and Owthorpe, for an easy 5.5 mile canal & field walk.
Sun 2 nd 10.30am 4pm	St Mary's Church, Family Service with Baptism. Traditional Carol Service – 9 Lessons & carols.
Mon 10 th 7.15pm	Parish Council meeting. Fuller Rooms, Bottesford. Residents are welcome as observers. 15 minutes at the start of the evening is a public participation period when you may ask questions or express your views.
Tue 11 th 2.00pm	U3A 'Read All About It!' Speaker: Alan Clayton. VC Hall.
Thurs 13 th 7.30pm	Local History Society 'Life on the Grantham Journal'. Speaker Jenefer Muirhead. Fuller Rooms
Fri 14 th 10-10.30am (and every 2 nd Friday of each month)	'Wriggly Readers' at Bottesford Library. Songs, stories, rhymes and books to share for babies and children with their parents or carer. Free of charge.
Tue 18 th 11.00am	U3A Annual General Meeting. VC Hall
Tue 18 th 7.30pm	WI Members Night VC Hall

February

Tues 1 st 3pm – 9pm	Highways Dept public consultation display. Fuller Room
Tue 8 th 2.00pm	U3A 'Magistrates in the Community'. Speaker: Maggie Wilson. VC Hall.
Thurs 10 th 7.30pm	Local History Society 'Bottesford Church & its Monuments'. Speaker Michael Saunders. Fuller Rooms
Fri 11 th 7.30pm	'The Ghost Downstairs' by New Perspectives Theatre Company at the VC Hall. Tickets etc, contact Beryl Stott, 01949 842522.
Mon 14 th 7.15pm	Parish Council meeting. Fuller Rooms, Bottesford. Residents are welcome as observers. 15 minutes at the start of the evening is a public participation period when members of the public may express their views.
Thurs 17 th 7.30pm	Environmental & Conservation Volunteers (BECV), VC Hall. Public and new members welcome.

Important:

To publicise your event in the 'What's On' column for March & April, ring 844823 or email d.taffs@btinternet.com by 29th January.

Parish Council Notes



11th October

Bus Shelters: The meeting discussed erecting bus shelters near to the Pinfold Lane/High St junction, another by Acacia Farm and a third opposite Jubilee Green. There are now four Police Officers allocated to the Parish.

A planning application was received for an industrial development on Orston Lane. This may involve a road being constructed direct to the A52 to take traffic away from the village.

8th November

There are now only three police officers in the parish.

More daffodils are to be planted at the entrances to the village.

The supplier has still not removed the faulty bark from the play areas.

The Council were in agreement with the Trusteeship of the Village Hall being held by the Charity Commission.

Wheelie bins for 2005

Following a Council decision by Melton Borough Council 'Wheelie bins' are to be introduced across the whole Borough.

Details of the size and the regularity of collection of wheelie bins is now under discussion at the Council and results are expected soon. For more information contact Raman Selvon on 01427 502502 or RSelvon@melton.gov.uk

Telling the Parish Council your concerns

If you wish to ask the Parish Council a question or want to tell them something you have two opportunities each month, the 'open session', which lasts for 15 minutes before every Parish council meeting, or a Saturday morning 'surgery'.

Parish Council meetings take place on the second Monday of the month, usually in the Fuller Rooms. The agenda is posted on the notice boards around the village if you wish to see what is being discussed and check the venue. Surgeries take place on the first Saturday of the month in the Fuller Rooms from 10.30 to 11.30am, with two councillors in attendance.

Minutes of all meetings are now available on line at www.melton.gov.uk and paper copies are filed in the library.

Parking enquiry considered

County Councillor Byron Rhodes has asked the Highways department at Leicestershire County Council to look into parking in Bottesford.

For more information contact Councillor Rhodes on 01949 860029 or by e-mail on brhodes@leics.gov.uk

Ramping up

The group working to develop a Skate Park in Bottesford is hoping that work on the 'base' can be started in late spring 2005. But what is a 'base' and where is it going?

Bottesford Parish Council is leasing the group an area of land near to the allotments and next spring it is hoped that work will commence on digging out and preparing solid foundations that will support a durable surface. This is an expensive process, but necessary to withstand the skateboarders unrelenting use. The group hopes to have the base and a number of ramps completed by summer 2005, and fundraising will continue throughout next year to provide additional equipment. Many thanks go to Mark and Sally Jones for their great effort in The Robin Hood Marathon, which raised over £300 for the project.

Ramblers' Association, Vale of Belvoir Group.

Join the Ramblers on January 2nd at 10.00am at Mackley's Bridge car park between Kinoulton and Owthorpe, for an easy 5.5 mile walk along the canal and across grassy fields. This walk is part of the Ramblers' Association Festival of Winter Walks and offers a 20% discount for any new members. So why not make it a New Year's Resolution to take up walking, get fit and make new friends.

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Sports News



Football club web site re launched

For updates on results, league tables, fixtures, club history look at the web site www.bottesfordfc.co.uk. The club would like to thank Gordon Beech for all his work.

Junior footballers needed

Players are needed for the under 8s to under 16s teams. If you are interested please contact Sean Austin on 844006. Sean can also provide details of the Saturday morning training sessions for boys and girls 5 – 12.

Under 12 footballers raise money for Children in Need

The players were sponsored in an 'invitation only' competition in November. They played very well and scored 4 goals in 4 minutes in one of the heats, eventually being beaten by the winners.

Under 9 footballers in the cup semi final

The team is now in the "A" division and has made a very positive start with every game being a tough one. The cup semi-final will be played in the New Year. Good luck from Village Voice!

Sunday league side 1980-81—a blast from the past!



Back Row: includes Stuart Barrett, Stephen Hare, Colin Moore, Kevin Keep, George Donger, Nigel Smith.

Front Row: includes Errol Marriott, Ian Smith, Mike Smith, John Howitt

A little exercise...and a Thank You...

....Are there any volunteers who would enjoy a walk around the village every other month? Village Voice is seeking extra helpers - of any age - to help with our door to door deliveries. If you can help deliver within your village, taking no more than an hour of your time, please contact our Distribution Manager Anne Ablewhite on 842259.

The Village Voice committee would like to say a big 'thank you' to those who distribute our newsletter every couple of months. We have over a dozen volunteers who turn out in all weathers to make sure that you get your copy.

Village Voice Contact information

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

Deadline for March Issue: Saturday 22nd January

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