

Village Voice

The newsletter of the villages of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton March 2006 Issue No. 22

Christmas & Chorlton



2nd from left Bill Christmas; 4th from left Sid Chorlton. Note motorcycle with belt drive. Castellated fence on the right still standing. Bill Christmas's son still lives in the bungalow behind the garage.

Health and Safety at Work – 1950's style.

We all know where Woodhouse and Carman's garage is in the village. How many can remember the garage that stood there before, which was named Christmas and Chorlton with Esso and National Benzole hand pumps standing on the edge of the foot-path. It was a bit like Arkwrights shop—Open All Hours.

When it was getting dusk and time to shut up shop Bill Christmas would come out, pipe in mouth and a box of matches in hand. He would then proceed to light his pipe and then light the remaining matches to enable him to read the gauges on the pumps to calculate how many gallons of petrol had been sold that day.

Bill lived to a ripe old age without blowing himself up or the rest of the village!



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Pictures of Bottesford

People and buildings, many no longer with us, were the stars of a recent meeting in the packed Fuller Rooms. If you hadn't got there early it was standing room only in January when Ted Rayson presented his illustrated talk 'My Pictures of Bottesford' to the Local History Society. His series of exhibitions last autumn had already whetted appetites, so everyone was very interested to see yet more pictures and hear the descriptions that accompanied them. Ted was born and grew up in the village and, when a teenager, he found and restored a Box Brownie camera. This was to be the start of a 50-year career/hobby recording life and the changes around him in the Vale of Belvoir. His photographs have been meticulously catalogued and will surely prove to be invaluable to researchers in the future.

Perhaps you yourself have photographs taken in or around Bottesford, a snapshot of a family member in the garden, the children playing, buildings? The Local History Society would like you to consider letting them make a copy for a new archive so please don't discard them without first offering them to the Bottesford Local History Society. Contact Tony Taffs on 844823.

BBC's Springwatch

This is a simple scheme to record the first spring sitings of frog spawn, peacock butterfly, red-tailed bumblebee, hawthorn blossom, 7-spot ladybird and the arrival of the swift, and to build up a nationwide record of the data. It is a useful way to get people making simple nature observations that will help monitor our climate and the health of the natural world around us.

If you intend to participate perhaps you could let the local Heritage Warden, Neil Fortey, know so he can compile local observations. For more information you can call Neil on 843320 and look at the BBC website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/wildbritain/springwatch>

A Taste of Spring

You can see some of the beautiful flowers of Spring at the Open Gardens Day on Sunday March 12th at the home of Mr and Mrs Palmer, The Home-stand, Main St., Normanton. Daffodils, hellebores, wood anemones and colourful winter shrubs should all be on display. The opening times are from 2pm - 6pm, and proceeds go to the National Gardens Scheme. Delicious homemade cakes, tea and coffee are available and they also have plants for sale. Dogs are welcome on leads. Admission £1.50, children free. The garden will be open again on 21st May, and on September 24th will be open for a third time when the beneficiary will be the Red Cross.

May Day Gala

Planning is now well underway for the village May Day Gala on Monday 1st May 2006 on the VC Hall field. Any local (non-commercial) organisation wanting to raise funds can have space on the field free of charge by calling Marilyn Robinson on 01949 844289. Remember over 1,500 people attend May Day Gala each year! There will also be stalls inside the VC Hall for hire at £10 each for the day.

Skatepark news

The Skatepark calendar, with its beautiful photos of our local area, raised an impressive £1,800 for the group – with copies being sent around the world as Christmas presents! If you want to snap up the last copies of this limited edition calendar, contact Kieran Forsey on 842844.

The group needs to raise another £17,500 to finish the Skatepark, so look out for further fundraising events over the next few months and try and support this group which has provided the young people of this village with an amenity to be proud of.

New weight limit for Bottesford moves forwards

The weight limit scheme for Bottesford is now approved for implementation, says Leicestershire County Council. Following comments made to Lincolnshire County Council, the proposed restrictions in the Long Bennington area were relaxed. The approved scheme prevents the use of all through roads in Bottesford and Normanton by vehicles exceeding 7.5 tonnes gross weight, except for access and loading. The scheme is expected to become operational on 20th March. The road signs are in place and ready to be 'unveiled' – it's looking good!

Happy 40th Birthday to Bottesford and District pre-school Playgroup.

The staff and parents of the playgroup are organising several events in this 40th year. They hope to have provided something for everyone. See 'What's On' 25th March & 1st April on page 6 for details. Playgroup would be delighted if any ex-committee or staff would like to attend these events, to share memories and anecdotes. For more information please telephone Playgroup on 844489.

New Light on the Witches

On Friday 10th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Drs Michael and Diana Honeybone, the Joint Presidents of the Bottesford Local History Society, who were resident in Bottesford but now live in Norwich, are making a return visit to tell us their latest discoveries about Bottesford and Belvoir Castle. Michael has written several books about the history of The Vale, and Diana has lectured on more recent events, using her large collection of local photographs and press cuttings.



The subject of their talk will be 'New Light on the Witches of Belvoir'. Michael has recently had access to the archives at the castle – a rare privilege - and promises some interesting revelations. Bottesford Local History Society extends an invitation to everyone this evening as we take a peep into our murky past. Admission will be free but donations will be welcome to offset the cost of hiring the hall. The Society always welcomes new members.

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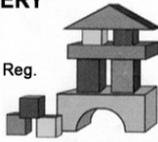
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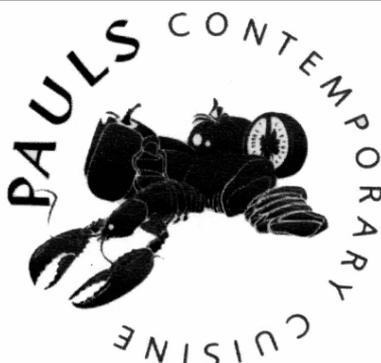
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TEAM CHALLENGE - SOPHIE CARTER



Sophie is in a Team Challenge expedition to Angel Falls, Venezuela, in 2007, and she and her participating school friends are responsible for raising funds to finance the expedition. Throughout this year Sophie is intending to hold a number of fund-raising events and has already begun her mammoth task of raising the **£3195**. Further activities are planned and readers are encouraged to look out for the local notices publicising future events to help Sophie realise this worthwhile venture and the opportunity to support this unique 'world challenge'.

Thirty Three year old BATS (Bottesford Amateur Theatrical Society)

BATS was formed in 1973 and was known as Belvoir Amateur Theatrical Society until 1989. Its first production, in April 1974, was two plays 'April Dawn' and 'Wife Required'. Tickets cost 25p and the cast comprised eight actors, with about the same number of people helping out backstage and front of house.

The chairman was Mr T Lawson and secretary Mrs J Phillips. In May 1984 Fred Stott took over the role of chairman and he has

been doing the job ever since. The longest serving actor is June Pedge who has been performing with the group for over 20 years. BATS has held at least one performance a year since 1974 and productions are usually comedies, pantomimes or music hall, although thrillers and ghost stories have appeared from time to time. A member of the group wrote the first panto and this ethos continues today with new creative writers in the group, including Mark Pugh, producing a number of pieces. The group has a long-standing tradition that whoever volunteers to direct the play gets to choose what is performed. BATS moved to Redmile in 1976 to the disused Methodist Chapel and performed in that venue until 1985. The photo above shows the cast performing 'Pools Paradise' in the chapel in November 1977. The Youth Theatre (BYT) was formed in 1985 by Julia Burton and BATS and BYT put on a number of joint productions.

BATS is very keen to welcome new members, especially actors, and meets socially on the first Sunday of the month at 8pm at the Bull Inn. Asked why people might like to consider joining Jayne Monie said, "BATS is a great group of people. It is hard work putting on a production but we all have great fun. It is a good way to get to know people in the village". For more information contact the secretary Claire Morton on 07967 135945 or email camorton@ukonline.co.uk. The group will launch a website shortly that will include archive material as well as current information about productions. It will be linked to the Bottesford Today website on www.bottesford.org.uk.

The group is very grateful to the late Susan Howitt for keeping meticulous records of previous performances, which now forms its archive.



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What's On in March...

Thurs 2 nd 2pm-4pm	Library 1-hour sessions – 'How to Publicise via the Internet' & 'Internet Taster Session'. Free, booking essential - 01949 842696
Sat 4 th 10.30 – 11.30am	Parish Council Surgery. Fuller Room
Fri 10 th 7.30pm	Local History Society. VC Hall. 'New Light on the Witches of Belvoir' – Michael & Diana Honeybone. All welcome, admission free!
Friday 10 th 10-10.30am	Wriggly Readers at Bottesford Library. Babes to young children; songs, rhymes, stories. 01949 842696
Sat 11 th 2-4pm	Gifts Hospice Table Top Sale For venue & to book a table call Helen Taylor 01400 281869
Sat 11 th	Litter Pick 10 am Fuller Rooms
Sunday 12 th 2 – 6pm	Open Garden Day. The Homestead, Normanton. £1.50 (Children free).
Mon 13 th 7.15pm	Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council meeting. Fuller Rooms. Residents may question the council and make comments.
Tues 14 th 2pm	U3A 'Barkstone Through The Ages' – Alan Reid. VC Hall
Saturday 18 th 7.30pm	St Mary's Church - A Gospel Song Concert – Proceeds Rainbows Hospice in Loughborough. Information & tickets Christine Saunders 842596
Tues 21 st 7.30pm	W.I. 'The Antiques Trade' – Speaker Sandie Fearn. VC Hall.
Saturday 25 th 8pm	Casino night. VC hall. Playgroup. Ticket only event, available from ring 844489
Sat 28 th 2pm-5pm	St Peter's Church, Redmile. An exhibition of 2D and 3D art. Six professional artists from Leicestershire participating. Entry free, refreshments available.
Sun 29 th 10am-4pm	
Mon 30 th 10am-4pm	
Sun 29 th 9.30am	Vale of Belvoir Ramblers. Belvoir Ridges – 15miles. Start Hose Church. Contact Janet 01949 850030

And in April...

Sat 1 st 10.30 – 11.30am	Parish Council Surgery. Fuller Room
Sat 1 st	Teddy bear's trail and Quiz. Tea and egg rolling. Playgroup. For information ring 844489.
Sunday 2 nd	Nottingham Triumph Owners Easter Egg Run. Red Lion pub. Leave at 11am. Arrive Meres Centre, Grantham 11.15am
Mon 10 th 7.15pm	Parish Council meeting. Old School, Muston. Residents are welcome as observers and for 15 minutes at the start may address the council with concerns or questions.
Tues 11 th 2pm	U3A "Norfolk Lavender" – Michael Hallam. VC Hall
Thurs 13 th 7.30pm	Local History Society. Fuller Rooms. "The History of Clocks" - Roy Chandler
Tues 18 th 7.30pm	W.I. "Making Flowers" – Sherald Wysall. VC Hall.
Fri/Sat 28 th 29 th	BATS Production - Look out for posters

Important: To publicise your event in the 'What's On' column for May & June, please ring 844823 or email d.taffs@btinternet.com by 28th March.

Letters

Community rallies to help

Following the letter in the last issue of Village Voice the Leaders of all Scouting and Guiding groups in the village wish to say a huge thank you for the tremendous support you have shown them in their hour of need. Parents, friends, villagers, past members, businesses, Parish Council and local groups alike have rallied round and given donations or pledged support. We are all very very grateful. We have enough funds to be able to commit to the project and pay for the first phase of our new heating system and, with the help of Melton Borough Council Rural Development Officer, by the time you read this we shall all be snug and warm. This has now put much needed and renewed enthusiasm into all the Scout and Guide Hut users and we are moving forward and looking into the other urgent work such as disabled-access toilets.

So watch this space as they say - a Grand Easter Draw is planned with some fabulous prizes.

Bottesford Scouting and Guiding Leaders

LIONS 'SPRING' INTO ACTION

The Vale of Belvoir Lions Club were, like many, made aware of the plight that had befallen the Scout hut in Albert Street. The Scout Hut reserve maintenance fund was used to settle court costs in a recent High Court appeal and therefore there were no funds available to replace the broken boiler, and a replacement heating system was estimated in excess of £3000.

Following a meeting of the Lions club members it was unanimously agreed that the proceeds of the Boxing Day Annual Duck Race should be rounded up to £1000 and donated towards the costs of the new heating system. Vale of Belvoir Lions Club President, Clive Yates stated, "It is a real pleasure to support this very worthwhile cause. I am very proud of this hands-on role in improving the Scout Hut facility, and its benefit to the local community. This effort to nurture our youngsters' quality of life encapsulates the true spirit of the Lions movement, and it has only been possible as a result of the magnificent support and kind generosity from the people in the area".

Finally, Santa and his sleigh collections also realised just under £2000 and all the proceeds will be donated to the Dove Cottage Hospice at Stathern.

Parish Council Notes

A new police recruit - Darrel Cunnington arrived at the meeting. The police in our area will now have 14 Parish Councils to cover. Police reported damage to cars in the High street and a couple of cars stolen. Also two attempted break-ins.

Muston playing field needs new equipment. Discussion of a couple of rights-of-way to be referred to a solicitor.

County Councillor Byron Rhodes said that there will have to be a lot more building in Bottesford to meet the allocation for housing in Melton Borough.

The Parish Council will donate £600 to a new heating system for the scout hut. Melton Borough Council will assist with the purchase of the boiler in order that the Scouts get a better deal. The council is still waiting for replies from the gas and electricity suppliers re. proposed bus shelter sites.

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Sports News



Nineteen Level One football coaches.



Bottesford FC continue in their quest to build a bigger, better more professional club & have recently encouraged as many people as possible to gain a Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Football (L1CCF).

The L1CCF is one of a number of coaching qualifications exclusively awarded and administered by 1st4 sport qualifications and has been developed in partnership with the

Football Association (see www.1st4sport.com). Designed to develop a basic understanding of safe, ethical and effective football coaching for young people the L1CCF qualifies individuals to work with grass root teams of young people aged 7 to 16 years.

Over the weekend 14th/15th January and during evening classroom work the following week, a final assessment was undertaken on 21st January at the Belvoir High School football pitches by a representative of the Leicestershire FA. Nineteen individuals achieved success, having qualified with a L1CCF, and can now demonstrate an understanding of related aspects of coaching children's football.

In addition they have all demonstrated an ability to safely organise and supervise football activities, including an ability to identify and adapt football activities and sessions for a variety of age groups.

The course, whilst mentally stimulating, was also physically intense and at the end of some very long days of strenuous and constant exercise through practising training regimes it would be fair to say most slept well!!

BOTTESFORD CRICKET CLUB

Bottesford Cricket Club is a successful club with excellent coaching facilities. They play cricket in several different leagues, including Saturday 1st XI South Notts Division 1A (Champions of Division 1B in 2005) Saturday 2nd XI South Notts Division 1G,



Sunday 1st XI Newark Alliance Division 2, Sunday 2nd XI Grantham & Melton Cricket Association Division 1, Thursday Night XI Belvoir League Division 2. In addition the club

has Colts u13 and u15 teams with a Kwik Cricket u11 team all playing in local leagues.

The success of the club continues and it is now one of the strongest cricket clubs in the area, keen to encourage new players in all age groups. Since January this year practice nets have been held at the Grantham Cricket Centre, Dysart Way, Grantham from 7 - 8pm and will continue until mid April.

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Editorial:

Dilys Shepherd on 843505 or
 Susan Meech on 843402

Advertising:

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