



Village Voice

The newsletter of the villages of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton September 2006 Issue No. 25

Village Voice Annual Awards

Good writing and reading skills are vital to the production and enjoyment of this newsletter. So, the Village Voice committee decided some time ago to seek out ways of recognising the excellent efforts made by children in the village schools in the field of literacy, speaking and listening.

We introduced an award last year at Bottesford Primary School and are pleased to announce a new award for Belvoir High School. The committee would like to thank both schools for allowing us to donate the awards, our judges for their hard work and, especially, the children for their efforts.

The Village Voice Primary School Literacy Prize

The Village Voice Literacy Prize this year was awarded to Abi Watkins, with Emma Woolhouse as runner-up. All the year 5 children at the Primary School wrote a report of their residential visit to Norfolk and these reports were judged by members of the Village Voice team. We looked at presentation, spelling and handwriting, and the 'wow factor' or originality. It is always very difficult to choose the winners, as each has something to offer. It is evident from their reports that they had a fantastic time, the 'aerial runway' being a highlight.



Emma Woolhouse and Abi Watkins



Joe Hallam receiving his award from Shelly Wilson

The Village Voice Belvoir High School Award for Speaking and Listening

Joe Hallam was the winner of the first Village Voice award at Belvoir. At the presentation it was said that "Joe is a confident, versatile speaker with a ready sense of humour. All through his years at Belvoir High Joe has unfailingly contributed enthusiastically to a very wide range of speaking and listening activities. His talent recently led to a demanding lead role in the recent drama production."

Bottesford Living History Project logo competition winner

Joe Sewell, a year 8 pupil at Belvoir High School recently won the design-a-logo competition organized by Richard Tyler, a teacher at the school. Joe's design can be seen here. See the leaflet enclosed for more information on the Living History Project.



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U3A News

(University of the 3rd Age
- no A levels needed)

In July, the U3A members enjoyed a coach trip – thanks to Joan Peach, U3A outings organiser – to Elton Walled Garden and Plant Centre. Coffee, lunch and a cream tea were arranged in advance, as was the tour of the house. Though a smallish stately home, it has a very obvious homely feeling. The weather was very hot, but the coach was cool and with many of the U3A clutching plants of varying sizes, it looked like a small version of the exit from the Chelsea Flower Show!



A highlight of the U3A year is the Annual Garden Party, this year hosted by Trevor Coy. The apple trees gave us shade from the heat, as did the marquee hired from the Primary School. The refreshments, brought by the members were excellent. Members enjoyed a very relaxing, pleasant afternoon.

A roaring success

Readers of VV will have seen a recent 'recruitment campaign' by the Vale of Belvoir Lions Club. The club's small membership, whilst ever active and willing, had found it increasingly difficult to meet all the requests to hold charitable fund raising events and support the local community.

As a result of their campaign and therefore an increased awareness of their role four new potential members came forward, attended meetings and various fund raising events. Clearly they liked what they saw and have committed themselves to the Lions organisation and all that Lions stand for. The four are looking forward to being inducted into the club during one of the regular meetings held at the Vale of Belvoir Inn. The ceremony will ensure a brighter future for the club and, above all, the community in which it is proud 'to serve'.

For further information on the VOB Lions Club, contact Lion President Phil Salathiel on 843034, visit their website at www.voblions.org.uk, or drop in at one of their meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm at the Vale of Belvoir Inn.

A work of Art

Five members of the Bottesford and District WI have been involved in the making of a beautiful wall-hanging. This was presented to Marilyn Robinson, Chair of the VC Hall Committee, on 20th June by Angela Kapellar and is now in place in the Hall for all to enjoy.



L to R: Peggy Topps, Joyce Smith, Pat Rollings, Margaret Taylor, Angela Kapellar

Happy Birthday Brownies!

Sunday 24th June saw a wonderful turn out of Bottesford Brownies – both past and present - to celebrate 60 years of Brownies in our village, at a picnic in the private grounds of Belvoir Castle.

The Duke and Duchess of Rutland were pleased to host this informal event on a gloriously sunny day. Adelle Glossop welcomed all the Brownies and everyone sang Happy Birthday when Maureen Hill, one of the first Bottesford Brownies, cut the special birthday cake. Well done to all concerned for giving our youngsters 60 years of fun and involvement in our village life.



Fun in the Sun! raised £388 for Bottesford Playgroup in its 40th year. Bottesford and District Pre-School Playgroup held an action-packed fun day in their garden in June to raise funds for a new kitchen and boiler. In glorious sunshine, children enjoyed the bouncy castle, tried their luck at hook-a-fish and clambered over an obstacle course.

Playgroup celebrates its 40th anniversary this year and, as part of the celebrations, children at the fun day were invited to decorate (and eat!) a birthday cake and sing "Happy Birthday". Staff, past and present, were on hand to sing along and join in the fun and indeed it is a testament to the commitment and experience of these staff, along with the support of parents and the management committee, that the Playgroup is celebrating these 40 years of success.

St. Mary's Church Summer Fayre raises £890

A Summer Fayre and Plant Sale in aid of church funds was held in the grounds of Underacre in Easthorpe, the home of Mrs Pim Mabbett. She had made hanging baskets and there were plants and herbs of many varieties for people to buy.

Local History Society Annual Outing

The Bottesford Local History Society annual outing was to Warwick Castle. Marjorie and Freddie Critchell have organised the summer outings for very many years but, reluctantly, now feel it is time for someone else to take on the responsibility. They have taken us to many memorable places, always with an historic theme. This year's was also very successful, and it only took one and a half hours to get there.

The full new programmes for the U3A and the Local History Society, as well as those of other organisations, can be found in the 'What's On' in the Village Voice.

Shh!

Are you between 5 and 11 years of age? If so, visit the VC Hall on 29th September and hear the amazing tales of "Librarian Lil". Lil has worked in the library for 45 years and is old, tired and bored with life. But through books she is transported to other worlds. She sails the seas, performs great feats of daring and wins the hearts of princes and audiences alike. The show - from Rhubarb Theatre - is full of humour and poignancy told through puppetry and dance, and includes live music and song. See 'What's On' for more information.

Day and Evening Classes for Adults in Bottesford start in September. Enrolment day is on 6th September from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm and from 6.30 to 8.30 pm. For more information ring 844199, or call in at the Community Centre, in the grounds of Belvoir High School, Barketstone Lane between 10 am – 12 noon Monday to Thursday.

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Bottesford to Naples, over the Alps, in a £100 car

In September Howard Matthews of Bottesford will be one of more than 100 teams taking part in the infamous Staples2Naples banger rally driving to Naples in just 4 days in a car purchased for less than £100.

Raised in Bottesford, Howard lived for some years in Zimbabwe and, together with his co-driver David Curas Thompson from Harare, he undertook various fund raising activities with Round Table. They are raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support and all donations, sponsorship by the mile or purchasing of advertising space on the car are welcomed. For more information: www.zimbos.org.uk



Their 27 year old VW Scirocco is so old that the plan was to take it to Naples and then scrap it. But the VW Scirocco enthusiasts club mounted a campaign to save the car and bring it back, for a suitable donation to Macmillan, adding an extra dimension to the fundraising. Top Gear are already filming related footage. For further information or to secure top spot on the car for your logo to be seen on TV and local international press, contact Howard Matthews 843743 Mob: 07961 070540 or howard.matthews@btinternet.com

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May Day "We need you!"

That's the message from Marilyn Robinson, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, who have been responsible for the organisation of the May Day Gala for over 20 years. Traditional events such as Maypole Dancing and the crowning of the May Queen are held alongside more up to date activities such as the BBQ and the Fun Run – with excellent opportunities for local charities to raise funds.

But if our community is to enjoy this great event next year – they need you, and your views:

- Should there be a separate organising committee?
 - Would you (or your group) be willing to be part of this committee?
 - Would you be willing to attend a meeting to discuss the future of the Gala?
 - Do you have any new ideas for the event that you are willing to organise?
- Please let Marilyn have your views by calling 844289

Patronal Fest

On the weekend of 9th & 10th September, to coincide with the Patronal Festival, members of the congregation of St Mary's are depicting the Church's year and the organisations which are part of the Church, with flower arrangements

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Peter Topps



If you want to know anything about Bottesford and the changes that have happened over the last half century, Peter Topps is probably the man to ask. Bottesford born and bred, Peter attended the village school during the war, when the Headmaster was Mr Stimpson. He remembers three 'temporary' wooden classrooms so cold in winter that the ink froze in the inkwells! And the school gardens that the pupils tended, situated where Bowbridge Gardens is now. For fifteen years, whilst the old school stood empty, it was his weekly job to wind up the clock, now run by electricity. Peter completed two years National Service, mostly in Libya, then spent his working life in engineering. He is married to Peggy and they have a son, two daughters and six grandchildren. The village has undergone much change in his life time, increased in size, and houses, shops and businesses have come and gone. Once Peter's house was the last but one in Bowbridge Lane, the next being at Orston level crossing. The Lane was single track and overhung with trees. He caught rabbits in the fields opposite (now all housing). He remembers Harold MacMillan standing on a hay cart canvassing for the general election and in the 1960s Gordon Banks (England goal keeper) opening a show house on the new development.

There being no such thing as retirement Peter, as a member of St. Mary's Church, is a Parochial Church Councillor and member of the Deanery Synod. He is a trustee of the Earl of Rutland and Dr. Flemming's Hospital Trust and, with Peggy as secretary, is Chairman of the Local History Society.



Muston Meadows



L to R: Andy Brown, Simon Cooter, Geoff Donger, Angela Store

Local farmer Geoff Donger was a rather reluctant star of the show as Muston Meadows National Nature Reserve was officially extended on 28th July. It's not that Geoff didn't welcome the opportunity to launch the extension of one of England's traditional hay meadows on land he farms it's just that he really needed to be somewhere else... harvesting. The extension, which quadruples the size of one of the best lowland hay meadows in England, was marked by a ceremony led by Andy Brown, chief executive of English Nature, who presented a formal agreement under which Geoff will manage the site. There was a green hay-making demonstration, watched by an invited audience including Roger Turnbull, representing Bottesford Parish Council, a walk through the site and a stop for refreshments at the Muston Gap.

It will take a few years before the new parts of the reserve hosts all 130 species of flowering plants and 30 grasses identified in the existing reserve; the best time to visit to see the nationally important collection of green winged orchids in flower is around the second week in May. Simon Cooter, Site Manager for English Nature, would like to see more use made of the Reserve and would welcome approaches from members of the local community wishing to be involved. Contact Simon on 01205 723614 or simon.cooter@english-nature.org.uk. Visit www.english-nature.org.uk/ and look for special sites/ national nature reserves.

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What's On in September...

Sat 2 nd 10.30-11.30am	Parish Council Surgery. Fuller Rooms.
Sat 2 nd 8pm	Ceilidh, VC Hall Bottesford Playgroup Bar Tickets £10
Fri 8 th 7.30pm	Flower Festival - Cheese and Wine - St Mary's Church. Tickets £5 on the door or contact 842859
Sat 9 th 10am – 5pm and Sun 12.30 - 6pm	Art and Flower Festival St Mary's Church, Guided tours, Organ Recitals & Refreshments – see posters
Up to Sat 9 th Sept	Library – The Reading Mission. A free activity scheme for children of school age or about to start.
Sat 9 th 2.30pm	Bottesford & District Gardens Association. VC Hall. 29 th Annual Horticultural Open Show. Heather Clint, Secretary, 843480
Sun 10 th 10.30am	St Mary's Church Patronal Art and Flower Festival – Preacher Archdeacon – Venerable Richard Atkinson. Refreshments available.
Mon 11 th 7.15pm	Parish Council meeting. Old School, Muston. Residents may question the council and make comments prior to meeting.
Tues 12 th 2pm	U3A, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Kevin Crook, VC Hall
Weds 13 th 7.30pm every week to April	Autumn Whist Drive, Bottesford Bowls Club £1.50 incl refreshments, all welcome. Ray Smart, 07765810196.
Weds 13 th	Vale of Belvoir Ladies Club. Contact Nicki 842475
Thurs 14 th 7.30pm	AGM Local History Society. Fuller Rooms. Heritage Project – speaker Neil Fortey.
Fri 15 th 7pm	Quiz Night – Vale of Belvoir Lions. VC Hall.
Sun 17 th 10am	VoB Ramblers – Harby – 9m – Steve 07850 982357
Sun 17 th 2.30pm	East Midlands Orchid Society AGM. VC Hall. 30 th Anniversary, Plant Auction. Refreshments. - 842668
Tues 19 th 7.30pm	W.I. "Local Justice" Speaker Jennifer James. VC Hall.
Wed 20 th 10am	VoB Ramblers, Granby 6m Details - Janet 850030
Fri 22 nd 7.30pm	Community Heritage Project. Public Meeting – everyone welcome. VC Hall
Sat 23 rd 1.30pm	Auction, Dove Cottage Day Hospice. (Viewing 12 Noon) Refreshments available. 860303
Sun 24 th 2 – 5pm	Open Garden. The Homestead, Normanton. £1.50 (children free) Refreshments, plants for sale. In aid of Red Cross
Fri 29 th 7.15pm	"Shhh!" - Rhubarb Theatre Company, VC Hall.
Sat 30 th 7pm	Harvest Supper (Carvery). Bottesford Bowls Club. Tickets £6 (£5 conc), Frances or Jackie 843427.

And in October...

Tues 3 rd 1 - 3pm	Dove Cottage Day Hospice Clothing Sale, branded items, all sizes £2 inc refreshments 860303
Sat 7 th 10.30-11.30am	Parish Council Surgery. Fuller Room
Mon 9 th 7.15pm	Parish Council meeting. Fuller Rooms. Residents welcome and for first 15 minutes may address the council with concerns or questions.
Tues 10 th 2pm	U3A, My Farical Career as a Passenger Liaison Officer – Colin Bower - VC Hall
Thurs 12 th 7.30pm	Local History Society. Fuller Rooms. "So You Think You Know Nottingham – II" Peter Hammond
Sun 15 th 2.30pm	East Midlands Orchid Society, VC Hall. Speaker Peter White. Contact Mike Armstrong, 842668
Tues 17 th 7.30pm	W.I. "Christmas Traditions & Legends" Margaret Harrison. VC Hall.
Weds 25 th 10am	VoB Ramblers – Bingham – 7m – Lynn 875822
Sun 29 th 1pm	Autumn Fayre, Village Hall

Letters



Peace and quiet

For quite a long time now the residents of Bowbridge Lane have been subjected to speeding traffic past their homes. Various complaints have been given to the relevant authorities and 30 mile an hour speed restriction signs have been erected, but to no avail.

Then on Wednesday 21st June everything changed. From early morning we enjoyed our breakfast with NO traffic noise, only the slight hum as vehicles cr uised passed very sedately. This went on for the whole day and we were delighted.

Please could the police park their vehicle (unattended) on the grass at the end of Bowbridge Lane again?

A resident of Bowbridge Lane

The Skatepark Fence

The Bottesford Skatepark committee would like to express our gratitude to the Duchess of Rutland for the donation of timber from Belvoir Saw Mills. We would also like to thank Norman Wilkinson and Peter Sheardown (neither of whom have any family members using the facility), without whose help and expertise the building of the fence would have been an impossible task.

Parish Council Notes



12th June 2006

The new village envelope should be announced in October

10th July 2006

Roger Tur nbull has been elected chairman of the Parish Council. Ian Kitchener is vice chairman.

The allotments have been judged. Details of the winners to be announced in August.

The Saturday surgery will continue in order that members of the public can speak to Councillors – see details in 'What's On'.

The Council has funds to employ someone for two hours a week to pick litter.

Bus shelters – two locations have been selected and licences have been requested in order to erect them

New Village Councillor Co-opted

David Slater was recently co-opted as a Parish Councillor. David is a familiar figure to Village Voice being a founder member of VV and still delivers some copies as well as setting the adverts. David and his wife Joyce have lived in the village over 25 years and have 2 grown up daughters Katy & Laura. David was instrumental in bringing broadband to Bottesford reflecting his job as HND Course Leader in computing at Grantham College.

"As a councillor I want to ensure that the much enlarged Bottesford maintains its friendly Village atmosphere where people still say hello to each other in the street. I am keen to bring all age groups together so we work as a community."

Does any village group want to make funds by delivering leaflets?

The Village Voice committee is very grateful to all the volunteers who deliver the newsletter to your homes, every two months.

We are often asked by companies to deliver leaflets about their products and in the past we have said 'yes'. However, we have recently decided that this is not fair on our volunteers and we will ask them to only deliver items from local groups or charities. So, if any village group would like to make some extra funds, please let us know and we can pass on your details to enquirers.

To publicise your event in the 'What's On' column for November & December, please ring 844823 or email d.taffs@btinternet.com by 30thSep.

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Sports News



Our Table Tennis Star

Another budding talent to emerge from Bottesford – this time to the world of Table Tennis. Charlotte Airey (now 14) was selected to play for the England B U14 team in the Schools International Table Tennis Championships. Charlotte was beaten in the individual quarter finals by another England team player but achieved a Bronze medal in the team event. Charlotte made the England team after success in the English Schools' Championships where, as an unseeded player in the under 16 event, she acquitted herself admirably.

A dedicated player and a member of the High Performance Centre at Holme Pierpont, she plays for Nottinghamshire at U15 and U18 age groups and represents East Midlands regional teams. She began at the age of nine and practices up to 10 hours a week. Charlotte has aspirations to achieve further success with hopes to represent England at full international level. Who knows, with the 2012 Olympics in London and more practice at the Bull Inn (with practice facilities in the function room), coached by her mum, Suzanne, anything might happen!

Skatepark Jam 2006

Saturday 8th July saw the annual Bottesford Skatepark Jam. It began with a series of competitions for BMX riders, skateboarders and roller bladers, which were hugely successful with a record number of entrants. Competitors put on an entertaining show for the many spectators. Winners included Bottesford riders Harry Geach on blades and Tom Cossins on BMX. Live music from local bands - including Bottesford based As-tropirates - entertained the crowd and a beer tent and bar-becue helped sustain people. The day was a huge success,



with no serious injuries, much to the relief of the St John's Ambulance crew who were on hand just in case. The day raised over £1,200 towards the insurance and maintenance of the park, with any surplus funds going towards improving the facilities on site. The Skatepark group said "We would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets and who turned out on the day to ride and show their support for the skate park. Our warmest thanks to all who volunteered their time and equipment, with special thanks to the Lions and to Ian Smith for his invaluable help".

Village Voice Contact information

Editorial:
Dilys Shepherd on 843505 or
Susan Meech on 843402

Advertising:
Anne Ablewhite on 842259

Deadline for November Issue: Tuesday
21st September

E mail: villagevoice@bottesford.org.uk
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