



Village Voice

The newsletter of the villages of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton November 2006 Issue No. 26

High standards despite the weather



The prizes at the 29th Annual Horticultural Open were presented by Mrs Pru Chandler. She remarked on the very high standard achieved by all the competitors despite the very strange vagaries of the weather in the preceding months – the hottest July followed by the wettest August.

The hard work of all exhibitors, growers and makers was in evidence. Those attending could not fail to be impressed by the variety of exhibits – all competing for prestigious prizes and a great deal of self-satisfaction. The enthusiasm and sound organisational skills and of the Bottesford & District Gardens Association committee members resulted in another very successful event.

Overall entries were high, but it was a little disappointing that there were so few entries in the children's classes – let's hope

numbers are up next year. The gauntlet is down to the men to support the 'Homecraft' class!

Amongst many awards and trophies the winner of this year's Everard cup, presented to an individual gaining the most points in the flower, fruit and vegetable classes, was Mr P Hallam. The Bull Novices Shield was awarded to Mr J Burrows. The heaviest pumpkin results: 1st - 8 stone 9lb P Hallam; 2nd - 8 stone 8lb J Francis; 3rd - 7 stone 7lb M Miller.

A note for your diary is that the AGM will be held at the VC Hall on 5th December at 7.30 pm. For more details contact the Association Secretary on 843480

Allotment competition winners

Bottesford Parish Council recently announced the winners of the 2006 allotment competition.

Large allotment : 1st R Pacey; 2nd R Parker; 3rd W Burrows, P Kevan, R Money, G Pedge, and G Sentance; 4th R Money.

Small allotment: 1st R Pritchett; 2nd G Pearson; 3rd G Moxham; 4th J Sirrell.

Anyone interested in renting an allotment should contact the Parish Clerk on 843611.



Codey Grover, Sean Grover, Matthew Mills and Adam Grover

Fireworks in the paddock



The Vale of Belvoir Lions are holding their traditional Bonfire Night on Sunday 5th November. Thanks go to Mr Bill Roberts of Devon Lane for allowing the Lions the use of his paddock for this annual fund raising event. The wonderful fireworks, bonfire and snacks have been a feature of our village calendar for 25 years and have raised in excess

of £25,000 for local charitable causes. Don't forget to go along, join in the fun and make a contribution to this good cause!



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Shhh – its Rhubarb!

The Rhubarb Theatre has recently visited Bottesford to give a performance of "Shhh!" A Story about Stories. Set in a library where, when a borrower opened a book, out jumped the characters – including a dinosaur, a robber, some musicians, and Odysseus being shipwrecked on his way home. The scenery was changed to suit the characters. All of this with only three actors and a stage hand. It was thoroughly enjoyed by young and old alike. Marilyn Robinson, of the village hall committee, who organized the visit said "We are hoping to attract more live theatre to the village, especially for the children".

Earlier in the day a member of the cast visited the Primary School to give a workshop for the Beech Class children. They had a great time practising literacy skills, with lots of audience participation to help Odysseus solve his problems and find his way home.

Rhubarb Theatre hope to return next year, so make sure you are there, you won't be disappointed.

International bowling comes to Bottesford

This year Bottesford Bowls Club summer competition took on an international flavour. Players of all levels of skill took part, with the emphasis on new, less experienced players having the opportunity to enjoy both the sport and the friendship of the Club. At the start of the season sixteen groups of three formed 'international' teams – including China, Scotland and, more unusually, Pirates.

The final night saw prizes awarded for skill and for Fancy Dress.



Shiver m' woods!

The Pirates plundered this prize. Well done to Myke and Sandie Betts and Alan Boulty. For skill on the green The Aussies, Eddie Halloran, Steve McCall and Tony Nickson were victorious. Individual winners were Eunice Greasley and Audrey Paine.

Overall winners for the season were The French, Noel Carolan, Ruth Murphy and Des Musson.

Tres Bien!

A new bus service...

Grantham Centrebus has a new timetable for the No. 6 bus from Bottesford to Grantham. This timetable offers an (almost) hourly service both ways, with an additional run to Bingham at the beginning and end of the day, but no Sunday buses. The new timetable is on the notice board by Jenny's Gym in the High Street. Copies are available from Centrebus 01476 563118 or email centrebusltd@btconnect.com.

... but would a lift help?

Despite the new buses do you still have difficulty getting your shopping, visiting the hospital or a friend? Have you thought of using the voluntary transport scheme? Call Angie Butcher on 01664 485903 or e-mail angie@voluntaryactionmelton.org.uk

Save Your Gala Day

Come to the open meeting on Thursday, 2nd November at 8pm in the meeting room at the Village Hall. Roger Turnbull, our Parish Council Chairman, has agreed to act as an independent chair for the meeting, which is open to anyone who is interested in preserving May Day activity in the village and who is willing to help.



Living History is launched

Bottesford has launched its local history initiative – and the start of this fascinating two-year project is now underway! At the launch meeting in September the Project Manager, Village Heritage Warden Neil Fortey, spoke of the wealth of material that is available locally - photos, memories and written records – and which the project aims to collect and put together in formats that will be accessible to all and preserved for future generations.

Current plans include village leaflets, guided walks around our Parish, and a drama involving local school children which will see them experiencing being in class in the 1950s – possibly with some originals from that generation joining them in the classroom! Funding from various sources will allow the project to obtain digital recording equipment and scanners to copy photographs to allow them to capture all the useful information they collect.

What can you do? If you would like to get involved in any way, helping with collating and copying photos, interviewing relatives or friends, hosting guided walks and sharing ideas then please contact Neil on 843320 or e-mail him on livinghistory@bottesford.org.uk and have a chat about how you'd like to be involved in this fascinating project.

Local business advice

The Welland Enterprise Agency offers business advice, workshops and networking events to enable you to start and develop your own business. They can also provide information on grants available.

For further information call 0845 050 1050 or e-mail biz@wellent.co.uk

Book groups win regional award

Members of the two Bottesford book groups have been selected to take part in a regional 'readers to writer's scheme', and are very lucky to be one of only six groups in the East Midlands to be taking part. Book group member Sue Middleton said, "It is a great opportunity for us to work with a professional writer". Members will meet the author on four occasions in order that they can explore and understand the writing process and the author understand the reader.

Kerry Featherstone, the literary officer from Leicestershire County Council, said "The author is very excited about coming to Bottesford and working with the book group".

The author selected for this project is Sally Spedding whose crime/crime-mystery novels often draw on her Welsh/European background and also on the particular qualities of the places which have inspired them. They include *Wringland*, a crime mystery set on the fens; *Cloven*, a crime mystery set in 18th Century Cardiganshire and present day south Northamptonshire; and *A Night with No Stars*, a crime novel set in London and Rhayader.

Christmas Entertainment

Get into the Christmas spirit by going along to 'A Christmas Entertainment Evening' hosted by The Cavendish Singers and conducted by Malcolm Goldring, at St. Andrew's Church, Langar on Saturday 2nd December at 7.30pm.

The admission charge of £6.50 includes mulled wine & mince pies and is in aid of the Dove Cottage hospice.

Dove Cottage is our local hospice. It was established in 1996 near Stathern and is an independent voluntary organisation which offers specialist day care and many other services to maintain and enhance the quality of life for people who are living with a life-threatening illness. All their services are provided free of charge so they rely on support from local companies, groups and individuals. Why not go along, have a wonderful evening and support this worthy cause. Order your advance tickets by calling 01949 860655 or 01949 860303.

For more information on the work of Dove Cottage go to www.dovecottage.org



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ECO Project at the Primary School

The ECO Club, organized by teacher Natalie Willcock, advised by Paul Willcock and including children, parents, and grandparents, has been giving the school gardens an Autumn tidy-up. Flowering plants, courtesy of a local Nursery, have been set, and a woodland path laid using donated chipped bark.

The maze received attention as well.

In the future, they hope to build a pergola and plant a wisteria to give summer shade. They plan to make a bog garden, a vegetable plot, set sensory plants, and create a mini-beast city. Donations of plants or wild flower seeds would be very welcome and if you have any unwanted garden GNOMES who need a new home, that would be welcome too.

A lot of hard work will be needed, but the school will then have a wonderful resource both for learning and pleasure for the whole school to enjoy.



Village Guide - Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton

The Village Voice team will soon be working on the 2007/8 Village Guide. If your group would like to be included in this then please e-mail villagevoice@bottesford.org.uk or take your details to 12, The Paddocks, Bottesford

Our advertisers

We are pleased to hear from some of our new advertisers that since advertising with us they have had quite a lot of new work. Village Voice relies on the support of these businesses to fund printing costs and we recently thanked them by inviting them to a buffet at the Red Lion.

Double VEEs win the Lions quiz trophy

The Village Voice team won the trophy by a narrow margin at the village hall on Friday 15th September. The team comprised Anne Ablewhite, Diana & Tony Taffs and Susan & Sally Meech. Susan said, 'we did better in the first half but we were not so hot on flags and anthems'.

Thanks to the Lions for organising a great evening out and a lovely meal.

Spare time?

Have you just retired, are you semi retired or between jobs? Voluntary work can be very rewarding – why not give it a try? For more information call Lynn Jones on 01664 485300 or e-mail lynn@voluntaryactionmelton.org.uk

Your council needs you

The Parish Council needs someone to help with litter picking and can pay for two hours work each week. It is not a hard job and comes with all the equipment needed. Anyone interested should contact Clerk to the Parish Council, Barbara Taylor on 843611.

Muston Fun Day



Saturday 19th August saw residents of Muston enjoying themselves with lots of activities including a Fun Run, 5-a-side football, a barbecue and a disco - and not forgetting the traditional Tug of War over the Devon! An impressive £340 was raised for the Church renovation fund. Thanks to the Parish Council for their support and well done to the many people involved who worked hard to make the day a community success.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

...The Dinner Ladies of Bottesford Primary School



Meet the Dinner Ladies, Helen Miller, Sue Rawlings, Sally Paton and Katrina Beacroft. All together they have given around 27 years service producing 100s of lunches for the children of Bottesford, Redmile, Stathern and Croxton schools!. They have seen many changes over the years, and not always for the better. Menus and finances being controlled by different organisations and not by the head cook as once they were. Changes

that were not always in the best interests of the children. But now they hope that things are looking up and the children's health is again paramount. Their skills are being used to prepare meals from fresh ingredients. New government initiatives have meant some retraining (they have all gained NVQ Level 1) and extra work but with no extra time, which has not yet really been adequately rewarded, but with more job satisfaction. Helen said "we enjoy being with the children, they make us laugh".

There has been a gradual increase in the uptake of cooked meals and the Ladies would welcome any parents or grandparents to come and sample the new menus for themselves. To book your lunch phone 01949 842224.

Jamie's ducks

It has been suggested that the ducks in the village are becoming overweight because we are feeding them the wrong type of food.

Most of us at sometime have enjoyed feeding the ducks by the river, children, parents and grandchildren alike. Perhaps we have walked with visitors by the river to show them one of Bottesford's attractions. However, it has been suggested that feeding them too much bread, or leaving them some for later, is not good for them as it stops them looking for their natural food – and leftovers go rotten.



Happy Birthday!

We have been asked if we could maintain a diary of people who have been living in the village for a number of years, or who have reached a ripe old age and may have a special anniversary or birthday coming up.

If you send these to Anne Ablewhite at 12, The Paddocks, she will keep these details on file and (try to) make a mention in the Village Voice nearest to the date.

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What's On in November..

Thurs 2 nd 8pm	May Day Gala Public Meeting – Please come – VC Hall
Sat 4 th 10am – noon	Coffee Morning & Sale of Tearcraft Goods, Baptist Church
Sat 4 th 10.30 – 11.30am	Parish Council Surgery. Fuller Room
Tues 7 th 10.30am - 12	Pram Club – Parents & pre-school children. St Mary's Church and on 2 nd and 4 th Tuesdays each month
Thurs 9 th 10.30am – 12.30pm	Coffee Shop St Mary's Church. Second and fourth Thursdays each month.
Thurs 9 th 7.30pm	Local History Society. Fuller Rooms. "Ypres 1914-1918 - The Meaning of Remembrance" – Mr Newton
Sat 11 th 7.30	Quiz Night - Scout Hut - bring your team! - Tony - 844136
Sun 12 th 10.30am	St Mary's Church, Remembrance Day Service
Mon 13 th 7.15pm	Parish Council meeting. Fuller Rooms. Residents may question the council and make comments prior to the Parish Council meeting.
Tues 14 th 2pm	U3A "Bell, Book and Candle" – Jill Collinge. VC Hall
Sat 18 th 2 – 5.30pm	Christmas Fayre - St Mary's Church.
Sat 18 th 7.30pm	Conservative Association. Barn Dance, VC Hall. Tickets & details – Martyn Stubbs - 842750
Tues 21 st 7.30pm	W.I. "Managing a Farm for Wildlife" – Julia Hawley. VC Hall.

And in December..

Sat 2 nd & Sun 3 rd 10am - 4pm	Vale of Belvoir Art Society Art Exhibition - Fuller Room
Sat 2 nd 7.30pm	Dove Cottage Christmas Entertainment Evening – Cavendish Singers cond. Malcolm Goldring. St. Andrews, Langer, £6.50 (incl mulled wine and mince pies)
Sun 3 rd 10.30 am - 6pm.	St Mary's Church, Toy Service and Christingle
Mon 4 th 9.30am (Red Lion)	U3A Outing to Thursford. (Spare Seats - contact 842035)
Tues 5 th 7.30pm	Bottesford and District Gardens Association AGM VC Hall
Mon 11 th 7.15pm	Parish Council meeting. Fuller Rooms. Residents are welcome as observers and for 15 minutes at the start may address the council with concerns or questions.
Tues 12 th 2pm	U3A Christmas Party, with "Sweet Melody".- VC Hall
Thurs 14 th 7.30pm	Local History Society. Fuller Rooms. "Christmas Party"
Fri 15 th 7.30pm - Sun 17 th	Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church
Sun 17 th 10.30am 11am 6pm	Carols and Readings - Methodist Church Nativity Service - Baptist Church Carols by Candlelight - Baptist Church
Tues 19 th 7.30pm	W.I. -Christmas Party -with "Sweet Melody" - VC Hall .
Sun 24 th 11am 6pm 8pm 11.30pm 11.30pm	Christmas Eve Morning Worship - Baptist Church. Carols and Father Christmas - St Mary's Church. Christmas Eve Communion - Baptist Church. Carols by Candlelight - Methodist Church. Midnight Mass - St Mary's Church.
Mon 25 th 10am 10am 10.30am	Christmas Day Service - Methodist Church, Orston. Christmas Celebration – Baptist Church. Family Service - St Mary's Church.
Tues 26 th 11am	Annual Duck Race - Devon Bridge, Grantham Road

Important: To publicise your event in the 'What's On' column for Jan & Feb, please ring 844823 or email d.taffs@btinternet.com by 20th December.

Call 0116 222 2222

Our villages are – like many these days – prone to vandalism, and two recent Friday and Saturday evenings were especially costly. In one incident wiper blades and aerials were stolen from cars in Bottesford, and in another, car tyres were slashed. But was every incident reported to the Police? If you were affected did you report it? It's no good the Parish Council telling the Leicestershire Constabulary that vandalism exists if this cannot be substantiated by their records.

Our Neighbourhood Beat Officers are to be congratulated for having identified the individual responsible for the first of these two idiotic events and dealt with it in a way that their experience indicates will be most effective.

If we want to retain a good police presence then we need to make sure all incidents are reported – and then hopefully there will be fewer to report!.

Neighbourhood Watch

Four hundred people are registered to receive email updates from Neighbourhood Watch. To register ring the coordinator, Brian Kelk, on 842241.

Local Disturbance? Noisy neighbours? Something suspicious?

Problems with dogs barking all night or people sitting outside in a vehicle who are not known to you? It's not an emergency and doesn't need a 999 call – BUT it needs reporting. Call the police on **0116 222 2222**, report it as an incident, get an incident number and the police will look into it for you.

The old church clock - a reader has more details...

I was interested to see the piece in the July Village Voice about the church clock. I would just like to correct and add to the information that was published. In a booklet by the Leicestershire Museums Service, written by P. A Hewitt who had studied many turret clocks in the county, it is dated circa 1720, and required winding daily, as was common for clocks of that period. From my own research, George Bishop who worked in Redmile between 1762 and 1805 making longcase (Grandfather) clocks, worked on the clock at Bottesford between 1790 and 1800, being paid to clean and mend it. The records also show that the clock has been moved in the past as in 1808 a carrier was paid 2/- (two shillings or 10 pence) "to take the clock to Grantham".

Mr Hewitt also records a second turret clock in Bottesford made in 1897 by Cope of Nottingham and located in the school. - **Ken Brockway Redmile**

Parish Council minutes

14.8.06

The police have reported an increased number of thefts of 4 x 4s from houses and farms across the Vale.

The flood group meet again in September.

Melton Borough Council is looking at the condition and usage of garages that they own in the parish. Some sites could be used for affordable homes.

The litter group are pleased to see improvements around the Co-op.

Some concern about planning applications for properties in the flood plain. To see the latest information go to <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>

Bus shelters – sites are still being considered.

Four new lights are to be erected on the path from the station to the church.

Poop scoops will soon be available for collection from the library.

Parish council web site to be improved.

11.09.06

The police reported the theft of 20 lap top computers from Belvoir High School.

There have been 27 reported crimes in the last ninety days including an attempted burglary

Melton BC to examine water flow down the pipes in the High Street using a camera.

The phone box is in need of repainting.

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Sports News



Bottesford FC continues to go from strength to strength

During the month of September the club celebrated good news with the granting of permission to develop some of the land off the Nottingham Road. All the hard work behind the scenes finally came to fruition and work has now begun on the preparation of a car parking area in addition to bringing the previously seeded grass area into acceptable playing surfaces.



Credit must go to all the Bottesford FC committee, players of all ages and the support given from parents and friends. The sterling efforts were once again recognised with the presentation of the end of season 2005/2006 awards ceremony held at Belvoir High School. The following awards were made:

Team	Manager's Player	Supporter's Player	Players' Player
U8	Ephraim Morton	Ben Browne	Ben White
U9	Joshua Pacey	Kieran Waterfall	Luke Craven
U10	Chris Avison	Charlie Morgan	Freddie Watchorn
U11	William D'Hooghe	Matthew Kerry	Thomas Mold
U12	Ryan Hutchinson	Josh Lythall	Freddie Dawes
U13	Sam Carter	Jack Mellor	Ben Goslin
U14	Domonic Holdsworth	Jake Hutchinson	Iain Marshall



Village Voice Contact information

Editorial:

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Anne Ablewhite on 842259

Deadline for Jan Issue: Tuesday 4th Dec

Email: villagevoice@bottesford.org.uk
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