

Issue No. 41
May - June 2009

Village Voice

The newsletter of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton

Filling the Gaps at Muston Meadows



Despite clashing with Mother's Day, a small group of volunteers turned out to help the warden with some hedge planting at Muston Meadows National Nature Reserve. The task was to plant-up some of the gaps in the hedges with native trees and bushes. These included hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, field maple and crab apple, all of which are found in the area. The volunteers learnt how hard the Belvoir Valley clays are, and one even managed to snap a spade! All in all, a good morning's work spent amongst the skylarks and hares, which will be repeated again next year.

Future events:

Saturday 16th May 10am: Guided walk to view the orchids – meet at the track running off Woolsthorpe lane at the south end of Muston village.

Sun 14 June 3pm: Guided walk to view the meadow flowers – meet at the track running off Woolsthorpe Lane at the South end of Muston village.

News from Belvoir High School

Mr Chris Hart, Chairman of Bottesford Football Club, handed over a £500 cheque to Millie Gordon as a donation to the school's fundraising effort in support of its specialist schools bid. The presentation took place in one of the science laboratories in the new Winterbeck building following a short tour of the ground floor. The school is on target to achieve the amount required to make an application and if successful, specialist science status would be awarded from September 2009. The money has been raised thanks to support from parents and friends of the school. (See picture below.)

The Winterbeck Building

The new building is now in use and pupils are thrilled at the quality of its facilities. Designed around a central atrium it includes five science laboratories, nine classrooms, a library and an ICT suite.

Work starts shortly on The Belvoir Building and the new car park, due to be completed by late August.

Belvoir High School

Fifty pupils from Belvoir High School joined up with 500 schools across the UK taking part in the BBC News School Report, a project to engage 11-14 year olds in the news. On Thursday at 2pm the students broadcast their news, covering the stories of the day as well as their special report on "The all new superteen: smarter, faster and THINNER than ever before". You can find their reports on www.belvoirhigh.leics.sch.uk/BBCschoolnews.htm



(l - r) Joseph Rogers, Clarice Burns, Mr Paul Ainsworth (Deputy Head), Millie Gordon, Mr Chris Hart, Jack Riley, Alice Pardoe and Mrs Ruth Rogers.



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20 years old and still noisy....

(Based on articles and letters in the Grantham Journal in 1989)



The Bottesford bypass was opened 20 years ago on Monday February 6th 1989, with the official opening ceremony taking place at the V.C. Hall on the following Monday, February 13th 1989. Construction of the £2 760 000 road started in the autumn of 1987 and was finished 14 weeks ahead of schedule.

Within 24 hours of the opening there had been one major and two less severe accidents

on the bypass. Michael Latham, M.P. for Melton, asked a written question in the House of Parliament concerning the need for traffic management equipment on the road.

A letter on March 10th indicated that maybe some form of lighting was needed. The paper also included a comment on the height of the embankment between the bypass and Easthorpe since it was half the promised height. It was considered that 'the main runway at a busy airport was a quieter site'.

The paper reported concerns that the by-pass would divert traffic from the village and that 'Bottesford would become a ghost town'. Later in the year further interest was aroused when out-line planning applications were submitted for a service station at the Belvoir Road junction and for a motel and service station on the Grantham-bound side of the bypass, just before the turn to Muston.

634 Bikes on the Egg Run!

The 19th Easter Egg Run was held on Sunday 5th April, with a record 634 motor bikes counted here, each biker providing his own Easter Eggs, and 70+ joining en route to The Meres. The Run first started with only 12 Triumph Owners and the numbers have risen steadily each year. The riders come from all over the East Midlands, one man coming from Cornwall to take part.



In August there will be a run to Skegness supporting the Air Ambulance (date to be finalised), and on 6th December the Christmas Toy Run.

Class of 1946

The last Village Voice featured a photograph of the class of 1946. Some eagle-eyed readers have corrected the spelling of three of the names, which should have read: Joan *Maplethorpe*; Douglas *Bell* and Ann *Hersey*. Missing from the list of names was Kathleen Doubleday (after Valerie Box on the front row).

Bottesford Guides Do Their Best

Five Bottesford Guides have been presented with the Baden-Powell Challenge Award - the highest award achievable in guiding. Rosie Booth, Laura Gibbons, Rachel Wilkins, Vicky Yates and Sarah Roberts, all aged 14, had to choose, plan and complete ten challenges - which could be carried out individually, in groups or with their patrols and covered topics such as discovery, healthy lifestyles, celebrating diversity, global awareness, and skills and relationships. The awards were presented by retired Guide leader Jill Bagnall during the Thinking Day celebrations at the Village Hall on February 27th.

Louise McGrory

Louise McGrory is Headteacher of Bottesford Church of England Primary School. She was appointed as head in August 2003 after the retirement of Dr Ann Davies. It has always been a good school, and since Louise took over it has continued to go from strength to strength, achieving many national accreditations including Investors in People, Basic Skills, International Eco Schools Green Flag Award, Active Mark, Healthy Schools and Football Charter!!

Louise trained in Dublin and after two years in Ireland and two years teaching in Canada, came to England in 1987, teaching in Melton, Leeds and Leicester, before arriving at Bottesford.

Her experience ranges from working in a two teacher rural Irish school to a 350+ school in Leicester.

The modern head teacher has to be master of many skills, from understanding and implementing the many government initiatives, managing budgets, leading a team of people, liaising with different agencies, to sorting out playground disputes, setting targets, evaluating and monitoring standards, ensuring the school is a safe and exciting environment to work and learn in, and, when the opportunity arises, actually teaching!

Of her time so far at Bottesford she says "I feel very privileged to work with such great children, a committed and skilled staff, supportive parents and keen governors. I am very fortunate to be in a job that I love."

The Bottesford Scarecrows

The 7th annual Scarecrow Festival, organised by Friends of Bottesford Primary School, will be held over the weekend of 13th and 14th June. This year's theme is **Children's favourite TV characters**.

You can find the scarecrows by following the trail leaflet – available for £1 from the primary school, The Deli on Queen Street, The Spar on the High Street, and Little Jacks Farm, Orston Lane. The Scarecrows will be out in their gardens from 10.00 am on the Saturday and all day Sunday.

On Sunday 14th June from 12.00 to 4.00 pm there will be a traditional fair held at the Primary School playing fields (entrance off Barketstone Lane).

Entrance is free and expect to see over 20 stalls, as well as The Friends tombola stall, prize raffle, wine and water stall, bouncy castles and quad bikes. There will be the Lions famous BBQ, a licensed beer tent and refreshments. Back by popular demand are traditional games (sack racing, egg and spoon racing) and a Hobby Horse Challenge for children - and adults who dare! A great family fun event and one not to be missed.

If you are interested in having a stall at the event please contact Kathryn on 0788 303 2441 for details.

Learn a language or brush up your IT at the Community Centre

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To book ring the centre on 844199 or email: jhmadgwick@leics.gov.uk

Out of work & need to improve your skills?

If you could use some help with: getting new skills; qualifications; CV writing; interviews; and job search, go to Bottesford Community Centre adjacent to Belvoir High school. Skills for jobs sessions are held on Wednesdays 10.00 – 12.00. Ring Carol on 843617 for details.



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First Public Performance by the U3A CHOIR

On Friday 27th March the Choir held an 'Open Concert' fund-raising event in The Chapel on Devon Lane for the Friends of Chernobyl's Children with Host Families handing out refreshments at the end. The event raised £340 for the charity, which will cover the air fare for one child to visit Bottesford.

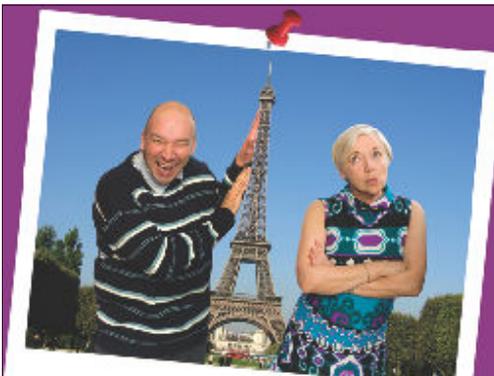
'April in Paris'

Hilarious Comedy at the Village Hall on 16th May:

The next professional theatre event at the Village Hall will be 'April in Paris' on Saturday 16th May at 7.30 pm.

Presented by the Ratatat Theatre Company, 'April in Paris' is an hilarious comedy by John Godber about Bet and Al who lead a quiet, humdrum life in their small Yorkshire home. That is until Bet wins a 'Romantic Breaks' competition in a magazine. The prize is a holiday for two in Paris! **PANIC!** They've never been abroad before! The trip changes the way they view the world and each other once they return home. They sample French cuisine, wrestle with their phrase book, and fend off muggers on the Metro in this hilarious heart warming depiction of the English abroad.

Tickets cost £8 and are on sale in the Deli, and SPAR, and from Sue Middleton on 842215.



Thirty-year old Art Festival

For over 30 years, the Vale of Belvoir Art Society has been holding an Art Festival at Bottesford Methodist Chapel on the May Bank Holiday weekend. The Festival includes the display, and sale, of their pictures as well as stalls, bric-a-brac, books, cakes and cards. Refreshments are sold all weekend, including lunches, but this year there will be no cream teas.

The Vale Barn Owl Conservation Group

Formed in 2008, the group aims to promote barn owl conservation, provide nest boxes and habitat advice.

With its heart shaped face the barn owl is a distinctive countryside bird, but numbers have decreased due to a decline in prey-rich habitats caused by more intensive agricultural practices. The DEFRA stewardship scheme has benefited barn owls with the introduction of two to six metre grass strips around arable fields. The group is also encouraging landowners and farmers to leave some rough grass if possible.

Road accidents are the main cause of Barn Owl deaths. Although a superb hunter, it flies low and does not have 'road sense'. If you see a barn owl whilst driving please slow down if safe to do so to reduce the risk of collision.

In 2008 25 nest boxes were erected in the Vale of Belvoir. Thanks go to farmers, gamekeepers and landowners, who erected and monitored nest boxes, for their enthusiastic support.

If you wish to find out more about local barn owl conservation, how you can help, or to make a donation towards the cost of the project, please contact the group via their website www.barnowltrust.org, or phone 01949 844319.





SPOTLIGHT ON...



....Bottesford Business Women

Bottesford has a significant and rising number of business women with a range of diverse, innovative, and successful ventures. Women-owned and managed rural businesses are increasing yearly, and make a significant contribution to the local economy and community.

We spotlight five such women who meet regularly to celebrate their successes and entrepreneurial spirit. Each of them has had that 'Eureka' moment, a new often simple idea emerges, perhaps over something as simple as a cup of coffee at the kitchen table! The group members are:

- Caroline Arthur, a yoga teacher and therapy practitioner.
- Elizabeth Bland of Vantedge business solutions.
- Teresa Patchett, who designs and manufactures die-cut shapes for a variety of craft activities.
- Lyndsey Young, the inventor of Count On It labels and a director of the company specializing in product development, and logo and print designs.
- Julia Damassa, a director of Storyshapes Ltd, a product range which has won national recognition and awards. Julia is a finalist for Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce Rural Business Woman of the Year 2009.

The 'BBW' group usually meets in The Bull at 8.30pm on the first Thursday of each month. They welcome new members, offering support, advice, and the opportunity to share experiences. If you'd like to join the group please contact Lyndsey on 078757 19849 to confirm the time and date of the next meeting – these working mums sometimes need to be flexible about times and dates!

Left to right in the picture: Lyndsey Young, Caroline Arthur, Teresa Patchett, Elizabeth Bland, Julia Damassa



Film Lover Wanted

Would you be willing to give up your time to organise film showings in the Village Hall – or another community building? The Phoenix Cinema in Leicester runs the Centre Screen community cinema scheme that provides and sets up the equipment and runs the film screening. They can also help with selecting a film, pricing tickets and designing posters.

A volunteer from the village is needed to book the venue, promote and run the event, and sell tickets. The screenings cost £80, and profit on ticket sales is split 50:50 with the scheme to help keep costs down (you can keep 100% of profits from refreshments and/or a raffle). To find out more, or to make a booking, contact Pete Groschl, Centre Screen Coordinator, by telephone on 0116 224 7709, or by e-mail: pete.groschl@phoenix.org.uk.

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What's On in May...

Fri 1 st 10 to 10.30am	Wriggly Readers at Bottesford Library. Babes to young children; songs, rhymes, stories. Enquiries 0116 305 3550
Sat 2 nd 10am – 5pm	Vale of Belvoir Art Society Annual Festival - Methodist Chapel. Art by local talent in variety of media. Refreshments, lunches, teas, stalls etc. Contact Marian Johnson 850845 .
Sun 3 rd 2pm – 5pm	
Mon 4 th 10am - 5pm	
Sat 2 nd 5pm - 9pm	Family Disco - VC Hall. Games, Activities, BBQ, Bar, etc. Adults £5, Children £1, Family £10 (2 adults + family children).
Sun 3 rd morning	'Friends of Chernobyl's Childrer' Fun Run around Bottesford. Registration 8am – 9.45am. Race starts 10am. All age groups welcome. Meet at Village Hall field. Enquiries 842259
Sun 3 rd 10am - 5pm	Dance for Rosie May 2009. Belvoir High School. Spectators welcome, £3. Family ticket, £20
Mon 4 th 10am – 4pm	St Mary the Virgin Church. Tour of the church, guided tour of the tower. Light refreshments. Cream Teas from 2.30pm.
2pm Teddy Bear Parachute Jumps!	Booking & details – Judith Wells, Benefice Office 842859
Mon 4 th 10.30 - 4pm	Gala – VC Hall and on the field, 40+ stalls incl. Skittles & Cake Stalls, Lions' BBQ. Entry & lucky prize programme £1/adult. Parade of Floats & Decorated Bicycles - midday High St.
Fri 8 th 9am – 12noon	Free Health Checks at the Library. See poster and page 7 for details.
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 – Art Deco (Buildings of Newark) – Bill Davidson. VC Hall
Weds 13 th 12.45pm	Health Walk, meet outside Welby Practice, Walford Close. See posters in surgeries for details. All welcome.
Thurs 14 th 2.30pm	Bottesford Methodist Church Women's Fellowship. 'From Crooks to Cassocks' - Speaker Heather Brown
Thurs 14 th 7.30pm	Local History Society. 'Albert Ball, Nottingham's 1 st World War Ace Pilot' – Peter Hammond. Fuller Room
Sat 16 th 10am	Guided walk to view the orchids – see front page.
Sat 16 th 7.30pm	Ratatat Touring Theatre Company - 'April in Paris' – comedy. VC Hall. Tickets: Spar Shop, Malthouse Deli, Sue Middleton 842215.
Sun 17 th 1.30 – 4.30pm	Dove Cottage Twelfth Annual Summer Fete. Canal Lane, Stathern. Shows, drama, dance, stalls, refreshments. Admission free, car parking £2.
Sun 17 th 2.30pm (Hall open 1.30pm)	East Midland Orchid Society. 'Ecuador', speaker - Ian Dorman. Non-members welcome. Enquiries: 842668.
Tues 19 th 7.30pm	W.I. - Resolutions - VC Hall.
Thurs 28 th 2.30pm	Bottesford Methodist Church Women's Fellowship - Speaker from Nottingham and Derbyshire Air Ambulance. Methodist Church schoolroom. Contact Glenys Bradshaw, 842893.

And in June...

Weds 3 rd 7pm	VoB Ramblers – East Bridgford meet at car park on Main St. - walk to Kneeton on Trent Valley Way – 6 miles. Contact: Malcolm, 0115 9875469
Fri 5 th 10 to 10.30am	Wriggly Readers at Bottesford Library. Babes to young children; songs, rhymes, stories. Enquiries 0116 305 3550
Mon 8 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 9 th 2pm	U3A – A Vision of Roses – Stuart Dixon. VC Hall
Weds 10 th 12.45pm	Health Walk, for details see 13 th May. All welcome.
Thurs 11 th 2.30pm	Bottesford Methodist Church Women's Fellowship Speaker Clare Mountford. Methodist Church schoolroom.
Thurs 11 th	Local History Society - Annual Summer Outing
Fri 12 th to 21 st	Stathern Festival see www.stathernfestival.co.uk
Sat 13 th – Sun 14 th	Scarecrow Festival. Details: see page 3
Sun 14 th 3pm	Guided walk to view the meadow flowers – see front page.
Tues 16 th 7.30pm	W.I. "Hawaiian Dance", Mrs Maureen Jeffries VC Hall.
Sun 28 th 2.30pm (Hall open 1.30pm)	East Midland Orchid Society VC Hall. 'Cattleya' speaker - Mike Armstrong of Mikandra Orchids. Non-members welcome.

Time to get planting

The **Bottesford Annual Horticultural Show** will be held on **12th September** - so now is the time to plant those seeds to ensure you can compete in this enjoyable traditional and local event!

For details of the Catholic Church, Grantham, telephone 01476 563935

To publicise your event in the 'What's On' column for July & August, please ring 844823 or email d.taffs@btinternet.com by 24th May.

The May Day Gala

For just £1 entrance per adult (accompanied children free) you can be sure of a wonderful day out by coming along to the Gala on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May. Starting with the crowning of the May Queen at 10.30am the day is packed full of events.

The main arena has events running all day from 11am- 4pm, including 'Canine Freestyle', traditional games for kids and adults, Hobby Horse racing by the play-group, the Ann Gibbon's dancers, Bottesford karate schools, Maypole dancing and the Tug of War. (The young Lions walked away with the prize last year, who can beat them this year?!) There will be over 50 stalls, a licensed bar, light refreshments and the Lion's BBQ. New for this year is a Family Fun Dog Show, including 'adorable eyes', 'dog judge would like to take home' and best child handler. Entry forms can be completed on the day, so don't forget to bring the dog!

The children's marquee will have Punch and Judy, Clown Zozo, Party Playbus, model steam train rides, quad bikes and bouncy castles.

The parade along the High Street starts at 12.00 from Winterbeck Industrial Estate and includes the new free-to-enter decorated bicycle competition, any theme, and any age of entrant (bike or person).

Updates on additional attractions are on www.bottesford.org.uk

SOS – can you help?

The Gala committee needs your help. Could you please spare some time on Bank Holiday Monday, from 8.00am to help set up and take down our event? If so, please contact either Clive Yates (Vale of Belvoir Lions) on 844439 or Kathryn Hinsliff-Smith on 842333. Without your continued support, this event will not be able to flourish.

Know Your Figures

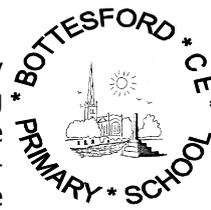
Melton's Active Together team will be doing FREE health checks at Bottesford Library on Friday 8th May from 9:00am-12pm. The health checks will provide an opportunity for people to have their blood pressure, waist circumference, weight, body mass index and body fat percentage checked. The aim is to give people a better understanding of their health and provide tips on how to improve it.

Bookable appointments are available on a first come first serve basis or you can just drop-in on the day. Leaflets on a number of topical health issues will also be available to take away.

For more details and to book an appointment please contact Bottesford Library on 0116 305 3550 or simply drop in on the day.

Primary School News

The Governing Body of Bottesford Primary School has a vacancy for a Community Governor. This is a voluntary position, entailing two meetings per school term and one or two visits to the school per year, for, nominally, four years. A Community Governor is someone who lives or works in the locality served by the school, and who has an interest in education. For further information, please contact Helena Brooks, Clerk to the Governors, 842224, as soon as possible.



Local Walks

Did you know that the poet Lord Byron's uncle lived in Muston? Or that Bottesford police station dates from 1842, and is one of the oldest purpose-built police stations in the country?

These facts, and many more, can be found in leaflets produced by The Bottesford Community Project. The Muston Heritage Trail and The Bottesford Local History Trail will guide you around the places of interest in each village and both walks are on the Bottesford Living History website www.bottesfordhistory.org.uk; take the link to 'Places' then 'Discovering Bottesford' or 'Discovering Muston'. Also available are the Parish Walks leaflets, one for Bottesford and one for Muston, each containing two circular walks, one short and one longer – great for families! All four leaflets are beautifully illustrated and include a map to help you find your way. They are free and available from Bottesford Library. Now that Spring has arrived why not get some fresh air and learn a little more about your village?

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The History of our Four Villages

A book about the recent history of the communities of Bottesford, Muston, Easthorpe and Normanton has been written. Contributors include village residents and members of the Bottesford Community Heritage Project.



The title will be 'Not Forgetting – Aspects of Village Life in Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston and Normanton.' The book, to be published in the autumn, will be published at the May Day Gala and will also be advertised on the Bottesford Living History website.

Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 15th May 2009

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15th May 2009 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 extension 229 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk

Sports News



Football

The following teams are through to the Cup Finals in their respective leagues:

- Under 10s and Under 12s from the Grantham Youth League.
- Under 11s from the New Newark Youth League.
- Senior Reserves from the Grantham and District Saturday League.

Well done to the teams, and we look forward to hearing of further success in the next Village Voice.

Village Voice Contact information

Advertising:
Anne Ablewhite on 842259

Editorial:
Dilys Shepherd on 843505 or
Susan Meech on 843402

Deadline for Issue 42: 23rd May

www.villagevoice.bottesford.org.uk

E mail: vv@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 or consequences which may arise from them. Views expressed in the Village Voice do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

William Roberts, 1916 - 2009. Bill died peacefully in his sleep on Easter Sunday, 12th April. He was a great supporter of Village Voice, and of Bottesford. He will be sadly missed. Our condolences go to Bill's family and friends.

Village Guide

Please note that we have two amendments which we invite you to make to your Village Guide:

- The **Junior Badminton Club** meets as follows:
Monday: 8 – 12 years, 7.30 – 8.30pm
and 13 -16 years, 8.30 – 10.00pm.
Friday: 8 - 12 years (2nd group),
6.00 – 7.00pm.
- **Parish Council Assistant Clerk:**
Please remove Liz Stones's name & telephone number.

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