Issue No. 51
January-February 2011

Village Voice

The newsletter of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton

Fundraising Fun!

The Senior Guides held a table top sale in November to fundraise towards assisting 2 Guides to visit Belarus. In addition they aim to support Belarussian Guides with training and equipment, and also to assist Bottesford Guides acquire a laptop computer and projector so that they can watch and show presentations and watch DVDs.
If you have any equipment that you could donate to them please ring Teresa on 842173.

Pictured are Laura Skerritt, Lucy Patchett, Teresa Patchett and Sarah Roberts

Primary School Christmas Fair The annual Friends Christmas fair raised £2,237 which is a fantastic achievement considering that the fair was only open for 2 hours! The committee would very much like to thank all those parents who donated items, helped to set up the event and, most important, helped to run the Friends stalls.

St Mary's Christmas Fair Despite very cold weather and snow, a large number of people visited the Fair on Saturday 4th December. There were a variety of stalls, including the ever-popular Santa's grotto, and visitors were able to take a break from their shopping whilst enjoying homemade refreshments. Judith Wells of St Marys commented: "We were delighted to welcome so many of our community into St Mary's and, in addition, we're pleased to report that the Fair raised over £2,000 for church funds - so thank you all for your support!"

Bottesford Baptist Church held a coffee morning in November selling Tearfunds "Created" goods. These handcrafted items are produced by skilled artisans living in some of the world's poorest communities, providing them with employment, a fair price and a better future. £141 worth of goods were sold and a further £24.50 was donated. Thank you to all who supported them on the day.

The Autumn Fair A stunning £960 was raised for Village Hall Funds at the Autumn Fair (pictured) held on 30th October. Lots of customers came through the door despite a terrific thunderstorm and cloud burst in the middle of the afternoon. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event.

Bonfire and Firework Display
Friday 5th November saw The Lions construct a huge bonfire using donated timber and arranging stalls for food, drinks, sweets, luminous whistles and glow sticks. Unfortunately heavy rainfall started around 4pm, yet despite the damp weather the fire acted as a beacon to all in Bottesford, and the crowds still came to watch what we think was the best firework display yet! For more information about the work of the Vale of Belvoir Lions visit:
http://www.voblions.org.uk

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Masked theatre production in the Village Hall on 14th January 2011

The Vamos Theatre Company will be appearing at the Village Hall in a production of 'Nursing Lives'. It celebrates the lives of nurses at work and play during World War 2 as Florence, a young trainee nurse in 1939, is thrown directly into the realities of work on the ward.

The production that has visual inventiveness (produced by using masks) evocative songs, musical theatre and 1940s dance sequences. Vamos theatre has found that this production appeals to a wide range of audiences, including lovers of the 1940s, health care professionals, audience members over 60 years old and students of Drama and Design and Technology.

Tickets are on sale priced £6 and available from the Deli, the Spar and Sue (842215) or Gill (842686).

Inca House extension wins regional architecture award

Inca house, on the High Street, is the home of Architect Allan Mulcahy and the studio at his home won a 2010 Royal Institute of British Architects East Midlands Award.

Julian Owen, chair of RIBA East Midlands said: "We are delighted that this rural property has won an award in this prestigious regional architectural competition. The project reflects the diversity and quality of contemporary architecture which is being created by chartered architects locally."

Artist is residence at Belvoir Castle

World famous sculptor Laury Dizengremel has recently become artist in residence at Belvoir Castle. Her enthusiasm for the "Vale of Belvoir Rural Arts Project" is matched by her art residency hostess, Her Grace the Duchess of Rutland. From her Old Hunt Stables studio on the Estate, Laury would like to hear about projects and people in Leicestershire. For more information about this art e-mail: artist@belvoircastle.com or go to http://www.sculpture-design.com/Belvoir/Vale_of_Belvoir_Rural_Arts_Project.html.

The picture, below shows Laury working on one of her Tennis Terracotta sculp-

Netball group? Sewing group? Reading Group? Are *you* in a group?
If you are, make sure ***your*** group details are included in the next issue of our Village Guide by contacting Village Voice (see back page for details) as soon as possible. The current Guide can be found in the library or online at Bottesford Today www.bottesford.org.uk

STOP PRESS:

Leicestershire Constabulary plans to close Bottesford Police Station. The Parish Council has arranged a public meeting to discuss both this and policing in the Vale, at 7pm on Monday 17th January in the Village Hall.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Bottesford Youth Club

Four girls from Bottesford Youth Club have recently achieved Bronze Awards in the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Scheme; they are Polly Redfern, Lucy Stones, Danielle Granger, and Charlotte McPeake. Jo Sharp (not in the photograph) is due to complete the programme very soon. They received their awards in front of proud parents and friends. The girls said of their experiences:

'Along the way we have learnt many vital life skills, many of which tested our communication and teamwork skills. When we finished the final expedition there was admittedly a great sigh of relief because it was over but also a burst of happiness because we had stayed together as a group helping each other along the way and performing to the best of our abilities".

D of E doesn't just involve expeditions and map reading - it involves voluntary work, a physical activity and improving an existing skill. The D of E youth workers are extremely supportive and are there when you need them. It is definitely not easy but you learn great skills, and it looks great on your CV. For more information contact: Adam McGlone, Youth Development Worker on 844531 or 07798613391 or email: belvoiryouth@btconnect.com or check out the website: www.thejitty.com/clubs/vale-of-belvoir-youth-clubs.html

Annapurna

In a previous Village Voice we told you that Will Jones was planning to travel to Nepal to trek up to Annapurna Base Camp (4130m) as part of the King's School expedition. The expedition returned a few weeks ago.

Will reports "The trek was incredible, passing through some of the most amazing scenery in the world. Whilst we were in Nepal we visited the Swayambhunath Stupa temple in Kathmandu and the Museum of Mountaineering in Pokhara. We marked the beginning and end of the trek with meals at The Everest Steak House where a few 1kg steaks were ordered! One of the highlights of the trip had to be reaching Poon Hill at 5:30am. This is a viewpoint a few days from Annapurna Base Camp, from which you could see mountains for 360° round. The main event was reaching Annapurna Base Camp. Nothing could prepare us for the scenery that surrounded us. The trip gave us a great insight into the lives of the Nepalese people with all the group making good bonds with our porters, who each carried a total of 30kg on their heads. One aim of the trek was to raise money for Community Action Nepal, which helps these porter communities. Our target was £5,000 and to date the total stands at £6,383."

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1970 traffic survey to get a new school

Debbie Bass Pickin (left)

In 1970, 25 pupils, aged 9 to 10 years at Bottesford Primary School, conducted a five day traffic survey, in efforts to get a new school and the results were sent to the Director of Education.

The head teacher, Mr J Wilde, thought that at least 500 vehicles an hour passed the school during the school day and since the children used the narrow footpath outside the school every day there was terrific danger and a constant possibility of fatal accidents.

He also said that work was continuously interrupted, the teachers could not hear themselves speak and that a noise meter installed in 1968 had measured teachers' voices at 50-60 decibels whereas traffic noise was 82-85 decibels. The Grantham Journal printed a report about a Primary School traffic survey pre 1989 when the by-pass was opened.

Remembering five men from Bottesford - Local History Society talk

A very large turnout on 11th November at the Bottesford Local History Society in the Fuller Room reflected the level of interest in *Remembering five men from Bottesford: Emigration and WW1 service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force*.

Using archival records, family letters and memorabilia, David Middleton traced how Charles Bend, Arthur Gilding, Charles Pacey, R.Turlington Page and Frank Raithby left Bottesford seeking new opportunities as emigrants to Canada in the early 1900s. On the outbreak of WW1 all enlisted as volunteers in the Canadian Expeditionary Force that was posted to France where they served with distinction in the battles of Arras; Ypres (including Paschendaele); the Somme; Vimy Ridge and Cambrai. Letters home, photographs and military war diaries were used to provide details of their experience on the Western Front and their deaths in action. None would return to Canada but they are remembered on the Bottesford War Memorial in St Mary's Church. A detailed account of their lives will be published on the Bottesford Living History web site: (http://www.bottesfordhistory.org.uk).

New Year, New Courses - at the Community Centre

Flower arranging (beginners) starts 19th January, Wed. 9.45am
Can't cook, Want to cook- starts 21st January, Fri. 10.15am
First steps in computing - starts 25th January, Tues 12.45pm
Drawing and painting (beginners) - starts 26th January, Wed. 7pm
First Aid for parents and carers - starts 31st January, Mon. 9.45am
Computing workshop (ECDL) - starts 3rd February, Thurs. 9.45am
Computing workshop (ECDL) - starts 1st March, Tues. 7pm
Spanish, Toolkit for holidays - starts 30th March, Wed. 9.45am ***or*** 7pm
Digital cameras & photo editing (first steps) - starts 5th May, Mon. 7pm

To find out more, or to book a place, call 844199,
email Julia.Madgwick@leics.gov.uk
or come and visit the Centre on Barkestone Lane!
(Admin staff available Monday to Wednesday 9.00 – 3.00 and 6.30 – 8.00 and Thursday 9.00 – 1.00)

SPOTLIGHT ON…. The Royal British Legion

For the past 15 years Alex Robertson has been the 'Poppy Appeal Organizer' for the Bottesford Area, during which time the total raised has steadily increased. This year, with all it's financial problems, £2,673 was raised, £50 up on last year. Thank you for your contributions, and a special thanks to the volunteer collectors.

Since World War 2 British Servicemen and Women have been involved in conflicts in Palestine, Greece, Cyprus, Korea, Suez, Yemen and Gulf States, Falklands, Bosnia, 2 Iraq wars as well as other areas. Since 1945 there has only been one year when no British Servicemen have been killed or wounded. The Legion aims to help all Service Personnel and their dependants, whether they have been involved in current or past conflicts.

Some former servicemen and women are too proud to ask for help. A member of Alex's Regiment was gradually becoming housebound and needed a Motorised Buggy, but was reluctant to approach the Legion so Alex and former members of his regiment did. The Legion made discreet enquiries, and one morning Tom (a Veteran of the N.W. Frontier, WW1 including Gallipoli, Palestine and WW2) found a Legion Rep., with a buggy on his doorstep. If you have neighbours or friends who need help and who have some connection with the Forces, it may be worth getting in touch with a Legion member who could then start the ball rolling.

Alex is now retiring from the position of 'Poppy Appeal Organizer' and Mrs. Anne Ablewhite, who has been helping out during the last couple of years, has kindly volunteered to take on the job.

Peregrine Falcons

Rare in the East Midlands, peregrine falcons are occasionally seen over Bottesford. The closest nesting site is at St Wulfram's, Grantham where they attract many visitors and protect the building from pigeons and other unwanted birds. Bottesford Church suffers greatly from bird 'damage'; both directly to stonework and indirectly from guano and detritus which needs clearing from roofs, gutters and downpipes – three sack-loads this year!

The Church Council is considering the possibility that peregrine falcons may be attracted to a nesting platform on the tower of St Mary's, Bottesford.

The Church has discussed with local 'experts' the probability of peregrines preying on our village ducklings or Belvoir partridge. They say both are extremely unlikely, as peregrines take their prey in flight, at considerable height. Peregrines do prey on a wide range of birds, including some song-birds; but that is the natural order. There are already sparrow hawks, buzzards, hobbies and *visiting* peregrines in the area, so *resident* peregrines would probably make little difference to the balance of birdlife in and around Bottesford. ------ *but what is **your** view*?

The Church Council is inviting the views of village residents before reaching a decision.

Please write to 'Peregrines', St Mary's Church, Rectory Lane, Bottesford, NG13 0BA or email stmarysbottesford@tiscali.co.uk.

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What's On in January...

Sun 2nd 10am	VoB Ramblers – Hose and Harby, 6 miles. Walk in the New Year with 'Festival of Winter Walks'. Two or 3 free walks for new members. Contact Jan 0115 9825600.
Sun 2nd 10.30am	Epiphany Family Service. St Mary's Church.
Tues 4th 7pm – 8.30pm Then every Tuesday (except 3rd in the month)	Shotokan Karate Club in the VC Hall. Ages 7 and over. Qualified and approved instructors.
Weds 5th 7.30pm then every week	Bottesford Whist Drive at the Fuller Rooms. Entrance £1.50 incl refreshments. Everyone welcome including new players. For information contact Ray Smart 843340 or Noel Carolan 842621.
Mon 10th 7.15pm	Parish Council meeting Fuller Rooms. First 15 minutes residents may address council with concerns/questions.
Tues 11th 1.30pm	U3A AGM, followed at 2pm by 'Sharing Interests'. VC Hall
Weds 12th 12.45pm for 1.00pm start	Health Walk, meet outside Welby Practice, Walford Close. See posters in surgeries for details. All welcome. Contact Sue 843280
Thurs 13th 7.30pm	Local History Society. 'Temperance Movement' – Jim Livingstone. Fuller Room
Sat 15th 7.30pm	Friends of the Primary School. Annual Curling Challenge. VC Hall. Licensed bar. £7.50 incl hot meal. Details from Kathryn on 842333 or the Primary School office.
Sun 16th 2.30pm	East Midland Orchid Society VC Hall. Gian Piero Ferrari, Subject, Mediterranean Journey. Non-members welcome. Mick Armstrong - 842668
Tues 18th 7.30pm	W.I. Curling & Indoor Games. VC Hall.
Sat 22nd 10am-12.30	Rosie May Home, Sri Lanka. Update. Video show plus talks from volunteers. Refreshments. Baptist Church, Queen St. Everyone welcome.
Weds 26th 10am	VoB Ramblers – West Bridgford, 6 miles, on disused railway tracks; cafe at end! Contact Jan 0115 9825600

And in February...

Thurs 3rd 7.30 to 8.30pm	In aid of Dove Cottage. Relaxation Taster with Vale Hypnotherapy at The Plough Inn, Stathern. £5.00pp
Fri 4th 10 to 10.30am	Wriggly Readers at Bottesford Library. Babes to young children; songs, rhymes, stories.
Sun 6th 10am	VoB Ramblers – Edingley, Notts, 5 miles. Optional lunch at the end. Contact Jan 0115 9825600
Tues 8th 2pm	U3A – 'Long Term Care Planning' – PSA IFA. VC Hall
Weds 9th 12.45pm for 1pm start	Health Walk (Start 1pm, takes 30 – 60 mins) Welby Practice. All welcome.
Thurs 10th 7.30pm	Local History Society. 'Belton House and the Brownlows' – Barry Grice. Fuller Rooms.
Fri 11th 7pm for 7.30	Dove Cottage, Stathern. Quiz Evening & Supper. Bring own drinks. £7.50pp inc. supper. To book ring 860303.
Mon 14th 7.15pm	Parish Council meeting, Fuller Rooms. First 15 minutes residents may address council with concerns/questions.
Tues 15th 7pm	W.I. Annual Meeting. VC Hall.
Sat 19th 10am	VoB Ramblers – Burton Joyce, 10 miles. North side of the Trent. Good views. Contact Jan 0115 9825600.
Sun 20th 2.30pm	East Midland Orchid Society VC Hall. 'Masdevallias and other Pleurothallids' - Steve Manning. See 16th January.
Sat 26th 7.30pm	The Tommy Saville Big Band and Friends in St Mary's Church. For details/booking, ring Benefice Office 842859.

Important: To publicise your event in the 'What's On' column for March & April, please ring 844823 or email d.taffs@btinternet.com by 30th January.

Your Letters

Dear Village Voice

I have an allotment in the village. Earlier this year, my six-year-old niece gave me a packet of pumpkin seeds and asked me to grow her some pumpkins for Hallowe'en.

I wonder if the person who stole them from my cold frame one week before Hallowe'en had as much enjoyment from them as she would have done.

Yours,

David Jones

Dear Village Voice

Thank you for your support - we really do appreciate it. We are one of the smaller Ramblers groups and by mentioning the walks in your Whats On you have helped us increase our membership in 2 years from just below 100 to 125 which is amazing considering we cover a largely rural area.

Jan, Vale of Belvoir Ramblers

Otago Volunteers

The Otago exercise programme is a series of muscle strengthening and balance re-training. Melton Volunteer Bureau is seeking volunteers who could spend 1 to 2 hours a week to visit older people in their own home to encourage and motivate them to do gentle Otago Exercises. You would get training and support and out of pocket expenses. An interest in keeping active, exercise and health would be a benefit but not essential. If you want more information contact Catherine on 01664 485302 or email catherineh@voluntaryactionmelton.org.uk

BT's Race to Infinity – closing date 31st December

BT are currently organising an online voting system – those 5 areas with the highest number of votes should get superfast fibre optic broadband! Interested? Learn more, and vote, by going to http://www.racetoinfinity.bt.com/

Green Lights for Green Day

Vale Villages in Transition has been awarded funds from the Climate Friendly Communities Grant. Work this year has focussed on obtaining funding to put on some events, including a **Green Day** on Saturday 12th March and a screening of the film '**The Power of Community: How Cuba survived Peak Oil'**. Both events will take place at the VC Hall and will be free of charge. The community-led not-for-profit group is keen to hear from people interested in running these events. Offers of anything from displaying posters to hosting a stall would be appreciated. For more information visit www.valevillagesintransition.org.uk, email info@valevillagesintransition.org.uk, telephone Melissa on 851203.

Pianist please

The U3A Choir has not got a regular pianist at the moment and would like to hear from anyone who would be able to play for them. The choir meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at the Methodist Schoolroom from 2 to 4 pm and has gradually built up a repertoire that includes songs from the musicals, arrangements of popular music and spirituals. If you are interested, please contact the choir's conductor, Mrs Barbara Cobb on 851455.

Transport subsidy available for young peoples groups

Help is available until **31st March 2011** to young people's groups across the Vale thanks to a Leicestershire County Council grant provided through the Belvoir Community Forum.

Any group for young people (up to the age of 18) can apply for a subsidy of 50% off the normal mileage rate, up to a maximum of £100 per group, to take young people out, using community transport, to enjoy activities and learning experiences that are a bit further afield.

So, get your skates on to take advantage of this rare opportunity. For more information contact Joanna Burrows at Voluntary Action Melton tel. 01664 485300 or email Joanna@voluntaryactionmelton.org.uk

Sing-a-Rainbow music classes for babies to pre-school age. (One-hour sessions)

Bottesford Baptist Church – Mondays, 10am & 11am.
Harlaxton Village Hall – Tues & Thurs, 10am & 11am.
Car Colston Village Hall – Fridays, 10.15am & 11.15am.

Enquiries: Tiffany 01476 574978

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Football news

Sponsors: The Football Club would like to thank the team sponsors: Russell J Hibbert; Bottesford Fish bar; P J Cook; Richard Morton; The Bull Inn; and Peter Gribby Ltd for their generous support in 2010.

Saturday training: started at Belvoir High School (9.45 till 11.00) at the beginning of September and it was a delight, again, to see such an influx of new children, especially under 6 and under 7 year olds. And during the training session Chairman Danny Gribby said "It's fantastic to see so many children at training. The 5 and 6 year olds are the future generation of footballers for the Club and some of our players that started with us at 5 are now playing for our 1st team".
Pictured are Scott Hinton & Chris Millard along with the players
For more details of teams and training, please contact Ros Morton on 01949 843633

Focus on the Under 6s & Under 7s

Cricket news

Indoor nets: Indoor Nets start on Sunday 9th January 2011 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm with qualified coaches at Trent Bridge Sir Garfield Sobers Suite. Please note: the age limit for juniors is thirteen.

Star players. Bottesford Cricket Club would like to congratulate:
Nick Silverwood, **Lee Fazackerley**, **Phil Irvine** and **Sam Cliff** who have been promoted to play in the Nottingham Premier League, the highest standard of Amateur cricket. The club hopes that you all have a great season.

Danny Copley & **Danny Barrett** from our U13 side and also **Ryan Charlesworth** U11 side were selected for North District Coaching starting in November 2010 through to April 2011, following a trial/evaluation in September 2010 at Loughborough Grammar School.

A prosperous New Year to all teams!

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