



Issue No. 58
March/April 2012

Village Voice

The newsletter of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton

Dove Hospice Shop Opens in Bottesford

A new charity shop has opened in the Old Exchange on Market Street. With a good selection of pre-loved clothing, books, toys and china, they have an interesting array of items to tempt you. All profits go to support their excellent work. Following the success of their tearoom and charity shop at Stathern, Dove Cottage is delighted to announce the opening of their second charity shop. It will be open Tuesday – Saturday between 9.00am and 4.30pm. Any donations of good quality clothing, bric-a-brac or unwanted Christmas presents would be greatly appreciated. They are also looking for volunteers to help out in the shop. Do give them a ring if you have a few hours to spare. No previous experience is necessary and volunteering can be great fun.

*More information is on the website
www.dovecottage.org*

Left: Shop manager Sophie Chell.

Right: Members of the team at the newly opened shop: Lisa Maughan, Sophie Chell and Chris Gatfield



Vamos Theatre Company returns to the Village Hall with a new Masked Performance

If you saw 'Nursing Lives', Vamos's last show, you will need no persuading to buy tickets for their next performance.



One audience member said it was one of the most innovative and exciting professional shows that we have had in the village hall. '**Much Ado about Wenlock**' on Sunday 25th March at 7.30pm showcases the original Olympian games from Shropshire in 1850. The community trains for and competes in a variety of activities including athletics, country sports, wheelbarrow races, and even a contest to win a bag of tea, in this amazing event. More information is on www.vamostheatre.co.uk

Tickets cost £8 and will be on sale from early March at the Spar and Zaro's as well as from Gill Chiswell on 842868. They can also be bought online at www.wegottickets.com



Do you know this bear?

This little bear bravely parachuted from the tower of St Mary's Church over 18 months ago – while fundraising for the church. Sadly, he got caught in tree branches and only came down to earth a few weeks ago. He belonged to the grandson of a lady from Bottesford – is that you?

Please call 844288 if you think you know him!



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'The Honey Man'

A New Perspectives production at Bottesford VC hall on Sunday 22nd April

New Perspectives is one of the Midlands' most respected theatre companies, with a reputation for putting on excellent shows.

This next production will be no different. 'The Honey Man' is a fascinating account of the unlikely relationship that develops one summer between Misty, a 15 year old girl, and the Honey Man, an 'ancient' Afro-Caribbean man who has taken up residence in a derelict cottage at the edge of a picture postcard village. More information can be found at www.newperspectives.co.uk

Tickets cost £8 and will be on sale from early April at the Spar and Zaro's as well as from Gill Chilwell on 842868 and on line at www.wegottickets.com



A Christmas Robin

This is the work of the Bottesford Pre-School.

Village Voice donated a book at Christmas – and the children made us this lovely Thank You card. (Sorry, you will need to go to the website to see it in colour).

A REALLY BIG SALE Saturday March 17th 10am-2pm in St Mary's Church

This is NOT the usual Fair or Bazaar with lots of stalls - but a general SALE with books, bric-a-brac, miscellaneous bits and pieces, white elephants, curtains and other linen, small items of furniture in fact absolutely anything saleable except clothes and shoes.

From time to time most of us clear out our unwanted goods, and in a variety of ways, for instance selling them on e-bay or at car boot sales, or donating them to charity shops. For our forthcoming Big Sale we invite you to remember St Mary's Church. All offerings of goods will be gratefully received, so please contact Mary Owen on 843113, or email: ms.owen@which.net.

'Art and Snacks' at the Methodist Church

The Vale of Belvoir Art Society holds its annual exhibition in the Methodist Church, Devon Lane, on **Saturday 5th and Monday 7th May, 10am to 4pm**, and on **Sunday May 6th at 2pm - 4pm**. Ploughman's Lunches, Cream Teas and many more tempting goodies and drinks will be available in the Chapel Schoolroom during the same times. Stalls selling plants, cards, crafts and bric-a-brac. Details from Glenys Bradshaw on 01949 842893.

HANDEL's 'MESSIAH' at Aslockton Church

On Good Friday this year, **April 6th, at 7pm**, The Cranmer Company of Singers is hosting a *Come & Sing 'Messiah'* (excerpts), interspersed with hymns and readings, in aid of the British Red Cross 'East Africa Food Crisis Appeal'.

Singers who know 'Messiah' are welcome to come along and sing. The rehearsal is at **4pm**. The cost is £5 for performers and a similar donation from audience members. If you would like to sing in this charity performance, please phone Kate on 843386. Singers are invited to bring a picnic supper to have in the new Church Hall between the rehearsal and the performance if they wish.

Bottesford and District WI members.....



....enjoying themselves Curling at the recent members' night. They are a lively WI who meet at 7.30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the VC Hall. There are interesting speakers every month and they arrange several outings throughout the year.

New members are very welcome – and you can attend as a guest (for only £3) and be able to see what pleasurable evenings these are.

Forty-eight members cannot be wrong!

Cricketing Memories



(l - r back row) Horace Walker, Aubrey Norris, Len Levesley, Richard Donger, John Marsden, Ernest Jallands; (l - r front row) Dennis Jackson, Ken Topps, Jack Moppett, Joe Jallands (Capt), Bernard Box, Harry Newton, Albert Topps.

Thank you to Geoff and Carole Donger for supplying this photo of the Bottesford Cricket Team taken around 1949, we think. We have the cricketers' names – but do you know the names of the boys watching from behind the rail?

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Bottesford celebrates the Silver Jubilee 1977

The Grantham Town Band led decorated floats to Belvoir High School. Organizations with floats included the WI, Residents Association, Playgroup, Adventure Playground and Youth Club, the Bowls Club and Meals on Wheels. Events included 'Catch the fast moving and well oiled pig', wellie wanging, and a Fancy Dress contest.

Mr Alan Reed organized a door-to-door collection that raised £105.02 towards the cost of presenting Jubilee crowns to the children of the parish.

In Muston the Rev. Metcalfe presented Jubilee mugs to each child, and events included sports, 5-a-side football, a fancy dress contest, and a decorated bicycles competition.

Ladies of the village organized a buffet meal in the schoolroom followed by a disco.

Other celebrations included the Playgroup choosing a Jubilee Queen and having a Jubilee concert. The Forget-me-not Club had a Silver Jubilee lunch with tables decorated in royal colours. There was a Festival Service at the church on the Whit Sunday evening and tea was served on the Rectory lawn. To complete the celebrations, a flower festival themed 'The Queens Jubilee' was held in September which raised over £2000.

Celebrating the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002

Bottesford celebrated the Golden Jubilee with a very varied programme. Throughout the weekend, the church held a Golden Years exhibition, with memorabilia from 1952 to 2002 and describing the life and times of Bottesford people. The bells rang before and after the civic service on Sunday and at 10pm on Monday the Millennium Beacon was lit on Beacon Hill.



The weather was glorious on the Tuesday when the bell ringers took part in the national bell ringing celebration and the Jubilee Green was opened. The event included the Vale of Belvoir Lions classic bike and sports car show, a magic and clown show, the Scouts balloon race, Morris dancing by the Foresters from Nottingham, and a fireworks display at night. A number of street parties were held and a village football competition took place on the Village Hall field.

The state of sanitation in the parish fifty years ago!

In 1962 a survey in Bottesford showed that there were still 140 pail closets in use wherever it was not possible to make connections to the sewer. The locations of these properties were: 76 in Bottesford, 35 in Muston, 16 in Normanton, and 13 in Easthorpe.

Melton and Belvoir RDC decided that after the completion of the sewerage works, night soil collections from these properties would terminate on October 31st. Owners of these properties would be served notice to this effect.

Our researcher hasn't uncovered what happened next! Do you know?



SPOTLIGHT ON... *the flower arrangers at St Mary's Church*



A group of volunteers in Bottesford use their flower arranging skills to decorate the church for services, flower festivals and other special occasions both at the church and other venues within the Vale.

Each week a rota of over twenty people arrange flowers for the altar and other places in the church. People can also request and pay for displays to

be placed in a particular part of the church, such as by the font or in the Lady Chapel.

This year important events for the flower arrangers include the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee and a harvest festival that combines art with flowers.

A team of volunteers also organizes the purchasing and arranging of flowers for special occasions such as christenings, weddings and funerals.

Church funds benefit from all of the work of these volunteers. As Easter approaches, it is possible to make donations towards the purchase of white lilies for the High Altar and arrangements around the church. For information about this and the church flower rota, contact Barbara on 842305.

For other information about flower arrangements for weddings or other important occasions, contact Colette on 843766 or Sheryl on 842462.

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Bottesford Primary School

The Friends of the Primary School raised £1622 at their Christmas Fair. Some of this was spent on a touring theatre production of Peter Pan at the school, and the funds will also be used to landscape the front of the school and the new classroom.



The children from Year 5 developed a series of games for the Christmas Fair, in line with the technology requirements of the school curriculum – raising £67 towards a school visit and some classroom resources. Well done!

2012 is the PTA's 20th anniversary and a number of special events are planned to celebrate this achievement. On 5th March a ladies' fashion show of High Street collections at bargain prices will be held at the primary school. Tickets, £5, only available in advance from the school or Kathryn Hinsliff-Smith 842333.

The Scarecrow Festival will be held over the weekend of 24th/25th June – the theme will link to the 2012 Olympics. In the summer, a free family BBQ and picnic will celebrate the work this charity has completed over 20 years and which will go from strength to strength due to the dedication and support of parents.

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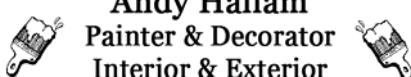
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What's On in March...

Fri 2 nd 10am	Wriggly Readers at the Library. Babes to young children; songs, rhymes, etc.
Sun 4 th 2pm	The Homestead, Normanton. Garden open for the National Gardens Scheme. See the Hellebores and with luck the Snowdrops.
Sun 4 th 10am	VoB Ramblers – Radcliffe on Trent (Health Centre car park) to Bassingfield and along the Grantham canal. 6 miles. Contact Jan 0115 9825600.
Thur 8 th 7.30pm	Local History Society. Fuller Rooms. 'Vanished from the Vale' – Michael & Diana Honeybone.
Fri 9 th 7.30pm	Bingo in the Scout Hut, Albert Street in aid of funding Guides Camping. Start at 7.30 pm.
Fri 9 th 8pm - 10pm	Ladies Night. Quiz and pudding evening at St James's Village Hall, Long Bennington. £6pp incl a glass of wine and a pudding. Teams of 6, tickets in advance only. Julie tel: 07887 911045. Bar. All proceeds to Long Bennington Pre-School.
Sun 11 th 12pm - 3.30am	Table Top Sale, VC Hall. Admission 50p (children free). Refreshments available. Proceeds to St. Barnabas Grantham Hospice, 01476 591010.
Mon 12 th 7.15pm	Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council meeting. Fuller Rooms. Residents may question the council and make comments prior to the Parish Council meeting.
Tues 13 th 2pm	U3A - Memories of a Nuclear Bomber Pilot, by Captain Geoff Dyer. VC Hall.
Weds 14 th 12.45pm	Health Walk Dove Cottage to Plungar along Canal. Refreshments at Dove Cottage Café. Meet in Walford Close. All welcome. Leader – Sue.
Thurs 15 th 2.30pm	Methodist Church Friendship Group. A talk by Sue Clayton from the Flintham Museum of Shopping. Chapel Schoolroom, Devon Lane. Refreshments provided and all welcome. Further information from Glenys Bradshaw, 01949 842893.
Sat 17 th 10am - 2pm	A Really Big Sale, St Mary's Church. Books, bric-a-brac, white elephants, household linen, small items of furniture etc. Contact Malcolm 843113
Sun 18 th 2.30pm	East Midlands Orchid Society. VC Hall. Members meeting. Non-members very welcome, refreshments served.
Tue 20 th 7.30pm	W.I. 'It's Better than Working for a Living' – Rev. Canon A Haydock. VC Hall.
Sat 24 th Noon - viewing	Dove Cottage Auction and Tabletop Sale. Donation of goods to auction will be welcome during w/c 12 th March. Refreshments. Bidding from 1.30pm
Sun 25 th 10am	VoB Ramblers – Eaton, St Denys Church, Leics, 8.5 miles. Day walk, mostly flat walking but a steady climb through Belvoir Woods
Thurs 29 th 2.30pm	Bottesford Methodist Church Friendship Group. Card Craft demonstrated by Marian Johnson. (Other information, see 15 th March)
Sat 31 st 7pm for 7.30pm	Annual Music Quiz - VC Hall, Bottesford - £7.00 per ticket includes lasagne or chilli supper. Bar facilities. Tickets available soon. Please see http://www.voblians.org.uk

And in April.....

Sun 1 st 11am	Bottesford Egg Run - Red Lion to Meres Centre Grantham – all motorcyclists welcome - John Bartlett 01780762531 / 07790583082
Thurs 5 th 7.30pm	Maundy Thursday - Churches Together Service, St Mary's Church.
Fri 6 th 10.00am	Good Friday. Walk of Witness, St Mary's Church to Methodist Church with Good Friday Service (followed by coffee and hot cross buns).
12 noon	Stations of the Cross, St Mary's Church.
Sat 7 th 9pm	Easter Vigil at St Mary's Church.
Sun 10.30am	Easter Day Eucharist, St Mary's Church.
Tue 10 th 2pm	U3A – Garden Hedgehogs by Janet Peto - VC Hall
Weds 11 th 12.45pm	Health Walk – a walk in and around Allington approx 1hr. With Norma. Meet in Walford Close. All welcome.
Thurs 12 th 2.30pm	Bottesford Methodist Friendship Group. Church schoolroom, Devon Lane. A talk by Clare Mountford (Other information, see 15 th March)
7.30pm	Local History Society. Fuller Rooms. 'Coaching Days' – Adrian Henstock.
Sun 15 th 1 pm	Friends of Chernobyl's Children Charity walk. Start Muston Church. 5 miles. Finish Old Forge Tea Rooms. Details Wendy or Martin 844646 or 07729012971.
Sun 15 th 2.30pm	East Midlands Orchid Society. VC Hall. Speaker Roy Barrow of Royden Orchids. Non-members welcome, refreshments served.
Mon 16 th 7.15pm	Parish Council meeting. Old School, Muston. Residents are welcome as observers and at the start may address the council with concerns.
Tue 17 th 7.30pm	W.I. 'New Light on Edward & Mrs Simpson' – Mr J Whitfield. VC Hall.
Fri 20 th 7pm	Bingo in the Scout Hut, Albert Street. See Friday 9 th March. Eyes down at 7.30 pm.
Thurs 26 th 2.30pm	Methodist Friendship Group. 'Seychelles - A Thousand Miles from Anywhere' - an illustrated talk by Ralph and Lynne Martin (See also 15 th March)
Fri 27 th 7pm for 7.30pm	Casino Night at Robert Miles Infant and Junior Schools, Bingham. Please see http://www.voblians.org.uk for up-to-date details

Important: To publicise your event in the 'What's On' column for May or June, please ring 844823 or email t.taffs@btinternet.com by **27th March**.

Changes to Council services from 2nd April:

Recycling

Melton Borough Council will end free 'brown bin' garden waste collections and the bins will be used for recyclable plastic, glass and paper. Garden waste will be collected, at a cost of £35 per year.

Library

From the 2nd April opening times are changing to:

Monday 2pm – 5pm, Tuesday 4pm - 7pm, Thursday 2pm – 5pm,

Friday 10am – 1pm, and Saturday 10am – 1pm.

Neighbourhood Watch

Please report suspicious people/activity to the police, especially since recent local burglaries. Sensible precautions include locking windows and doors and, if the house is empty at night, leave some lights on.

2012 Bottesford Gala – 7th May

The Bottesford Gala for 2012 is back, bigger and better than ever! See the Gala section at www.bottesford.org.uk for more information. Call Matt on 07795 450092 or Simon on 07968 553241, if you want to support the Gala.

Litter !!

Do you care about Bottesford? Are you fed up with the litter? Please give just two hours to help clear it by joining the volunteer team at the Fuller Rooms on Saturday 24th March at 9.30am. Sponsored by the Parish Council, and with equipment provided by Melton Borough Council.

Bottesford Community Centre

Would you like to learn a new skill? Courses starting soon include:

Touch typing/Office Skills - 6th March, Use a Laptop with Confidence - 13th March, Cookery - 30th March, and Guitar for Beginners - 24th April.

Crèche may be available for daytime classes.

For information: Julia.Madgwick@leics.gov.uk or 844199.

A Moment in Time.....60 years in Photography

Ted Rayson, who grew up in Bottesford, will be celebrating 60 years in photography this year. He will exhibit his work at the Fuller Room on Saturday 5th May and Monday 7th May.

The charities supported by this exhibition are the Lincs/Notts Air Ambulance and Friends of Chernobyl's Children.

Well done, Lions!

Santa toured our area before Christmas, escorted by the Vale of Belvoir Lions and their helpers. An impressive £4,009.18 was raised and charities benefitting included Dove Hospice, the Rainbows Children's Charity and 'First Responders'.

Many of us enjoyed the Duck Race on Boxing Day which raised £1,100.

The Foresters Morris Dancers provided further entertainment at the finishing line of The Duck Race , whilst also carrying out a charity collection. This raised £200.

See the photograph on page 8.

Bottesford Gardening Association Shop

Save pounds in petrol by getting seeds and fertilizer in Bottesford. It costs just £2 a year to join and there is always someone to help load heavy items into your car. The shop is near the Skateboard Park and open Sundays 9.30 to 11.30 am and on Thursday evenings in the summer.

A Free Gift

This free gift is available from Bottesford Library. When you are taking your dog for a walk **please make sure you take your gift with you and use it to clean up after your dog**, disposing of the bag in one of the many bins around the villages. **Bottesford has more Dog Bins than the whole of Melton Mowbray**, so there is one not far from your walk.



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

Bottesford Fuller Rooms – Mondays, 10am & 11am.

Harlaxton Village Hall – Tues & Thurs, 10am & 11am.

Car Colston Village Hall – Fridays, 10.15am & 11.15am.

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Sports News



International Karate Instructor visits Bottesford



Karate students from across the UK travelled to Bottesford in December to take part in a special training course with internationally renowned karate instructor, Sensei Scott Langley. Grantham Shotokan Karate Club trains at Bottesford VC Hall every Tuesday evening from 7pm.

To find out more detail either contact Elizabeth on 07546 203682, visit www.grantham-shotokankarate.moonfruit.co.uk, or turn up at one of their classes and have a go for FREE!

Boxing Day Duck Race (See page 7)



Annual Bottesford Fun Run Sunday May 6th 10.30am

The annual Bottesford Fun Run starts and finishes outside the VC Hall. As this year is Diamond Jubilee year there will be an optional Royal themed fancy dress competition and a prize for the competitor with the best outfit.

For those of you who haven't yet broken your New Year's resolutions and want something to aim for, this is a nice gentle trot around the village - just under 5km with the emphasis very much on taking part rather than a race. However, there are prizes for the winner in each age category.

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Deadline for May-June Edition

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As in previous years, all monies raised from the event go to Friends of Chernobyl's Children, a charity which aims to bring under-privileged children from areas of Belarus still affected by the 1986 Chernobyl disaster to the UK for a month of respite. This year we are hoping to bring ten children over in June who will all stay with families in Bottesford and surrounding areas.

Entry fees are £3 for adults and £2 for children 16 and under. Look out for further details nearer the day.

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