



Issue No. 63
January/February 2013

Village Voice

The newsletter of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton



'Our Gang's Got Talent - Celebrating 2012'

The Gang Show returned to the stage in Bottesford and what talent there was to be seen. In front of capacity audiences, leaders and children celebrated the events of London 2012 – the Olympics, the Para-Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee. The concert included rousing renditions of traditional Gang Show songs and the finale was a wonderful performance of 'Sing', the Commonwealth song written for the Diamond Jubilee.

The memorable comic commercial breaks promoted The Gang's sponsors, and the financial result for the hard work was about £1400.

And Thanks from the Leaders

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all who helped made our show 'Our Gang's Got Talent Celebrating 2012' the huge success it was. There are too many to name but thanks go to our show director, all of our sponsors, backstage helpers, ticket sellers including those at Dove Cottage Hospice shop and the library, Belvoir High School staff, parents and the audiences.

But most of all a huge thank you and well done to all the cast, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section, Cubs, and Scouts plus their leaders for such commitment, hard work and effort putting on a fantastic show for all to enjoy. We are very proud of you all and what a great way to show how the youngsters of all of the Bottesford uniformed groups and volunteer leaders work hard together and can give back something special to the community.

Adelle Glossop, Girlguiding Grantham Rural District Commissioner,
and Roseanne Rawson, Bottesford Group Scout Leader

Bottesford Community Centre has new exciting courses for 2013!

Including: Digital Cameras, Photo Editing, Absolute Beginners Guide to IT, Paediatric First Aid, Emergency First Aid at Work, Spanish for Beginners, Textiles – Alter Repair and Renew Clothing, Jewellery Making, Pilates, Yoga, and Cooking on a Budget .

Help with fees is available on some courses for learners who are in receipt of certain benefits. Contact the Centre on 844199, or call their Freephone enrolment line: 0800 988 0308

or Email: Julia.Madgwicks@leics.gov.uk



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Court Closure in 1962

For 900 years the Belvoir Courthouse was used for hearings and the trials of wrongdoers in Bottesford and the Vale. The fascinating accounts of these proceedings can be found in past copies of the Grantham Journal. The Journal reported that paraffin lamps were still in use.

The Local History Society

In September, Neil Fortey, (Chairman) gave an illustrated talk called 'Gargoyles and Grotesques'. He has made a photo survey of the carvings by medieval stonemasons and has mounted an exhibition which can now be seen in St. Mary's church. In October the group welcomed back Vince Holyoak. His talk, 'Hidden Histories', described life for the people of Leicester during WW2, including getting used to American soldiers. In November David Middleton gave a talk called 'Bottesford Men and the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the WW1'. He explained how several Bottesford men had settled in Canada at the start of the 20th century and who, when volunteers were called for, readily joined the Canadian Force. He had researched their lives and careers through the war and how they met their sad end.

The University of the Third Age

was entertained in September by Sue Stephenson, a determined lady, who loves gardening and finally got her hearts desire - a run-down bungalow and garden to renovate, a task that would have defeated many of her audience. In October Sue Gatfield presented 'The History of Dove Cottage', with photographs to show how the old farm buildings were transformed into the Hospice and tea rooms. Somehow, when extra funds were needed they were found through a lot of fund-raising and faith. For November Barry Grice, U3A secretary and National Trust volunteer, talked about the Brownlows of Belton House. They started out in the 16thC as lawyers and through longevity, good luck, and marrying money, became extremely rich and influential, owning much of Lincolnshire, and to be amongst the richest families in England.

New facilities at Bottesford Pre-School

Over the summer holidays Pre-School had their toilet area totally refurbished and the second hand toilets that had been there since 1988 have now gone. The children love the new toilets and colour scheme, which was chosen collectively, and more importantly they all can use them and the handbasins independently.

It's 10 years since.....

About 20 residents of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston and Normanton met to consider the results of the Village Appraisal. 1576 homes had received a questionnaire and 926 were returned.

The first Village Voice was produced as a result of the Appraisal findings, succeeding the Belvoir Country News.

The first letters appeared in Village Voice about dog fouling, the village hall field and thoughtless car parking in the village.

The first meetings were held to plan visits by children from Belarus.

This initiative by the Vale of Belvoir branch of Friends of Chernobyl Children had the support of the Primary School, the Methodist Chapel, the U3A and the VoB Lions.

The volunteer rota began at the Police Station, with the aim of staffing the Station so the police could spend more time in the community. It was hoped to add two more PCs to the four stationed in Bottesford.

The Bottesford Action Group was formed as a result of the severe flooding that occurred in July.

The National Lottery boosted the funds for rebuilding the VC Hall by £213,434. The Village Green was opened to coincide with the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Robbery!

In May 1962 the Grantham Journal reported a robbery at the Bull Inn. Mr and Mrs Bill Healey were the licensees at the time. Articles stolen included a bankbook, a ring worth £100 and £750 of Savings Certificates.

Olga Healey was the sister of Stan Laurel, of the famous comedians Laurel and Hardy. The comedians visited Bottesford in the 1940s and 1950s and their photographs can be seen in The Bull. The May 2013 meeting of the Local History Society will feature "Laurel and Hardy – A Life in Comedy"

St Mary's supports Grantham Food Bank

The number of families and individuals in desperate need of food is increasing dramatically. Food poverty is a nation-wide problem and Food Banks are now found in towns across the country to provide food in an emergency. This may arise through loss of employment, illness or many other factors that change family circumstances. If the need arises in Bottesford and Muston, then the Grantham Food Bank is there to meet the need.

Through its commitment to Social Responsibility, St Mary's church is supporting Grantham Food Bank, joining Churches together in Grantham in this enterprise. Donations of non-perishable food (tins, tea, coffee, rice, pasta, etc) are collected in the church throughout the month and delivered to Grantham. Almost 1600 local family members have been supported by the Food Bank, including over 500 local children, with 14.5 tonnes of food being received.

Your contributions of food would be gratefully received at the church. If you would like more details, please contact Malcolm Owen on 843113 or ms.owen@which.net



Photo courtesy of Ted Rayson

From Russia with Music

Making a return visit to St Mary's Church in October, by invitation of the Friends of St Mary's, the **Voskresenije Choir of St Petersburg** held an audience of around 130 spellbound with their performance of Russian sacred and folk music. All conservatoire-trained, the four men and four women filled the church with their sound.

The event was a social and financial success for the Friends, and the choir enjoyed their visit too. They appreciated the hospitality of Friends members, with beef casserole in church after the performance and B&B in local homes, before leaving for their next concert at Royal Wootton Bassett – with a promise to return this year.

A Virtual tour of St Mary's Church

A photographer, authorised by Google, visited St Mary's in November and produced the most amazing 'walk-around' of the church for all to enjoy without setting foot inside!

Go to www.stmarysbottesford.co.uk/ and take the link to the tour or this link to [Bottesford Church](#) and navigate yourself around the building.

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Bird Life

The Vale of Belvoir is a good area in which to see a wide variety of bird life, with its mix of open farmland, dense hedgerows, woodland and the occasional piece of open water. Almost any country walk around the village can be rewarding so make sure you take your binoculars. A stroll to the top of Beacon Hill last winter was sure to bring sightings of short-eared owls. Slightly further afield wintering ducks, geese and swans are often to be found in good numbers on Denton reservoir. Views along the Nottingham-Grantham canal, or in Belvoir Woods, can be very good for raptors such as buzzard, red kite and sparrowhawk. But to see a peregrine falcon you probably need go no further than the church!

The place we most frequently see birds is, of course, our gardens, and for those with apple trees you may see fieldfares and redwings tackling any windfalls, along with our resident thrushes: the song and mistle thrushes, and blackbirds. Shrubs and trees with berries, such as rowan and cotoneaster, are also good for thrushes and, if you're lucky, the exotic waxwing. Keep bird feeders full and you will be guaranteed visits by our resident tits and members of the finch family, including possibly the winter visiting brambling.

Parish Council Corner

Business Success There are over 65 small businesses located in our four villages - not including our hard-working farms! We have an award winning soft-drinks company, a cheese-factory and tea-rooms.

The Parish Council would love to hear your views on what makes your business a success, or a challenge to run. Is there anything we can do as a community to ensure our businesses continue to grow? Would a local 'business-club' help?

Any views or suggestions? Contact Barbara Taylor on clerk@bottesfordpc.org.uk or post a comment on their Facebook page.

Speedwatch Campaign A big thank you to all volunteers who supported the Speedwatch campaign. Over the fortnight they recorded 418 speeding drivers. The highest in the 30 zone was 55mph (Normanton,) and 53mph (Belvoir Road). In the 40 zone, it was 61mph (Castle Close).

A recent research paper shows that children cannot accurately judge the speed of an approaching vehicle above 25mph. The higher the speed the more unreliable the judgement becomes. Hitting a child when driving over 30 mph will almost certainly result in a fatality.

Most drivers speed due to a false sense of urgency, or lack of awareness, or are simply distracted. Professional drivers concentrate. Poor drivers simply don't think.

The Parish Council are considering installing a 'Mobile Vehicle-Activated Speed Sign. This will alert drivers to their actual speed and will thank them for slowing down. The sign can be moved at any time and re-installed anywhere within our four villages.

If you think this is a worthwhile initiative please contact alistair.csw@gmail.com or post a comment on Bottesford Parish Council Facebook page.

Vale of Belvoir SureStart Children's Centre, Belvoir High School campus. SureStart is a Government initiative for families with children aged 0 to 5 years, who feel they require extra support. Melton's SureStart programme offers activity and community groups, family outreach services and referrals to specialist services. SureStart aims to improve the health and emotional development of young children.

So, what's on at the Vale of Belvoir Children's Centre?*

Monday 11am – 3pm. 'Monday Fun day' is a variety of play activities, including stories and singing, alongside physical, messy and creative play. We recommend parents bring along a packed lunch to enjoy socialising with other parents and children!

- Bottesford Bumblebees Toddler Group – Wednesday 1pm – 3pm.
- Childminders Group – Friday from 10am – 11.30am.

If you would like more information, please contact Denise Hathaway, your Rural Outreach Worker – 07534263817.

*Subject to change, at short notice, at any time.



★ SPOTLIGHT ON....

★ The guy(s) behind the fireworks

★ Back in November many of the VW readers along with family members
★ will have wrapped up warm against the elements and ventured out to the
★ Lions annual bonfire and firework display. The event has been a feature of
★ local life since the Vale of Belvoir Lions club was formed back in 1979.

★ Over the years there have been significant changes in the size of
★ fireworks and recently local enthusiast Graham Peace, who had become a
★ regular Lions helper, suggested that the club could use modern firing
★ technology at future displays. After a lot of research, by Graham, the 2012
★ display aimed to use this new technology to provide 'fireworks to music'.
★ However after a minor technical glitch and a couple of false 'countdowns'
★ there was a frantic dismantlement of the electronic system and a need to
★ resort to lighting by hand. Graham and his son James, as Script Prompter,
★ to their immense credit followed the pre-planned firing programme still
★ with an accompaniment of music. Despite an obvious disappointment after
★ all the hard work and planning, the results were there for all to see – a
★ brilliant display and one which clearly had been thoroughly planned from
★ start to finish.

★ Thanks, of course, to Graham and James but also to the countless
★ others Lions (John, Clive, Norman and Warren) and the many volunteers
★ who had worked so hard leading up to the event and on the day itself. We
★ also couldn't forget the wonderful audience who, with patience and
★ fortitude on a very, very cold evening, stuck with us while the problems
★ were rectified. Back next year – bigger and better!!

★ The event made a £2,500 for charity this year. Many thanks to all the
★ public who supported it, and those that helped make it a success. If you
★ want to watch a video of the display go to:

★ www.voblions.org.uk/archive/2012-11-05_bonfire_night/



Brains of Belvoir Quiz – another successful Lions event!

A great evening was had by all the boffins of Belvoir. Thirteen teams entered the 'Mastermind in the Vale', hosted by Lion President John. The rounds were an eclectic mix of general knowledge, geography, current affairs and sports. The questions were very difficult, in fact the Lions team paid testament to this by coming last! Well done to winning team Jabusa.

Primary School - New Starters in September 2012



Photo courtesy of The Grantham Journal

CONVERSION TO ACADEMY STATUS

Bottesford Primary School is now an academy, as of the 1st November. You may notice little or no difference - for example no name change or uniform change. The major difference is that funding is now directly from the government's EFA (Education Funding Agency) and not from the Local Authority. We believe that the move to academy status will benefit our pupils and continue to help the school to provide a good education for all.

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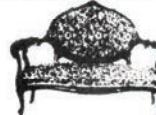
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What's On in January....

Sun 6th 10am	VoB Ramblers – Quorn, Leics, 8½ miles. Swithland Reservoir & Grand Union Canal. Day walk. Contact Jan 0115 9825600.
Tues 8th 1.30pm	U3A AGM, followed at 2pm by 'Sharing Interests'. VC Hall
Thurs 10th 7.30pm	Local History Society. "That was the year - Bottesford in 1870" – Sue Dunsmore. Visitors welcome. Fuller Rooms.
Mon 14th 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 15th 7.30pm	W.I. Murder Mystery Night! VC Hall.
Sun 20th 2.30pm	East Midland Orchid Society, VC Hall. 'All my yesterdays', speaker Laurence Hobbs. Non-members welcome. Plants for sale. Mick Armstrong – 842668
Thurs 24th 2pm - 4pm	Police Team Beat Surgery. Zaro's Coffee Shop, Queen Street. Come along and have a chat to your Local Police Beat Team about what matters in your Community.
Sun 27th 10am	VoB Ramblers – Bleasby, Notts, 10½ miles. Roman remains, Halloughton & riverside. Day walk. Contact Jan 0115 9825600.

And in February....

Fri 8th 7.30pm start	Dove Cottage. Quiz Night and Supper at Hose Village Hall. Tickets £7.50 includes a two course supper. Contact 01949 860303 or email office@dovecottage.org
Sun 10th 7.30pm	See item below.
Mon 11th 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 12th 2pm	U3A – 'My Life In Entertainment' – Speaker – Douglas Gorin. VC Hall
Thurs 14th 7.30pm	Local History Society. 'Medieval Churches of Leicestershire & Rutland' – Colin Groves. Fuller Rooms.
Sun 17th 10am	VoB Ramblers. Muston, Bottesford, Stenwith. 11 miles. Day walk. Café & tearoom stops. Contact Jan 0115 9825600.
Sun 17th 2.30pm	East Midland Orchid Society VC Hall. 'Flowers of Western Australia'. Speaker Gian Piero Ferrari. Non-members welcome.
Tues 19th 7pm	W.I. Annual Meeting. VC Hall.
Thurs 21st 4pm - 6pm	Police Team Beat Surgery. Zaro's Coffee Shop, Queen Street. Come along and have a chat to your Local Police Beat Team about what matters in your Community.
Wed 27th 10am	VoB Ramblers. Hodsock, Notts, Blyth & Carlton-in-Lindrick. 7 miles. Day walk. Contact Jan 0115 9825600.

Important: To publicise your event in the 'What's On' column for March or April, please ring 844823 or email t.taffs@btinternet.com by **30th January**.

Volunteer Health Walk Leaders.

In December Sue Dunsmore retired as a Health Walk Leader in Bottesford. Do you enjoy walking? Could you become a Health Walk Leader? Training and support is given. For more information visit **sports@melton.uk** or call Melton Borough Council (Social and Economic Development on 01664 502389).

Buy your tickets now...

for Oscar Wilde's '**Lord Savile's Crime**' , a wicked black comedy that fizzles with fun. Rocket Theatre presents this murder mystery which is suitable for 14+, on **Sunday 10th February** at 7.30pm in the village hall.

More information on www.rockettheatre.co.uk.

Tickets are available **now** at £8 from Gill on 842868 and from SPAR, Zaro's Deli, and <http://wegottickets.com/> from 10th January.

Letters....



On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, I would like to say thank you to everyone who turned out on a cold, damp November afternoon to support us at the Autumn Fair. Thank you to those who provided cakes, tombola and raffle prizes, and, in particular, I would like to thank Bottesford WI who made the supply of refreshments flow so smoothly from the kitchen. It all went like clockwork.

We had a very successful afternoon and made over £825 for village hall funds which is absolutely brilliant! Thank you again for your support

Marilyn Robinson, Chair, Bottesford Village Hall

The Royal British Legion

Once again the people of the 4 villages have come up trumps in helping fund the annual Poppy Appeal, collecting £2,740 – £120 more than last year. It is thanks to the generosity of you all that service men and women of all ages, and their families, are still being helped by this wonderful charity.

A big 'Thank you' also to the volunteers who took the poppies out to every house, and to the businesses who have helped. This has really been a community working together to look after others who have helped us to live a 'free' life.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Minor Crime/Anti-Social Behaviour. To Report or Not To Report?

People who find themselves the victim of minor crimes or anti-social behaviour where the impact is relatively minor sometimes question the point of reporting it to the police. It is more trouble than it is worth, the chance of catching the culprits is negligible, the police have more important matters to deal with, are all arguments used to explain non-reporting. There are two good reasons to report all incidents **no matter how minor**:

1. Your loss may be minor but could be part of wider activity. In recent raids on garden sheds some victims had nothing stolen but others lost several thousand pounds worth of equipment. Your incident may be part of a bigger picture and the more information the police have the better the chances of apprehending the culprits. The police can work out the routes taken, and timings, which can provide opportunities to find more witnesses. They may also be able to link other seemingly unconnected incidents.
2. The allocation of the police's resources is regularly reviewed using reported crime statistics. If crimes in our Parish go unreported, our need is under-represented in those statistics which could potentially result in resources being re-directed away from our area, particularly in the current financial climate.

If we are serious about combating crime and anti-social behaviour in our community we should adopt a "zero tolerance" approach and report **all** incidents to the police, no matter how minor.

John Shilton, Principal Coordinator, Bottesford NHW

JohnS@BottesfordParishNHW.org.uk or 0772 5636626

Bottesford NHW Alert: New Flood Warden Arrangements

Following consultations with all the relevant bodies, the Parish Council has appointed Peter Sheardown as Flood Co-ordinator. This is a voluntary position that Peter is very well placed to undertake for the Parish as he is a farmer with a long-standing knowledge of local environment conditions and the management of water courses, and previously operated as Deputy Flood Warden under Brian Kelk. Peter is also continuing as Deputy Principal NHW Coordinator, and the NHW email alert system will still be used to publicise information and warnings. In a flooding emergency, the local NHW Co-ordinators will continue to act as Local Flood Wardens as at present. **Please note that for future advice and support on flooding issues you should contact Peter Sheardown directly (07516 761321 or 01949 844591), not NHW.**

For the full report see: <http://www.bottesfordnhw.blogspot.co.uk/2012/10/bottesford-nhw-alert-new-flood-warden.html>

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.

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Sports News



Social Events at Bottesford Bowling Club

There are no outdoor bowling activities taking place during the winter but some club members play in the Grantham Indoor League with success. However, the club is hosting a number of social events during the closed season which members of the public can enjoy by becoming a social member for £1.00. This also entitles them to use the bar whenever the club is open.

Events for 2013 include a Darts Match on January 9th, a Table Top Games evening on 9th February (£5.00 including supper), a Horse Racing evening on 16th March, and a Quiz Night on 13th April (£6.00 including supper).

For more information contact Margaret (842257) or Pauline (842212).

FA County 2012 Award

Bottesford Football Club works hard to maintain and improve upon the Charter Standard that the FA lays down. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that we have accepted the Leicestershire & Rutland FA Charter Standard Development Club Award for the year 2012.

Chairman Danny Gribby says, "This is a great accolade for the club and a tribute to our coach Gordon Geach who, as our Charter Standard Officer, works tirelessly to ensure that we meet these stringent requirements. We are extremely proud to receive this award which shows the ongoing progression that the Club is making".



Pictured is Gordon Geach (centre front) along with the Sunday Girls squad. They will be looking to play regular games against girls from other clubs in this their second season. For further detail please contact Matt Burton (07540935478) or Steve Ryan (07809493835).

Are you a member of a club or group? Do you want to make sure the details are included in the **Village Guide**? Please use our contact details below to get in touch ready for the next issue of the Guide due out in a few weeks.

Village Voice Contacts

Advertising: Email vv@bottesford.org.uk or phone 842141

Editorial: Dilys Shepherd on 843505 or Susan Meech on 843402

Deadline for March/April Edition (Issue 64): 20th January.

E-mail: vv@bottesford.org.uk

To view in colour see our website: www.villagevoice.bottesford.org.uk

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