



Village Voice

Issue No. 68
November/December 2013

The newsletter of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton



Here are the new starters at our very popular Primary School, looking very smart in their school uniforms. There are 42 children, divided into two classes, and they have all settled in very well.

Guides celebrate Christmas in July

Poacher is an International Scout and Guide camp which takes place every four years. Around 6000 Scouts and Guides from all over the world took over the Lincolnshire show ground. The camp was split into smaller sub camps and if you haven't already guessed our sub camp was

Spirit of Christmas. Our group included 21 guides, 2 senior section guides, 5 scouts, 9 adults and 3 children. Over the course of the week the participants could choose from around 160 different activities including gliding, climbing, swimming, crafts, kayaking, sailing, scuba diving, quad biking and many, many more. The event finished with a big fancy dress party and firework display.





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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Bottesford Parish Council is currently working with the Heritage Group on a major project to restore the Old School to its original role as a focal point for the village. It is hoped that the proposals will attract funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to create a heritage centre with space for displays, archives and a Parish Office. The project would entail restoration of the existing buildings and the construction of new rooms in the old school yard. Please let us know your views through the Clerk, individual councillors or by a note on our Facebook page.

New notice-board for Bottesford

There is a new Parish Council notice-board located adjacent to the Spar shop, just to the right of their own board. You will be able to read copies of documents, agendas, minutes and plans for the future. You will also find contact details of the Parish Councillors should you need to get in touch with them.

Dog wardens for Bottesford

The Parish Council, along with about every resident in the village, is sick and tired of seeing dog faeces all over the place. They have therefore appointed two Dog Wardens for the village, who will make regular patrols and encourage dog-owners to dispose of their pets' faeces in the appropriate bins. In addition, they will be authorised to issue a fixed penalty notice for those who do not pick up the mess or dispose of it incorrectly. In this respect, offenders may not necessarily see the Warden, but they could still have a notice sent to their home address. If you are seen letting your dog defecate, the warden has the power to ask you for your name, address and date of birth. Being unaware of the defecation is no excuse. Failure to pay the £75 fine could land you in court.

During the recent training, one of the more surprising discoveries was that you are allowed to use the normal rubbish bins for your dog waste, if this is within an easier walking distance. Come on everyone – let's clean up the villages and allow children to be able to play in safety without the threat of illnesses caused by dog-fouling.

A warm welcome to Lynn Busby, our newest Parish Councillor

Lynn lived in Bottesford for 5 years until 1999, then left to be the landlady of The Crown Inn in Old Dalby. In 2003, Lynn retired from this job and moved abroad. After a gap of 9 years, she returned to Bottesford last year. Lynn explains: *"Although a relative newcomer, I have always considered Bottesford my home"*. We now have a full team of nine councillors, all of whom bring together their unique experiences and perspective to make our community a better place in which to live and work. Please feel free to contact any of the councillors with any issue that concerns you.

Normanton flooding issues

Over the last two years, there has been a significant increase in flooding within Normanton. The current drainage system is unable to cope with above average rainfall and flash-floods. In this respect, an action-group has been formed to pressure the three leading authorities for a full review of the drainage systems and to agree upon a long-term and co-ordinated solution. A particular thank you to Nancy and Paul Forster, who have been instrumental in setting up this initiative. Please let the Parish Council know if you have had any specific flooding experiences that would support this campaign.

Muston transport issues

It was great to see so many Muston residents attend the Parish Council meeting in August this year. Pru Chandler, our Borough Councillor, led discussions regarding the withdrawal of the bus-service through Muston. Whilst this is a commercially based decision by the local operator, it does not stop residents campaigning for its return. We are also exploring other community transport initiatives through the Rural Services Network, 'Dial-A-Ride' services and, of course, our new 'Good Neighbour Scheme'. The Parish Council is very keen to progress any of the above initiatives, as well as any suggestions or ideas that residents may suggest, so please them know your thoughts.

Village Voice Photographic Competition 2013

'Village Life' is the theme for this inaugural competition run by Village Voice and judged by local professional photographer Mark Pugh. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in each of the 3 age categories: under 11's, 11 – 18, and over 18's.

The following rules apply:

- All photos must be submitted as digital photographs **only**. Photos can be taken with cameras, ipads and mobile phones.
- The photographs will be judged on their own merit, and not on the kind of camera they were taken with.
- Entries limited to 3 photographs per person
- Entries to be emailed to vvphotocomp@markpugh.com or vv@bottesford.org.uk along with your name, age, contact telephone number, name of your photograph and a brief background about the photo.
- Entries to be received no later than midnight 29th November 2013
- Prize winners will receive a high street gift voucher

Please note that Copyright remains with the photographer, however, all entries may be used by the Village Voice for promotional purposes. Entering the competition signifies your agreement to this.

Model Release Forms will need to be signed by the parents/guardians of any children featured in photographs that are published and VV will take the necessary steps to make arrangements for this where appropriate.

Bottesford Preschool Fun day

The weather was kind on the annual fun day, there was a large turn out and the children enjoyed themselves. This is a fund raising social event for local families and we are very fortunate that the local community supports us. We had a BBQ with meat donated by the local butcher and a bouncy castle which was also provided at no charge. Other activities including face painting (with many butterflies wandering around), a treasure hunt around the grounds, hook a shark and exploring our new tree house. Funds raised from the day will go to refurbish the windows to provide double glazing and a warmer building for winter.

Success for the first Vale of Belvoir Summer Club

The club, run by Vale of Belvoir Out of School Club, was well attended by its regular users and by others from around the Vale, all appreciating the friendly members of staff. Children enjoyed a wide variety of activities ranging from table tennis, football (with Muzzy Izzet and Steve Walsh), tile decorating and cooking, to bug hunts. The two week timetable offered something for everyone and even the weather was kind! Due to the huge response, the club will be running again in 2014—look out for details in the new year.



Good Neighbour Scheme

Following on from the recent questionnaires and public meeting, it is looking like a Good Neighbour scheme will be set up to cover the Parish with a number of volunteers coming forward to help set up and run the scheme. If funding can be secured the scheme will be launched on 1st January 2014. Keep you eyes peeled for further news in local shops, restaurants, and doctors surgeries. If you would like to help with the scheme or would like more information please contact Anne Ablewhite on 842259 or info@bottesfordgns.org.uk.

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All Saints' Day on November 1st commemorates all the saints and martyrs of the Christian faith and is an important date in the Christian calendar. An old tradition in Lancashire was to offer a piece of Harcake (similar to Parkin) to visitors on this day. All Souls' Eve was the evening of November 1st and All Souls' Day was November 2nd. Families remembered the souls of the departed and traditionally, poorer folk would offer prayers for the departed relatives of richer neighbours in exchange for alms, apples, soul cakes and spiced ale. A soul cake was a small, spiced currant cake that was marked with a cross. As the soulers (or cakers) processed, they sang special souling songs. These performances began to die out at the start of the nineteenth century but these plays are still associated with Chester and the surrounding area.

Bottesford Local History Society

At its AGM the group was looking ahead to its new programme and two exciting new community projects. David Middleton set the scene for " *The Bottesford Parish 1st World War Centenary Project: People, community and memory*", after Heather Stokes had outlined the parish council's plans to create a *Community Heritage Centre* in the yard behind the Old School. Neil Fortey outlined the new programme of talks which will cover a variety of topics. New members and guests are always welcome. Meetings start at 7.30 in the Fuller Room on the second Thursday in the month from September to May. Look out for details in Village Voice, on the local history noticeboard at Bottesford Co-op store, or on the local history website: bottesfordhistory.org.uk.

99 remembrance days

The 11th of November 2013 is the 99th year since the start of the Great War. Since next year is the centenary of the start of World War 1, The Living History Group is applying for a grant for a project to increase understanding of the effects of the War on the parish as well as to collect local memorabilia, especially memories. The photo below shows the Bottesford Squad Mobilization in 1914 and the names of just two of these young men are known - Earnest William (Bill) Christmas front left and Charlie Calcraft centre back. For more information 'Like' the Bottesford-Parish-WW1-Centenary page on Facebook or go to www.bottesfordhistory.org.uk/



In 2003.....

The Grantham Journal published letters about plans for a bridge across the A52 at Barkestone Lane which was to be part of a Sustrans project. Objectors thought that the £300,000 bridge would not prevent accidents and that traffic lights would be a preferred option.

Bottesford Primary School held its first Scarecrow Festival and also encouraged parents and children to walk to school or join the Walking Bus.

William Blanchard aged 9 was appeared in a television series called 'Yuk'. The show explained why children find certain things disgusting. He was filmed at Long Clawson Dairy and he was definitely not won over by tasting Stilton or by a specially prepared Stilton pizza.

SPOTLIGHT ON.... "Destination Bottesford"



Stall holders setting up at the beginning of the day

The event was a huge success exceeding all expectations. The Bottesford Retail and Business Forum worked hard and the weather was on their side too. All market stalls made profit and many fed back that it was 'the best event they had attended from a sales perspective'.

Local businesses including the Co-op, Spar, Zaro's, Paul's, the Thatch and Pizinnis all reported a significant year on year increase in turnover with many new customers. It is estimated that over 1000 people visited, with around 80% of them being local people.

Destination Bottesford had many factors that made it a success and the Retail & Business Forum would like to say a huge thank you to the locals for making the event such a success and embracing the essence of shopping locally. The group has now organised a Christmas Market on Saturday 7th December from 2pm till 7pm. Stalls are available and cost £15 and can be booked through the web site. For more information go to: <http://www.destinationbottesford.org.uk/> or like their Facebook page.

Music in Muston

Look no further than Muston for high quality music and entertainment all in aid of the local Air Ambulance Service and the Muston Church Restoration Fund.

The recent concert was a night to remember. The moon shone, champagne corks popped and music filled the warm night air at St John The Baptist Church. And what music and hidden talents also shone. The Muston Brass Ensemble signalled we were in for something special with pieces ranging from madrigals to musicals. The Vale Choir was perfectly suited to the intimate church setting. Rick Ives provided comic relief with his 'Right said Fred'. All this was topped by the stunning solo soprano performances of Alice Ives and Catherine Goring. For an evening to remember look out for the next Muston Church concert.

Hatfield Colliery Brass Band

No one who was in the church at this recent concert could have been 'brassed off' by experiencing the Last Night of the Proms live at St Mary's rather than from an armchair in front of the tele! The church was packed for the rousing concert on the return visit by the Brass Band of Hatfield Colliery. The church was decorated appropriately with Union Jacks and all joined in the flag-waving finale of Land of Hope and Glory. It was a real community event in our lovely church and was an undoubted social -- and financial -- success. Thanks to all who gave their support and the sponsorship of the Rutland Arms.

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What's On in November...

Sun 3 rd 10.30am and at 4pm	St Mary's Church. Pet Service, bring your pet or cuddly toy. Service for All Souls.
Sun 3 rd 10am	VoB Ramblers, Flintham, Notts, to Syerston and back. 6½ miles. Call 0115 9825600 for a free Vale of Belvoir Ramblers programme
Sun 3 rd 1pm - 4pm	Village Hall Autumn Fair. Meet the Pirates. Marilyn 07729 169151.
Tues 5 th Gates open 6.15pm for 7pm	Vale of Belvoir Lions Firework display. The late William Roberts's pad-dock, Devon Ln. Adults £3.00, under 16's £1.00. Food/Drinks available
Weds 6 th and 20 th 12 noon to 1pm.	Lite-Bite lunch group at the Methodist school room. Everyone welcome. First and third Wednesday every month . Contact Irene Pacey 843138
Sun 10 th 10.30am	Service of Remembrance - St Mary's Church.
Mon 11 th 7.15pm	Parish Council meeting. Fuller Rooms. Residents may question the council and make comments prior to the Parish Council meeting.
Tues 12 th 2pm	U3A, 'Secret Lives of Garden Wildlife' - Andrew Whitelaw - VC Hall.
Thurs 14 th 2.30pm	Methodist Friendship Group AGM, Chapel Schoolroom. Refreshments served. Contact Glenys Bradshaw, 842893.
Thurs 14 th 7.30pm	Local History Society. 'Last Post At Newton'. Speaker - Tim O'Brien. Fuller Rooms.
Sun 17 th 6.30pm	Sunday Praise Service - St Mary's Church. Contact Laura, 842859
Sun 17 th 2.00 for 2.30pm	East Midland Orchid Society, VC Hall. 'Cattleyas', by Nelson Netto (to be confirmed). Complimentary tea/coffee and biscuits served. All welcome. Mike Armstrong 842668
Weds 20 th 2pm - 3pm	Police Beat Surgery at Zaro's, Queen Street. Discuss your concerns and have your say with our beat officer.
Tues 19 th 7.30pm	W.I. 'Creative Christmas' - Lynda Kinnard. VC Hall
Sun 24 th 11am	The Bottesford Toy Run by Triumph Owners MCC. The Red Lionto Meres Leisure Ctre Grantham, then Melton. All motorcyclists welcome - bring a toy (new or nearly new). John Bartlett: 01780 762531 - 07790583082
Thurs 28 th 2.30pm	Methodist Friendship Group, Chapel Schoolroom. 'Grace', by Brian Gordon. Refreshments. Contact Glenys Bradshaw, 842893.
Sat 30 th 10am - 2pm	St Mary's Church Christmas Fayre
Sat 30 th 10am - 4pm	Vale of Belvoir Art Society Christmas Exhibition. Fuller Room. Original art. Mince pies and mulled wine. Gill Thomson Hon Sec 01400 281025.
Sat 30 th	Vale of Belvoir Lions Charter Evening at the Olde Barns, Marston.

And in December....

Sun 1 st 10am to 4pm	Vale of Belvoir Art Society Christmas Exhibition. Fuller Room. See above.
Sun 1 st 4pm	Carols for Advent in St Mary's
Mon 2 nd 7.15pm	Parish Council meeting. Fuller Rooms. Residents may question the council and make comments prior to the Parish Council meeting.
Tues 3 rd 7.30pm	Gardens Association - AGM - VC Hall Committee Room
Fri 6 th 7.30pm	Friends of St Mary's Quiz Evening at the Bowls Club Contact - Laura, 842859
Sat 7 th 2pm - 7pm	Destination Bottesford Christmas Market. See Page 5.
Sun 8 th 10.30am	Toy Service at St Mary's. Please bring wrapped toy for children in need.
Tues 10 th 2pm	Vale of Belvoir U3A.. Christmas Party. VC Hall.
Thurs 12 th 2.30pm	Bottesford Methodist Friendship Group Carol Service. Church will be decorated on a theme of 'The Light of the World.' A very warm welcome to all. Refreshments will follow the service. Details from Glenys Bradshaw, 01949 842893.
Thurs 12 th 7.30pm	Local History Society. Fuller Rooms. Christmas Party
Sun 15 th 10.00am	Vale of Belvoir Ramblers. Aslockton. Walk to Orston and Thoroton, 5½ miles. Info: 0115 9825600.
Sun 15 th 6.30pm	Christmas Praise at St Mary's. Band led Christmas songs & carols. Different!
Sun 15 th 2.00 for 2.30pm	East Midland Orchid Society. Club Luncheon (pre-booking essential) followed by the Plant Auction. VC Hall
Tues 17 th 7.30pm	W.I. - Christmas Party, with the Singing Postman. VC Hall.
Fri 18 th 4pm - 5pm	Police Beat Surgery at Zaro's, Queen Street.
Sun 22 nd 6.30pm	Christmas Carols by Candlelight in St Mary's Church
Tues 24 th 4pm and at 11.30pm	Crib Service at St Mary's (come as your favourite nativity character). Midnight Mass
Weds 25 th 10.30am	Christmas Communion at St Mary's Church
Thurs 26 th 11am	Boxing Day Duck Race. Mulled Wine and Mince Pies served in St Mary's

Important: To publicise your event in the 'What's On' column for January or February, please ring 844823 or email t.taffs@btinternet.com by **29th November**.

Your Letters



Dear Editor

Congratulations to Hannah Stokes and Jenny Pye-Smith on winning a bid to refurbish some of Bottesford's playgrounds. I had thought for some time that the playgrounds were poorly equipped compared to neighbouring villages, but these two actually did something about it. Well done!

(Name and address withheld)

Dear Editor

We are lucky to have a good range of shops in the village and it was great to see them working together for 'Destination Bottesford'. How lovely to have both general stores refurbished, unfortunate though that they were both improved at the same time and there were occasions when you couldn't even buy a pint of milk in the village.

The Spar is particularly well laid out, a big improvement. However the Post Office is very disappointing. Only one counter in the secure area. When the shop is busy, the PO counter staffed by shop assistants, is unavailable because they are busy. Transactions at this counter are very limited. The PO in Bottesford has always been busy, we are told to 'use it or lose it'. Who on earth took the decision to reduce the area and staffing?

Finally the green grocer has excellent quality products. However I frequently buy fruit and veg from the general stores because the green grocer is closed. A pity as I like to support our village shops. (Name and address withheld)

Send your photos to Village Voice

We love to receive your news items and the photos that may accompany them. So that we can get them looking their very best, the ideal way for us to receive photos is as a Jpeg (reasonably large file size please) attached to an email sent to vv@bottesford.org.uk Photos taken on most mobile phones rarely come out well in print. If you only have a paper copy of a photo we can try and scan them. If in doubt, please get in touch!

St Mary's Church Advent Appeals. Can You Help?

Many of you continue to be generous in your donations to the food trolley at the back of St Mary's church in aid of the Grantham Food Bank. *Please* continue your donations of non-perishable foodstuffs to our trolley, if you feel able.

Perhaps you would also like to consider the following? The Leicester Diocese **Christmas Star Appeal** supports some of the most vulnerable people in our communities by providing modest gifts at Christmas for adults and children who find themselves in great need. Select a gift by either taking a gift tag from the Christmas tree in St Marys, by selecting something from the list of suggestions below or see the full list in 'Extras' on the Village Voice website and deposit the wrapped gifts in the box at the back of St Mary's church (all gifts must be new and, please, no sharp items, toy guns or militaria). Deadline is **December 7th**

Some Gift Suggestions: **Children:** Books, Crayons/Felt-tips, Gloves/Scarves, Bibs, Dolls, Toy Cars, Cuddly Toys. **Teenagers:** Toiletries, Plain T-Shirts, Music/Book Vouchers, Pens/Notebook, Purse/Wallet. **Women:** Perfume, Pants, Toiletry Bag, Cosmetics, Socks, Scarf, Deodorant, Shampoo. **Men:** Wallet, Aftershave, Plain/dark T-Shirt, Socks, Underpants, Soap, Shampoo.

Thank you, St Mary's Social Responsibility Group.

Pre and Post Natal Yoga

Enjoy a friendly and welcoming light exercise class during and after pregnancy. Classes, led by Claudine Baxter, a midwife and yoga teacher, take place in Bottesford from October at £2 per session. For more information call Claudine on 07920815675 or email Claudine.baxter@btinternet.com

Horticultural show 2013

After the awful spring, the best summer for the last few years certainly brought on the produce for the flower, fruit and vegetable classes which resulted in 573 entries, including 53 from children. For them the inaugural photographic competition was a draw with the new Venture Trophy being presented by Ted Rayson, our photographic judge. The children also produced some great poster designs and some very creative vegetable based animals.

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



Belvoir Castle Fun Run

In spite of blustery and wet conditions 450 runners took part in the 5km and 10km races. The Vale of Belvoir Lions thank all the sponsors, participants, helpers and supporters for their contribution. So far in excess of £4.500 has been raised through registration fees and sponsorship, all of which goes to charity. The trophy presentation at the end of the run was made by Rory Underwood, ex-England and Leicester Tigers rugby star. Full race results can be found on: <http://www.belvoircastlefunrun.org.uk>



L to R: Liam Bell - Under-16 winner 10k, Rory Underwood, Edward Buck - Male and Under-16 winner 5k, Emily Collinge - Female winner 10k, Elizabeth Mills - Female winner 5k

Football Nottingham Road Update

The club has been at Nottingham Road site since the 2011/12 season. This summer further maintenance work was undertaken. At times the existing pitches become extremely congested and during the winter months this can have a detrimental effect on the quality of the playing surface. The committee feels that now is the right time to expand into the second field to provide additional pitches. However, the additional cost of converting the second field into pitches, coupled with equipment and rent means the club needs to find £14,000. Fundraising efforts started late last year, with Nick Dobney, Principle Fundraising Officer, working tirelessly to establish what funding is available at local and national level. They have already raised £6270, thanks to: Leicestershire Legacy Fund £2100, The Co-operative £2000, Football Club Disco £1700, Make it happen initiative £420 and Asda Community Green Tokens £50.

Girls' Football Training

takes place every Sunday from 10am to 11am at the football ground on Nottingham Road. All primary school age girls are welcome. Training, working on soccer skills, entering regular tournaments and playing matches so the girls play as many competitive games as possible. The first session is free for new players, then it is £2 per week plus a £15 signing on fee. Money goes toward buying equipment for the club. For more information please contact Matt Burton (07540935478) or Steve Ryan (07809493835).



Village Voice Contacts

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