



Village Voice

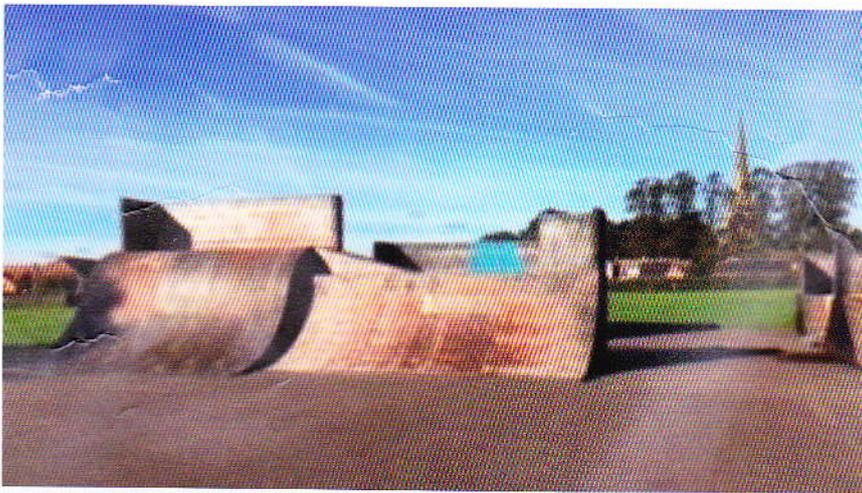
Issue No. 92

November/ December 2017

The newsletter of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton

Look out for more Goofy-foots, Heelflips and Tic-tacs - skatepark receives a makeover

Bottesford skatepark has been showing signs of disrepair for some time now. Many of the ramps were broken or unusable, and there was a problem with broken glass and litter. Yet the park is still well used and has a very good reputation within the skating community.



But good news! A Community Interest Company was formed on 10 July 2017 with the aim of protecting and enhancing this facility. The two directors are Teresa Jeffcoat and Jo Payne. The company will raise funds (including approaching grant-making bodies and local businesses) to repair and replace the park's infrastructure and then continue to maintain it. Extensive repair work in September has made the skatepark usable, although age, as well as wear and tear, means that small parts of the structures regularly become unusable. A big thank you to Bottesford Parish Council, which has promised money towards the work that may cost around £25K.

Can you help make it better? Please:

Follow us on Facebook 'bottesford skatepark'.

Encourage your children and young people to use the park responsibly (e.g. putting litter in the bins; not causing further damage to the structures).

Volunteer to litter-pick.

Contribute money to the fundraising efforts.

Let us know of pockets of money we may be able to access.

Come to the park and watch the skills and stunts. Be amazed!

Join Bottesford Skatepark Community Interest Company!

Parents, do you have photos of your children having fun in the Skate Park that we could use for publicity?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Facebook: [bottesford skatepark](#)

Email: bottesfordskatepark@gmail.com.

Address Bottesford Skatepark c/o the Old School, Grantham Road, Bottesford NG13 0DF.



Photo Competition 2018

Calling all our photographers. The 2018 Village Voice photographic competition is now open for entries. We will announce the winners after the 31 March 2018. Whether you use Snapchat, Instagram are a regular photographer or just take the occasional picture, you are welcome to enter. There are two categories: under 18s and over 18s. This year's theme is 'Village Characters - Our Amazing People'.

Send your entries to vvadverts@hotmail.com before 31 March 2018.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers and residents

From all of us at the Village Voice, have a great Christmas and a very happy New Year.

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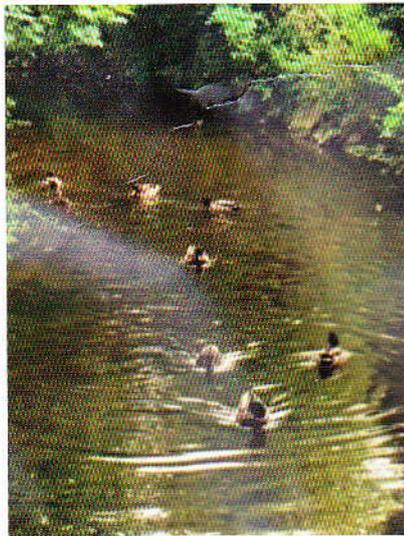
Bottesford Forum needs your help!

Bottesford Forum representatives attended an inter-parish Neighbourhood Plan meeting with representatives of eight parishes, six of whom have Neighbourhood Plans nearing completion. Only Bottesford and Somerby are yet to finalise their draft plans.

Since the beginning of 2017 the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been drafting our Neighbourhood Plan, but even when completed there is a long way to go before it can be adopted. It is a matter of urgency that the draft is finalised. Without it, we have no protection against large planning applications which are already being submitted to Melton Borough Council.

The Steering Group next meets on Tuesday, 21st November at 7.30pm in the Old School, next to the library in Bottesford. Please attend and support Bottesford Forum to persuade the Steering Group to complete the draft plan and move on to the next stage of the process.

If you would like further information on Bottesford Forum please contact my.say@bottesfordforum.uk or follow the group on Facebook.



Duck mystery 'quacked'

Since our last article, we are pleased to report our ducks seemed to have returned (there is no truth in the rumour that they had simply paid a visit to 'Down Town!'). However, one resident wrote to us: "*Could there be a connection between the disappearance of our ducks and the sighting of otters in a local stretch of the Witham?*"

We contacted the British Wildlife Centre and they indicated that it could be possible. If any of our wildlife experts could confirm this then please drop us a line at vadverts@hotmail.com. If you have spotted the otters or have photos we would love to hear from you.

Heritage boards make an impact

Walking round Bottesford, you can't miss our two new heritage boards - outside the church and on the High Street near Barketstone Lane. Our previous Parish Council had the idea to create the boards as a way of telling the 'Bottesford Story' and pointing out the many places of interest within our community. The boards are made from natural material and fit well within our environment. Local artists designed the graphics and Dr Neil Fortey, local historian, wrote the copy.

A big thank you to all previous and present councillors who organised the boards and to Neil and the local artists who have done such an amazing job in creating them.



Parish Council dates for your diary

Please note the following Parish Council dates:
 13 November 2017 - Public Session on Strategy and Finance.
 11 December 2017 - Parish Council "Thank you" Reception to follow normal business which includes discussion on Precept.
 All very welcome.

Keep your brain active – play social bridge

Local Bridge player Gill Jarman wrote to us recently: "It has been said that Bridge is a dying game, and since I have been playing numbers have dwindled. Possibly Bridge is considered an older person's game with little interest to a younger generation."

She continues: "Bridge has been around for years. It is played across the world. On trips abroad my partner and I have spent many evenings playing bridge with complete strangers – some of whom eventually become friends! It is easy to get hooked"

Gill and her partner John Wright have been members of several Bridge clubs and some can be overly serious. Therefore, they are keen to find a balance between playing Bridge properly whilst having fun. Hence the idea of 'Social Bridge'.

"We want to set up a Bridge circle in our area, where members play at each other's home. This is a social activity open to all ages, and will sharpen your thinking, help you relax and enjoy competition.

Playing Bridge will exercise your brain in the most enjoyable of ways."

Gill and John are looking for new players. A recent posting on Facebook has attracted lots of interest. Gill recognises that there could be a wide range of experience, so will organise 'trial and error' sessions, to ensure the right level of playing partner for everyone. Gill says: "if you are interested in becoming part of our new Bridge circle and helping to determine its format, we would love to hear from you." For more information contact Gill or John on 07837 637 596 or 07964 858 535.

Rogeri String Ensemble 'bring the house down'!

In October, The Rogeri Ensemble played a series of classical pieces at St Mary's, Bottesford. There was a wide range of ages in the audience, with children, mums and dads and older people all enjoying the beautiful music in this wonderful setting.



St Mary's reputation for staging high-quality events is growing. On the 25 November, the award-winning Hatfield Colliery band is performing. If you haven't been to one of St Mary's concerts before, this is a great one to start – especially for families.

Tickets cost between £8.00 and £10.00. Children under 16 free.

Contact Frances Stapleton on 01949 843427 or buy from The Community Library, Select Stores, Co-op Stores or The Poppy Seed.

Jane Austen was celebrated with a literary lunch

Jane Austen died 200 years ago. To commemorate this anniversary, members of the Bottesford Book Groups attended an 'Afternoon Tea at Lunchtime' at the Community Library. It was a 'pot luck' tea. Sandwiches with a variety of fillings, scones with jam and cream, biscuits and cakes. The cups and saucers were particularly elegant.

£24 was raised for Library Funds, and the quiz organised by Will Wiseman and Joyce Slater was particularly enjoyable. An unexpected visitor was a wet shirt 'Darcy' – unfortunately not a 'look-a-like'!

We are looking for bridge players, partnerships and singles, who would be interested in forming a Social Bridge circle in Bottesford, playing in each others' houses.

All standards of players would be welcome.

If you do not have a partner, it may be possible to find a suitable person amongst the other single players.

If you are interested, would you please telephone John on 07837 637 596 or 07964 858 535 to register your interest. When we have an idea of the interest and whether it is likely to be a going concern, we can organise a meeting to discuss specifics.

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First edition memories

Since we published our 'first edition cover', many people have contacted us. Carol Hulse, former Village Voice Committee Member, reminisces. "My background was radiography and as far from newspapers as it could be. We were enthusiastic about starting the project and various areas were discussed at our first meeting. Susan Meech and Dilys Sheppard were keen to recruit 'volunteers'! Despite having no experience of advertising, I made over 400 phone calls. Stories were coming in and (I have no idea how), myself and Jill Pompa were volunteered for the 'layout'.

Originally aiming for 12 sheets, it became obvious that 8 pages was our limit. Many hours were spent working out how to do the layout. Those of you who still have a "First edition" will notice the photo on page 1 is elongated. It was the only way we knew how to make it fit! We used Jill's computer and it broke down. Plan B meant using my computer, which was not at all geared to do this – it was 15 years ago! However, it came together.

Now to put it onto a floppy disc and take it to the printers. The deadline was the next day. When I pressed the "Save" button imagine the horror when it said I needed 76 floppy discs! A desperate phone call to Dave Slater saved the day. His background is in computing and he had one of the first portable hard drives. Just I was leaving Dave said "We haven't got a logo". A quick scan through clipart found a peacock and, with time running out, our first edition was complete. The rest, as they say, is history!"

Thank you Carol, your memories are much appreciated. Floppy disks! We would love to hear from anyone else with memories of either serving on the committee, delivering The Village Voice, or anything else associated with it. Please drop a line to vvadverts@hotmail.com.

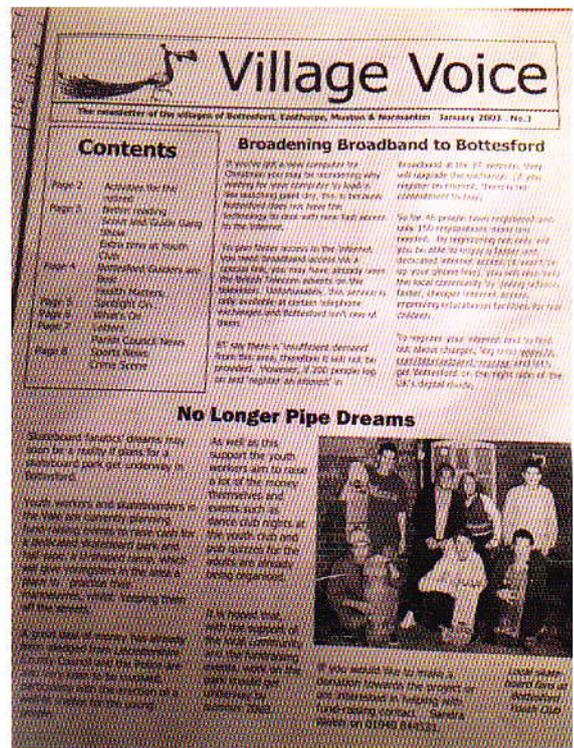
Where are they now?

One of our readers spotted her son on the front-cover of the last edition. Ephraim Morton had just started Reception at Bottesford Primary School and was posing proudly for the photographer. Ephraim is now in his second year at Nottingham Trent University studying Product Design. He still occasionally turns out for Bottesford FC. Thank you Ros Morton for the update. How time flies! Any other memories? If so, send them to me at vvadverts@hotmail.com

Friendship Group Christmas service

This popular event takes place at the Methodist church at 2.30pm on Thursday, December 7th. Everyone is most welcome.

Enjoy the beautiful decorations prepared by the many groups who use the church and you are also invited to stay for refreshments afterwards.



What's On...regular events

Every Mon 1 — 2.30pm	LCC Go Learn—Yoga for everybody, simple steps to promote: Health, Wellbeing and Relaxation, Bottesford VC Hall. Call Caroline Arthur on 843946 or email: caroline.arthur1@btinternet.com or go to www.carolinearthuryoga.com
Every Wed at 7.30pm	Bottesford Whist Drive meets in the Fuller Room. Entrance is £2 per person with refreshments included. Everyone welcome.
Every Wed & Sat 10am – 12.30pm	Charity Shop, Old School, Main Street, Muston. Proceeds to St John's, Muston and St Mary's, Bottesford. Pop in for a coffee!
First & third Wed of the month 12 noon	Lite Bite at the Methodist Church. Everyone welcome. Cost £2.
Second Wed of the month 2pm	Local History Group meeting in the Library to study Bottesford's Heritage Archive. Call Neil Fortey 843320 or email information@bottesfordcommunitylibrary.org.uk .
Second Wed of the month 2pm	Good Neighbour Scheme FREE film show in the Old School Room. Doors open 1.30 pm. Donation towards a cup of tea and biscuit in the interval.
Every Wed in term time 3.30pm—5pm	Hullabaloo Wednesday at the Methodist Church. Craft & play for all Primary age children (accompanied by an adult).
Second & fourth Wed of the month 8pm	Vale of Belvoir Lions Club meets at the Durham Ox, Orston. Please see website www.voblions.org.uk or social media for upcoming events or further information!
Every Thurs in term time 9.30–11.30am	Hullabaloo Thursday at the Methodist Church. Open play session for babies & toddlers (accompanied by a carer); £1 per adult to include drink & snacks.
Every Fri	Creative Space at St. Mary's Church, Bottesford. First two Fridays, 10am – 12noon, next two 8–10pm. Contact Glenda Gibson on 845106.
Sundays 10am	Vale of Belvoir Ramblers - walks to suit all abilities and interests. Call 01949 836042, email vbramblers@gmail.com or go to www.vbramblers.co.uk

What's On in November...

Sun 5th Gates open 6.30pm	Vale of Belvoir Lions' Bottesford Bonfire Night. £3 per adult, children under 16 £1 accompanied, £2 unaccompanied. BBQ and refreshments available onsite.
Thurs 9th 2.30pm	Friendship Group at the Methodist Church—AGM.
Sun 12th 6.30pm	Sunday Praise – St Mary's. Speaker: Lynn Wood on life as a missionary. Children's activities: Filming the nativity 1. Find us on Facebook. All welcome!
Sat 18th 7.30pm	Friends of St. Mary's Church Quiz Night and Supper at Bottesford Bowls Club. Tickets £6 members, £7 non-members.
Sun 19th 1—5pm	Bottesford Community Library Autumn Fayre.
Tues 21st 7.30pm	W.I. Meeting at Bottesford VC Hall. History of the Calendar—Frank Trout.
Thurs 23rd 2.30pm	Friendship Group at the Methodist Church. Speaker David Taylor "Did you hear the one about?"
Sat 25th 7.30pm	Friends of St. Mary's. Hatfield Band with Primary School Brass Band at St. Mary's. Tickets £8 members, £10 non-members, accompanied children free.
Sat 25th and Sun 26th 10am—4pm	Vale of Belvoir Art Society Exhibition, Parish Room, The Old School, Bottesford. Free admission. All welcome.
Sun 26th 11am	The 28th Bottesford Toy Run. Leaving from The Rutland Arms at 11.00am. For further information ring: John Bartlett 01780762531 / 07790583082
Sun 26th 6.30pm	Sunday Praise - St Mary's. Speaker: Garry & Nina sharing reflections on their pilgrimage to Israel. Children's activities: Filming the nativity 1 All welcome!

And in December...

	Vale of Belvoir Lions' Santa Sleigh. Please see the website for details and updates— www.voblions.org.uk
Thurs 7th 2.30pm	Friendship Group, Methodist Church at 2.30pm. Carol Service. Everyone welcome.
Sun 10th 6.30pm	Sunday Praise – St Mary's. Christmas service, with a viewing of the Children's Christmas Film. All welcome!
Tues 19th 7.30pm	W.I. Christmas Party at Bottesford VC Hall.
Sun 24th 4—5pm	Sunday Praise – Bottesford Methodist Chapel. A Christmas pause – bring your favourite bible verse of the Christmas story. All welcome!
Tues 26th	VoB Lions' Annual Boxing Day Duck Race. Ducks available at local outlets.



Important: To publicise your event in the 'What's On' column for January or February, please email heather.stokes1@btinternet.com or ring 844009, by **27th November 2017**.



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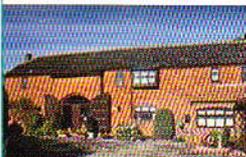
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WW1 Casualties

Charles Albert Bend was born in 1891 in Bottesford, the son of Reuben and Mary Bend.

He emigrated to Canada in 1911 before enlisting in Edmonton. He served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders, was promoted to Sergeant and awarded the Military Medal in May 1917 for gallant conduct. He died 6th November 1917 at Passchendaele aged 25 years. His grave is in the Tyne Cot Cemetery and is remembered on the War Memorial in St Mary's Church and the Methodist Chapel Roll of Honour.

Charles Alliss was born at Wainfleet, Lincolnshire in 1884. He moved to Bottesford and was employed as a farm labourer, subsequently living at Muston Gorse Farm with his wife Emily and their 4 children.

He served with 3 separate Battalions of the Yorkshire Regiment and died during the 3rd Battle of Ypres on 28th September 1917 aged 32. He is buried in the Tyne Cot cemetery.

Edgar Charles Raithby was born on the 22nd of July 1894, the fourth son of Charles Raithby who was the miller at Scrimshaw's Mill by the Grantham Canal. He was posted to German East Africa with the Royal North Lancashire Regiment. He was assigned to the 259th Machine Gun Company and towards the end of 1917, his company fought at the Battle of Mahawi. He died on the 17th October 1917, aged 23.

His name is recorded on the Dar Es Salaam British and Indian Memorial and on the Bottesford War Memorial.

Thomas Harold Cooper was born in Bottesford in 1893 to John and Mary Cooper. He worked as a groom in the livery stable at the Red Lion before enlisting in the Lincolnshire Regiment. He was the first Bottesford man to enlist and served in the Balkans and Gallipoli.

He was presumed missing on 2nd December 1917, aged 34. His death is taken as that date. He is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke West Flanders, on the War Memorial in St Mary's Church and on the Methodist Chapel Roll of Honour.

William Palmer was born in Balderton in 1892, the son of Philip and Annie Palmer. He served in both the Lincolnshire and North Staffs Regiments and survived active service in Ireland before he was sent to Flanders.

He died aged 25 in the Battle of Cambrai on November 30th 1917. He is remembered on the Cambrai Memorial at Louveral and on the War Memorial in St Mary's Church.

William Pollard Kirton was born in 1897 in Edwalton, Nottingham. His mother, Mary Ann Kirton, originated from Muston and lived there with her husband Arthur Smith.

He enlisted and served with the 2/5th Battalion Sherwood Foresters and was posted to France in February 1917 as a signaller.

He died on 26th September 1917 aged 21 in the 3rd Battle of Ypres. He is remembered on the Muston War Memorial and on the Tyne Cot Memorial.



Vale of Belvoir Art Society exhibition

The Vale of Belvoir Art Society will be holding an exhibition of local art in the Parish Room, Bottesford on November the 25 and 26th between 10am and 4pm. All very welcome and entry is free.

The society has been running for over 40 years and is a thriving group with 30 members, using different media and styles. The group meets on a Tuesday evening at the Methodist Chapel in Bottesford between 7pm and 9pm. All very welcome. Just come along and ask for Sue Turner.

The Friendly Bench to tackle loneliness in Bottesford

Thanks to funding from the Big Lottery Fund, a local community group aims to tackle social isolation and loneliness in Bottesford with their innovative project: The Friendly Bench. The Friendly Bench is a mini 'kerb-side community garden' for the elderly, isolated and those with restricted mobility to meet others, chat and connect with nature.



Sited on the grass verge on Granby Drive, The Friendly Bench has been designed to include raised planters and integral seating. It will be maintained by a group of volunteers who will also provide friendship.

Lyndsey Young said: "Social isolation and loneliness is growing; a hidden epidemic that affects many people. Having a supportive place to go to chat, connect with people and be outside is proven to be good for a person's physical and mental wellbeing." She continued, "We are thrilled that the importance of The Friendly Bench has been recognised and awarded Big Lottery Funding."

If you'd like to join The Friendly Bench as a volunteer, whether for light gardening or for friendship, Lyndsey would love to hear from you. Contact either Lyndsey on 078757 19849 or Caroline Arthur on 07900 473426. You can also find out more on The Friendly Bench's Facebook page [Facebook.com/TheFriendlyBench](https://www.facebook.com/TheFriendlyBench)

Kooroon Gallery celebrates its first birthday

Bottesford's Kooroon Gallery started in September 2016 by Glenda Gibson "to provide opportunities for people to see a wide variety of excellent work by excellent artists from around the country".

To celebrate its first anniversary, Kooroon featured an exhibition of new work by local, contemporary artist Donna Drouin. Glenda explains: "Kooroon is as much about support for artists at various stages in their careers as it is about bringing new work to people through the exhibitions. Most of all though, it is about providing a friendly, welcoming community area to see and to share art".



Kooroon has a rolling programme of work and is open the first Friday and Saturday of each month. Located on North Crescent (off Belvoir Road) Bottesford, Leicestershire NG13 0BP. More information is available by contacting Glenda at glendagibson@live.com or from the public facebook page at www.facebook.com/koorroongallery.

The U3A goes from strength to strength

U3A stands for 'University of the 3rd Age' and the local U3A has over 220 members from Bottesford and outlying villages. They meet in the VC Hall, Bottesford on the 2nd Tues of each month (except August). There is usually a speaker, a raffle and refreshments. There are also many other activities on other days such as scrabble, sewing, card craft, marquetry, gardening, keep fit, table tennis, walking, and photography.

The cost of membership is £12 per year. To find out more, come along to our next meeting and you will be warmly welcomed.

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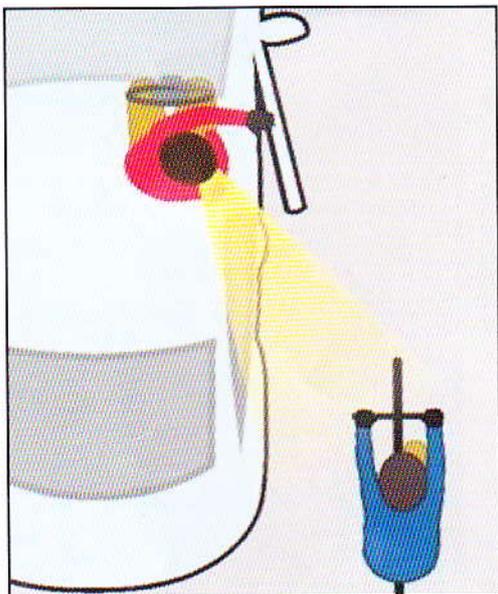
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Go Dutch – save a life

Cycling is very popular in our area, and recent advice by Cycling UK recommends that we use the 'Dutch Reach' to prevent cyclists being hit by car-doors being opened as they pass by.



Dutch Reach courtesy of RoSPA

"This is no euphemism, but the name of a simple manoeuvre that could save lives", explains a spokesperson for Cycling UK.

The Dutch Reach is a method of opening your car door by using the hand furthest from the handle. Therefore, in the UK, a driver would open their door with their left hand, rather than their usual right hand.

The benefit is that it limits the amount the door can be opened and, crucially, forces the driver to turn their body towards the door enabling them to look over their shoulder to see whether a cyclist – or motorcyclist – is approaching.

Clubhouse Update - Fantastic news...at last!

Bottesford FC committee is delighted to announce that the Football Foundation has confirmed the Clubhouse Funding conditions have now been met and they now have formal approval to start the project. A spokesperson said: "Danny and Nick will now schedule a meeting with LK2 Consultants and the Building Contractor as soon as possible to agree a build start date. We will update you further when dates are agreed. Thank you for your patience."

Bottesford Rocks!

Have you spotted the brightly painted rocks around our village? These are part of a new craze in which people paint small rocks and leave them for others to collect. The idea being that once you have found a rock and enjoyed it for a little while, you replace it somewhere else. Of course, you can also paint your own rock.

This craze is not just local. It is sweeping the globe. Considered a healthier version of Pokémon, one mum said: "It's incredible, my daughter insisted on getting up and heading off to school 30 minutes earlier – just so she could find some rocks." Move over fidget-spinners, your time is done! We'd love to see your pictures of these rocks. Send them through to vvadverts@hotmail.com or leave a message on our Facebook page.



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Whilst every care is taken in the printing of notices and advertisements, the committee accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies or consequences which may arise from them. Views expressed in the Village Voice do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.



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