



Village Voice

The newsletter of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton

'Saw the spire in the distance and came to explore the beauty beneath – wow'

This is one of the comments left in the visitors' book at St Mary's Church in 2017.

St Mary's Church has had many visitors over the years, with most of them signing the visitors' book. Susan Meech, the previous editor of the Village Voice, decided to analyse where people came from. Her report is given below. Almost 300 people are recorded as having visited the church in 2017 – although it's likely that there were many more than that. They came from all over the world including Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the Philippines and Israel. The visitors who travelled the furthest came from the north island of New Zealand – 11,522 miles. A map showing where overseas visitors came from can be found at <https://www.mapcustomizer.com/map/world%20map%20church%20visitors>



Visitors came from across the UK with several from Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. Unsurprisingly, the highest numbers came from the counties of Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. The UK map can be seen at <https://www.mapcustomizer.com/map/church%20visitors%20uk>

Many visitors commented that they were pleased that the church was open

and that it was clean and tidy. Several were visiting for anniversaries – weddings and funerals and a few were looking for distant relatives. Some were looking for solace. Many commented on the wonderful tombs (although no-one mentioned witches), the brasses, the renovated west end, the stained-glass windows and the web cam. One village resident said 'My local church. How thrilling'.

A big thank you to Susan, on behalf of Reverend David Payne and the rest of our community, for your hard work and creativity in producing the reports and the accompanying maps.



Bottesford dance school wins competition

On Wednesday evening, 7th February, children from Caroline Hunt's Irish Dance school, and representing Bottesford Primary School, performed at Melton Theatre.

Various primary schools' dancers from the Melton area decided on a dance theme that reflected the personalities and interests of those who created it. They choreographed their four to six minute dance-drama performance, selected and recorded a medley of music for their soundtrack, designed and made their props and costumes.

In front of 340 members of the public and three regional judges, the seven schools competed for a number of awards. Bottesford's 30+ dancers performed a highly energetic and colourful Irish dance. After a 10-minute deliberation, the judges returned to announce the results. And the winner was...Bottesford!

Very well done to Caroline, all the helpers, the children and their families who gave great support to this event. In addition to the top prize, Bottesford also won an award for the best choreography.

Photo competition

Get snapping away. The photo-competition is due to close at the end of March. This year's topic is 'Bottesford Characters'. Interpret this as you wish! Use your SLRs, phones, tablets or anything else.

Please send your entries to vv@bottesfordorg.uk.

Poetry trail

We are starting to receive your poems. If we get sufficient, we will create a poetry trail round the village. Please send your poems to us on any subject inspired by our community. As long as they are decent, clean and legal, we will either publish them or create a trail. Please send to vv@bottesfordorg.uk

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Bottesford Forum report

"There have been rumours that Bottesford Forum is promoting the development of over 600 houses in Bottesford. Bottesford Forum's response to this is: In Donald Trump's words 'that is fake news'.

Bottesford Forum aims to restrict large development sites, especially those making up the majority of the 500+ planned over the next 9 years by Melton Borough Council. They would like more sustainable growth, where the infrastructure can keep in step and the safety of the residents is not put at greater risk by a sudden rise of traffic volumes through the centre of the village. Bottesford has been represented at the Melton Local Plan examination during early February by our planning consultant, paid for by the kind donations from our members and our generous match funder. Representatives from Bottesford Forum also attended to provide the local supportive evidence.

We will let you know the outcome when the Examiner's report is published through our circulations and Facebook page."

Village Hall has a new kitchen

Last year, the Village Hall committee noted that the kitchen was showing signs of wear and tear. They reported:

"We talked to regular users of the hall, and found that whilst the old kitchen was adequate for those enjoying a cup of tea and a piece of cake, it was not good for weekend events which served food to 100 people.

We now have a new kitchen! The centre island has been replaced by a movable prep table and we have multiple ovens. The new units are made from powder-coated steel, suitable for multi-user environments.

We have also improved the lighting. There is an insulated hatch-shutter which should reduce the noise transference between the kitchen and the main hall." This installation has been a significant investment for the Village Hall, and is part of a programme to keep the hall fit for the future.



Bottesford Skate-Park update



The Skate-Park committee is hoping to replace the whole skate park by the end of 2018, subject to receiving funding. In the meantime, short-term repair work has been completed. However, the committee needs help with the following: fundraising, marketing and litter picking.

Can you help develop this valuable community resource? If so, please contact the committee on bottesfordskatepark@gmail.com.

Come and Sing

Hosted by The Cranmer Company of Singers and Musical Director Deborah Davies, this popular event will take place on Good Friday 30 March 2018 at St Mary's Church. The programme will consist of appropriate excerpts from Handel's Messiah plus audience hymns. All welcome. £6/8/10. Rehearsal is from 4.30pm (arrive earlier) and the charity performance starts at 7.30pm. Money raised will go to the Tearfund Central African Republic Appeal. Singers please book your place by contacting Anny on annyjones@me.com or 07415 512729.

Every little helps

The Village Voice editor was heading into Bottesford recently, and spotted these two wonderful litter-pickers. Isobel, aged 8 and Elsie aged 6, both from Normanton, had decided to help mum and dad tidy up the lane to Bottesford.

Armed with a litter-picker purchased from Argos for only £9.00 Isobel and Elsie, together with mum and dad, picked up 9 bags of litter in just three walks between Normanton and Bottesford.

The Village Voice would like to say a big thank-you to our brilliant volunteer litter-pickers for helping to keep our community clean and tidy.



Staples removed



It is always good to promote community events. Many are promoted by attaching notices to posts and fences. However, if the staples are not removed an unsightly mess remains. Hence, the Parish Council organised a staple-removing event. Bob Bayman, chair of the Parish Council said: *"It took about 20 minutes per post. However, we managed to clear several posts within Bottesford, Easthorpe and Normanton. It was best to have two people per post armed with a flat-head screwdriver, pliers, a pair of steps, table-tie cutters and a plastic bag."*

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone involved with this, particularly Clive, John and Phil from the Lions; Linda and John from Normanton; Councillors Heather, Roger and Bob; Kathryn the Parish Clerk, and Jane for her very welcome warm-up tea. Look out for the next staple-removing event. There is plenty still to do.

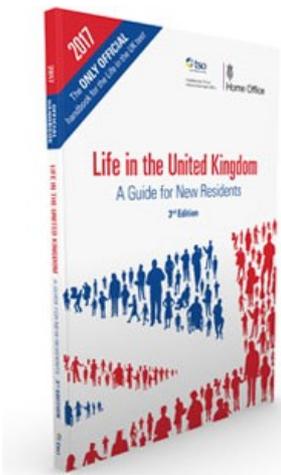
Friendly Bench™ mentioned in the Houses of Parliament.

The Friendly Bench™ is progressing well, with a planned launch date of Sunday 25th March.

Lyndsey Young, who is behind the Friendly Bench idea said: "We were pleased to hear The Friendly Bench™ mentioned in the House of Commons, as a great example of innovative community-led initiatives. This was done by the co-chair of the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness, MP Rachel Reeves (pictured right).



If you would like to listen to the debate, the link is below. We are mentioned at 2:31 or 16:47." www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/bbb29ea5-c1b8-459c-bfc9-7eae77ecd32b



Quiz winners successful at 'Citizen Test'

An unusual quiz was recently organised by the Methodist Church. The questions were from a book published by the Home Office, which sets out what people need to know to become citizens of our country. To be successful you need 75% correct. This quiz stimulated a lot of debate! If you would like to have a go, pop into the library for the questions and answers. There is a small charge, with all proceeds to Dove Cottage hospice.

The winners were: Vic Martin, John and Cynthia Prater, Chris Clarke, Marilyn Wilson Baker and Sandra Armstrong.

Pilates

Thursdays at Bottesford VC Hall

09:30 to 10:30am

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Vicky Oakes on 07971 404669

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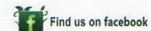
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What's On...regular events	
Every Mon 1 — 2.30pm	LCC Go Learn—Yoga for everybody. Bottesford VC Hall. Call Caroline Arthur on 843946 or email: caroline.arthur1@btinternet.com .
Every Wed 2—4pm	Mental Health and Wellbeing drop in session at Bottesford Community Library. Call in to speak 1-2-1 with a support worker in mental health and wellbeing.
Every Wed at 7.30pm	Bottesford Whist Drive meets in the Fuller Room. Entrance is £1.50 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.
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 (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.
3.30—5pm	Craft & play for all Primary age children (accompanied by an adult).
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
Sundays 10.30am	St Mary's Bottesford Children's Church. For children age 3-11 (parent / carer support needed for children age 3-5). Bible storytelling and teaching, drama, craft, singing and fun during the 10.30am church service. All welcome! Contact Jo Payne on 01949 843348 or Lisa Smith on 07415144640.
What's On in March..	
Thurs 8th 7.30pm	Local History Society. Fuller Room, The Old School, Botteford. "Buildings of Victorian Grantham". Dr John Manterfield. All Welcome. Visitors £2.
Sun 11th 6.30pm	Sunday Praise – contemporary church service in St Mary's. Children's activities provided. Find us on Facebook-Sunday Praise Bottesford . All welcome!
Thurs 15th 2.30pm	Friendship Group meeting in Methodist Church schoolroom. Speaker: Rev. Nel Shallow. Refreshments afterwards.
Tues 20th 7.30pm	W.I. Meeting at Bottesford VC Hall. Artisan Cheese Tasting Talk—Keith and Janice Jackson.
Sat 24th 2—4pm (arrive 1.45pm)	"Exploring Easter" storytelling and craft afternoon in St Mary's Church, for families with primary school-aged children. All welcome! Contact Rev'd David Payne to book a place on 01949 843348 or email jopayne21@gmail.com
Sun 25th 11am 	The 28th Bottesford Egg Run leaves from the Rutland Arms. Arrives at the Meres Leisure Centre, 11.30am. For further information ring John Bartlett on 01780762531 or 07790583082.
Sun 25th 6.30pm	Sunday Praise – contemporary church service in St Mary's. Children's activities provided.
Tues 27th 2.30—4pm	St Mary's Church - Tea and Cakes. All welcome!
Thurs 29th 2.30pm	Friendship Group meeting in Methodist church schoolroom. "The Open Book". Speaker: Trish Little. Refreshments afterwards.
And in April..	
Sun 8th 6.30pm	Sunday Praise – contemporary church service in St Mary's. Children's activities provided. Find us on Facebook-Sunday Praise Bottesford . All welcome!
Thurs 12th 2.30pm	Friendship Group meeting, Methodist church school. "The Arctic" with Marian Johnson.
Thurs 12th 7.30pm	Local History Society. Fuller Room, The Old School, Bottesford. "Medieval and later Graffiti." Joyce Slater. All welcome. Visitors £2.
Tues 17th 7.30pm	W.I. Meeting at Bottesford VC Hall. Gardening Evening (to be confirmed).
Sun 22nd 6.30pm	Sunday Praise – contemporary church service in St Mary's. Children's activities provided.
Tues 24th 2.30—4pm	St Mary's Church - Tea and Cakes. All welcome!
Thurs 26th 2.30pm	Friendship Group meeting in Methodist church schoolroom. Refreshments afterwards.

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Thank you to our Village Voice deliverers

The Village Voice editorial team and committee members would like to extend a big thank you to our wonderful delivery team. Very ably organised by Becky, our team head out in all weathers to ensure that your newsletter reaches every home and business. There are 26 deliverers on the team and everyone is much appreciated.

Friends of St Mary's events

There are a number of events to look out for. On the 13th March, there will be the Friends' AGM at 7.30pm in the church. On the 21st April, the first musical event of the year features the Stardust Big Band.

Band members are from Nottingham and surrounding areas and include male and female vocalists. The band play a range of music including traditional classics from Glen Miller, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra, and Ella Fitzgerald, and some more modern arrangements. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets cost £10.00 or £8.00 for members. Please contact Frances on 01949 843427.

Toy run donates over 2300 toys

The last toy-run donated over 2300 toys to Grantham and Melton, together with £487.10 to Melton Home Start – a new record. The organisers would like to thank everyone who came on the run or supported from the roadside.

Library matters

Bottesford Community Library is acting as a drop-in venue for the Mental Health Matters charity. A support worker will be in the library every Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm. The charity offers one-to-one support, peer support, information and advice. The service is free, confidential and open to anyone who might just want to pop in for a chat.

In addition, every Thursday between 10 am and 10.30 am there is a story and song session for children. The session is run by volunteers, and offers stories, songs and rhymes for babies, pre-schoolers and primary aged children in the holidays.

Friendship group meets regularly

A friendship group will meet again on Thursday March 15th at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church schoolroom, Devon Lane, Bottesford. There is a varied fortnightly programme, from talks on modern day slavery and strange customs of England to fun sessions and entertainment. The sessions cost 50p including refreshments. All very welcome.

Walk of Witness

On Good Friday, 30th March the church has invited those sympathetic to the Christian faith to join in their annual 'Walk of Witness' around the streets of Bottesford. Starting at 10 am at St Mary's, there will be a treasure trail for everyone. The event concludes at 11am with a short service and hot cross buns at the Methodist Chapel. Everyone welcome. For more information, please call Laura on 07725109237.

How are your resolutions doing?

How was 'Dry January' for you? Anyone done 'Vegan February'? Have you managed to stick to your resolutions? Or did they quickly fall away? We'd love to hear from you. Drop us a line at vv@bottesfordorg.uk.

Our editor declared publicly that he wanted to lose 1.5 stones this year. How is he doing? "I have increased my walking (a new puppy helps), and have been more sensible with eating and drinking. I have lost 4 pounds. Still some way to go, and long drives to work don't help. But I am determined." Alistair.



Covenant Sunday attended by over 80 people

Approximately 80 people recently attended a special Churches Together service, led by the Reverend Nel Shallow on the first Sunday of the year, at the Methodist church.



John Wesley introduced the first Covenant service in 1755. Methodists make a resolution of devotion, discipleship and dedication in working for social justice, and the Covenant Prayer is recited during the service. The prayer can be seen on the church notice board.

After the service, refreshments were served in the schoolroom.

Bottesford and Muston First World War Casualties in 1918

Walter Hardy, DCM was born in Bottesford in 1888. Before enlisting with the 16th Battalion Sherwood Foresters in February 1915, he served as a police officer in the Derbyshire Constabulary. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for "for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty" in August 1917. On the 21st March 1918 he was killed on the Somme. He is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial in France.

Philip Sutton was born on 27th August 1886 in Bottesford. He worked as butcher for his father on the High Street. Philip enlisted on the 11th March 1916 and served in the Durham Light Infantry. He was reported missing in action on March 24th. His death was confirmed in February 1919. He is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial.

John Richard Robinson was born in Bottesford in 1894. He served with the Leicestershire Regiment and then the Machine Gun Corps. He died during the Battle of Lys on 18th April 1918 and was buried in the Pont Du Hem Cemetery, France.

Cyril Gale was born in Muston in 1899. He joined the Lincolnshire Regiment in March 1917 and trained as a Lewis Gunner. He was injured and taken prisoner at the end of March and officially listed as "missing" in May 1918. In January 1919 his family were notified of his death on the 27th April 1918 while a prisoner. He was buried at Le Cateau Military Cemetery and is remembered on the Muston War Memorial.

The German Spring Offensive March 1918 - Commemorating those who fell from the Vale of Belvoir

On the 21st March 1918, the German Army launched the March 1918 Spring Offensive with devastating effect. Within a week ten men from the parishes of Long Clawson, Stathern, Harby and Bottesford had lost their lives.

A Service of Remembrance will be held at St. Guthlac's Church, Stathern on Saturday 24th March 2018 at 11.00 am. This service will also include the 100th act of remembrance carried out by Hose & Harby Royal British Legion & the Bottesford Parish 1st World War Centenary Project marking the centenary of all those from the Vale of Belvoir who lost their lives during the 1st World War.

The loss of the following men will be commemorated:

From Long Clawson: Pte. Horace Hand, Pte. George Edward Izzitt, Pte. James Miller & Pte. Frederick Marriott.

From Stathern: Major John Crosby Warren MC, Tpr. Albine Knapp & Pte. F. Watson.

From Harby: Pte. Thomas Alfred Kemp.

From Bottesford: Sgt. Walter Hardy DCM, Pte. Phillip Sutton.

All are welcome. Refreshments will be served after the service.



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Outdoor bowls season starts in April

The outdoor season opens with subscription night on Thursday 12th April from 6.30 p.m. onwards. For the season until September, a full bowling membership is £38. Seniors £32, Juniors £16 and Social Members £1.

You can play on one of the best bowls green in the area. There is a lovely clubhouse and bar for a refreshing drink. The club is happy for you to have a look round if you have ever thought you might like to try bowls.

There are very informal club sessions on Monday evenings from 6pm and Thursday afternoons from 2pm, where you can borrow bowls and have some tuition. All you need is flat-soled shoes

Monday 16th April will be the first club night. If you would prefer to try on your own with some help please phone either Pauline Goodson 01949 844554 or Russell Hibbert 07971 275365 to enquire, as there is usually someone at the Club in the mornings during the season.

Bottesford FC new clubhouse work starts

Work on the new clubhouse has now started with contractors moving onto the site. This has been made possible thanks to a grant from the Premier League & The F.A. Facilities Fund. Bottesford FC has 27 teams which will all benefit from the state-of-the-art facility including four team changing rooms; two officials' changing rooms; a clubroom and bar; a kitchen and accessible toilets. "This project has been four years in the making and we are delighted to be starting the building work. This new facility will help to continue the excellent growth that the club has seen in recent years."- Daniel Gribby, Bottesford FC Chairman.



Belvoir Karate Group holds a successful grading

On the 28 Jan, Belvoir Karate Group held a grading, with many young children being successful. The group has been running for over 25 years and they hold a number of regular sessions around the area.

These are: Wednesday at Marston Village Hall 6.30-8.00pm, Thursday at Long Bennington Village Hall 6.30-8.00pm, Friday at Bottesford VC (Village) Hall 6.30-7.30pm for junior beginners and 7.30-9.00pm for mixed intermediate.

If you would like to find out more about this wonderful sport, visit the group's website at www.belvoirkarate.co.uk.



Village Voice Contacts

Advertising: Email vvadverts@hotmail.com or phone 842141.

Editorial: Alistair Raper on 07711 254441.

Whats On: heather.stokes1@btinternet.com or phone 844009.

Deadline for May/ June Edition (Issue 95): 27th March 2018.

E-mail: vv@bottesford.org.uk

Facebook: 'Village Voice, Bottesford'

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