



Village Voice

The newsletter of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton

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Access to local GP services has changed

The following details are a brief summary of the recently announced changes to the previous system of 'walk-in' and 'pre-booked' appointments.

From Monday, 13 May 2019, the GP service in Bottesford changed the way patients access GP appointments at the practice. Patients will no longer need to pre-book a GP appointment, as any medical matters you present with will be dealt with on the day using a new service called 'AskmyGP'.

'AskmyGP' makes requesting help from your GP easier and more convenient. Patients send a request on any medical matter through the system to a GP using the link from the website. A clinician will aim to respond as soon as possible. For this consultation to take place all that is required is to answer a few questions, follow the prompts and after a few clicks the request is complete.



If people do not have access to the internet, patients can still call the surgery. A receptionist will take some medical details and a clinician will call you back.

Patients may not need to attend the practice, saving valuable time and reducing the number of missed appointments.

If the GP feels a face-to-face appointment is required then this will be offered.

For further information, please go to the 'AskmyGP' section on www.thewelbypractice.co.uk/info.aspx

Tea-set mystery solved

After we featured the mystery tea-set last edition, a resident got in touch. Mary said: "I have this tea-set. I bought it in Nov 99 after a mail shot to villagers. It came from Decor Art Creations based in Canterbury, and cost £124.65. My mum and I thought it would be a wonderful memento, even though a little pricey!"

The Village Voice did some research and found that the company was originally Belgian, and the UK subsidiary was based in Canterbury in 1995. The company was wound up in 2016, so there is no information about why a tea service was produced with such specific views of Bottesford.

The company did produce similar items to this tea service for other places, including Canterbury, Horsforth, Stroud, Kennington and Ramsgate.



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Muston charity shop has a new kitchen

Pop in to the charity shop at Muston. There is a new, spruced up kitchen. The tea and coffee will taste even better!

Bottesford Skate Park taking shape

The refurbishment of Bottesford Skate Park is well under way. If everything has gone according to plan, by the time you read this, the second phase of the Skate Park's refurbishment will be almost finished. This is thanks to a sizeable donation. Demolition of the old structures in the Skate Park took place at the end of May. Dave Childs of Rampchild Ltd began to rebuild the new ramps at the beginning of June, creating a much improved facility. The Skate-Park Committee has worked very hard to secure the funding and arrange the refurbishment. It is a very valuable asset for our village. Please ensure we all look after it.



Bee-friendly community garden officially opens

The bee-friendly station garden officially opened on 17 June 2019. There will be a full report in the next edition. This has been a wonderful community effort by the Lincolnshire Community Rail Partnership in collaboration with the Vale of Belvoir Lions.



A spokesperson from the Vale of Belvoir Lions said: "There is always plenty of work to do. If you would like to help in any way, or become a 'station adopter' then please contact kaye.robinson@lincolnshire.gov.uk or

contact the Lions at www.vobliions.org.uk.

Friendly Bench celebrates its first year anniversary

The Friendly Bench, a community project in Bottesford that tackles loneliness and social isolation, celebrated its first birthday recently. Members of the community including residents, members of the church, U3A, Women's Institute, Patient Participation Group, Pre-school, Nottingham Community Housing Association and Gravity FM came together to celebrate The Friendly Bench's successful first year of operation in Bottesford and the planned expansion of The Friendly Bench network across the UK



In a recent event, local children enjoyed sowing wildflower seeds. This was part of 'Blossoming Friendships', an intergenerational gardening project which pairs primary school children with elderly residents. This project has been made possible by a grant from Postcode Local Trust, a grant-giving charity funded entirely by players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

School Governor needed

Bottesford Primary School is looking for a new school governor to join their team and shape the future of the school. This voluntary role is open to anyone over the age of 18. Educational experience is not necessary. Much of the work of the Governing Body goes unseen, but governors play a key role in helping the school provide the best education for its pupils. School governors actively support and challenge the school's leadership team, to ensure the continuing development and improvement of the school. Head Teacher, Louise McGrory said: "Being a school governor is a very rewarding role, and anyone can apply." If you are interested, please contact Mrs McGrory on LMcGrory@bottesford.leics.sch.uk or call the school on 01949 842224.

New Parish Council elected

In May 2019, nine residents were elected to Bottesford Parish Council. The Village Voice would like to extend congratulations



to those who were successful and to thank everyone else for either standing for election or supporting others.

Bottesford Parish includes the villages of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston and Normanton. The nine-member Parish Council meets monthly, normally the second Monday of the month, though additional extraordinary meetings may be held as required.

The councillors are all volunteers and are there to represent the views of our residents on many issues. The Parish Council welcomes and encourages the valued input from groups and individuals within the parish. As such, there is a public participation session at the beginning of each formal Parish Council meeting. This starts at 7.15pm and normally finishes at 7.30pm.

The next meetings are on Monday 8 July 2019 and Monday 12 Aug 2019. These will be held at the Old School, Bottesford. For further information visit:

www.bottesfordpc.org.uk



Fly-posting on telegraph posts

There have been a number of complaints about excessive fly-posting on telegraph poles and lamp posts, particularly when the posters are not removed after an event and the staples are left to rust in place for many months or even years.

There are many public poster-boards round the villages.

Please think twice before posting on telegraph poles and lamp posts.

Parents. Get Lost!

In May, more than 90 year 5 and 6 pupils from Bottesford Primary School headed to Caythorpe, Lincolnshire for three days of high-octane fun and outdoor activities.

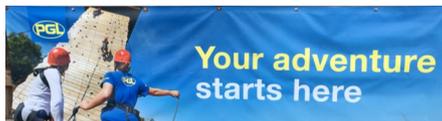
Supervised by the head-teacher, teachers, teaching assistants and a parent-volunteer, the children tried their hands at problem-solving, orienteering, abseiling, 'Jacobs-ladder', a giant swing, raft-building, 'aero-ball', tunnel exploring and an assault course. This all took place within the beautiful grounds of the PGL centre in Caythorpe.

Although children refer to PGL as 'Parents Get Lost', the name comes from its founder Peter Gordon Lawrence who had the idea of outdoor activities for young people back in 1967.

A spokesperson for the school said; "The three days were amazing. The children had a great time and we were so lucky with the weather. There were long days for everyone, with staff being on duty from 6am through to midnight, and beyond. One or two children were up through the night, but there was always one or more of our school staff on hand to settle them down. Some of the boys were up, dressed and ready to play football at 4.40am!"

The school used the event to strengthen the 'character muscles' which are an integral part of the school's

curriculum. One young attendee from year 5 said: "It was brilliant. I loved the high swing and the raft-building, and it was great to be with all my friends. I want to go again!"



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Another collision and write-off in Normanton

In June, there was another collision in Normanton, following the earlier accident in which four cars were damaged in February - one of them being written-off. This was after previous incidents when a car hit one of the houses and another resident's car was also written-off.



In the most recent incident, a car appeared to lose control on the bends and collided with an oncoming vehicle. Thankfully, there were no serious injuries, but it appears that one of the vehicles could well be another write-off. A spokesperson from Normanton Community Group commented: "For a small, quiet village there have been numerous accidents. Fortunately, there have been no major injuries to people, although a number of cats have been hit and killed, and horse-riders regularly report dangerous driving. Most drivers are sensible, but there is a minority who seem oblivious that it is a residential area and a 30mph zone. We have alerted police, and speed-traps will be put in place soon."

Barn-owls nest checks 2019

The Vale of Belvoir Barn Owl Conservation Group (VBC) has fitted over 200 boxes in the Melton borough for barn owls, little owls and kestrels. The box checking requires a first visit to identify breeding, catch, ring or check existing rings and to note when to return to check on the success of any young raised. The first checks were just north of Long Clawson, and the numbers of barn owls seems similar to 2018. Full results will be published after the subsequent visits.



The boxes are checked by people with relevant licences and experienced bird ringers. The scheme has provided good experience for trainee ringers and students from Nottingham Trent University studying ecology and similar subjects

The second visit in early May found some youngsters to ring. Tawny owls often live longer than barn owls but raise fewer chicks and can often fail. The picture (above) was taken by Issie Connell, who was returning from working with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to complete degree-work at a Nottingham university and to gain more experience in ringing UK birds of prey. Thank you to Don Pritchett for this report.

Bottesford Peregrine Falcons – 3 chicks ringed

On Friday 24th May, licensed ringers visited Bottesford Church to ring the three young peregrines. They were accompanied by Bottesford's Keith Waterfall who assists in the fitting and removal of the nest tray, and the wiring and fitting of the TV screen in the church that shows live pictures of the nest. Also in attendance were two bird ringers from Welwyn. The young birds were fitted with a metal British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) ring and a colour ring as part of a scheme where the ring may be seen on a live bird at a distance, thus identifying the nest site.



Female peregrines are larger than the males so they were able to identify one female and two male chicks. Those living nearby may have heard the adults flying around the church calling out their displeasure very loudly during the process but then quickly settling down afterwards.

The photo (left) of the youngsters was taken by Keith Waterfall and the photo (above) of the peregrine doing what it is famous for - diving, was taken by Carl Mos. Thank you again to Don Pritchett for this report.



Late news – at the recent Summer Fayre held at St Mary's, there was a stall asking residents to name the chicks. Watch this space for the result!

What three words?

Did you know there is an easy way of locating exactly where you are within a 3mx3m area? What3Words is a new App and website, which has divided the world into a series of small grids. Each grid is given a unique three-word identifier.

It is a precise and incredibly simple way to talk about your location, as words are easier to communicate and less prone to error than alternatives such as trying to remember road names or numbers, or relaying GPS co-ordinates. The emergency services are now using this as a precise way of locating people who have had accidents. This would be particularly useful for those working in remote areas such as fields and forests. The App is free to download. For more information visit: www.what3words.com

Normanton community group re-plant flower-boxes and pay tribute to the D-Day commemorations



Residents from Normanton tidied up their planters at the north and south of the village, undertaking some weeding, removal of undergrowth and the re-stocking of new plants and shrubs. A resident said: "We are looking forward to a bright and beautiful display in both of our planters over the summer."

Residents also made a small memorial to



commemorate the D-Day landings.

The Treaty of Versailles

"The guns had stopped firing at 11am on November 11th 1918 but Europe was not officially at peace. Formal discussions and negotiations commenced in Paris in January 1919 and during the following months. 19 July 1919 was 'Peace Day'.

The signing of treaties was marked by celebrations that King George V termed 'a festival of victory.' A bank holiday was declared and festivities took place around the country, although there were demonstrations and even riots by veterans in protest at the inadequacy of provisions for former soldiers, particularly those who still bore the physical and mental scars of battle. Muston villagers travelled in wagons to celebrate in the grounds of Belvoir Castle. In Bottesford, there were sports, cricket and tea in a marquee. The School and the High Street were bright with bunting when the villagers were summoned by the bells to gather at The Cross to admire a tableau showing the Angel of Peace (Audrey Cooper) presenting a wreath to Britannia (Ann Allcorn). There was a Union Flag held by two boys dressed as sailors and a bevy of girls in costumes representing 'the Allies.' A parade of soldiers and sailors was followed by the Friendly Society behind its banner, and Bandmaster Schofield was at the head of the Bottesford Brass Band.

Prayers of thanksgiving and also for the bereaved were led by the Rector and the Primitive Methodist Minister, the Reverend Chapman. Then everyone united in cheers for 'the boys'."

Reproduced by kind permission of the Bottesford Parish First World War Centenary Project.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

This picture was taken in front of the Methodist church, prior to the annual pilgrimage through the village to St Mary's church.



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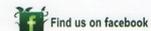


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What's On...regular events

| | |
|--|---|
| Second Tues of the month 2pm | Vale of Belvoir U3A meets in the VC Hall. Dedicated to encouraging third age residents of the Vale to 'Learn, Laugh and Live' a friendly welcome is guaranteed. |
| 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 month 12 noon | Lite Bite at the Methodist Church. Everyone welcome. Cost £2.50. |
| 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 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 Toddlers at the Methodist Church. Open play session for babies & toddlers (accompanied by a carer); £1 per adult to include drink & snacks. |
| Last Sat of month 10.30am | Chapel Cafe at the Methodist Church 10.30am to noon. |
| Sundays 10am | The Vale of Belvoir Ramblers walk every week, usually on Sunday. Walks are chosen to suit all abilities and interests, start at 10:00 and you usually need to bring a picnic. Call 01949 836042 or email vbramblers@gmail.com or website www.vbramblers.co.uk for more details. |
| Sundays 10.30am | St Mary's Bottesford Children's Church. For children age 3-11 (parent / carer support needed for 3-5 year olds). Bible storytelling, 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 July...

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Thurs 4th 2.30pm | Friendship Group. Afternoon at Marian's. Please contact Sue if transport is required. |
| Sat 6th & Sun 7th | Vale of Belvoir Lions' Open Gardens in Bottesford. |
| Sat 13th 7.30pm | Friends of St. Mary's invite you to a charity concert with the World Championship award-winning Southern Acapella Choir, at St. Mary's Church. Doors open 6.30pm. Tickets—£12 non-members, £10 members of the Friends of St. Mary's—available from Frances Stapleton, 01949 843427, the Community Library, Select Convenience.. |
| Tues 16th 7.30pm | W.I. Meeting at Bottesford VC Hall. NHS Blood and Transplant Talk—Janet Tilford. |
| Thurs 18th 2.30pm | Friendship Group at the Methodist Church. Speaker: Mike Armstrong. "Orchids" with refreshments afterwards. |
| Tues 23rd | W.I. Walk—to be arranged. |

...and in August

| | |
|---|--|
| Thurs 1st 2.30pm | Friendship Group at the Methodist Church. Speaker: Denhys Lambley, "Lighter side of being a Lawyer". Refreshments afterwards. |
| Sun 4th, 18th, 25th 11am—4pm Fri 9th 5—9pm | Honeytrees Tropical Garden open in August for the National Garden Scheme. 85, Grantham Road, Bottesford. Admission £4 adults, children free. All proceeds are for charity. Teas/ coffee and cakes available and a plant stall. |
| Thurs 15th 2.30pm | Friendship Group at the Methodist Church. Speaker Brian Bowes. "Stand Back - Here Comes the Preacher Man". |
| Thurs 29th 2.30pm | Friendship Group at the Methodist Church. Channel Island Cricket with afternoon tea. |

Bottesford Youth Club (BYC) secures funding for another year

BYC has secured funding for another year, but their future remains uncertain. The club is a very popular resource and is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings, with Year 5 children currently allowed on a Friday between 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Youth-leader, Dave Bishop would love to hear from you if you have any skill which you could teach the young people. For example, guitar-playing, crafts, painting, drawing etc. If you have time to volunteer, this would prove invaluable to the club.

For more information, either call in at The Annexe, Unit 4, Normanton Lane Business Park, Bottesford, NG13 0EL, or phone 07798 613391, or e-mail byc@bottesfordyouthclub.co.uk

Bridge for beginners

Want to keep the brain in trim and make new friends? Grantham Bridge Club is launching a new programme of weekly lessons on Wednesday afternoons, starting in September.

The aim is to develop players from beginner to competent player in two blocks of 12 weeks (September to November and January to April 2020). For further details email members@grantham-bridge-club.org.uk or ring 01949 842773.



Art and craft fair in aid of Air Ambulance and First Responders

On Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th of July, the Rotary Art and Craft Fair will be held at East Bridgford Garden Centre. The Rotary Clubs of Bingham and Radcliffe and the Vale of Belvoir are running this event. The paintings exhibited are in a range of different medium and all are for sale with a percentage of the revenue given to the Air Ambulance and First Responders.

A grand raffle is part of the fair and this was launched at the Biker event in Bottesford just before Easter. It will be drawn on Sunday 7th July at 3.30pm. Prizes have been sponsored by the Garden Centre, Radcliffe Golf Club. Honda motor bikes, Twin Lakes and Belton House Hotel.

Both Rotary clubs are hoping to raise as much money as possible for these great causes, which have an impact on saving so many lives.

Litter-picking heroes

Ashley Waterfall and his daughter Evie recently completed another litter-pick, this time along both sides of Belvoir Road. They managed to remove a full bag of litter. Once again, a fantastic effort to keep our villages clean and tidy.



Bottesford Gardening Association plant-swap



Want to start gardening or growing your own but don't know where to start? On Sunday 7 July, the BGA will be holding their first ever plant swap. Come along to the allotment shop on Grantham road, where there will be a wealth of plants and seedlings ready to swap for unwanted ones.

The shop will be open between 9.30am and 11.30am. The Association only ask for a small donation of £1, which will go towards running the shop and the Garden Association.



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Bottesford FC – an award winning club

Bottesford FC is delighted to announce that the club has won an award of merit as the most outstanding community club in the Melton Borough for 2018/19. This is in recognition of the outstanding work from all of the volunteers, players and supporters.

Chairman Dan Gribby and Vice-Chairman Nick Dobney also received individual awards of merit for their work on the Clubhouse Project.

This is a wonderful achievement for everyone involved with the football club.

Food-bank donation

During the recent club awards day, supporters and members of Bottesford Football Club donated many items to Grantham Food bank. Despite the poor weather the inaugural awards day at the new clubhouse was a great success.



Club-house for hire

The football club now has a 60 square-metre function room available and the club is looking to hire it out for regular bookings such as courses, meetings, events and conferences. It is not suitable for 'one-off' events such as children's birthday parties.

The function room is equipped with tables and chairs, and kitchen and toilet facilities are available. This is a great way to support the club and provide them with an extra revenue stream to support the community work they do.

For more details, costs and availability contact: Iain Murray on 07977 981114. Alternatively, email news@bottesfordfc.co.uk. Or visit facebook.com/bottesfordfootballclub



The Belles of Belvoir cycle the Vale

This is the fourth year of wonderful sportives around the Vale, and the Belles of Belvoir event was, once again, very successful. Its popularity is such that the ride was sold out for some time before the date.

Riders tackled one of three routes: 24, 50 or 70 miles, with village-hall feed stations providing the legendary homemade cakes and savoury options. Hot drinks, complimentary lunches and massages were available too. Riders were presented with a medal and a goody-bag after completion.



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Facebook: **'Village Voice, Bottesford'**

Website: www.villagevoice.bottesford.org.uk includes our 'Extras' page.

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