



# Village Voice

Issue No. 104  
November / December 2019

The newsletter of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton

## Do you recognise anyone from this photo?



Hanging in the library is a beautiful enlarged photograph of a school class, probably taken in the 1930's. There has been a lot of interest from residents.

Do you recognise anyone or have any stories that you can share about this photo?

If so, drop us a line at [vvadverts@hotmail.com](mailto:vvadverts@hotmail.com).

## Bottesford business-woman organises Christmas draw to support local enterprises

Local businesswoman, Kerri Ward, has devised a novel idea to help local enterprises in the run-up to Christmas. She has organised a hamper of products and services donated by local businesses, which one lucky person will win. Look out for the 'hamper' post on Kerri's 'Pet Barber Bottesford' Facebook page on the 1st December. Then 'like, share and tag 3 friends'. The winning entry will be randomly selected by 'Alexa' after the 11th December.

Donations include: Charlotte Hayes – Yummy Mummy £25 voucher, Amy Richardson – nails and manicure gel, Kirsty Cave of Little Mr Fox – 20% off an illustration, Steph Brimblecombe Zumba – free products, Liz Mason of Bellfield Produce – Jam and Soap, 'Door to Paw' – 6kg of free dog food delivered, Vicki Safaris - £20 voucher for holistic therapy, Peacock Farm – pressed rapeseed oil, Donna Drouin - £12 voucher for an art lesson, Kerri Ward of Pet Barber – free dog groom.

Kerri is also donating £1.00 to the British Legion Poppy appeal for every dog-groom in November. Look out for the knitted poppies, created by Kerri's mother-in-law, adorning our four-legged friends' collars.



## Letter from the editor

A merry Christmas and happy New Year to everyone. We are always keen to hear from our readers, so as we head into 2020 and the next decade, let us know about what is important to you.

I would like to extend a big thank you to our committee and deliverers for their hard work over the last 12 months. In particular, to Becky Ronan, who has organised our delivery team for the last five years. Becky is standing down after this edition.

Advertisers, The Village Voice cannot exist without you! Thank you. Your continued support is invaluable. Here's to a very successful 2020. With my best regards, Alistair. The Village Voice editor.

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 &  
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**Bottesford Horticultural Show is a great success**

The 42nd Bottesford Horticultural Show was a roaring success, with over 400 entries of stunning flowers, perfect vegetables, impressive crafts and delicious jams and cakes from almost 70 participants.



The tomato and baking categories were hotly contested, whilst one or two entrants ran away with the big points for dahlias and fuchsias. Held on Saturday, 14th September, it was especially welcome to see a big increase in entries for the junior classes and many new faces in general.

The trophy winners were:

|                   |                      |                   |                     |               |                    |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| June Humphries    | Top Vase             | Charlotte Manners | Noel Carolan Cup    | Peter Simpson | Molly Ford Award   |
| Mark Skinner      | Caunt Cup            | Louis Hawksby     | Bull Shield         | D Middleton   | Red Lion Shield    |
| Mark Skinner      | Margaret Wootton Cup | Imogen Rumbold    | Jubilee Star        | A Tapson      | Roberts Cup        |
| Charlotte Manners | Edward Auckland Cup  | Anna Dobney       | Village Voice Award | Sue Middleton | Chip Sutton Cup    |
| Sue Harding       | Greasley Rosebowl    | Darcy Mowat       | Venture Trophy      | Elaine Marlow | Rutland Cup        |
| Ros Willis        | Hazel Preston Cup    | Shirley Daybell   | Jos Hobbelen Trophy | Louis Hawksby | John Storer Award  |
| Mark Skinner      | Everard Cup          | NONE              | Top Tray            | NONE          | Schoolhouse Trophy |

Bottesford Garden Association has a full autumn - winter schedule of talks by various horticultural and gardening experts. These will be on a variety of topics, from how to grow essential herbs and flowers, cultivating a woodland garden and the local connection to Capability Brown. For full details of the upcoming talks, please visit the Bottesford Garden Association Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/BottesfordGardenAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/BottesfordGardenAssociation).

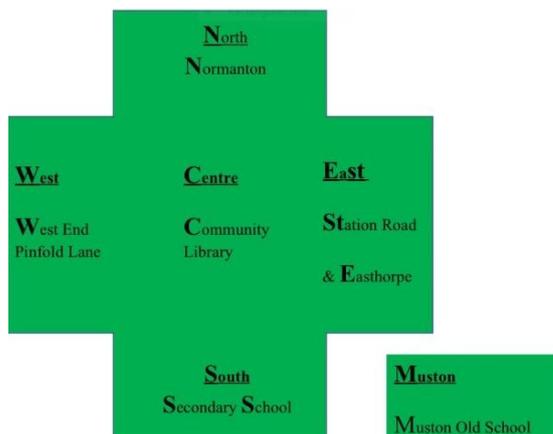
**Co-op to donate food**

Nobody likes to waste good food. That's why Bottesford's Queen Street Co-op wants to give away products that are going out of date to a local community group. If you are a not-for-profit group and want to help reduce food waste, then you could apply to be a partner with the Co-op. For further information, visit [www.coop.co.uk/environment/food-share](http://www.coop.co.uk/environment/food-share).

**Parish Council meetings**

The Parish Council is keen to encourage residents to its monthly meetings. The next two will take place on Monday 11th November (includes a discussion on the precept) and Monday 9th December. The meetings are usually held in the Fuller Rooms in Bottesford and start at 7.15pm. There is a 15-minute public session, after which the main meeting starts. Residents may observe and listen to the discussions for as long as they wish.

## Help! Where is the nearest defibrillator?



A recent incident, in which a defibrillator was urgently needed, highlighted the need for all of us to know exactly where they are located. The Parish Council has devised a quick and easy way to remember their locations. Think of the compass points. **North** is Normanton. **East** is Easthorpe and Station Road. **South** is Secondary School. **West** is West-End (Pinfold Lane). **Centre** is the Community Library. There is also **Muston Old School**.

The Parish Council is also organising further training for anyone who would like to be confident in using them. Remember, "When you need them, you need them quickly".

## The strange case of the mystery key-safe

Recently, a Bottesford resident returned home to find a key-safe attached to his garage wall. He had not ordered this, and neither had any of his neighbours. Despite extensive enquiries to the manufacturers, Melton Borough Council, the police and other agencies, the resident still has no idea where this has come from or who may be still waiting for it.

If anyone can shed any light on this, please contact us at [vvadverts@hotmail.com](mailto:vvadverts@hotmail.com).

## 'Pop-up' fire station visits Bottesford

In conjunction with the Vale of Belvoir Lions, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service organised a 'pop up fire-station' at Bottesford Village Hall. The purpose was to promote fire safety across our community.

Year 5 children from Bottesford Primary School attended a talk on Bonfire Night and Halloween safety, and there was an opportunity for the children to try on some fire-fighting uniforms and get close up to a fire engine.

Free coffee and breakfasts were served to local residents. Other agencies in attendance included: the Police, Falls Prevention, Dementia Groups, Fire Safety educators and Message in a Bottle.

The Vale of Belvoir Lions' fantastic firework display will take place, as usual, on 'Bill Robert's' field opposite the church on the 5th November.



## Muston Community Group raise funds for Cruse



Cruse is a national and international charity who offer invaluable support to those who have suffered bereavement. On 4th October 2019, Muston Community group raised an astounding sum of £1,085 in just two hours when they held a cake sale and raffle.

A spokesperson said: "We are all very grateful indeed. Further donations are still arriving, so the amount raised will be even higher. Thank you all. You're the best."

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### Bottesford's WW1 war trophy

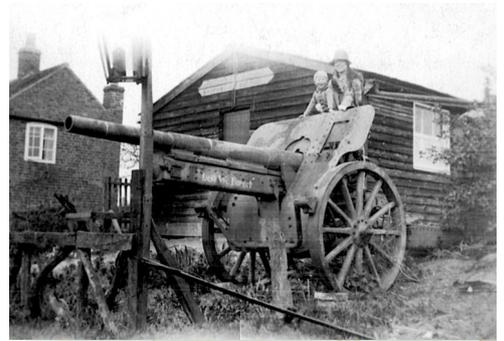
On 25th January 1919, the Grantham Journal reported that through the influence of the Duke of Rutland, Lord Lieutenant of the county, Bottesford Parish Council was offered a German Machine Gun as a 'War Trophy' for the parish. This was later changed to a German Field Gun and carriage.

It seems that the gun proved to be an embarrassment for the village. First intended for the school, it was put in various places, including next to The Cross, on the ground opposite the Bede House and eventually outside the British Legion Hut (later the Scout Hut).

Photos courtesy of Mrs A Marsh (Gun near church) and from the collection of Mrs A Bond (children sitting on gun).

If anyone else has any photos, please let us know at

[vvadverts@hotmail.com](mailto:vvadverts@hotmail.com).



### The Cenotaph in London and talk about The Unknown Soldier

Over 1.1 million men and women from the British Empire alone had died by the end of the First World War.

The original Cenotaph, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was a temporary structure made of wood and plaster. It was erected in Whitehall for a Peace Parade on 18th July 1919. 15,000 soldiers and 5,000 officers marched past and saluted the Cenotaph. In the weeks after, over a million people visited the memorial, laying flowers and wreaths and it was thought that a permanent memorial should be built.

Building started in May 1920 and the Cenotaph, built entirely of Portland Stone, was unveiled on 11th November 1920 by King George V. There were also plans for the interment of an unidentified casualty, known as the Unknown Warrior, in Westminster Abbey.

On 11th November 1920, the King unveiled the Cenotaph and joined the procession that brought the Unknown Warrior to the Abbey where he was interred.

The Cenotaph became a place to remember the casualties of war. Within a week, it was 3 metres deep in flowers and an estimated 1.25 million people had paid their respects.

On 14th November 2019, John G Chester will give a talk to the Bottesford History Society about The Unknown Warrior. The talk in the Fuller Room begins at 7.30pm. All are welcome. Visitors £2.50.

### The Bottesford and Muston War Memorials

By June 1919, Muston parishioners had decided how village casualties should be remembered. A cross, designed by W F Frith of Chelsea, was to be placed in the churchyard. Villagers raised £100 and by 20th September 1919, the cross was in place and dedicated by the Bishop of Leicester.

Bottesford parishioners had problems in deciding the nature and the site of a memorial. A War Memorial Committee was set up, letters were written to the Grantham Journal and village opinion was divided. Eventually decisions were made and a War Memorial was placed in St Mary's Church and dedicated on the 2nd June 1921.

The names of the casualties were engraved on a slab of limestone. A beautifully carved frame of alabaster surrounded the limestone slab and when the WW2 memorial plaque was designed, the same materials were used.

## Spotlight on...Peacock Farm, Muston, an award-winning farm

'Great Taste', organised by the Guild of Fine Food, is the acknowledged benchmark for fine food and drink. It has been described as the 'Oscars' of the food world. Therefore, it is a great honour to announce that Peacock Farm, Muston achieved a two-star (the highest is three-star) rating for their blackberry vinegar.

Donya Donger, partner in the farm said: "The vinegar is a family recipe, but we only started producing it commercially last year, so can't believe the demand and interest we have received!" We asked Donya to tell us a little bit more about Peacock Farm and how it has achieved such high standards with their produce. "We are carrying on a family tradition that goes back five generations. My husband has always lived and worked on the farm. After I left work to start our family, I began to think of all the great homegrown delights that we could produce.

"I started to press rapeseed oil which proved great for cooking and started to infuse flavoured varieties, and then create the blackberry vinegar."

Donya also keeps bees in several hives split between the farm and Langar Wildflower Farm. Donya is passionate about local produce, and her three young children love to get involved feeding the chickens, pressing the seeds and helping look after the bees.

A big supporter of local businesses, Donya explained: "Each Christmas I offer hampers which not only showcase the best of Peacock Farm but also the finest food and drink from the area in the 'Best of Belvoir' hamper, as supporting other small businesses is important to me."

## The Friendly Bench CIC celebrates after receiving £240k from the National Lottery to help tackle loneliness and social isolation



"The Friendly Bench is such a creative but wonderfully simple idea to help combat loneliness. It was by far one of my favourite schemes to hear about during my time as Minister, not least because it seems an incredibly cost-effective way of creating connections within a micro-community. I would love to see many more Friendly Benches across the country."

Community Interest Company, The Friendly Bench CIC, is celebrating after being awarded £242,713 in National Lottery funding to support its work to reduce loneliness, social isolation and create more cohesive, age friendly

neighbourhoods in communities across England.

The Friendly Bench™ in Bottesford has been a great success. It has been open for 15 months and has provided regular volunteering opportunities for over 20 people. It has also engaged with over 530 attendees at one or more of the monthly volunteer-led activities, connecting different generations and has introduced and encouraged other community organisations.

Lyndsey Young, founder of The Friendly Bench CIC, says: "We are thrilled that The National Lottery Community Fund has recognised our work in this way. Now, thanks to National Lottery players we will be able to bring more people together and help them build stronger, more connected, healthier communities. This is important because it helps people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds develop positive relationships and trust with each other. It also creates a sense of belonging, identity and acceptance and helps people develop supportive circles of friends and peers." Joyce aged 75, a local resident, says: "The Friendly Bench™ is really lovely. My neighbour, who recently lost her husband, and I come here often. You always get into a conversation. It's good to mix with other people, especially the kiddies."

If you are a community group and would like to know more about getting involved visit [www.thefriendlybench.co.uk](http://www.thefriendlybench.co.uk) or email: [thefriendlybenchtm@gmail.com](mailto:thefriendlybenchtm@gmail.com) and quoting ref: 'TNL Community Fund enquiry'. On the 3rd November, the Friendly Bench™, in partnership with the Armed Forces Covenant Outreach Office for Charnwood, Melton and Rushcliffe, will be hosting a NAAFI Break event at the bench in Bottesford. This is a free event, and whilst primarily aimed at members of the armed forces, veterans and military families, all are welcome.

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**What's On...regular events**

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 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 <a href="mailto:information@bottesfordcommunitylibrary.org.uk">information@bottesfordcommunitylibrary.org.uk</a> .                               |
| 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 <a href="http://www.voblions.org.uk">www.voblions.org.uk</a> or social media for upcoming events or further information!   |
| Every Thurs 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. Term time only.   |
| Last Sat of month 10.30—noon       | Chapel Cafe at the Methodist Church.   |
| Sundays 10am                       | The Vale of Belvoir Ramblers walk every week, usually on Sunday. Bring a picnic. Call 01949 836042, email <a href="mailto:vbramblers@gmail.com">vbramblers@gmail.com</a> or website <a href="http://www.vbramblers.co.uk">www.vbramblers.co.uk</a> 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). Storytelling, drama, craft, singing and fun during the church service. All welcome! Contact Jo Payne 01949 843348 or Lisa Smith 07415144640.        |

**What's On in November..**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Tues 5th 7pm         | Lions' Annual Bonfire & Firework Display being held in the Paddock by kind permission of Ken & Marion Roberts. Gates open at 6.30pm - entrance/ exit via Rectory Lane ONLY.           |
| Thurs 7th 2.30pm     | Friendship Group AGM, Methodist Church. Bring and Buy stall and refreshments.   |
| Sat 9th 7.30pm       | RAF Cranwell Military Wives Choir at St. Mary's Church. See page 7 for details.   |
| Tues 12th 2pm        | Vale of Belvoir U3A. We are pleased to welcome Andy Smith, a musician who will be entertaining us all with a selection of music.  |
| Thurs 14th 7.30pm    | Local History Society. Fuller Room, The Old School. The Story of the Unknown Warrior by John G Chester. Visitors welcome £2.50. For further details contact Sue Harding 01949 358698. |
| Sat 16th 10—3pm      | Muston charity shop Autumn Fayre.   |
| Sat 16th 10.30am—4pm | Artisan Food & Gift Fayre in Long Clawson Village Hall (LE14 4NA). Raising funds for the Village Hall and St. Remigius Church.  |
| Tues 19th 7.30pm     | W.I. Meeting at Bottesford VC Hall. Belvoir Fruit Farm—Frank Fitzgibbons.   |
| Thurs 21st 2.30pm    | Friendship Group at the Methodist Church. John Simpson entertains. Refreshments afterwards.   |

**...and in December**

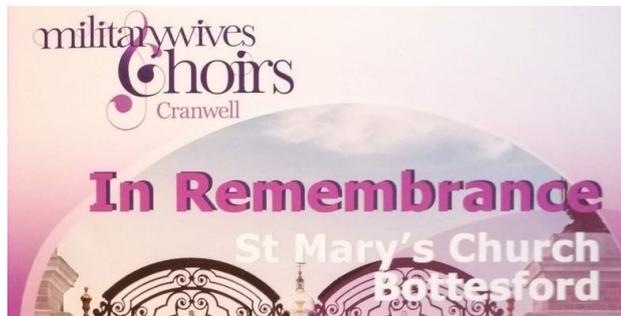
|  |   |
|--|---|
| Thurs 5th 2.30pm                                   | Friendship Group Christmas Service at the Methodist Church.   |
| Fri 6th 2—9pm<br>Sat 7th 10—5pm                    | Mini Christmas Market, Kooroon Gallery at The Old Sorting House. Art and craft market with food for sale as well.   |
| Fri 13th, Sat 14th, Sun 15th between 5.30 & 8.30pm | Santa and his Sleigh will be visiting Bottesford West (13th), Bottesford Central including Normanton (14th) and Bottesford East including Easthorpe (15th). Visits may be subject to change dependent on weather conditions. Follow us on Facebook! |
| Thurs 26th 11am                                    | Annual Duck Race. Washdyke Bridge near Station Road. Ducks on sale at local shops/ outlets.   |

## Free loan of mobility chairs

A resident contacted The Village Voice to let us know that they have started a scheme to offer the free loan of mobility chairs to elderly people that have trouble walking any distance.

Should anyone feel they would benefit from this scheme, please contact Mr Shipston at 20 Beckingthorpe Drive, Bottesford or telephone 07966374255 or 01949 843476.

## Military Wives choir performing at St Mary's Church



Friends of St. Mary's Church are delighted to be hosting the Military Wives Choir Cranwell concert of Remembrance on Saturday 9th November 2019.

There will be traditional pieces on the theme of remembrance, wartime remembrance poetry and some more modern pieces.

There will also be a licensed

wine bar and soft drinks. We suggest you book early as we expect this to be a popular event.

Tickets available through [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/in-remembrance-military-wives-cranwell-tickets-72731647315](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/in-remembrance-military-wives-cranwell-tickets-72731647315) or from Frances Stapleton at [mrsjohn500@sky.com](mailto:mrsjohn500@sky.com), the Village Store and Bottesford library.

## New electric-car charging point

For those who are driving fully electric or hybrid cars, there is a new electric-car charging point in Long Bennington. This is situated within the Co-op's car park. As there is so much interest in environmental issues, The Village Voice would love to hear of your experiences of 'electric driving'. Please drop us a line at [vvadverts@hotmail.com](mailto:vvadverts@hotmail.com) with your thoughts.



## Church by the Ford anniversary

2020 marks the 200th anniversary of the 'The Church by the Ford'. Volunteers are making a book of memories, and organising an exhibition to celebrate the Church's history. Do you have any photographs, memories, stories you would like to share? For more information, please contact Sue on 01949 843280 or John on 01949 844373.

## #HelloYellow

On the 10th October, many children, young adults, teachers and residents from our community wore yellow to mark the World Mental Health Day. This vital initiative supports young people who are experiencing mental health issues. A note from the Hello Yellow team: "A big thank you to all those who took part in #HelloYellow on Thursday 10 October 2019. We loved seeing your incredible yellow outfits, school assemblies and office activities. Remember to keep sharing your yellow pics with us on social media, by tagging @YoungMindsUK on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook, and using the hashtag #HelloYellow."

## Can you spare half an hour, three times per week?

Can you spare half an hour, 3 times a week to help a child become more confident and capable with their reading? If so, please contact Louisa Lonsdale, English Co-ordinator, at Bottesford Primary School.

Her e-mail is [lonsdale@bottesford.leics.sch.uk](mailto:lonsdale@bottesford.leics.sch.uk). Alternatively, give the school a call on 01949 842224.

It is a very rewarding thing to do and is a great help to the children. They really enjoy the opportunity to read to someone who is not their teacher. Full training will be given.

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## Get fit. Meet new friends.

### Have fun with Viking Square-dancing club

Looking for a new activity and a different New Year's resolution? Then try American Square Dancing at Allington Village Hall. It's fun and will keep your mind and body active. No experience necessary. Everyone assured of a warm welcome. Tuesday evenings 7.30-10.00pm. For further information on Square Dancing in this area contact: Judy, Viking Square Dance Club. Tel: 01400 281497. Or visit [www.allingtononline.co.uk/viking-squares/](http://www.allingtononline.co.uk/viking-squares/)

### Santa Fun Run Saturday 1 Dec 2019

In support of Dove Cottage Hospice, the fifth 'Santa Fun Run and Walk' will take place in the beautiful grounds of Belvoir Castle. You can choose between 3k, 5k or 10k. Everyone welcome, including your dog! Registration now open. Please visit: [www.dovecottage.org/santa-registration/](http://www.dovecottage.org/santa-registration/) for more details.

### Year 11 referees support local football tournament

Great to see some of Bottesford FC's U16 players refereeing at the local primary schools tournament recently. A spokesperson for Belvoir Academy said: "Many thanks to the year 11 refs who supported the primary schools football today. Great afternoon was had by all. Congratulations to Bottesford who won overall."



### Bike maintenance expertise needed for Bottesford Youth Club

Bottesford Youth Club needs your help. Can you spare some time to volunteer at this very popular club. If so, please call 07850572838 or e-mail [byc@bottesforyouthclub.co.uk](mailto:byc@bottesforyouthclub.co.uk). Alternatively, drop into the club Tuesday or Thursday 7pm-9pm. The address is The Annexe, Unit 4 Normanton Lane Business Park, Bottesford, NG13 0EL.

In particular, if you have any expertise in maintaining drift bikes the club would love to hear from you. The club has a budget for parts but they need some help in fixing the bikes. Pedals need to be put back on; tyres have to be changed etc. Any help would be most welcome.

### Tough Mudder update

So who was emerging from the Tough Mudder mud in our last edition? It was Ephraim Morton. Thank you Ephraim for letting us use your photo.

### Bottesford FC Christmas fund-raiser

Bottesford FC's Christmas party will be held on Saturday 7th December at the Village Hall, starting at 8pm. Live music by the hugely popular Grantham band - The System, and the disco will be provided by Muston Sound System. The cost is £5.00 per person, paid on the door. The club is hoping as many people as possible can attend, as this is an important fund-raiser for the club.

### Village Voice Contacts

#### For all Advertising and Articles:

Email [vvadverts@hotmail.com](mailto:vvadverts@hotmail.com) or phone 01949 842141.

**Editorial:** Alistair Raper on 07711 254441.

**What's On:** heather.stokes1@btinternet.com or phone 844009.

**Deadline for January/ February Edition (Issue 105): 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

Facebook: 'Village Voice, Bottesford'

Website: [www.villagevoice.bottesford.org.uk](http://www.villagevoice.bottesford.org.uk) includes our 'Extras' page.

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