



# Village Voice

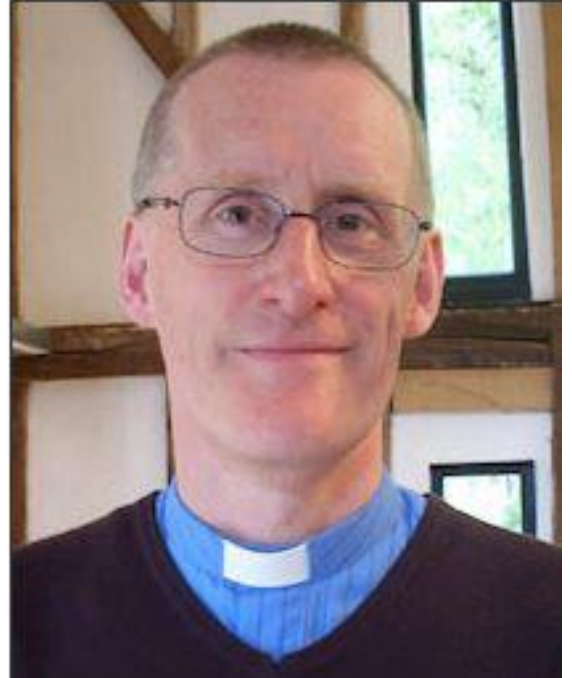
The newsletter of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton

## David and Jo Payne moving on

It was recently announced that David and Jo are moving on in October, for David to become the new Vicar of Silsoe, Flitton & Pulloxhill parish near Bedford. "This represents a return to my former Diocese and to an area Jo and I lived in some time in the last century."

David and Jo have been very involved in village life. Their warmth, care and sense of humour will be missed by everyone – especially the children who loved hearing David's stories at the school services!

On behalf of The Village Voice, we wish David and Jo our very best wishes as they embark on their new life. Bottesford's loss is definitely Silsoe, Flitton & Pulloxhill's gain.



## Claiming the old railway between Redmile and Kilvington as a Public Right of Way

Keen rambler Paul Fenton has re-discovered our beautiful countryside.

"During lockdown, I decided to walk every footpath, bridleway and tow path in our parish. Then to walk the old railway in both directions from Bottesford. First, I headed north to Kilvington. Then south to the road into Redmile. It is a shame there is a break between these two sections, both of which are very overgrown.

I am a member of Ramblers and they are interested in claiming the route as a public right of way. If they can claim it, the route would be protected for the future. To be able to claim it, evidence of use by the public is required. Have you used any part of the track in the past 20 years? If so, please contact me at [paulfenton400@gmail.com](mailto:paulfenton400@gmail.com)."



The Village Voice asked Paul about his favourite routes. "I used OS maps app. There are many walks to choose from but the ones south of the village across the A52 to the canal are probably the most scenic and interesting."

## The Village Voice Coronavirus Special edition

In May this year, when we were in full lockdown, The Village Voice produced a Coronavirus Special edition. This included the thoughts and experiences of many people, business and organisations from our community.

We only printed a few copies, as we could not deliver at the time. We do now have some spare. If you would like a copy, drop me a line at [gordonalistair@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gordonalistair@yahoo.co.uk) and I will arrange delivery.

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## Draft Neighbourhood Plan out for consultation

The Bottesford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, in conjunction with the Parish Council, is pleased to announce the Bottesford Draft Neighbourhood Plan is now finalised and almost ready for submission to Melton Borough Council.

However, it is legally required to undertake a minimum 6-week consultation period and residents, stakeholders and consultees are being asked for their views. The Draft Plan is a detailed 130 page evidentially based document (as required under the Localism Act 2011) and can be viewed on the web site [www.bottesfordparishneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/](http://www.bottesfordparishneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/)

The Draft Plan sets out policy framework across 19 policies that must be taken into account by Melton Borough Council when deciding planning applications in the Parish. These policies will shape the future of the village and they have been summarised in a questionnaire which is available at [www.bottesfordparishneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/community-consultation](http://www.bottesfordparishneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/community-consultation).

The feedback will be analysed and summarised and may be used to alter those policies before submission to the Melton Borough Council. All responses will be considered and relevant issues or objections addressed.

The consultation period is from 30th July until 30th September. If you are unable to access the Plan and questionnaire on the website please contact the Clerk on 01949 222478 or email [neighbourhoodplan@bottesfordpc.org.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplan@bottesfordpc.org.uk).

## Bottesford library re-opens

Bottesford Library re-opened from 9.30am to 12.30pm on Saturday July 18th, after being closed through the lockdown, save for its popular pop-up bookstall located at the Methodist chapel on Devon Lane. The trustees and volunteers look forward to welcoming you.



Covid-19 safety measures for hand sanitising and social distancing are in place. Only five library users will be permitted to enter at a time, and you will be asked for your name and contact number for contact tracing purposes.

The new opening provides for borrowing and returning library books, as well as offering donated books for sale. However, the public computers and the coffee machine remain out of bounds. The library will only be open on Saturday mornings, but additional opening times will be added in due course.

Look out for fresh announcements and follow us on Facebook: Bottesford Community Library.

## Litter blights our villages. Who can't pick up?

People have noticed an increase in litter over recent months. One of the worst affected areas is the skate-park. Empty bottles, takeaway wrappers, discarded food are regularly left for others to pick up. A concerned resident said: "It's like a fairy-ring of litter. People come here, eat their takeaway and, once sated, drop everything and walk off. Who does this? It's really slovenly!"

Litter from the skate-park is regularly removed. However, a message for all users – "Love your skate-park; don't mess it up!"



## Bottesford Scout Group needs volunteer leaders and assistant leaders

Helene Priestley writes: 'I have volunteered as a Beaver Scout Leader for nearly 3 years. When my son was approaching the right age to join Beavers, I wanted him to join the Scout movement.

However, there hadn't been an active Beaver Colony in the village for several years. So with the help of Group Scout Leader Nick Rains, I set up a group on Tuesdays that meets for an hour every week during term time.

We meet at the Scout Hut on Albert Street but also get involved with local projects such as The Friendly Bench and Bee Friendly Garden. We have had sleepovers at The Deep aquarium in Hull and Space Centre in Leicester. We camp in tents, we invite people in to speak, such as the local PCSO. We try activities like grass sledging and canoeing, and we work towards fun badges such as the Experiment Badge and Cycling Badge.



It is incredibly satisfying volunteering in a role that helps children to learn new skills, gain confidence, make new friends, and help them to stand on their own feet. I have also learnt a great deal.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Beavers (6-8 years), Cubs (8-10 years) and Scouts (10-14 years). You don't need to have been a Scout when you were younger. You don't need to know how to put up a tent. Full training will be given. It doesn't matter if you're young or old, whatever your skills, if you can help, we guarantee lots of fun." For more information, contact Group Scout Leader – Nick Rains. Email: [1stbottesford@granthamscouts.org.uk](mailto:1stbottesford@granthamscouts.org.uk).

## Dove Cottage Tea Rooms looks for volunteers

Dove Cottage Tea Rooms are looking for volunteers to help in their tea-rooms at Stathern. For further information please contact the duty manager on 01949 861950. They also need help to get the 'al fresco' market ready for Saturday 5 September. If you can spare a couple of hours, please send a message to [nic@dovecottage.org](mailto:nic@dovecottage.org).



## Your Village Voice

The Village Voice has been running for over 17 years and we have tried to cover as many events as possible over that time. During lockdown, there have been few events to report. Therefore, this is a good time to ask what you would like to see more or less of in The Village Voice.

I've had requests for a locally themed crossword. There have been calls for a younger-person's page, or more business-related stories (remember whilst we are happy to report on interesting business stories, any direct advertising would need to be paid for – it is our only income!), and possibly some 'How to' guides. Please let me know what you would like. Drop me a line at [gordonalistair@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gordonalistair@yahoo.co.uk) and include the words 'Village Voice Suggestions' in your title box. Thank you. Alistair. Editor.

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## 2020 - a year of commemoration

This year has been a year of WW2 commemorations.

It is 80 years since the evacuation of British troops from Dunkirk in May/June 1940. It is 80 years since the RAF defeated the German Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain in September 1940. In May, VE Day commemorated 75 years since the Allies signed a peace treaty with Germany and her allies. In August, VJ Day commemorated 75 years since WW2 ended, when Japan surrendered after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The War Memorial in the church bears the names of WW2 casualties. Particularly poignant is that there are two casualties who died whilst they were prisoners of war in the Far East.

Colin Reeves, born in 1921, was the son of Frank Reeves, a gardener who lived and worked in the village. Colin worked at Beckingthorpe Farm but in 1941 he joined the RAF as an Aircraftsman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. He served in the Far East and became a POW when the Japanese invaded Singapore and then Java. The International Red Cross reported that Colin Reeves died of dysentery and beriberi in a POW camp on Horoeko Island on September 9<sup>th</sup> 1943.



Private Walter Jesson, born in 1916, served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment. He was taken prisoner by the Japanese in 1944 and along with other POWs was being transported by ship when it came under fire. He was listed as missing on board ship. His name is remembered in the Singapore Memorial Cemetery in Keranji, Singapore.

David Jones, Tower Captain at St Mary's, tolled the tenor bell 75 times in commemoration of 75th anniversary of VJ Day at 11.10 am on the 15th August 2020.

## Bottesford Parish A52 Update from Borough Councillor Don Pritchett

In September 2019, local councillors, together with our County Councillor and County Council Highways Officers, met with a Highways England (HE) manager to discuss the local A52 from the Lincolnshire to Nottinghamshire borders. HE are responsible for the A52, not the County Council.

We were informed that HE had an outline risk reduction scheme, subject to Government funding. The HE Manager explained that HE firstly reduce risks by design not by applying speed reduction to existing roads.



Councillors expressed an opinion that speed reduction and lighting would be an improvement. This is supported by our local Police Officer. The record spend of £27 billion announced by HE in March 2020 for schemes to be completed by 2025 did not include a local A52 scheme.

Byron Rhodes our County Councillor has been told recently that HE still want to proceed with the scheme from Bingham to Barrowby but there is no funding at the moment. Also, there will not be any one-off work on redesigning the Belvoir Road Junction with the A52 in the near future.

To be a priority, the intended scheme or just local lighting and speed reduction requires Government support. Bottesford Melton Borough Council Ward Councillor Pru Chandler has written to our Member of Parliament (MP) to request lobbying for funding. For anyone else wanting to write to our MP the email address is [Alicia.kearns.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Alicia.kearns.mp@parliament.uk)

Don Pritchett, MBC Ward Councillor Bottesford.

## Spotlight on Debbie Bass-Pickin

Debbie is a very respected and well-loved member of our community. She is shortly leaving the village to move north. The Village Voice asked Debbie for her reflections on living in the village. Her thoughts are below.

"I was born in Bottesford a few years ago! My grandfather and then my father were farmers in the Village. I went to Bottesford Primary school, both in the old school (now the library). I vividly remember walking to the Baptist church on Queen street for our lunch every day, and we were the first cohort in the new school.

This was followed by Belvoir High, where I found my love for athletics, throwing the discus for county and training with the England squad (until my knees protested) and then Melton. I spent many years being part of BATS (Bottesford Amateur Dramatic Society), putting on numerous plays at the village hall.

I also worked for a good few years for Ken Greasley builders before I went to university to study Biology and Psychology and eventually turned my hand to teaching, spending 18 years in a number of schools in Grantham. I left teaching to help care for my father and was lucky enough to be offered the admin role at St Mary's church, which I have loved doing and have been heavily involved in lots of the church activities which the village loves and supports.

I started the Charity shop at Muston 6 years ago and I have worked in the Rutland Arms for many years through my late teens and twenties, seeing a lot of village life pass through the door, including the flood! I have spent the last 10 years living in Woolsthorpe but I am still heavily involved in Bottesford life through the church, secretary to the Garden Association and coming full circle to have the pleasure of serving on the Board of Governors, as Chair, at Bottesford Primary School for the last year.

Having spent over half a century in and around Bottesford, it will be very hard to say goodbye. But I am looking forward to a new chapter in my life in Morpeth and being close to my brother and nieces."

The Village Voice would like to offer our very best wishes for the future and a very big thank you for all the work you have done to support our community. You will be missed!



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## The BFG (Bottesford Friendly Garden) welcomes new volunteers

The Bottesford Friendly Garden is a wonderful community space located adjacent to the station car park, and is developed and maintained by volunteers. The group meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month between 10am and 12pm. If you would like to get involved or just come along for a chat you are always welcome.

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**Leicestershire Council launches fund to support county businesses**  
Leicestershire County Council has launched a new 'Business Recovery Fund' to help businesses get on their feet. The fund is aimed at small businesses within the county to help them recover from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Applications can be made for grants between £2,000 and £10,000 and the businesses can use the money to ensure their survival by, for instance, developing online selling and diversify into new products. Grants are open to businesses with 50 employees or less. For full information and how to apply visit: [www.oakleaves.org.uk/leicestershire-business-recovery-fund](http://www.oakleaves.org.uk/leicestershire-business-recovery-fund).

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**Bottesford entrepreneurs form business partnership in just three week**

Nicky and Gemma, proprietors of the new Barber Shop in Bottesford and the new Hairdressing and Beauty Salon, didn't know each other very well. But within three weeks, they had formed a business partnership and started two news businesses within Bottesford.

"It was an incredible three weeks – definitely 'girl-power'. Lots of people supported us. Mums Cheryl Hibbert and Tina Bailey helped with decoration. Graham Russell installed the plumbing, Jack Jones did the joinery, Tom Richardson sorted the electrics and Angela Parsons from ABC Flooring did a great job." And of course, a big thank you to their families, especially Nicky's husband James, and children Harry and Charlie"

The barbershop and salon are now open and proving very popular with our residents. They are located within Queen Street, Bottesford.



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**Village Voice advertising benefits two new local businesses**

Prograss and Projet are two new independent businesses that have found advertising in The Village Voice very beneficial. Prograss is a lawncare company who provide a free lawn health check and quotation. You can contact them on 01949 837367 or visit them on [pro-grass.com](http://pro-grass.com).

Projet are an external cleaning company who specialise in cleaning most things located outside of a property, and will also provide a free quotation. You can contact them on 01949 833525 or visit them on [projetltd.co.uk](http://projetltd.co.uk).

Advertising in The Village Voice is highly effective. We deliver to over 1500 houses, business and organisations every two months and our rates are very competitive. Many businesses are finding that advertising is vital as we come out of lockdown, and need to remind people of their unique services and products.

There is a wide range of options for your advert. Please contact Gail on [vvad-verts@hotmail.com](mailto:vvad-verts@hotmail.com) or for a full range of prices visit our website [www.villagevoicebottesford.wordpress.com](http://www.villagevoicebottesford.wordpress.com).

### Residents unveil new sign in Normanton

After many months of organising, Normanton has a new sign at the southern approach to the village. The sign was designed by a resident and reflects the history and culture of our small village. The idea of having the sign came out of a number of initiatives to address the continuing speed problem through the village. It is a reminder to drivers that it is a residential area where people and pets regularly walk along the narrow footpath. A big thank you to all residents who have been involved with this project, the sponsor – John Roseland, the Parish Council and Highways England.



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### Lions appoints new president

After a very quiet few months because of Covid-19, the Vale of Belvoir Lions celebrated Teresa Bukkley becoming only the 3<sup>rd</sup> female president in the clubs 40 years. It was a very different handover this time, with a socially-distanced picnic on the Jubilee Green. The Lions hope to be back doing what they do best as soon as possible.



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### Jams expected in Easthorpe

Pim Mabbit has launched a new preserves 'super-store' in her washhouse at 13 Castleview Road, Easthorpe. Customers can enter one at a time to buy the delicious, jams, marmalades and relishes. All proceeds will support St Mary's church.

### Waste site re-opens

After several weeks of closure, Bottesford's recycling and household waste site has re-opened. You can now access the site between Thursday and Saturday 9am-5pm. However, you must book an appointment. Please visit [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling/find-a-recycling-and-household-waste-site/bottesford-recycling-and-household-waste-site](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling/find-a-recycling-and-household-waste-site/bottesford-recycling-and-household-waste-site).



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### Planning application considered

A planning application for a natural burial site on land to the east of Normanton is being considered by planners. Full details can be viewed on Melton Borough Council's website under reference 20/00584/FUL. Further details about natural burial sites can be found on [www.naturaldeath.org.uk](http://www.naturaldeath.org.uk).

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### Grantham Foodbank offers support

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## Bottesford FC needs more players

Players are needed by Bottesford FC, especially U16 and U15 girls. If you are going into years 10 or 11 in September and are interested in playing, please contact Ben Cullen on 07971 874136. The U15 and U16 girls play in the Notts Girls League on Sunday mornings and train at Grantham Meres on Tuesday evenings.

The club's U10 team are also looking for a couple of players to add to their squad ahead of the new season in the Notts Girls League. Training is Monday evening and games are played Sunday mornings. Please contact Matt on 07540 935478 for further information.

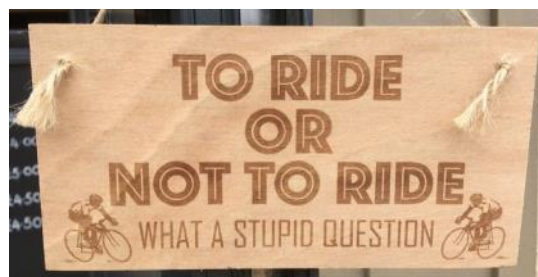
## Clubhouse kitchen re-opens

The clubhouse kitchen at Bottesford FC has been open for business since the 7 Aug 2020. There are clear markings and a one-way system for all customers to observe.



## Belvoir Blast working with British Cycling to stage event

The organisers of the very popular cycling sportives arranged Two Wheels and a Piece of Cake are hoping that the 'Belvoir Blast' due on the 20 Sept can still go ahead. We asked Britta Bayman for an update: "We are busy talking to British Cycling and meeting with village halls. We are working through various risk assessments, to ensure Belvoir Blast on Sun 20 September is safe, and as good an event as you've come to expect and love (minus the hugs... we'll make up for them next year)."



In a recent telephone call with British Cycling (BC) Britta also explained that BC have reviewed their draft proposal and should have it signed off very soon. The organisers will then agree with all other parties the specific measures and precautions, particularly with the rest stops located at the various Village Halls.

For further updates and details on how to get involved, please visit the website below. Spaces are still available: 40/60/100 miles. The organisers also offer a full refund if they have to cancel or if you cannot make it.

[www.2wheelsandapieceofcake.co.uk/events/belvoir-blast/](http://www.2wheelsandapieceofcake.co.uk/events/belvoir-blast/)

## 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](mailto:heather.stokes1@btinternet.com) or phone 844009.

Deadline for November/ December Edition (Issue 110): 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Facebook: 'Village Voice, Bottesford'

Website: <https://villagevoicebottesford.wordpress.com/editions/> includes our 'Extras' page.

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