



Village Voice

Issue No. 111

January / February 2021



The newsletter of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton

A happy new year to everyone from Bottesford Parish Council

There is no doubt that 2020 has been a very difficult year for everyone. The Parish Council has been amazed at the way local groups have provided support for those in need during this challenging time and we thank all of those who have played a part, however small.

The Council has continued to meet monthly via Zoom and has been able to keep on top of regular business such as planning applications, play areas/green spaces and road safety matters, whilst still responding to concerns from the public and other local matters. The Council has also been able to offer support to local groups with projects or needs which should help them as we begin to think about moving out of restrictions in the coming months.

Christmas 2020 will be a little different from normal, but we are aware of plenty going on in our parish to give Christmas cheer. We thank all of the groups and individuals who have worked so hard to help everyone get into the festive spirit.

On behalf of all the Councillors of Bottesford Parish Council, we wish you all a Christmas that is safe, warm and comfortable. Season's greetings and a happy, healthy and peaceful new year to everyone.



Advent trail is a special gift this Christmas

This year a new event is raising funds for Bottesford C of E primary school, whilst bringing loads of festive cheer to our lovely villages.

Each afternoon throughout December a new display or displays was revealed. Both businesses and private houses have created some beautiful windows or other displays. Pictures have been uploaded to Facebook and Instagram. Just search for 'Bottesford Advent Trail' and follow the Friends of Bottesford Primary School to keep up to date.

A message from the editor

As we finally turn our back on one of the most remarkable years in living history, on behalf of The Village Voice committee and delivery team, we wish everyone a very bright and hopeful New Year.

The community spirit has been outstanding, and we have all made sacrifices to hopefully allow us a much better 2021. We also hope The Village Voice has brought a little bit of normality into your homes over the last 9 months. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. We are four very special villages!

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St Mary's remains open

Despite the lockdowns, St. Mary's has remained open for private prayer and reflection between 10.00 and midday, Monday to Saturday and to enable donations to be made for Grantham Foodbank.

You are also invited to write a prayer for the prayer tree or light a candle. A spokesperson said: "We don't yet know what type of worship services we will be offering in the new year but check the website or Facebook page for information. In addition, the church produces a weekly newsletter containing links to services which is available via email. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact the church office on 842859 or stmbottesford@gmail.com."

Parish wishes David, Jo and family all the best

Sunday 18th October was Rev David's last service at St Mary's before departing south to their new parish. The Archdeacon Peter Hooper was in attendance and spoke warmly of David and Jo's time in Bottesford, offering prayers and good wishes as they take up their ministry in Bedfordshire.

The choir sang a favourite anthem of David's and after a few words from Church Warden Andrew Lockey gifts were presented to them as a token of thanks and appreciation from the congregation.



Poppy Appeal thank you from Anne

For many years, door-to-door collections for the annual Poppy Appeal have been made around our villages, and residents have always given generously. However, this year, restrictions made this type of collection impossible. Nevertheless, local organiser Anne Ablewhite wanted to express her thanks, as she has still received many donations. Anne said: "I want to thank everyone who managed to donate to the Poppy Appeal this year.

Unfortunately, we could not do our usual house to house collections or leave tins out in the shops and pubs, but I was very surprised and humbled to receive so many envelopes of cash and cheques through my door. We raised some £500, and that is more than I thought we would do this year. Hopefully, we will raise a great deal more next year.

I know a lot of people like to collect the small-dated badges each year and I have quite a few left at my home. If you would like one, please just give me a ring on 01949 842259. If I

am not in, leave your name and address and I will bring one round to you."



Beautiful cards and tea-towels to celebrate 200th anniversary of the Methodist Church

To commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Methodist Church, some beautiful cards and tea towels have been designed by members of the Vale of Belvoir Art Society (VOBAS). Cards cost £1 each or 6 for £5. Tea towels cost £8 each. They can be obtained from Pam (telephone 073 05 004 679), or Sue (telephone 01949 843280).

'Act locally, make an impact globally' villages meet with Energy and Innovation Team at Nottingham University

A group of villagers with support from the Parish, Borough and County councillors are exploring means of building a more sustainable future. The local contact for this initiative explains: "Climate change, Brexit and a pandemic are our new reality. We live in an increasingly unpredictable world. Decades of using fossil fuels have increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and accelerated global warming. With the help of new Government initiatives – being announced as we go to press - we need to rebuild a resilient, sustainable future. But there's no silver bullet and doing nothing isn't an option.

Bottesford is already ahead of the game and is positioned to work with world class researchers to become more efficient in our energy use and save costs at the same time. A group of villagers has met with the Energy Innovation and Collaboration team at the University of Nottingham and has asked them to explain how they can help us. They have a range of support and will be explaining this to us at a webinar on 14 January 2021. We need new, sympathetically designed, resilient and unobtrusive, non-fossil fuel energy sources.

But the first step is for each of us to reduce our energy use by basic things we can all do in the home. It's cheaper to reduce our energy use than to generate more and we can all buy-in to this. Whether we're a householder, business or landowner, the key message is the same, reduce energy needs and be more efficient with the energy that we do use.

Please visit www.act-locally.eventbrite.co.uk and sign up to the University event to find out how our four villages can access the tools we need to create a "new normal" that is right for us. And contact our village group at bottesfordnetzero@gmail.com and tell us your interests and whether you have, or are thinking about, generating electricity for your home with solar panels or heat pumps perhaps.

This initiative is supported by our own Parish Council, our two Borough Councillors and our County Councillor. Starting points for home-based energy help are described below.

Green Homes Grant

If you're a homeowner or residential landlord, you can apply for a Green Homes Grant voucher towards the cost of installing energy efficient improvements to your home. Improvements could include insulating your home to reduce your energy use or installing low-carbon heating to lower the amount of carbon dioxide your home produces. You must redeem the voucher and ensure improvements are completed by 31 March 2021. There are likely to be follow up schemes.

www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme

Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

Money towards renewable heating costs in your home. Types of heating include *biomass boilers, solar water heating, certain heat pumps*. Payments are made for 7 years and are based on the amount of renewable heat made by your heating system.

www.gov.uk/domestic-renewable-heat-incentive

Remember to attend the webinar on the 14 Jan 2021 between 10.30am and 11.30am by visiting www.act-locally.eventbrite.co.uk



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Vale and Fosseway Responders receive funding

Vale and Fosseway Responders (VFR) are delighted to have been selected to be part of the Bottesford Co-op Local Community Funding round 2020-21. This means every time Co-op members buy selected Co-op branded products a donation will be added to the fund for VFR.

The amount will vary depending on whether the Co-op member has selected VFR as their preferred charity (if no charity has been selected the donation is split equally between the three local charities that have been selected for the year).

VFR is a registered charity (1115596) and is dependent upon donations from the Vale and Fosseway communities in order to attend 999 emergency calls, as directed by East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS). Whilst EMAS provide specialist equipment (such as oxygen cylinders) and training for our community responders, VFR are responsible for ensuring each responder is fully equipped (e.g. blood pressure/glucose monitors and oxygen masks). If you are a Co-op member and would like Co-op to donate solely to VFR then please either go to www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes/44599 or call 0800 023 4708.



A good read In our last edition, we asked what people have enjoyed reading over lockdown. Colin Macdonald from Bottesford kindly wrote to us with these recommendations:

"Penguins Stopped Play" by the late Harry Thompson is the story of a group of incompetent cricketers who started their own club and ended up travelling the world. Non-cricket-lovers should not be put off. There is humour and sadness and it's a very good read.

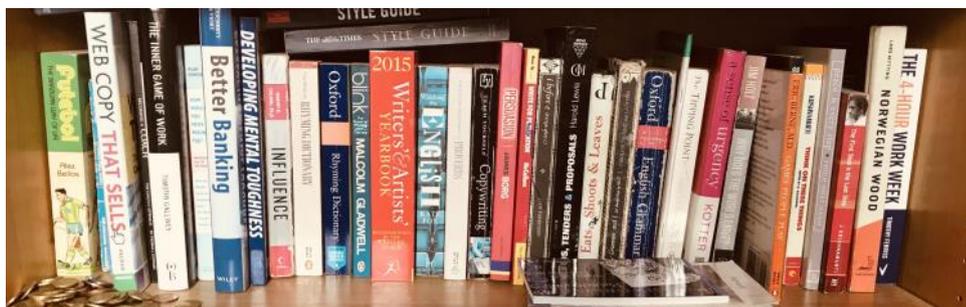
"At My Mother's Knee and Other Low Joints" is the first volume of Paul O'Grady's autobiography. It's a full-on romp through his early life leading up to his reincarnation as Lily Savage. I can't imagine anyone reading it without enjoyment. "Animal Farm" by George Orwell probably needs no introduction.

Gerald Durrell's Corfu trilogy, which starts with "My Family And Other Animals" is every bit as entertaining as the TV series and is an ideal escape from the tedium of lockdown. Anything by Bill Bryson, with his most famous work, "Notes From A Small Island", being a good starting point.

"Twelve Days On The Somme" by Sidney Rogerson is a first-hand account of a small part of his time in the trenches in the Great War. It's not one for young children, for obvious reasons, but anyone with an interest in that conflict will get a real feel of what it was like - the humorous parts as well as the tragic. The immediacy of the events shines through. This was first published in 1933 and is available on Amazon (but at The Works it was only £4 when I last checked!)

My top recommendation: "Cider With Rosie" by Laurie Lee which is, to my mind, one of the finest books in the English language."

Thank you very much to Colin for taking the time to share his booklist. If you would like to share your bookcase please drop me a line at gordonalistair@yahoo.co.uk.



The DailyHope Line

DailyHope is a free national telephone line, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of the phone. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly for those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions and to provide comfort and spiritual nourishment to the most isolated in our society.

“With many in our country on lockdown, it’s important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are.” Archbishop Justin Welby.



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Parish Council notes - New councillor

The Parish Council is very pleased to welcome Charles Daybell to the team. Charles was co-opted to the Council at the meeting held on 9 November 2020. This now takes the Parish Council back to the full complement of nine Parish Councillors.

Charles replaced Cllr Alan Gough who resigned from the Council in September. Alan served on the Parish Council for several years. The Parish Council would like to express its appreciation for all the work Alan undertook. He will be sorely missed.

Bottesford Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who took the time to respond to the recent Neighbourhood Plan consultation and are grateful for so many constructive comments. All responses were considered by the Steering Group and a number of amendments were made to the Plan.

The Parish Council has now submitted its proposals for a Neighbourhood Development Plan to Melton Borough Council (MBC) who have undertaken a further six-week consultation phase in accordance with regulations. The proposed plan can be viewed and commented on at www.meltonplan.co.uk/bottesford. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the MBC Parkside offices are closed except for urgent contact. If you have difficulty accessing the Neighbourhood Plan and associated documents please contact Jorge Fiz Alonso at jfizalonso@melton.gov.uk to discuss a solution to suit your circumstances.

Any party who wishes to make a representation on the proposed Bottesford NDP is invited to do so now. Representations can include a request to be notified of the Council’s decision whether to make or refuse to make the NDP. Representations should be made using the representation forms which can be accessed online or by request if necessary, and sent to planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk or posted to Planning Policy, Melton Borough Council, Parkside, Station Approach, Burton Street, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 1GH. Representations must be received no later than Wednesday, 17 January 2021.

A beautiful handmade quilt

During lockdown local resident Jill Smith has been making this beautiful handmade quilt, which she would like to raffle in aid of Grantham Foodbank. If you would like to contribute, please put a pound coin in an envelope with your name and phone number in the St.

Mary’s letterbox on the main door. A winning envelope will be drawn on Sunday 14th February.



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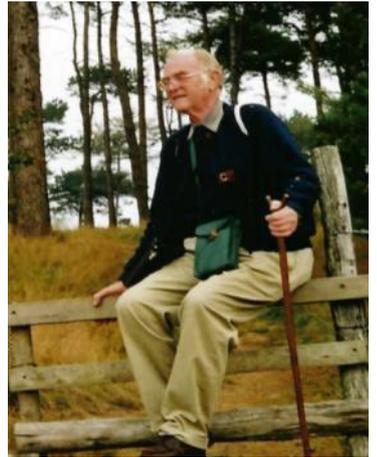
David Wright memorial

The Village Voice recently received a note from Dr Rebecca Mathews advising us that her father, David Wright, had unfortunately passed away earlier this year. Rebecca was wondering whether any residents may remember her dad. Below is her tribute.

“My father - David Charles Wright - was born at The Ferns, Bottesford in 1928 and has recently died. He was 92 years old and there may still be people in the area who knew him. My father was a caring gentleman. One of his oldest friends, now resident in South Africa and who had known him since 1953, summed him up as ‘hardworking, keen to help and support others and with unshakeable integrity’. I have already received condolences from one Bottesford resident who knew my father and my grandparents, and the housekeeper Dolly. Interring my father’s ashes won’t happen until 2021 and most likely in the Summer. In a way this is kind to me, in order to stretch out the goodbyes.

My father had many happy memories of a childhood in Bottesford and one of the cheeriest, although tinged with some sadness, is the story of his father’s dog. A farm dog collie who visited the train station daily from the day that his father left to join up and go to war. The dog became quite a favourite with the station-master and passing travellers and did not give up the daily habit even when my father’s father returned nearly 5 years later in 1945!”

If anyone knew David and would like us to pass on condolences or memories to Rebecca, then drop me a line at gordonalistair@yahoo.co.uk.



For Roy Else, who died 9th October after a short illness.

The Village Voice also received a letter from Priscilla Else and family who want to thank friends and neighbours for all the support they have had since the sad passing of Roy on the 9th October 2020.

“My family and I would like to thank our friends and neighbours for the flowers, kind messages of affection and comfort, and support at the loss of Roy, my husband of 58 years. We greatly appreciate your concern at this bleak time and have been deeply touched by your kindness.

Roy and I moved to Bottesford with our three children in 1973, when he took a job lecturing in Fine Art at Trent Polytechnic, and we have spent many peaceful and happy years in the village ever since. His passing has left a huge void in our lives.

Wishing you all good health and safety during this pandemic and a happier year for everyone.” From Priscilla Else and family.

If anyone knew Roy and would like us to pass on our condolences or memories to Priscilla, then please drop me a line at gordonalistair@yahoo.co.uk.



Bottesford years ago

We should thank local historian Bill Pinfold for spotting the researches done in the 1930s by Charles Calcraft: WW1 veteran, village postman and long-serving Scout Master, and the fascinating facts he published in the Grantham Journal on March 18th 1933. Here are some gems from his pen.

In 1330, William Lord de Ros founded a charity at Bottesford on property purchased from the Calcraft family. William died in 1352, and from an inquisition then taken a rent of £4 called the *Palfrey Silver* was paid to spare the cost of entertaining the shire reeves when they held Court. In 1343, the total value of Bottesford-cum-Normanton was £50 11s. 6¾d. per year. Very little land could be cultivated, and corn lands were sown on the tops of the ridges only, ploughed up high above the furrows.

On Sept. 15th 1591, 10s. 8d. was paid to William Howghe of Bottesford for providing supper and breakfast to seventeen persons bringing fifteen carriages from Boston, and another payment for *Grass for the Horses*. Men and horses were conveying monuments destined for the Parish Church, after being brought by sea journey from London. Robart Howghe received 6s. 8d. towards the cost of two weeks board for Mr Garrett Johnson, tombmaker.

The plague of 1608-09 was very fatal, and 107 persons died out of a population of about 750. In 1610, Robert Scalfe, of Sewstern, *Ascended the Church Spire* by the crockets, fetched down the weather cock, repaired the foot, and, replacing the same day, was paid the sum of 3s. 6d.

On February 26th 1644, Samuel Parker, Civil War commander under Sir Marmaduke Langdon, killed in action at Melton Mowbray was buried in the Church, and on the same date Lieutenant George Potts, who fell in the same fight, was buried in the Churchyard.



Bottesford Scouts c.1908: Charles Calcraft is the Scoutmaster.

Bottesford Local History Society notes

Like many other organisations and societies, the Local History meetings came to a very abrupt end last March.

BLHS hope that by March 2021 they will be able to meet again. However, they think it would be better to move their venue to a larger space to accommodate any continuing restrictions.

Therefore, they have provisionally booked the Village Hall for the March, April and May 2021 meetings. These will take place on the second Tuesday of each month (Thursdays not available) and the meetings will start at 7.30pm. Dates and any Covid-19 restrictions will be confirmed nearer the time. Keep a lookout on the noticeboard outside the Co-op and at the library.

BLHS have also obtained a grant from Bottesford Parish Council, allowing them to offset the increased cost of hiring the Village Hall for 3 hours and to take advantage of on-line technology. For example, ZOOM for both our speakers and members. A spokesperson said: "Very best wishes for a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year."

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Christmas carols Zoom out in Normanton

Residents in Normanton have for several years at this time of year ventured around the houses singing Christmas Carols, and (occasionally) enjoying a tot of something heart-warming to encourage the singing. Like everyone else, Normanton Community Group have had to adapt. Paul explains: "Our village was 'Day 5' in the Bottesford Advent Trail (see the full trail on Facebook, and maps are for still for sale at the Village Store), a snow creature has inspected the new Normanton sign.

Meghan and Markle, Santa and Sparkle (Normanton's resident reindeers) have been seen at both ends of the village and their reindeer friends appear to have been walking through local kitchens leaving nothing so far but footprints and droppings! Then we heard the sound of carol singers warming up their voices in preparation for Normanton's first ever (and hopefully last) virtual carol singing event, performed via ZOOM."

Some very enthusiastic singing, plenty of mince-pies, festive costumes, mulled-wine and the occasional attempts at playing instruments made this a memorable event. "Still waiting for the record deal!" said one resident, somewhat optimistically.



Ground staff do a fantastic job at Bottesford FC to keep pitches from flooding

Ground-staff at Bottesford FC have done a great job in preventing the pitches from flooding. A spokesperson explains: "Russ has done a great job in preventing our pitches from flooding recently. The photo below is the Winterbeck, which runs around the perimeter of our site. It reached a similar height last winter and at that time we had flooded pitches. This year, after all the rain and snow, the Winterbeck was once again full, but our pitches only had one small area of standing water. The Winterbeck is usually about 6-8 feet lower than this!"



'Read Aloud' Many newer Microsoft Office programmes now feature a 'Read Aloud' feature, allowing those who would prefer to listen rather than read to still enjoy publications such as The Village Voice. The automated voice is slightly robotic but easy to listen to, and even copes well with our village names, although Muston does provide it with a challenge!

If anyone would like a PDF copy to listen to it on a computer, drop me a line at gordonalistair@yahoo.co.uk.

Village Voice Contacts

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

Deadline for March/ April Edition (Issue 112): 27th January 2021.

Facebook: 'Village Voice, Bottesford'

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

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