



Village Voice

The newsletter of Bottesford, Easthorpe, Muston & Normanton

Tree charter for our parish



The parish council has adopted a Tree Charter with the aim of making the parish one of the most treed areas in the Midlands, and in doing so, improving our health and well-being.

Charles Daybell, who is leading the project, said: "We have teamed with the Woodland Trust, the Tree Council, Leicestershire County Council and Melton Borough Council. The parish council would welcome interest and commitment from residents, businesses, schools and other community organisations. We have set up a Tree Fund to enable people and businesses to contribute to planting projects and will provide a facility for families to plant trees in memory of a loved one.

The Tree Charter is a defining programme for the future of our parish. We intend to plant trees on parish-owned land, roadside verges, to secure better landscaping schemes in new developments and create new woodlands and walkways, especially alongside the River Devon and the old railway line towards Kilvington."

For more information, or to provide help or contribute to the Tree Fund, or to suggest where trees should be planted, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk, Lucy Flavin Tel: 01949222478. Email: clerk@bottesford-pc.gov.uk



Message from the editor

It is likely that many restrictions caused by Covid-19 are about to be lifted. The last year has been characterised by great resilience and community support. I was moved by the brilliant, yet quiet, organisation of the vaccinators as I waited the 15 minutes after my inoculation. People simple and effectively doing their best to keep us safe.

I have been impressed by most people keeping distances and wearing face-masks, thereby respecting others, protecting ourselves and reducing the impact of the virus.

I am writing this on the day the Prince Philip of Edinburgh has died. For some a sad day. It also reminds us of the 127,000 deaths caused by this brutal pandemic. However, better weather, the opening of shops and pubs, and the ability to see our loved ones again brings renewed hope and a lifting of spirits for us all.

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Can you spot Lily Rabbit?

In this edition, there are three photographs which include a picture of 'Lily Rabbit'. Can you spot her?

Another accident round the bends

In our last edition, we reported an accident on Normanton bends where a vehicle had turned on its side into the ditch. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

Within a week, there was another accident. This time a small van misjudged the turn and demolished a telegraph pole. Again, no serious injuries.

The drivers were fortunate, but this may not always be the case. Let us hope we are not reporting a third accident in the next edition where the consequences are more serious. Take care on the roads!



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A new vision for the Poacher Line.

The parish council provided us with a vision for The Poacher Line.

"We have recently had small improvements to the services of the Poacher Line. But can we say to our children we are doing everything to alleviate traffic on the A52, reduce fuel-usage and carbon emissions, and reduce traffic accidents?"

There is an under-used train service to Grantham and Nottingham, and people ask why our service is not like those in Europe. Our answers speak of lack of will, coordination and budget. Therefore, the parish council have created a vision for The Poacher Line which co-incides with our MPs taking more of an interest in the service, as well as in the broader goals of carbon-reduction. We need to re-think the service we expect and need.

For example, regular services that match people's needs: for workers, school-children, connections with mainline services from Grantham and Nottingham, shopping trips, special occasions, daytime and night-time entertainment.

Without having to rely on expensive taxis.

The train service needs to be commercial. But we need to broaden our definition of 'commerciality' to include hidden costs: traffic congestion, accidents, wasted fuel and carbon targets. These all come at a cost to the private and public purse.

In March 2021, our vision was endorsed by Bottesford Parish Council, Borough Councillors Pru Chandler and Don Pritchett, and County Councillor Byron Rhodes. It will soon be considered by other parish councils along the line. It is expected that the three local MPs will also support the vision." Bob Bayman.



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Easter at Normanton

Last Easter, residents of Normanton organised an 'Easter Egg' trail in which socially-distanced families enjoyed solving clues along the village. Residents all said that 2020 would be the only time this format would be necessary.

"How wrong we were!" said one mum. "But still in lockdown, we set off again in family bubbles to enjoy the traditional Normanton Easter trail." A big thank you to Liz, Isobel and Elsie for organising this year's fantastic event.

The Wombles of Bottesford Parish versus litter and dog poo

With the backing of the parish council, a group of 'Wombles' has been established by the CUBE-21 group (Cleaning Up Bottesford and Easthorpe, not forgetting Muston and Normanton, of course).

The intention is that each Womble will be supplied with equipment so they can regularly make the parish a cleaner place, whether on their own or in groups.

For more information or to join the Bottesford Wombles group on Facebook or the Bottesford Wombles WhatsApp group contact the CUBE-21 group on 07913 432108.

Please note you can collect free dog poo bags from the parish council office near the library. Phone 01949222478 to arrange a time to pick up.

DID YOU KNOW...?
Rwanda is one of the cleanest countries in the world after President Kagame introduced laws requiring citizens to participate in a Saturday litter-pick morning once a month!
www.goodnewsnetwork.org/rwanda-litter-law/



Responsible dog-ownership

Melton Borough Council (MBC) introduced Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) in 2014 as part of a broad range of powers and tools to help tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) locally. PSPOs aim to make sure public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour.

There is a specific PSPO which promotes responsible dog ownership. This PSPO includes the prevention of fouling on public land and this allows the Fixed Penalty Notice for dog fouling to be increased from £75 to £100

Any person, unless they have a registered assistance dog, who breaches the PSPO may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100. This can also be dealt with in the Magistrates' Court, with a maximum fine of £1,000.

MBC are encouraging people to be their "eyes and ears" at times of the day when their officers are not available. For further information call 01664 502502.

Nobody likes cleaning up after their dog, but we accept it is a part of dog ownership. Waste campaigners Keep Britain Tidy found that 9 out of 10 dog owners regularly clean up after their dog. A spokesperson said: "There really is no excuse for this behaviour, especially as the waste can be put into any public bin. It's lockdown laziness, especially those guys who bag the mess, then don't bin the bag. Get a grip!"

If you need a pooper-scooper there are some available via the Bottesford Wombles. Please contact 07913 432108 if you need one.

Random acts of crochet kindness – a message sent to Village Voice from a local resident

We would like to thank the lovely person who has decorated the post-box on our street in the village. Absolutely made our day and brought lots of smiles to people's faces as they passed.
 #RandomActsOfCrochetKindness



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Marion Roberts retires and a warm welcome to M.A. Mills Funeral Service

As many residents of Bottesford and the surrounding areas will now be aware, Marion Roberts, of William Roberts Funeral Service, has recently made the difficult decision to retire as your local independent family funeral director, and enjoy the quieter life that retirement brings with it.

William Roberts Funeral Service has been helping bereaved families for almost 70 years since Bill Roberts of Bottesford established the funeral service in March 1940. Many people will want to express their gratitude for the wonderful support and comfort that Marion and her family have provided to our community over the years. Marion would also like to thank all those people who have sent her such kind messages of support.



But as one chapter in the long history of William Roberts Funeral Service closes, a new one opens. Marion has handed the reins of her business over to the capable hands of Michele, Tony and their son James, of M. A. Mills Funeral Service, Radcliffe on Trent. They are also an established independent family-owned funeral service that is only 20 minutes away and has been helping bereaved families since

the 1990s.

Marion's wish is for the legacy of William Roberts Funeral Service to be preserved, so Michele, Tony and James will continue to honour the William Roberts name by continuing the same high level of personal service that residents of Bottesford and surrounding areas have come to expect.

All calls and arrangements will be dealt with personally by either Michele, Tony or James. They offer help and sympathetic advice to bereaved families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Contact details: 0115 9336906 or e-mail: enquiries@mamills.co.uk.

Muston charity shop re-opens

Muston charity shop is now welcoming visitors. A spokesperson said: "As we are preparing to re-open the charity shop, I am putting the feelers out for volunteers who would have a spare Wednesday or Saturday morning free. If you are interested in joining our happy bunch, please let me know as we are sorting rotas. Thank you. Sara"

For more information either visit the charity's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Muston-Bottesford-Charity-Shop or drop us a line at The Village Voice and we will pass on your details - vadvertsh@hotmail.com.



Dove Cottage charity shop re-opens

Dove Cottage charity shop is also welcoming visitors. A spokesperson said: "We are really pleased to be able to open our charity shop doors. Here are our new opening and donation hours. We look forward to seeing you. Thank you, as always, for your support."

Stathern. Open: Mon-Fri, 10:30am-4pm. Sat, 10:30am-4.30pm. Donations: Weds, Thurs, Sat. **Bottesford.** Open: Mon-Sat, 9:30am-4pm. Donations: Mon, Weds, Sat. **Cotgrave.** Open: Mon-Sat, 9am-4pm. Donations: Mon & Thurs. **Asfordby.** Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat, 10am-5pm. Weds, 10am-1:30pm, Donations: Thurs, Fri, Sat. Melton Times TBC as a new children's shop is about to open.



Go tadpoles. Grow!

Volunteers from the Big Friendly Garden (BFG), adjacent to Bottesford station had a really 'good Friday' recently. The BFG pond was finished, and the frogspawn was returned to its rightful place. Phil Salathiel, volunteer with the project said: "Just a few more tweaks and we have another wonderful enhancement to our community garden."



Naturespot needs your help to record the wildlife of Leicestershire

Submit any sighting of an animal, plant or fungus seen in Leicestershire or Rutland to put your 'dot' on Naturespot's species distribution maps www.naturespot.org.uk/. All records are passed on to local and national recording schemes which adds to our scientific knowledge and helps conservation. All wildlife records are valuable, and it does not matter whether your observation is a common or rare species, and whether from your garden, local park or a nature reserve. If your wildlife sighting is not in Leicestershire and Rutland, please submit the record to the national iRecord website www.nbn.org.uk/tools-and-resources/useful-websites/irecord/

You can now use the NatureSpot App to record in the field with your mobile phone.

2nd World War Bottesford Royal Observer Corps

In our last edition, we featured the photograph below of members of the Royal Observer Corps based in Bottesford during WW2. Unfortunately, at



the time only two of the group could be named. We asked for help from readers to see if anyone recognised any of the other members.

A big thank you to Cyril Palmer's daughter, Margaret Smith, for her help in naming more members of the group. The names left to right are: **Back Row.** John Robert Jackson, Cyril Palmer, unknown, Len Palmer,

Ernest Craske. **Front Row.** Edith Doncaster, Charles Green, unknown, unknown, Marjorie Holt.

Edith Doncaster was wife of Alec Doncaster, employed by the National Provincial Bank, who opened the bank branch on the High Street on a Wednesday each week. The Doncaster family lived at Field View next door but one to the bank. Next to her is her father Charles Green, a retired electrical engineer, who lived on Belvoir Road.

If anyone else can provide information on the photograph, please contact Sue Middleton on 01949 842215 or visit www.bottesfordhistory.org.uk.

Friends of St Mary's postpone AGM

The planned online AGM for The Friends of St Mary's due in March was postponed. A spokesperson said: "An online AGM is not ideal and there were not many members who accepted the invitation. Therefore, we took the decision to postpone until pandemic regulations are relaxed and we can have an AGM in the church. This will give us the opportunity to thank members and supporters personally and allow us to have some refreshments at the same time. We will let people know of the new dates as soon as we can."

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Bottesford Community Library re-opening

Following the lifting of Covid lockdown restrictions, Bottesford Community Library opened its doors to borrowers and visitors on Tuesday April 13th.

Newcomers will find us in the Old School opposite the Village Cross in the Market Place.

Opening times are Tuesday afternoons 3.00 until 6.00, and Saturday mornings 9.30 to 12.30. Membership is free. All are welcome.

Find us on Facebook, [bottesfordcommunitylibrary.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/bottesfordcommunitylibrary) or call 01949 842696 in library hours for more information.

DID YOU KNOW...?
The British Library on Euston Road, London is the biggest library in the world, housing over 170 million items.

The library receives a copy of every publication produced in the UK and Ireland through legal deposit.

www.bl.uk/about-us/our-story/facts-and-figures-of-the-british-library

A good read – a book review from one of our delivery team, Sarah

Sarah's good read this month is *'Her Last Move'* by John Marris. "I have read several books by John Marris and have always found them to be intriguing and compelling. Marris often pushes the boundaries with his story telling and his novels can be graphic at times. *'Her Last Move'* is Marris's first police procedural novel and it is gripping. It follows a sadistic and calculated serial murderer. It is an unpredictable story that kept me reading late into the night! Highly recommended."

A good read – a book review for younger people from Jamie aged 12

"I really enjoyed *'The Person Controller'* by David Baddiel. It is about two twins, Fred and Ellie, who love playing video games. They are given a jewel-encrusted controller by a mystery person. They then can live life by controlling people as if they were in a video game."

Spotlight on...Nick Fitt: Village Locksmith

Nick moved to Bottesford from Grantham 5 years ago with his son Archie and loves living in the village. He has worked on many doors in the area!

Nick has been an independent locksmith for almost 15 years now. His work covers repairs and fitting of all types of locks, including upgrading Mortice and UPVC locks to British Standard requirements. He has worked with the police and bailiffs on many occasions.

He also repairs mechanisms to UPVC doors.

The last 12 months have been a testing time for everyone, and Nick feels lucky to have been able to carry on working and helping people with their security issues.

He follows all PPE requirements and has now had his first job, which will give peace of mind to everyone. He takes the current Government restrictions very seriously and can take payments online.

If you would like any advice or upgrades on security give Nick a call on 07900 495960. Or visit his website. Google 'Nick Fitt Grantham' where you will find more information as well as recommendations from happy customers.



The Big Issue – ‘a hand up not a hand-out!’

For many people, the pandemic has had a huge impact on their jobs, finances and future. This has been particularly so for Big Issue sellers who have been unable to go out onto the street to sell their magazines.

Whilst there are no vendors in our four villages, many of us will buy The Big Issue from vendors in Grantham, Newark or Nottingham. However, we can now buy the magazine in Bottesford. The Big Issue has teamed up with The Co-op and Sainsbury’s so residents can buy a copy from The Co-op in Queen Street. Proceeds are distributed for the benefit of all local vendors.



The Big Issue magazine was launched in 1991 in response to the growing number of rough sleepers on the streets of London. It offered people the opportunity to earn a legitimate income through selling a magazine to the public. There are now vendors in every town and city in the country. The magazine includes many interesting articles and only costs £3.00.

Children return to school

Our primary and secondary school children returned to school on the 8 March. You could hear the collective sigh of relief from parents as the challenges of home-schooling came to an end. The primary and secondary schools had worked extremely hard to maintain the children’s education throughout lockdown, and teachers and staff were delighted to welcome them back.

Apart from those exempted, all secondary school children have received lateral-flow tests twice a week. Belvoir Academy organised a series of tests the week before a full return. This was a big logistical challenge. Thanks to the excellent organisation from all staff and volunteers it was completed successfully, allowing students to return the following Monday.

From the 9 April, adults can order home tests. For further information visit www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests.

Wildflower verges

The parish council are working on a project to seed some of our verges with wild-flowers. The first area is along Muston Lane in Easthorpe. If this proves successful, other areas will be considered.

Out and about

Now that we can travel a little further and meet friends and family outside, our readers have been getting out and about. One of our residents visited Whisby Nature Park. “Whisby Nature Park is a beautiful landscape near Lincoln, full of wildlife, walks and trails. Once barren and lifeless, this amazing place now abounds with wildlife. The park was created by quarrying for sand and gravel, but nature has reclaimed the pits and bare sand, creating habitats for many species.”

The location is: Moor Lane, Thorpe-on-the-Hill, LN6 9BW, approximately 20 miles along the A46 towards Lincoln. Parking is £2.00. There is an outside play area and take-away refreshments are available. There are many walks and loads of wildlife to spot. Dogs are welcomed on leads, although there is one trail which permits dogs to be exercised off-lead.



Heidi (aged 5): “I’m glad I’m going back to school mummy.”

Mummy: “Why is that, Heidi?”

Heidi: “Because the teachers don’t shout at school!”



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Treasure hunt answers from the last edition

Number 1) 29 + 2 'halves. 2) 1761. 3) The Coronation. 4) Reverend Augustine Meggison. 5) The Big Friendly Garden (BFG!). 6) 4 swings. 7) 6 outside cricket club. 8) The defibrillator outside Warwick Flats. 9) Sir Alan Duncan opened The Friendly Bench. 10) 3 x25p, 1 x 20p, 2 x1p, 11) Belvoir Coffee House was once used as a youth-club. 12) The stocks outside the butcher's.

Cricket is back

The Cricket Club bar will re-open on Friday 21st May. Junior Cricket also returns. Sign up now for the ECB All Stars and Dynamos programmes. Register online at www.ecb.clubspark.uk. Both courses start on Friday 14 May and will run for 8 Friday evenings.

There is also the Under 11s, 13s and 15s hard ball teams - open to boys and girls. For more details contact lseymour@btinternet.com. For senior cricket teams, the club are looking for new players for Saturday and Sunday teams. For more information contact asculpin@hotmail.com.

Football is back

Football is back. Of 31 March, the FA Guidance for the return of outdoor football is as follows: changing rooms are closed, toilets are open, the kitchen takeaway is open. However, at the time of writing no spectators are allowed at matches except for games involving children where one parent or guardian per child can attend.

There has been a lot of work preparing the ground and facilities, and the committee is looking forward to a return to normality soon.



Bowls is back

After last year's Covid hit season, when no league games were played at all, it looks like the league season will be getting underway from the 17 May. The club is hoping to play a friendly on the 8 May against Knipton.

Last year the club was lucky to welcome a host of new members who became valued members of the club very quickly. This season they will be able to play competitive league games home and away. A full fixture list is published on the club's website: www.bottesfordbowlsclub.wixsite.com/bottesfordbowlsclub/fixtures.



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

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