



The Bergh Apton Newsletter

April - May 2016

Issue No. 144

Editorial Comment

BT (British Telecom) claim, "using the power of communication to make a better world." Can we at BA (Bergh Apton) make a similar claim, maybe anyway with correspondence from Australia with the Newsletter we have gone Global. I have shared the e-mail with John Ling who very kindly is researching the pertinent records, thank you John.

It is incredible how easy it is to communicate with people everywhere, for example Tim Peake whom we have seen talking to people in this country from outer space, however we should remember that the International Space Station orbits the Earth at a height of only 248.5 miles, that is if you went to Dorchester or Newcastle you would be further from Norwich than Tim Peake and his companions are from earth. Australia is much further than that (9337.9 miles from Norwich) so isn't it amazing that we can contact and communicate with individuals at such great distances.

Milton Harris (Editor)

Letters to the Editor

Hello Milton

I am contacting you from Australia as a result of an article I read in your newsletter about Rev Alexander Heard.

I have been writing my family history for a few years now and although Rev Heard is not a direct ancestor, he did cross paths with my grandfather whilst serving in far North Queensland as part of the Bush Brotherhood movement between 1911 and 1920. He left Brisbane in 1925 to become rector of St Mary's, Caterham.

I would be very interested to know if it would be possible to contact Ellen Yallop, or her carers, to ask her a few questions.

Specifically, I would love to know what happened to his wife, Elizabeth Heard (nee Baker) after her husband died at Mulbarton, and to hear any other stories of their lives in Bergh Apton or Mulbarton.

Incidentally, did you know that Rev Heard's brother, Gerald Heard, was a famous writer and is known today as the father of 'the consciousness development movement'?

I would be very grateful for any assistance you could provide,

Regards

Matthew Heard

Midwinter Dreaming 2016



Who would have thought it possible? And some didn't! But it was and judging from the comments of those who took part as audience, or as performers, it was a success, a real success. Congratulations BACAT. Congratulations to all who participated in any way.

On three cold winter's evenings, in the pitch black of night, under the light of the stars, with owls offering their applause too, some 150 people gathered in Bergh Apton church for Midwinter Dreaming – a Play for Candlemas. And one of the key actors is now saying "I'm feeling so bereft without it!"

The Play is described elsewhere. Here is a selection of comments and pictures - a selection!!



PARTICIPANTS' COMMENTS

"It exceeded expectations". The coming together of the whole play produced an evening that was worth more than the sum of its elements - script, singing, acting, darkness, food, costume, art work, sound & lighting effects etc. Although a lot of people were involved it was an intimate and coordinated production. **R**

It is hard to ask people to join when you have no idea what you are asking them to do. However I enjoyed the journey and the performances. We all had a good time together. I think it went very well. I felt proud to be part of the production and have such creative and talented neighbours. It makes me a bit sad that many in the village did not join in, but that is their choice. **S**



I loved the whole experience, especially as learning music without written notes was completely outside my comfort zone. I regularly take part in choir concerts but this was an experience un-like anywhere I had sung before. Yes, a very big positive! C

I would have to say it was the nicest community event I've been involved in."

Along comes BACAT with an event rooted in the year's cycle, with an eye to the past but not thoughtlessly re-enacting it – instead creatively reinventing – a new thing in fact, that had a community life spanning half a year, with scores of people happily & creatively involved, and whose actual telling covered all these wonderful performance areas: costume, decoration, sculpture & light, a moving and involved audience, taste, fire, a surrounding sound & music, song, story, the spectacle of performance, humour, and of course the underlying reality of the dark, the night, the cold, and the enduring building itself.



I really enjoyed rehearsals and the performance and particularly liked the style of music as it had such a strong folk heritage, extending to the learning of the harmonies, taught as you would learn a folk song. I found the rest of the choir lovely people and Mary as our Music Director was absolutely top notch.

The performance exceeded my expectations and the fabulous use of light (or more properly darkness) was brilliant. The people I invited to attend were entranced by the production; to the extent that one friend informed her husband that they needed to move to BA to be able to take part in the next production!

As a resident of one of the "tons" I felt it was important to support it, as it is through such communal effort that the village community is revitalised and enhanced; as well as recognising and supporting the considerable effort put into the project by the Arts Trust.

So what can you say? It was a far bigger undertaking and achievement than any I've managed in my years working in this field. So many people involved in so many different areas, but all willingly going the same way. And it achieved what it set out to do, it marked the division of the winter, from the days we inhabit now, and it brought to life all those characters... the wren boys.. the bee keeper .. we could see and know the mummies as individuals ..

Next winter, I think we will miss not having it. W

T

AND AUDIENCE

I thought it was brilliant, entrancing, captivating. I didn't want it to end. **D**

It was a most magical experience and a perfect way to enjoy winter - without all the hype that accompanies Christmas. I particularly enjoyed the music and singing, especially the earthy rhythm of the final song 'I Sing Of A Maiden'. Coming from the gallery of the church, it was like being transported back 200 years. **D**



We came, knowing that it would be something special, but were so impressed by the whole . . . I can't call it 'performance', that's the wrong word, but the whole event, from start to finish, was spellbinding. The welcome in the marquee, the lantern-lit procession through the churchyard, the singing from the gallery as we entered, the gradual extinguishing of the candles to darkness, set such an atmosphere for the actual play which was really emotional; so cleverly done; the story was woven through and we felt so involved with the characters. The music was brilliant and had a real earthy quality, complementing the play perfectly. **J**

Brilliant, inspiring, touch of humour, Christ above all the/and ancient ritual. **D**

I loved so much of the evening, that essential mixture of sacred and profane whereby each reinforces the other, the wonderful lanterns and light effects, the darkness, the singing from the gallery, the timeless sense of community. But what moved me particularly was the way in which the play brought the church so vibrantly alive. 90 % of the times that I walk into a church, it is completely empty. Tonight was an experience at the opposite end of the spectrum, the church was woken up, the walls spoke, the gallery vibrated. **L**

It hit just the right note... the ritual anarchy of English folk tradition meeting the mysteries of the gold frankincense & myrrh. It was funny and moving... and the laughter opened the audience to something deeper. It looked wonderful. The whole church came alive. In fact, to me it felt like what the church experience should be. The music coming from the West Gallery was spot on. And a lovely sense of everyone enjoying themselves. I was lucky to sit near the front and to feel the spine tingling eye contact of the word perfect holly man. It was really something to have experienced. So was the whole evening. **T**

Came all the way from France, Brighton and Cambridge. One of us said it was one of the two best shows she'd ever seen. She'd paid over £100 for the other! We thought it was the perfect piece of theatre. We were all, at various points, in wonder, sorrow, laughter, inspiration; joiner-inners, clapping, singing, buzzing.... **Z**

Sing! Sing! Sing!

Present their

60s Cabaret Night

A fabulous night full of great song from the

Swinging 60s

Saturday May 14th 2016

7.30pm

Bergh Apton Village Hall

Food by **Lynton Johnson**

Compere **Ray Wharton**

Tickets Only £15.00 each

for cabaret and 2 course supper

(in advance only)

Contact Karen on

07583 968739 for tickets

(limited number available)

SATURDAY 11th JUNE 2016

SAVE THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY

Bergh Apton, Alington and Yelverton
are planning a joint celebration for

The Queen's 90th Birthday

The plans so far.

Breakfast at Alington and Yelverton village hall.

A bring your own lunch 'street party'
at Bergh Apton village hall.

An evening hog roast and licenced bar
at Alington and Yelverton village hall.

In between all the feasting there will be a
Best Queens Hat competition and fun activities
for the children and never grown-ups.

If you will be able to help in any way please contact Philippa
Fuller clerk@berghapton.org.uk

We will be delivering leaflets and
putting up posters nearer the time to
give you more information about
timing and events.

Midwinter Dreaming

'... the play's the thing'

The mechanistic world of twenty first century Britain where we shape our environment to suit us is superimposed on a far, far older layer of being. Now and again a wild and wet winter and even the turbulent world itself cuts us down to size and we wake up to older rhythms of season and time. We live in a richly layered island, an ancient kingdom marinated in ritual and rhyme, song and story which wind the clock of the year. In 2012 we were host to the Olympic Games and the Opening Ceremony, 'Isles of Wonder' tapped into this rich seam and in 2016 we did the same with 'Midwinter Dreaming'. Over the last twenty or so years 'Bergh Apton' has become a brand, a brand associated with innovation, with events that inspire, interest and intrigue. We never set out to decide what to do next we wait for an idea to hatch in our imaginations and so with 'Midwinter Dreaming. It was deliberately entirely different to our last production, the Cycle of Mystery Plays, it would be staged in winter not summer, it would take place in one site and it was to be an experience as well. 'So along comes BACAT with an event rooted in the year's cycle, with an eye to the past but not thoughtlessly re-enacting it, instead creatively reinventing, a new thing in fact that had a community life spanning half a year with scores of people happily and creatively involved and whose actual telling covered all these wonderful performance areas, costume, decoration, sculpture and light, a moving and involved audience, taste, fire, a surrounding sound and music, song, story, the spectacle of performance, humour and of course the underlying reality of the dark, the night, the cold and the enduring building itself.' The call went to the Tribes of Ton and not only they but those of our closely related Tribes of Ham and Land responded and Tribes from far flung regions, the Nordovicians, Beclodians and Bungavians, a wide community has been created. It says much for us that the three professionals, well known nationally and internationally, were very willing to join in and work with us. The play was written in discussions and writing sessions with Hugh Lupton, Mary Lovett created sublime music and singing with our musicians and singers and Charlotte Arculus taught us so much, she took a young idea, turned it inside out, shook it about and, between the three of them and us, we wove a magic, one little idea became a wonder to all who took part and who came to see it. It was not only us humans who created the magic but the time of the year, the season of Candlemas, halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox and the ancient church itself, assured and reassuring. '....so many people involved in so many different areas but all willingly going the same way. And it achieved what it set out to do, it marked the division of the winter from the days we inhabit now and it brought to life all those characters...the Wren Boys, the Bee-keeper, we could see and know Hugh's mummies as individuals. Next winter I think we will miss not having it.' The village website gives a selection of other comments from our audiences.

All those involved will be far too modest to acknowledge the huge amount of time and interest they gave so I have tried to blow the trumpet for them, they were wonderful.

A special mention to Chris Ellis, our new Rector. He arrived in an unknown parish to find a group of people he did not know had plans for an event he knew little about in the church. He was good humoured and allowed us more or less carte blanche to use the church as we needed, I take my hat off to him.

What's next? The answer is blowin' in the wind.

Pat Mlejnecky



BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL
JUMBLE SALE
REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE
SATURDAY 23RD APRIL
10AM – 2PM



Forget me Not Grants

Making your home dementia friendly

Do you know someone who could benefit from this?

Grants of up to £1,000 are available for adaptations to a home to help make the environment more suitable for someone living with dementia.

Grants can cover a range of things including:

- Changes to lighting, flooring and decoration
- Changes to bathroom and kitchen facilities
- Installation of equipment and assistive technology
- Other work which can improve independence

For more information call the South Norfolk Council Independent Living Team on 01508 533705
Or visit www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/dementiafriendlyhomes





The Cinnamon Trust

The Cinnamon Trust is the national charity whose wonderful volunteers help people over retirement age and those in the latter stages of a terminal illness by offering all kinds of pet care. Many elderly or ill pet owners worry about their ability to provide proper care for their animals and start looking to rehome what may be their only companion, this is where our national network of dedicated volunteers step in to offer support enabling them to stay together. We'll walk the dog for a housebound owner, we'll foster pets when owners need hospital care, we'll fetch the cat food, even clean out the bird cage or litter trays.



If you would like our help with your pet or are interested in becoming a volunteer please call during office hours 01736 757900 or email volunteer@cinnamon.org.uk or you can check out our website for more details www.cinnamon.org.uk

If you would like to have a more in-depth chat about how we could help you or you are interested in becoming a volunteer please call us on 01736 757900 or you can download our volunteer registration form from our web site www.cinnamon.org.uk or email us at volunteer@cinnamon.org.

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Green Pastures Brings National Award to Bergh Apton!

As if Bergh Apton wasn't famous enough already, our village was in the news again recently after a memorable night for Green Pastures at the "Garden Centre Oscars" in London on February 4th.

The Garden Retail Awards celebrates the very best in the UK Garden Centre Industry and this year's awards were attended by almost 300 guests in Covent Garden, London. Joining Green Pastures as winners were household names including B&Q, Hozelock, Hilliers Garden Centres and TV personality Richard Jackson. Prizes were awarded by comedian Paul Sinha, best known from ITV's "The Chase".

As winners of the Best Business Project Category for a single site, judges praised Green Pastures for our "huge effort and hard work" that we have invested in rebuilding and extending the garden centre, farm shop and restaurant. The introduction of Bergh Apton's new village Post Office was described as a "masterstroke" and the business was hailed as "A family business at the heart of its local area". Judges were also impressed with Green Pastures commitment to using so many local businesses for our building project as well as the emphasis on local produce made available to our customers. Green Pastures fended off stiff competition from other independent garden centres that had also invested heavily in their futures with the winner being announced on the evening from a shortlist of five.

The Best Business Project category is for Garden Centres that have invested in improving their business within the last year. This may include brand new garden centres that have just been built entirely from scratch or those like ourselves which have carried out major improvements and extensions.

Winning this award was the icing on the cake for us after such an amazing twelve months. The "Best Business Project" award is normally dominated by multi-million pound projects including some of the country's most well-known garden centre companies who work in association with the best national specialist consultants, designers and construction experts. This was an amazing achievement for a company of our size as we completed our works on a comparatively tiny budget and managed the entire project ourselves. What's more we used almost entirely Norfolk based contractors and we estimate more than half of the man hours coming from businesses based in Bergh Apton or its neighbouring villages!

James & Michelle



Norfolk County Council at your service

Mobile Library Timetable

Route Number **CEN5410**
Calls on
Normally Every Friday
4 weekly

Stop Number	VILLAGE	ARRIVAL TIME	DEPARTURE TIME	STOP NAME	POSTCODE
2	HELLINGTON	09:35	09:50	HELLINGTON HILL COUNCIL HOUSES	NR14 7BT
4	ASHBY ST MARY	10:00	10:20	MILL COMMON	NR14 7BW
6	ASHBY ST MARY	10:25	10:40	MILL ROAD (NEAR ASHBY SIGN)	NR14 7BN
8	THURTON	10:45	11:00	ST GEORGES CLOSE	NR14 6AY
10	THURTON	11:05	11:25	PARK CLOSE	NR14 6AU
12	THURTON	11:30	11:45	ST ETHELBERTS CLOSE	NR14 6BA
14	BERGH APTON	11:55	12:10	HILL VIEW COUNCIL HOUSES	NR15 1BS
16	BERGH APTON	12:15	12:30	CHURCH RD BUNGALOWS	NR15 1BP
18	BERGH APTON	12:35	12:50	BERGH APTON CORNER	NR15 1BJ
20	ALPINGTON & YELVERTON	14:00	14:15	FORTUNE GREEN	NR14 7NP
22	ALPINGTON & YELVERTON	14:20	14:45	CHERRY WOOD	NR14 7NJ
24	ALPINGTON & YELVERTON	14:50	15:20	VILLAGE HALL	NR14 7NY
26	BERGH APTON	15:25	15:40	MILL ROAD (Outside Barley Mow & Tinkers)	NR15 1BQ

DATE OF NEXT VISIT

08-Jan-16	27-May-16
05-Feb-16	24-Jun-16
04-Mar-16	22-Jul-16
01-Apr-16	19-Aug-16
29-Apr-16	16-Sep-16

BERGH APTON HORSE SHOW



Dogs From 1pm

AT BERGH APTON MANOR

MONDAY 30TH MAY 2016

Equifest, 15 Plus Qualifiers

Please contact **Katie Brown: 07961 553 317**

katiebrown007@hotmail.co.uk

Schedule available on horsedates.co.uk

BERGH APTON CONSERVATION TRUST

TRUSTEES

Prof A J Davy (Chair) 01508 558453	Mrs S Crome (Sec) 01508 480573
Mr R J Kerry (Treas) 01508 480661	Miss L Flatman 01508 558349
Mrs J Ratcliffe 01508 493672	Mr N Headon 01508 480097
Mrs S Rimmer 01508 480576	Dr Annette Ford 01508 480150

ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2016

Sunday 10 April: Litter Pick. Meet at Bergh Apton Village Hall, 2 pm

Wednesday 18 May: Tour of Wheatfen with David Nobbs, 7 pm

Saturday 21 May: Pond Dipping at Valley Marsh, 2.30pm

Wednesday 15 June: Hedge Survey at The Manor, 2pm

Saturday 18 June : Midsummer Celebration. 6.30 pm at Pageant Plantation.
Bring your own bbq.

Wednesday 13 July: Hedge Survey north of Bergh Apton, 7pm.

Sunday 10 July: Summer Excursion: Tour of woodland at Kirstead with Simon Aylmer.
Meet 2pm at Langhale House, NR15 1EG

Moth Watch: To be confirmed

Bat Evening: To be confirmed

Wednesday 28 September: Annual General Meeting, Bergh Apton Village Hall,
7.30 pm - Speaker: Matthew Davies, Norwich Fringe Project

Sunday 23 October: Fungus Foray, 1.30 pm.
Meet at Bergh Apton Church Field Car Park

Christmas Party : Saturday 17 December

Work Days (meet 10.00 am, Church Field car park):

Saturdays : 16 January, 20 February, 19 March, 16 April, 21 May, 18 June,
16 July, 20 August, 17 September, 15 October, 19 November, 17 December.

Thursdays : 28 January, 25 February, 24 March, 28 April, 26 May, 23 June,
28 July, 25 August, 22 September, 27 October, 24 November.

(email for enquiries: Stephanie.crome@btinternet.com)

Christian Aid Week 15th – 21st May

It's coming! It's on its way!



Can it really be a whole year since I wrote asking for your support for Christian Aid Week 2015? It's strange how 12 months can see many things change while others remain the same. One constant seems to be that there will always be a need for organisations like Christian Aid. What changes is the face of the need.

In April last year, when a major earthquake hit Nepal, claiming 8800 lives and destroying millions of homes, our news was full of the horror of it. With its local partners Christian Aid was there, providing emergency shelters and helping with reconstruction. Twelve months after the cameras and journalists left to hunt for new images to feed our TV screens and newspapers, Christian Aid is there still, now assisting in the provision of clean water and providing cash grants to recover lost livelihoods.

Remember Gaza? In the summer of 2014 nearly 1500 civilians were killed and half a million Palestinians displaced from their homes. Using our donations, Christian Aid was helping to deliver vital medical treatment and supporting those rendered homeless. Although the acute crisis has passed, Christian Aid is there still, now helping to rebuild water supplies and agricultural capacity, and supporting a third of a million children as they deal with the trauma of the conflict.

Syria. For 5 years the wholesale destruction of what had been thriving, self-sufficient towns and communities has been going on. Apart from shaking our heads at the TV, did we pay much attention until the resulting humanitarian crisis erupted onto European soil? Half the population of the country is now displaced from their homes and country. Christian Aid has been there in Lebanon and Iraq, helping with healthcare for Syrian refugees, serving vulnerable women and girls facing sexual and gender-based violence, providing education and psychological support to refugee children, supplying food vouchers, cooking utensils, mattresses and blankets.

And when the bombing stops, Da-esh are defeated and reporters fill our TVs with some other unfolding crisis, Christian Aid will still be there helping to rebuild lives and infrastructure, as they are in so many other places - educating, providing small grants for local projects, campaigning against corruption and inequality - bringing new hope. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

So, when our natural sense of outrage shouts, 'why can't someone do something?' we can know that Christian Aid is doing something - and will continue doing something as long as they have support to do their work.

You were awesome in your response last year - do let's see if we can do it again so, when that red envelope comes through your letterbox in May - please help.

Thanks Shirley Rimmer

Village Christian Aid Co-ordinator



SATURDAY 9th APRIL SPRING FAYRE

10am – 4pm

BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL

Stalls include:

Crafts, Jam & Chutneys,

Nearly New, Cakes,

Plants

Gift Tombola

Raffle

Coffee/Tea and Bacon Butties

Funds in aid of BIG C

Everyone has been touched by Cancer so come along and support this great cause.

BERGH APTON CONSERVATION TRUST

LITTER PICK

SUNDAY 10th APRIL 2016

Meet at 2.00 pm

BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL

Bergh Apton Conservation Trust would like to welcome everyone to join in a community litter pick, working our way along the village roads. Equipment provided.

Cakes and refreshments will be available at the village hall at the end of the afternoon.

Please come and join us for a worthwhile afternoon's exercise!

The Man Who Said That the Earth Moves Around the Sun

Bergh Apton Local History Group's annual historic supper, held as near as possible to St Valentine's Day and celebrating some important person or event in history, took place at the village hall on 20th February. This year we marked the 452nd birthday of the Italian natural philosopher Galileo Galilei, born in Pisa on 15th February 1564.

In part these annual suppers are an excuse to eat and drink a merry supper together and to don some form of costume that reflects the theme of the evening. They also take a look at, and join in, some form of audience participation about the life and times of a serious historic figure.

Today, and for the last four hundred-odd years, mankind (for the most part anyway!) has been certain that the Earth and all the other planets revolve around the Sun. What we were celebrating on this evening was the life of the man who spent most of his adult life confronting and breaking the earlier secular and religious certainty that it was the Earth that was at the centre of the Universe.

Supper was an entirely Italian menu prepared by members of the Group and, after supper, we entertained each other with some quips and sayings, in Italian, that Galileo might have been said. As it turned out when translated, many of them had been inserted into the process by the Supper's planners as amusing or slightly risqué red herrings!

The prize for the best Italian accent produced in this process was awarded to Anna Guy who, appropriately, won the whole world for her skill – albeit in the form of a blow-up plastic globe.

Had there been a First prize for a splendid outfit it would, undoubtedly, have been awarded jointly to Linda and Tony Davy for their Italian Renaissance finery. However the judges would probably have ruled them out of the running as Linda - whose previous annual appearances in her famous owl costume had won for her numerous plaudits - had failed to take on the challenge of adapting the said owl costume to the theme of the evening.



The first course of a delicious Galileo supper; Peperoni Ripiena (stuffed peppers), just before they were put piping hot on the table.



Tony & Linda Davy Outright winners of the Best Costume prize – Tony and Linda Davy in their Renaissance finery

Parish Council News

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This will be held on May 18th at the village hall. Please come along for a drink and a few nibbles and hear what the village groups have been doing this year.

The Play Park

Kevin and Jonny Parfitt have done an excellent job of repairing and making safe the shelter in the play park. The adults can now watch the children getting soaked to the skin in safety! The bench is being moved to a different part of the play park as the RoSPA report stated it was too close to the fence and the 'drop' over the other side to be safe. It will also be away from the rubbish bins as the wasps etc. can be a problem in the warmer weather.

Planning

South Norfolk planning department are streamlining the way things are done. This means they will not automatically put up a site notice for domestic planning applications only those which are in conservation areas or are considered to be sensitive. The parish council will try to make sure that the lists of planning applications are put on the parish noticeboards. Remember if you have internet access you can look on the South Norfolk Council website at all planning applications and can comment on line if you wish to do so. South Norfolk planning committee have approved unanimously the plans for the development on Cookes Road.

Queen's 90th Birthday

Bergh Apton, Alington and Yelverton are planning to join forces for a full day of celebrations on June 11th. Planning is in the early stages as yet, the first meeting to sound out ideas was on March 8th, but we will soon be asking for volunteers and ideas from you all.

Liz Robinson

Streamlining of the Planning Process

- Site Notices will only be posted if there is a statutory requirement to do so i.e. it is in a conservation area or is a listed building (in both these instances we also have to put an advert in the local press), a major application (defined as residential - 10 or more dwellings or site of 0.5 hectares or more; non-residential – new floor space 1000sqm of a site of 1 hectare or more); has an Environmental Impact Assessment; Affects a public right of ways; does not accord with the provisions of the development plan or is adjacent to open land (i.e. where there is no address point).
- We will continue to notify in writing all neighbours adjacent to the boundary of the site, or opposite the site if it relates to any front alterations, the selection of any other neighbours will be a judgement call by the case officer (as is the case at present), and whether they are materially affected by the proposal.

It's Action Stations in the Garden

With the emergence of spring and a whole new gardening year, April brings a long and exciting list of reasons to get us outside in the garden!

Everybody loves sowing new seeds and now's the time to get sowing! Check out the seed displays in the garden centre and the packets will tell you that most can be sown now. For outdoor sowings, wait for a good spell of sunshine to warm the soil so our new charges get moving quickly, but there's even more seeds to be sown indoors, even without specialist equipment. Peas and beans are well worth growing yourself and it's a good time to get them started. We're well into sowing our salads now and you too could be harvesting your own by early May.

It takes a strong willed gardener to resist the temptation to start planting when April arrives! Add some instant colour with pansies, violas and other hardy bedding but do resist the temptation to plant out anything tender right now. Any green house or conservatory space should be used to fill up hanging baskets and containers so you have a ready-made display to go outside later next month.

April's a great time for planting shrubs and perennials so they can get established before the stresses and strains of summer arrive. Evergreens such as Hebes and Lavenders are perfect for planting now, giving them many months to get a foothold before their first winter arrives. This includes evergreen hedges which includes some really exciting options such as Photinia Red Robin with its bright red shoots.

If you're like me you'll love to show your shears and secateurs a bit of action and there's always lots of tidying up to do now. Last year's dead growth from perennials should be removed to allow the light and air to reach this year's shoots. Remember to keep an eye out for slugs when the weather gets warmer so stocking up on slug pellets when you're next at the garden centre is a good idea. Remember there's always organic pellets available if that's what you prefer to use.

Don't forget your plants will be hungry as they awaken from their winter sleep and make their spring growth. Chicken Poo (pelleted chicken manure) makes a good economical general purpose feed and Fish, Blood and Bone is the choice of many. Controlled release fertilisers are growing in popularity every year as one application is generally enough for the year and will keep feeding your plants for months to come. Look out for a new controlled release feed from the Scotts Miracle Gro people which is designed for shrubs and roses.

Finally, if your patio is looking green and slimy just like ours did a few weeks ago after all the winter rain, check out a wonderful product called "Patio Magic". Water or spray it onto your slab or concrete surface and in just a few days all your algae will vanish, no brushes no pressure washer, no elbow grease! Check out our Facebook page and see how we got on with it for yourself!

James Debbage (Green Pastures)

Pelham's Portrait

A GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S PORTRAIT OF A BERGH APTON RECTOR

In the summer of 2009 Penny (Penelope) Lindley, on a jaunt from her home in Beccles, called in to Bergh Apton church. There, to her surprise, she found herself looking at a portrait executed in 1855 by one of her ancestors.

The portrait was of Reverend John Thomas Pelham, Rector of Bergh Apton from 1837 to 1851. The artist was her great grandfather George Richmond.

Richmond, in his youth and his early days as an artist, was an idyllic and had been a founder-member of the idyllic "Shoreham Ancients" whose number included his fellow-artist and life-long friend Samuel Palmer. The Ancients were disciples of artist, poet and hymn-writer William Blake who is now recognised as the founding father of the "Romantic Age" (that included Daniel Gabriel Rossetti and the pre-Raphaelites). His influence was such that, in its 2002 poll to identify "the 100 Greatest Britons", the BBC placed him a remarkable 38th in the list.

In his later middle age George Richmond seems to have abandoned these purist influences to pursue the more financially-secure path of a Society artist whose long and impressive list of portrait-sitters reads like a "Who's Who", including the slave-trade abolitionist William Wilberforce, architect George Gilbert Scott, scientist Michael Faraday and author Charlotte Bronte.

But what, I hear you cry, was Richmond's connection with Bergh Apton and with Pelham? Well, there's a hint in his client-list that included the Frys, Buxtons and Gurneys – all leading Norwich Quaker families. Then there is an interesting link through his later interest in sculpture, the first-fruit of which was a memorial in St Paul's Cathedral to Charles Blomfield, the Bishop of London from 1828 until a year before his death in 1857 who (as I discovered during some internet desk research) had ordained Pelham in 1834. Did he introduce Pelham to Richmond as a suitable subject?

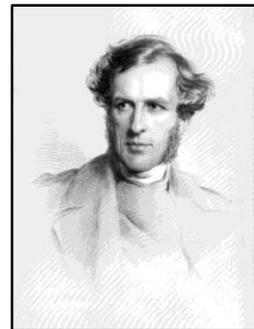
But, then again, perhaps it was Pelham's own family and their society connections that had done the trick. He was, in fact, the Honourable John Thomas Pelham, third son of the 2nd Earl of Chichester, younger brother to Henry the 3rd Earl, and elder brother of Rear Admiral Frederick Pelham RN. There is more, for he was married to Lady Mary Henrietta Juliana Osborne, eldest daughter of the 5th Duke of Leeds. As if that was not enough he was, at the time his portrait was executed, Chaplain to Queen Victoria. To boot, as you may see from the portrait reproduced here, he was a very good-looking man who made an ideal subject.

That was the man whose portrait Penny Lindley first saw when she came here in 2009, but what she saw was only a thumbnail-sized reproduction of the portrait, mounted on one of the information boards at the west end of the Nave. In February this year she came with her husband David to see the original, hanging in the Churchwardens' Vestry that is kept locked except during services.

In the way that often happens Penny's visit has posed more questions than it has answered! Her curiosity was aroused when she noted that, though Richmond usually signed his work, this was not signed and, looking closer, we recognised the image as a print from an engraving - a skilled engraver's technique by which an artist's work is copied onto a metal (probably copper in those days) plate so that it can be reproduced many times by a printing process.

That does indeed make sense. By the time the portrait was executed in 1855 Pelham had moved on to become Rector of Marylebone and it would be most surprising if he had given Bergh Apton an original Richmond portrait. But he might well have sent us this print of it to assure us that he had not forgotten his time here (which we have not and nor did he, for on his death he directed that he be buried here).

So the question remains, if only for the sake of interest; "who has the original portrait"? We have recently sought the help of the National Portrait Gallery to try and trace it, and will let you know if we find an answer.



The engraving of John Thomas Pelham that hangs in Bergh Apton parish church



George Richmond's (possibly idealised) portrait of the "Jane Eyre" author Charlotte Bronte was done on 1850, five years before her death at the age of 38. It hangs in the National Portrait Gallery.



Penny & David Lindley outside Bergh Apton church with George Richmond's portrait of John Pelham

Dates for your diary 2016

APRIL

- 6th 19.00 for 19.30 B.A. Village Hall A.G.M.
 9th 10.00-16.00 Big C Spring Fayre at Village Hall
 10th 14.00 Litter Pick. Meet at Village Hall
 13th 19.30 B.A. Society talk by Barbara Miller on The Hub of the Wheel at Village Hall
 15th 19.30 BALHG Film Night + Bring & Share supper at Village Hall
 16th 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
 16th 10.00 Singing Workshop by Mary Lovatt at Village Hall
 19th 19.30 P.C.C. AGM at Alington School
 20th 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Catch Up at the Village Hall
 20th 19.30 Parish Council meet at Village Hall
 23rd 10.00-14.00 Jumble Sale at Village Hall
 26th 12.30 Tuesday Friends lunch at Church
 28th 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field

MAY

- 5th 07.30 Polling Station at Village Hall
 6th 19.30 Bramerton Group Quiz at B.A. Village Hall
 7th 09.30 B.A. Church Spring Clean day
 11th 19.30 B.A. Society talk Time Trippers – Fenland Well Women
 14th 19.30 Sixties Night with Singing Group at Village Hall
 18th 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Catch Up at the Village Hall
 18th 19.00 BACT tour of Wheatfen with David Nobbs
 18th 19.00 for 19.30 Parish Council A.G.M. at Village Hall
 19th TBA BALHG Tour of Yarmouth city walls with Mary Fewster
 21st 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
 21st 14.30 BACT Pond Dipping at Valley Marsh
 24th 12.30 Tuesday Friends lunch at Church
 26th 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
 28th 09.00 11 Says assembly at Bramerton Village Hall
 30th All day B.A. Horse Show at The Manor

JUNE

- 11th All day Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations at Village Hall

Regular Activities

Monday	17.00	Dog Training Village Hall
Tuesday (Alternate)	10.00 - 13.00	Painting Class Village Hall
Thursday	19.30	Sing-a-Long Village Hall
Friday	10.00 - 11.45	Yoga Village Hall

Activities Contacts

- (BACAT Workshops) Pat Mlejnecky: 01508 480696
 (Conservation Trust) Stephanie Crome: 01508 480573
 (Local History) John Ling: 01508 480439
 (Village Hall) Hilary Ling: 01508 480439
 (Painting Class) Barbara Fox: 01508 550168
 (Singing) Karen Bonsell: 01508 480018
 (Bergh Apton Society) Lynton Johnson: 01508 480629

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- Bergh Apton Parochial Church Council
- The Bergh Apton and District Society



The Copy Date for the next issue is 10th May.

Please send articles to me

Milton Harris [Editor] at
town_farm@btinternet.com

Thank you

Congratulations

*to Matt & Charlotte Birkinshaw
 of 'Tantallon' The Street,
 on the safe arrival of a daughter,
 Amelie Mary Alice,
 born on February 11th.
 Best wishes to all the family.*