



The Bergh Apton Newsletter

April - May 2017

Issue No. 150

Editorial Comment

This issue I feel the need to apologise, firstly failing to include Lenny Seeley's obituary in the last issue there were also some other errors. As well as errors, we never mentioned the Bergh Apton and district society Christmas Dinner party organised at Chedgrave White Horse by Lynton a terrific evening enjoyed by all, since then we have benefited from some interesting talks including one about the Cheapside hoard found in London in 1912, jewelry and gold artifacts believed to date from the time of The Great Fire of London, very enlightening. Also, we have been told some good stories. Long live Bergh Apton and all that it is involved with.

Some dates for your diary:

FETE MEETING at the village hall

Tuesday 20th June, 7.30pm.

BERGH APTON VILLAGE FETE

at Bergh Apton Manor

on Saturday 8th July 2017.

By Kind Permission of Kip and Alison Bertram.

Milton Harris (Editor)

Keeley Harris (Graphic Designer)

Leonard Frank Seely

(9 March 1957 - 2 November 2016)

Always known as Lenny, Leonard Frank Seely who has died aged 59, was born on 9th March 1957 to Kenny and Dot Seely of Verandah Cottages in Bergh Apton. He was the youngest of their three children, brother to David and Christine.

On leaving Hobart High School in 1972 Lenny acquired the skills of the building trade with John Rudd, the Bergh Apton builder for whom he worked until 1986 when he joined up with Kevin Thurtell. They worked together until he struck out on his own some ten years ago.

At his packed-congregation funeral in Bergh Apton church, before he was taken for cremation at the Waveney Crematorium near Beccles, his family and his many friends listened to the remembrances of Lenny's life written by his wife Christine and her family and delivered on their behalf by Rev Chris Ellis who conducted the service.

At the core of this eulogy were three key themes. The first was his sense of humour in which he was delighted to tease and play naughty tricks on the family, even in the last stages of his illness. Another was his modesty, his commitment to his trade and the accuracy of his work as a builder; and the other was his love of all things to do with the countryside, particularly the sport of shooting. It was friends from his shooting fraternity who acted as Lenny's pallbearers, carrying his coffin into Bergh Apton church.

Lenny was a familiar sight in and around Bergh Apton driving his faithful and long-serving Toyota pick-up truck. An incident included in his eulogy was the time that his faithful green vehicle was high-jacked for use by ram-raiders to "liberate" an ATM (Automated Teller Machine). The truck, not too much damaged, was returned to Lenny to continue service as his dependable transport.

In December 2009, what had been a lengthy and close friendship with Christine Hitchcox of Old Hall Gardens in Brooke developed into a loving partnership and also a successful working partnership in which they embarked on successful construction projects that pooled Lenny's practical and construction skills with Christine's management and organisational background. Their projects included the conversion of an old redundant barn in the village of Earsham that, on completion, became their shared home.

It was here in late September 2016 that Lenny's illness was diagnosed as an aggressive form of lung cancer whose rapid onset led to their decision to be married. And it was here, by Special Licence, that they were married on 18th October 2016 in the presence of Lenny's mother Dot and his brother David, Christine's children Emma and Rob, Emma's partner Steve and other close friends. By far the youngest of the assembled company was Wilson, aged 4, Emma and Steve's son who was always as delighted to be in the company of his grandad Lenny as Lenny was in Wilson's.



at Bergh Apton Village Hall.

**Now to be held on the 1st Tuesday
of every month (Excluding December).**

**There will be cash prizes
and any profits from refreshments
will be donated to The Nook Appeal.**

**Doors open 8pm.
Eyes down 8.30pm.**

One other guest at the wedding who deserves a special mention was Chloe, Lenny's 3 year-old black Labrador.

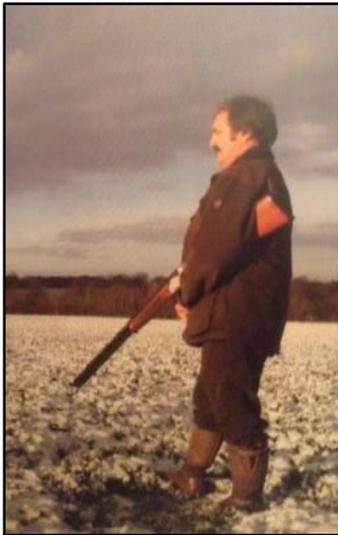
The closing words of the family's eulogy at Lenny's memorial service in Bergh Apton church observed that Lenny was the most gentle, kind and caring person with whom it had been their privilege to share their lives. They concluded that, if there is no such thing as the pursuit of happiness there is certainly the discovery of joy . . . and that, in each day they had Lenny with them, he had brought them joy.



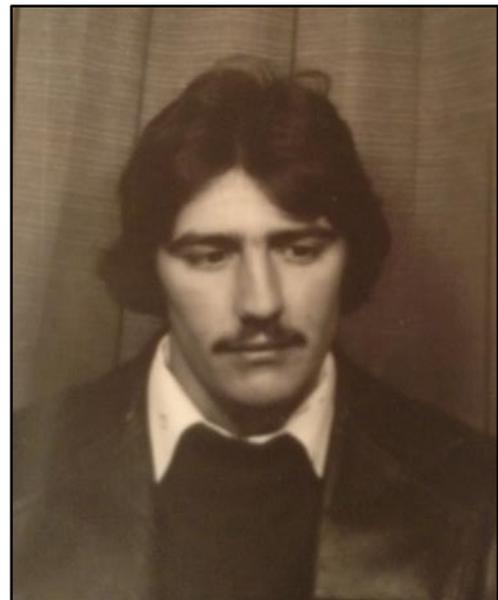
Lenny in work mode, disc-cutter in hand during the restoration of Sunnyside Stables in Bergh Apton in the 1990s



Lenny as bridegroom; with his wife Christine during their wedding at Earsham on 18th October 2016



Lenny in sports mode; two moments captured during his favourite pastime of shooting.



Young Lenny; a passport photo taken when he looks to be in his late teens.

John Ling

Lenny's wife Christine, Rob, Emma, Steve and Little Wilson would like to thank everyone who so generously made a donation to Lenny's funeral collection. A total of £1000 was raised and sent to Cancer Research in hope that it will help other people in the future.

In our hearts and memories. Will always miss you.

With our thanks and appreciation Christine (Lenny's wife)

BERGH APTON CONSERVATION TRUST

TRUSTEES

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Mrs J Ratcliffe 01508 558837	Mr N Headon 01508 480097
Mrs S Rimmer 01508 480576	Dr Annette Ford 01508 480150

ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2017

Sunday 26 March: Litter Pick, meet at Bergh Apton Village Hall, 2pm.

Saturday 20 May: Pond Dipping

June: Breakfast with the Moths - details to be finalised.

Wed 14 June: Hedge survey – 2pm at The Manor

Saturday 24 June: Midsummer Celebration.

Sunday 25 June: Excursion to Marston Marsh, Norwich, and lead by Matthew Davis of Norwich Fringe Project. 1.00 pm parking at Holiday Inn.

Wed 12 July: Hedge survey – 7 pm at Hellington Corner.

Sunday 16 July: Summer excursion to West Stowe Country Park in conjunction with History Group. Meet Church car park, 11.00am

Monday 4 September: Bats with Ben Jervis. 7pm. (If inclement, alternative date of Thursday 7 September)

Wednesday 27 September: Annual General Meeting, 7.30 pm, BA Village Hall

Sunday 22 October: Fungus Foray, 1.30 pm at Church car park

Saturday 16 December: Christmas Party

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

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

Thursdays: 26 January, 23 February, 23 March, 20 April, 25 May, 22 June, 20 July, 24 August, 21 September, 26 October, 23 November, 21 December.

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

John Henry Lester

(29 November 1932 – 7 December 2016)

John Lester died at home in Bungay on 7th December 2016, just a week after his 84th birthday. Though a naturally shy man he will be familiar to well over 1,000 people who have read *The Book of Bergh Apton* and noted the handsome man illustrated on p.16, studying part of his collection of archaeological finds that he had amassed over more than fifty years of walking the fields of Bergh Apton.

With his keen eye, a considerable knowledge of history and self-taught geology, John had a skill by which, from several paces distant, he could tell the difference between a small shard of shattered flint and a Bronze Age flint arrowhead. One example of this skill, cited in the book of BA, was his identification of what looked to be an insignificant piece of stone lying on the churchyard path - but was actually a Neolithic-period (4,000 to 2500 BC) animal skin scraper. He would have been surprised to learn that this skill, developed over the years by reading and interest in self-education, was out of the ordinary.

This quiet self-effacement was, perhaps, the key characteristic that endeared John Lester to the many that knew and respected him. It was that, with his love of the countryside and the ways of nature, that made him the well-rounded man he was. At his funeral in Bergh Apton the congregation in a packed church, as well as to mourn his death, was able to nod and smile at some of the stories told by his daughter Louise and his grandchildren that illustrated his wit and gentle humour.

John was the elder son of Henry (always known as Harry) Lester and his wife Edith, née Tolver. On the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 the family was living in Seething but, when Harry was called up for service in the RAMC soon afterwards, Edith took John and his younger brother David to live in Wrampingham near Wymondham. Harry was to serve in the RAMC until past the war but Edith and the boys returned to Bergh Apton in the latter stages of the war and John remembers watching from the garden of their new home at Holly Hill on Sunnyside as USAF Liberator bombers flying in and out of Seething airfield.

The cottage had been secured for the family by John's grandfather (also John Henry Lester) from the estate of the late Viscount Canterbury who had died in 1941. It was to be Harry and Edith's home for the remainder of their lives.

John attended Bergh Apton school until he was 14 (the school-leaving age at that time) and went to work for market gardener Charlie Carver at Hellington Corner. His working life there was to last until his retirement in 1997. It began in the memorably bitter winter of 1946/7 in which, to give an idea of its ferocity, a temperature of -20°C (-4°F) was recorded on January 21st 1947 at Writtle in Essex. Deep snow lay right across the country - even in the balmy Scilly Isles it lay 7" deep until late March.

There were no other winters as harsh as this one in John's employment with the Carver family on their market garden at the north-west corner of Bergh Apton. The weather would have been distinctly better when, at the Royal Norfolk Show of 2000, he received an award from the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Society for over 50 years unbroken service with the same employer, presented to him by Gillian Shephard, MP for SW Norfolk and a Cabinet member in John Major's post-1992 election government.

John married Joy Gooch, the daughter of Lily Scarles and her first husband Charles Gooch, on 17 September 1955 in Bergh Apton church. Though they had lived in the same village as they grew up it was not until 1951 that they met. In the best

traditions of romance, that meeting began a friendship that led to love, a love that led to a happy marriage of 61 years broken only by John's death.

On Boxing Day in 1955 John and Joy moved into the bungalow just to the south of Hellington Corner that had been vacated by Reggie and Alice Frost when they moved to the old Carver home at Hellington Corner where they lived until 2006 when they moved to Tower Mill Road, Bungay. It was in the bungalow that they raised their three children John, Michael and Louise. In turn, the children have given them nine grandchildren; John's Ben, Rys, Megan & Bethany, Michael's Sarah & Bob, and Louise's Daniel, Emma & Joseph. The grandchildren, so far, have given John and Joy three great grandchildren; Rhys's Alesha and Mia and Sarah's Frankie.

Joy received over 50 cards and letters of condolence from people to whom John was a friend, loved, liked and respected according to each person's relationship with this kind and humorous man with a deep knowledge and love of the countryside and its ways.



Joy and John, in a romantic studio portrait during their courtship that began in 1951 and led to marriage in 1955.



Gillian Shephard, MP for SW Norfolk, presents John with his Long Service award at the Royal Norfolk Show in 2000 AD.



A photograph published in the Book of Bergh Apton (Halsgrove, 2005) of John at home on Hellington Corner, with some of the archaeological artefacts he found in his many years of field-walking.

John Ling

DECORATE CHURCH FOR EASTER

Please come along to church on
SATURDAY 15th APRIL
to help decorate the church
with spring flowers.
We will be there from 9.30am
or just come for a cup of coffee.



Bergh Apton Church Easter Lilies

If you would like to donate lilies in
memory of relatives or friends,
you can order from Hilary Ling on

480439 or

hilary.ling@btinternet.com

The cost this year will again be
£2.50 each.

We are arranging Spring Flowers
and the Lilies in the church
on **Saturday 15th April.**

Do come and help.

Thank you

**BBC
TWO**

Do you own something broken that you'd love to see restored?

In a new Ricochet TV series for **BBC TWO** a team of Britain's most passionate and skilled crafts people will rescue broken objects and restore them to their former glory.

If you have a damaged heirloom, a prized antique, a loved one's treasured possession, or anything else that needs restoring get in touch now:

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Affordable Housing at Cooke's Road

There will be 3 affordable homes, all of which will have priority for people with a local connection.

The affordable homes are:

For Rent

1 one bedroom house

For Shared Equity

1 one bedroom house

1 two bedroom house

All these homes will be acquired by Saffron Housing Trust, and are expected to become available during summer 2017.

The planning consent includes a S106 Agreement which gives priority to local people in the following order:

1. Residents of the parish of Bergh Apton who have lived in that parish of a total of at least 3 of the last 10 years.
2. Former residents of the parish of Bergh Apton who lived in that parish for at least 3 of the last 10 years.
3. Residents of the parish of Bergh Apton who have lived in that parish or the adjacent parishes of Alington, Yelverton, Brooke or Thurton for the last 3 years or more.
4. People working in the parish of Bergh Apton and who have done so for the last year or more for at least 10 hours each week.
5. Residents of the adjacent parishes of Alington, Yelverton, Brooke or Thurton who have lived in one or more of those parishes (or the parish of Bergh Apton) for the last 3 years or more.
6. Residents of the parish of Bergh Apton who have lived in that parish for less than 3 years.
7. Residents of the adjacent parishes of Alington, Yelverton, Brooke or Thurton who have lived in those parishes (or the parish of Bergh Apton) for less than 3 years.
8. Residents of South Norfolk.
9. Any other person.

The Home for Rent

This property will be suitable for a single person or a couple and could provide an opportunity for single someone seeking their first home

We expect that shortly before completion the property will be made available by Saffron Housing

Trust through an advert on the South Norfolk HomeOptions system. Anyone already on the South Norfolk Housing Register will need to express their interest ('bid') through the South Norfolk 'HomeOptions' website:
www.snhomeoptions.org.uk

Other interested residents who are not on the Housing Register should contact the Housing Advice Service here at South Norfolk Council to join the Housing Register ('HomeOptions'). They will need to provide proof of their residency or working qualification criteria as well as other verification details. During the week that the properties are advertised on the HomeOptions system people will need to actively apply ('bid') for them, and the Council's Housing Officers will be able to provide details of how to do this. **For further information people should telephone for free on: 0808 168 2222.**

The Homes for Shared Equity

These two homes will be sold on a long lease at 75% of their open market value, with Saffron Housing Trust acquiring the freehold.

It is expected that FW Properties will market the houses through local advertisements asking anyone interested to contact them.

Philippa Fuller

Those Were the Days by **Sing! Sing! Sing!** Saturday May 20th. 7pm. Bergh Apton Village Hall.

We're going to be travelling time through the decades entertaining the audience with songs from all of the eras!!!

Buffet provided by Lynton Johnson and his team!!! Our compere for the night is the one and only Ray Wharton!!!

Tickets are only £10
for buffet and entertainment!!
All profits will be going to The Nook Appeal.
East Anglian Children's Hospice.
It is a Bring your own booze event!!

Tickets from Karen on 07583 968739.

ALPINGTON & YELVERTON HISTORY SOCIETY

2017 PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 14th March 2017:

Ivan Cane will be returning to give us his new talk 'Taking Boats Uphill'. Ivan gave us a very interesting talk on the North Walsham and Dilham Canal, and his new talk will explain how early mechanical aids helped boats both up and down rivers.

Tuesday, 9th May 2017:

Lynton Johnson will be coming to give us a talk on antiques. Lynton will be best known to many for his culinary skills, but in this talk he will be sharing with us his expertise in a different area.

Saturday 22nd July 2017

If you haven't visited Carrow Road Football Ground before, now is your chance. A guided tour IS PLANNED for our members. The cost will be £10 a head, and after the tour we intend to meet for a meal in Riverside.

Tuesday, 12th September:

Belong & Belongings

Natasha Harlow of the University of Nottingham will be talking to us on the Roman site at Caister St. Edmund. Natasha comes from the Norwich area and worked at Dragon Hall and for HEART, and she is now completing her doctorate on the information from small finds at Caister.

Tuesday, 14th November:

Jason Raper will be talking on 'The History of the Theatre Royal'. The theatre has a long and lively history, having already celebrated its 250th birthday, and this will give us a chance to find out more about a Norwich institution.

**Alpington & Yelverton Village Hall
Church Road, Alpington NR14 7NU**

Guests £3.00

7.30 pm

Refreshments served

Diamond Wedding Celebration



Peter and Poppy Annis, of Orchard View, The Street, Bergh Apton, are celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 6th of April. They were married in 1957 at Trinity Church, Bungay, Poppy's home town. They first met in Brooke where Poppy had been visiting her Aunt Daisy. Peter spotted her from his Morris Minor, whilst she was waiting to catch a bus back to Bungay and from then their romance blossomed.

Following their wedding they moved into Orchard View, where they still live today. Peter continued running his small holding and Poppy joined him working on the land, although this was quite a culture shock for Poppy, Peter still laughs at the memory of her trying to pluck a rabbit!

Together they set about transforming Orchard View into a family home and in 1959 their daughter Jayne was born followed in 1964 by their son Robert. They now have four Grandsons, James Jack, Liam and Ben, whom they are very proud of.

Both Peter and Poppy have been actively involved in village life over many years, Peter serving on the Parish Council and at one point worked as the village Postman. Poppy is a familiar face at village events, having served on the village hall committee for many years. She also worked as a carer, visiting many homes within the community. They both count themselves very lucky, not only to have shared over 60 years together but to have been blessed with an amazing family and so many wonderful friends.

Jayne Edmunds

**Happy 60th
Anniversary!**

Country Diary

'APRIL COME SHE WILL' *

Mid February, the scrawny end of winter and 'When men were all asleep the snow came flying' ** and we woke to a world newly papered and enchanted. I was not the only early bird for the pin dropping silence was broken by a thrush, perched somewhere among a grid of branches bewigged by snow, singing to proclaim his territory and I stood and eavesdropped on his incantation and challenge. That thief, the moon, hung above, pale and woebegone now as the sun reclaims its stolen light. Venus, the morning star, the bright star of love its only companion. During the day there were showers of snow, the flakes fine as dust. The fallen snow revealed the night's history, footprints of birds, rabbits, cat and deer, hoof, pad and paw and, just like an ancient script clearly written, telling of their goings out and their comings in.

Later in the morning I went to fill the birds' feeders. I wore a thick woollen jumper and, as the fine snowflakes landed on it, they were trapped by fine filaments of wool and turned to droplets. A silver sun shone through low cloud and as I moved its light turned the droplets to gold then opal then crystal, a golden fleece. It reminded me of the Greek legend of Jason and the Argonauts who went in search of the golden fleece. A theory as to the origin of this legend posits that Jason was searching for knowledge of gold mining. In ancient times in the Colchis Kingdom (now Georgia) particles of gold could be found in the turbulent mountain streams. The locals immersed fleeces in these streams and tiny pieces of gold became snared. The fleeces were hung out and as they dried literally became golden fleeces.

Two little brown birds, could-be-anything birds sidle out, mouselike, from the hedge to see what had fallen from the feeders, seeds from the rich birds' table. These are dunnocks. They seldom move far from the hedge, like pins to a magnet they are drawn to its protection. They are insect eaters but on days like this will forage among fallen seeds with beaks black and as fine as little thorns. The top of a dunnock's head and its chest is the grey of lichen on tomb stones and their feathers striated in brown and fawn like sun and shadow. Look with eyes that see and they become a quietly sophisticated little bird with a lifestyle to match. They were called 'dunnock' by the Celts, it means little brown bird.

Some of the feeders are on a very old plum tree and one of the branches has snapped leaving the rest like a tusk jutting from the trunk. Where it broke is a little hollow and a miniature landscape has grown. A lawn of moss, seeds from the feeder had grown into a mini forest and one tiny fungus was pushing its pale skull through. A cosmos with its own boundaries and life.

During the later afternoon, I was having tea and reading and I felt a tickle on my hand and there was a queen wasp, Her Majesty *Vespula vulgaris* herself. The warmth in the kitchen had woken her from her winter sleep where she had folded her wings and closed herself into darkness, she was drowsy and morning-after-the-night-beforeish. I tipped her on to a page of my book and carried her to a cool place to resume her sleep. She goes with my blessing for it takes all

sorts to make the world. Her clan have all died and she will eventually wake to make a new home, a papery dome, in which to start a new lineage. Wasps that are woken too early starve. The musician, Sting, got this name because when young he wore a black and yellow striped jumper.

At the day's turning the garden became webbed in shadows, the snow had vanished, gone in the blink of an eye, late winter's conjurer's trick.

Blackbirds out late chided and chivvied and tried notes of almost-songs. The moon rises, hungry for light and the Evening Star shines with her. There is a poverty of light and, 'Hello darkness my old friend'***.

The year moves on and March 1, 2 and 3 have come and gone and an old rhyme says:

First comes David,
Then comes Chad,
And then comes Winneral as tho' he was mad.

David lived about five hundred or so years after Christ. He is one of the well-known saints unlike the other two. He was so well thought of that farmers, in his honour during early March, would help their poorer neighbours to cultivate their fields free of charge.

By the time you read this the procession of months will have moved on and we shall be on the doorstep of April.

* & *** Simon and Garfunkle

** Robert Bridges

Pat Mlejnecky

Marking Maria's Twenty Years Plus

Maria Phillips, who has organised the church brass-cleaning team for over twenty years, has decided that the time has come to retire. The news came shortly before Maria hosted the brass-cleaners' annual social gathering at Fieldside, Maria's home on Threadneedle Street on 17th February so it gave her guests an opportunity to thank her and to present her with the small gift of a houseplant to mark the occasion.



Gathering behind Maria following the presentation, (l-r) Pat Waters, Dennis Moye, Jean Bobbin, Tony Davy, Linda Davy and Hilary Ling mark Maria's retirement as organiser of the church brass-cleaners' rota.

John Ling

The Bergh Apton Community Arts Trust

“Doggerland”

It's all happening yet again. There are rumours galore. If you belong to the **Tribes of Ton**, in other words, if you live in one of the eleven parishes, come and join us. Those of you who came to 'Midwinter Dreaming' in 2016, know what a resounding success it was and so, will be pleased, even thrilled, to hear a new play is being planned for February 2018 in Bergh Apton Church. What's afoot this time?

We would love to have you involved. Who knows what talents lie hidden, what lights are under bushels just waiting to be revealed? This could be your moment! The play needs writers, makers, technical assistants, actors, musicians and singers.

To get it going, there are **3 creative writing workshops, with Hugh Lupton**, the renowned storyteller, on **Tuesdays 28 March, 11 & 25 April**, (1000-1200). These will provide the bones of a script, which Hugh will polish. Places at all workshops must be reserved. Those wishing to write must commit to all three.

Sat. 15 April, Georgina Warne - make clay lanterns in the shapes of fossils (1000 - 1600ish).

Sat. 10 June Creating Imaginary Plants from Doggerland with Peter Lyle. Create imaginary plants that could have grown on Doggerland by combining pressed leaves, flowers, seed heads. Strange combinations, something unique & new. Plant materials will be provided but bring your own along too. Get pressing now! And describe what the new plants would have been used for and give them Latin and common names a Daffodolia or a Primercup or... ..!

Other planned workshops but no firm dates as yet (watch this space):

- Creativity on a **beach with Liz McGowan** – somewhere in Norfolk!
- **Building a “Henge”**

Here is Hugh Lupton's summary of the play, “Doggerland”:

Doggerland will explore the theme of inundation. The new Play will be directed by Charlotte Arculus and Mary Lovett (music) – both created Midwinter Dreaming.

Doggerland will be in three sections:

The first - the story of the inundation of Doggerland, 8,000 years ago, when the melting of the ice-age glaciers overwhelmed the land-mass that once joined East Anglia to the continent of Europe.

The second will look at the early years of the science of geology in the 19th century; a time when Biblical explanations of the origins of the world were being challenged by new information. Questions were raised: Was the inundation of Doggerland the flood that Noah survived? Were the fossil bones being found and identified the relics of the drowned creatures that didn't get onto the ark? What was the timescale of the creation of the world? Old beliefs inundated by new facts.

And the third will look at the contemporary threat of inundation: global warming, rising sea-levels, and a new melting of the ice-caps.

The performance will be light-hearted but with serious under-currents.

‘Doggerland’ Workshops are free.

Please reserve with Pat Mlejnecky, 01508 480 696 or email: p.mlej@btinternet.com

Church Heating Campaign

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PUT AN END TO THE ICE-AGE

Concert and theatre-goers as well as the hardy members of its congregation will know from bitter experience that performances and services in Bergh Apton's parish church in the winter temperatures, while they may lift the spirit, can numb the body.

That, with help from our friends, is about to change. It is time for an upgrade! We plan to install under-pew heaters to waft warm air up past previously frozen knees and, via the body above, into the air above.

This is a costly project. There is not enough power delivered to the building to achieve our goal, so, before we even get to the purchase and installation costs for new equipment, we must meet the approximate £2,000 cost of running in a third phase of power. We estimate that the total cost could be in the region of £8-10,000.

That is a huge sum for a parish church to find on top of its annual running costs of £22,000 (and rising!). That includes a substantial payment to the Diocese and receives no financial support from any other church source or benefactor. There are, as far as we know, no grants or similar forms of external support for a project such as this because making a parish church a warmer place for its lay and religious users is low on - or entirely absent from – funding priority lists.

Thus, to raise the money, we must rely on our own efforts and those of our supporters. We hope that you, dear readers, will respond generously when the call comes and help to achieve this target whose goal, given generosity, is to complete the work in time for next winter.

Our first venture towards our target is a concert to celebrate St George's Day on Sunday 23rd April, given by the Poringland Singers under their Musical Director, Ian Elliott. You will find a notice for this concert “**Spring into Song**” elsewhere in the Newsletter. Ian tells us that its mix of popular classics and sacred music will take us on a journey from Mozart to Karl Jenkins that will appeal to all tastes.

We hope you will support both the concert and other events that will follow. It will help us to achieve a project that will make our parish church a warm, as well as a welcoming, place to meet and to enjoy what it offers.

John Ling

Dr Hermann Turk's Extraordinary Book

Nobody under the age of 72 can have any personal memories of the Second World War but most of us are familiar with it through books, photographs and film. Most of these reflect warfare in its more brutal sense and the ones covering the German campaign in Russia are no exception. A recent publication about the latter, about war from the perspective of a German Army doctor, is a remarkable addition to the genre that reflects direct personal experiences of a non-combatant.

Titled "*To the Gates of Moscow with the 3rd Panzer Division*" it is the story of Assistenzarzt (*German Army rank of Doctor*) Hermann Turk who was "medic" of the 3rd SS Panzer Division led by the legendary tank commander General Heinz Guderian. It takes us from just before the start of Operation Barbarossa (the German attack on USSR) on 22nd June 1941 until December 1941 when Turk was wounded in the attack on Moscow.

This book is a massive and fascinating record whose 3.5 kilos weight is caused by the entire text (except on campaign maps) and the photo captions being in both German and excellently-translated English. It has over 500 pages of which the majority carry Turk's unedited diary entries supported by extracts from official War Diaries and clear campaign maps, plus 440 photographs of which the majority are in colour.

Superb photography it is too. Its extended captions and the author's diary entries are an unflinching record of life in support of a fighting unit that gave and took huge punishment and experienced battle in the vast lands of the USSR whose bitter winter conditions led to the Germans' defeat.

Hermann Turk eventually recovered from his wounds though it took over eighteen months and very nearly took his life. He never returned to active service but became a surgeon in Hamburg military hospital where he was working when the city fell to the British on 3rd May 1945. Thereafter he practised as a surgeon both in his own practice and in Hamburg hospital but died in 1976, a few days short of his 67th birthday, from an illness he brought back from a holiday in Asia.

Why, I hear you ask, am I telling you in the Bergh Apton Newsletter all about this book? It is because Hermann Turk was the father of our very good friend and former resident of Apton Manor (Street Farm) in Bergh Apton, Gunter Turk. In 2014, Gunter and his two brothers had the good fortune to link up with historian Axel Urbanke who specialises in publications about the fighting units of the Kriegsmarine, Heer and Luftwaffe arms of the German Wehrmacht. It was Axel and his knowledge of the publishing business who, after an intensive year and more of preparation, finally brought about the Turk brothers' long-held wish to publish their father's diaries and photographs.

To acquire a copy of this impressive and fascinating work you can find the details of several UK sales outlets by entering its title into your web browser. There is also an enthusiastic (if rather ponderous) review of the book by Model Builder International on YouTube.



The studio portrait of Herman Turk published in his book, taken in 1943.



One of Hermann Turk's photos in the book, taken in Berlin on 5th June 1941. It shows his team loading a truck with medical equipment and supplies the day before they left for Brest-Litovsk in German-occupied Poland to prepare for the attack on Russia.

John Ling

Bergh Apton Parish Council

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday April 19th this year.

John Fuller, our District Councillor, will be explaining three very important issues to us at the meeting.

These are:

The Greater Norwich Local Development Plan.

The Community Governance Scheme.

Community infrastructure Levy.

All of these things are very important to the future of our village.

Please come to the meeting so that you can find out what they are and how they may affect us.

Liz Robinson

Chairman Bergh Apton Parish Council

raising funds to heat the church

THE
PORINGLAND SINGERS
SPRING INTO SONG
on
St George's Day

Bergh Apton Church
Sunday 23rd April
6.30 pm

Tickets £10 each
including
wine and nibbles

call: 01508 480439
or email:
john.ling@btinternet.com



Our News, Social Events, Fundraising

We have an enthusiastic and extremely hardworking committee who stage a number of well attended events throughout the year.

Funds raised are used to help make our children's education enjoyable, enhancing the indoor and outdoor curriculum, buying equipment for the School and supporting trips throughout the year too. This year we are working towards the major project of resurfacing our playground, meaning that we can create exercise and play areas on a new, even surface so that our children can enjoy lots of fresh air, fun and sports.

Since 1981, the villages of Alpington and Bergh Apton have together enjoyed the merits of a successful and friendly school, recently judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, and we hope that you agree it is an asset to our beautiful villages.

Our regular fundraisers allow us to involve our community and to reach out to younger and older members alike, enabling them to join in the school's social events. Likewise, we are pleased to support village activities and this summer we will be attending the Alpington & Yelverton Summer Festival, hosting a cake stall (our speciality!).

This term, we invite you to make a date and join us for our annual **Quiz (Saturday, 18th March)** ; we are looking forward to seeing you for our 3k **Fun Run (Sunday, 14th May)**...some of us walk, we use scooters, we even piggy back!...and the **Summer BBQ Fayre (Friday, 23rd June)** where you can enjoy a delicious hog roast, fun, games and merriment in our gorgeous school grounds.

It is important to us that our children also value the generosity of giving and they have been very keen to support causes close to the hearts of some of our pupils and staff – we have raised collections for the Naxal Orphanage in Kathmandu and recently we all had a 'Bad Hair Day' for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Twice a year, we distribute bags for a textile recycling collection and we share the proceeds with The Salvation Army and their good causes in the UK – please look out for one coming through your letterbox in June!



The support of parents and neighbours is fundamental to the continuing success of our School and new members to our Friends team / visitors to our events are always welcomed with open arms - we look forward to seeing you soon!

The Friends of Alpington & Bergh Apton CofE (VA) Primary School
(Charity No.1012601)

Christian Aid Week is here again



Crisis after crisis - it just keeps on going!

Natural disasters:

Cyclones, hurricanes and floods - Bangladesh 2016, Philippines 2013, Haiti 2010

Earthquakes - Ecuador 2016, Nepal 2015, tsunami – Indian Ocean 2004

Disease – Zika 2016, Ebola 2014, malaria ongoing

Drought and famine - much of sub-Saharan Africa 2017, 2016 and before.

War and civil conflict - resulting in:

Shattered communities, destroyed homes, lost livelihoods, broken infrastructure, displaced people, hunger, fear and devastated lives - Gaza, Syria, Iraq, Columbia, Yemen..... and now in the world's newest country, South Sudan, where three years of conflict have destroyed water points, prevented the growing and harvesting of crops, placed over a million people on the brink of famine and forced hundreds of thousands from their homes, nearly 7 hundred thousand seeking refuge in Uganda alone.

When will it ever stop?

Probably never - human misery is as old as humanity itself. But..... although preventing the crises may be beyond us, we can help in the aftermath and we can support work that, as well as providing disaster relief and aiding refugees, is striving for greater access to justice, health and education, tackling gender inequality and violence, enabling local small business initiatives, empowering communities and building their resilience in order to avert disasters or better cope with them when they happen.

Christian Aid has been doing all of this since it was created in 1945 to help European refugees in a devastated Europe following WWII. The work continues now in 39 countries. It's not just about applying a sticking plaster in the form of food parcels and bottles of water, although it's been doing a lot of that too.

Collaborating with a wide range of local partners, they are there before, during and after an emergency to save lives and support people long term, and their local presence ensures that their work is appropriate and well-coordinated, and that the voice of disaster-affected people is always heard. Yes, they're a faith-based agency, but they're not there to seek converts and they operate on the basis of need, irrespective of religion, ethnicity, caste, gender or nationality.

We can all sympathise with the human tragedies we see unfolding on the news – after all, it's only a lucky accident of birth that places us in front of the TV rather than featuring on the screen – but we can't help feeling that we, as individuals, are powerless to help. However, we can support those who are in place to do something on our behalf.

Please, help Christian Aid by putting as much as you can into that little red envelope when it arrives on your doormat in May.

Thanks

Shirley Rimmer

Village Christian Aid Co-ordinator

MESSAGE FROM PHILIPPA FULLER, CLERK OF BERGH APTON

VACANCY

After nearly 13 years as Clerk of Bergh Apton I am stepping down at the Annual General Meeting in May.

As Clerk, Parish matters typically take 2 ½ hours per week, some weeks it's more and some weeks it's less.

There is a small salary around £1250 p/a going up on an official scale and a computer is provided.

We meet about every 8 weeks.

If this is something that might be of interest to you please do call me or email me to find out more...Training available....

It's a great opportunity to be involved in your Village.

Philippa Fuller

clerk@berghapton.org.uk

01508 558280/07884 001177

BERGH APTON HORSE SHOW



Dogs From 1pm

AT BERGH APTON MANOR

MONDAY 29TH MAY 2017

Equifest, 15 + and TSR Qualifiers

Sponsorship of classes still welcome

**Raffle Prize donations would be greatly
appreciated**

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

katiebrown007@hotmail.co.uk

Schedule available on horsedates.co.uk



**This month's copy
deadline will be at the
earlier date of 1st May.**

Please send articles to me
Milton Harris [Editor] at
town_farm@btinternet.com

Thank you

A Churchyard Fairy Story

With sinking hearts, the churchyard fairies gazed across the dewy grass at the overflowing waste baskets in the far corner. The work done by visitors tidying up the nearby graves was evident in the refuse that bulged from the tops of the bins.

With a despondent sigh at the prospect of sorting through soggy debris, the fairies donned their little rubber gloves, bright yellow as the spring morning sunshine that filtered through the leafless branches. As they set to work, though, they realised that there wasn't much sorting to do. Their little wings fluttered in relief and gratitude as they noted how the churchyard visitors had helpfully separated the rubbish into the different bins. Compostables were quickly deposited from one bin into a wheelbarrow to be added to the pile in the field, and a black bin liner was soon filled with the rubbish from the other bin. The work was done in a matter of just a few minutes.

The churchyard fairies would like to say how much they appreciate the efforts of all those thoughtful folk who have been separating out the waste, making the task of emptying the bins so much easier and more pleasant than it might otherwise be.

Shirley Rimmer

Dr Joan Bellamy (1928-2017)



As the Newsletter went to press we learned of the death of Dr Joan Bellamy, half of the husband-and-wife medical team of Bill and Joan who ran Bergh Apton's medical practice from their surgery in Mill Road from 1965 to Bill's retirement in 1981. Joan, in partnership with Dr John Simpson of Poringland, then continued to practice at Heathgate surgery in Poringland until her own retirement in 1993.

Her memorial service on 9th March took place in a packed Framingham Earl church where she had been a faithful worshipper for more than 50 years (8 of them as Churchwarden). We are grateful to her sons Charles and Bill for their permission to use the eulogy they delivered at that service as the basis for this obituary.

Joan Hancock was born in February 1928 in the Midlands, but spent some of the war years in Cheltenham and central Wales before she and her sister Sheila returned to the family home in Birmingham at the end of the war. She qualified as a medical practitioner at Birmingham University Medical School where she met mature student Bill Bellamy MC who had served in the war with the Royal Engineers with whom he had won his award for gallantry. They married in 1953.

Bill Bellamy then joined Dr Wardle in his Bergh Apton practice (then at Hollies House on Threadneedle Street) and Joan took up a Schools medical post in Suffolk. When Dr Wardle retired in the early 1960s Joan joined her husband at the Bergh Apton practice that was now housed in a surgery they built in the grounds of North Court, Dr Wardle's combined house-and-surgery on Mill Road.

At the same time, they moved from their first Framingham Earl home on Pigot Lane to the house (with surgery attached) built for them on Long Road that was to be the family home for the next sixty years and more.

Their rural "constituency" covered more than 100 square miles of Norfolk countryside that created a heavy work-load. Despite that, and the arrival of their sons Charles and Bill, Joan Bellamy pursued diverse interests that included dog breeding, flower arranging (with the Loddon Flower Club), fly fishing (that drew her to the Scottish rivers as well as local lakes) and membership of the Norwich Decorative and Fine Arts Society.

In 1993 Joan retired having spent her working life after Bill's retirement (in 1981) as a partner at the Heathgate Surgery in Poringland.

Since retiring her main preoccupation, in addition to her leisure interests, has been the families of Charles and Bill and her wider family now spread through Norfolk, Worcestershire and Shropshire as well as in Canada and the USA. Her grandson Michael, currently working in Canada, returned for his Grandmother's funeral and spoke at her memorial service together with the other grandchildren Alice, Christopher, Victoria and Edward.

John Ling

South Norfolk Council

Just think about how many changes there have been in our lives over the last 20 years. Twenty years ago, the Internet had just started, mobile phones were as large as a brick and John Major was still the Prime Minister.

Now imagine what changes might come in the next twenty. I say this because every twenty years South Norfolk Council has to think about the boundaries of the Parish Councils within it and whether it's sensible to alter arrangements.

At its simplest a Parish Boundary might be tweaked a bit because new homes have been built on the edge of the village. I know of one person who extended his home at Little Melton with the result that his kitchen is now in Great Melton.

It's to straighten out simple lines on maps that a "Community Governance Review" provides an opportunity for South Norfolk Council to work with its parishes to make practical sense of its area.

But there is another angle that we cannot ignore.

There are 119 parishes in South Norfolk. In 2015 only 19 held parish council elections. And many of those didn't have elections in 2011. Or 2007 either. Bergh Apton is one of those parishes. It's not good for local democracy if those that govern us are not subject to election.

It shines a light on the wider fact that we all live such busy lives. The internet allows us to live much more individual lives communicating with people much further away as if they were neighbours.

And the result is that fewer people serve in local voluntary capacities in sporting clubs, the cubs & brownies, the WI and, yes, Parish Councils.

And then there's another thing. Not only are many of our smallest parishes not elected, the proportion of the tax they raise that they spend on their own administration has got out of control. In a small parish like Bergh Apton about 2/3 of the tax it raises is spent on the Clerk, Insurance and other subscriptions leaving just one third to be spent on the village. If it was a charity it would be closed down. And Bergh Apton is not alone.

Now is the time to consider whether Bergh Apton and villages like it would be better served by joining together their Parish Councils. There's no question of removing the road signs and the village boundary would still exist. It's just that several parishes would club together to have a single Parish Council serving all of them.

Alpington and Yelverton have had a joint parish council for years. Perhaps it's time that Bergh Apton palled-up with neighbours too... perhaps to get to about 1000 people instead of 300.

We need arrangements that are going to hold good for the NEXT 20 years that address the realisation that it's difficult to get people to serve and to solve the problem of smaller parishes spending over half of their income on running costs.

South Norfolk is encouraging Parishes to think deeply about their future and want the initiative for any changed arrangement to come from you, a bottom up, not a top down process. Our consultation opens on 20 March and you can have your say by visiting www.south-norfolk.gov.uk. I will be attending the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 19th April to discuss this.

John Fuller

Wood Cuts and Wood Engraving Workshop

For many of us, the opportunity to spend a day playing is a rare and magical thing. Di Griffiths' Woodcut and Wood Engraving workshop took place last Saturday, February 18th in Bergh Apton village hall, and was a full house of some who had been inspired by her previous workshop in September 2016, and a few who were new to the experience.

Di teaches with a very light touch, finding a fine balance between clear instruction and a natural ability to make us feel safe enough to experiment and relish the process of taking baby-steps in techniques that many artists take a lifetime to perfect. One has to begin somewhere.

Di's generosity extends to a delight in sharing her own work; she brings wonderful armfuls of her woodcut and engraved plates, along with a wide collection of the resulting printed work, for us to pore over. There is something very moving about seeing such an array of work spread out as, having begun to learn the techniques, we realise the hours and hours of creative dedication represented in even a tiny engraving plate. The possibilities are infinite, with subtle tweaks of surface, tool, pigment and gesture offering myriad variations.

Everyone in the room takes a different approach. I struggle to make anything that 'looks like something', so in order to use my time to the full and just crack on, I play with mark-making. Doodles are all I could hope to produce in a day, with others present (in the privacy of my own home, who knows?), so doodle I did. I was hugely impressed, and in some instances astounded, by those of my classmates who brought visual inspiration in the form of an image they had chosen, and then proceeded to produce a brave and beautiful result, using techniques they had only just that very moment learned.

The physicality and process of woodcut and wood engraving are timeless and refreshingly technology-free, taking as their basic components the materials of wood, metal, and oil-based pigments, which humans have used for art since art first awoke; but Di also opened our minds to alternatives such as plastic as a surface for engraving, and 'found surfaces' which might include domestic objects like end-grain chopping boards and thin MDF out of the back of unwanted picture frames.

Sustenance was offered during the day – tea, coffee, very classy biscuits, pretty little cakes, and delicious wholesome lunch, which encouraged us to take breaks periodically lest the compulsion become too powerful. I for one found it hard to come back to earth, to unstick myself from my task – especially as I had been working on a tiny engraved plate on plastic, using a strong magnifying glass to stretch open another dimension. But eventually, we did stop, and absorbed the lovely sight of other people's work, as individual as each person themselves.



BALHG Annual Supper 2017

Bergh Apton Local History Group continued its series of Annual Suppers – this was its ninth - with a celebration of the birth of Charles Dodgson on 27th January at the Village Hall.

This, had he lived, would have been his 185th birthday and all who attended agreed that, bearing in mind that there was no National Health service in those days to sustain him, this was a remarkable achievement.

Dodgson, known under his own name as a very fine mathematician, was also known by the *nom-de-plume* Lewis Carroll under which he penned the famous “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” and its even more fantastical sequel “Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There” that introduced such characters as The Jaberwock, the Walrus and the Carpenter.

Many of the forty guests at the supper, encouraged by the invitation to dress to reflect Carroll and his works, came as one of the characters in the Alice stories. Others paid homage to his nonsense (but very clever .. and long) poem “The Hunting of The Snark”. The latter caused some controversy when Bridget Hemmant, though claiming to be a Snark, was thought by some of those present to have been impersonating a Boojum.

The centrepiece of the evenings was the “The Mad Hatter’s Tea Party” played out on the Village Hall stage, its players being those whose costumes were adjudged to best reflect the original tea party’s persona. Thus, it was that John Hemmant (the Snark-Hunter) was appointed as Narrator and introduced Alice (Anna Guy), The Mad Hatter (Tony Davy), The March Hare (Paris Back) and the Dormouse (Linda Davy) all of whom faithfully and with great style re-enacted the entire scene to huge and well-deserved applause. With thanks to Sheri Winn who provided the photographs and who owns their copyright.



Paris Back (a March Hare) and Sheri Winn (a Mad Hatter) caught on camera during supper. In the background are Sarah Bush (the Baker from the “The Hunting of the Snark”) and - hidden behind Paris - Anna Guy (as Alice)



The play is about to start! The Narrator watches as the Mad Hatter, sleepy Dormouse and March Hare take tea. Alice, puzzled, has been told, despite the large table and a spare chair, that there is “No room, No room!”

John Ling

The Churchyard Headstone Survey

Occasionally I post a story in the Newsletter about an interesting headstone and people whose graves are marked by interesting headstones. I have submitted another one (I hope I didn’t hear that groan) to the Editor for this edition, concerning widower Ephraim Loyd and widow Martha Jimby.

It did occur to me (lest you think that we spend our lives wandering round the churchyard looking for these stories) that I ought to explain how we come by them.

They are the result of interesting finds encountered during a survey of churchyard headstones by volunteers from Bergh Apton Local History Group (BALHG) that has, so far, surveyed 75% of the entire churchyard and who should complete the task this year in one or two more Saturday mornings’ work. The result will be a headstone database that is both a record for our own purposes and an aid for family researchers all over the world who want to trace Bergh Apton ancestors.

I hope that photographs that accompany this article make it clear that the work is both fun and pleasant. It is, though, quite hard for two main reasons:

(a) It can be a challenge - bent double or kneeling down and often on damp churchyard grass - to peer at a faint inscription and make sense of it, and we don’t want to put our enthusiastic volunteers off with too much hard work on any one day;

(b) Bergh Apton’s burial ground covers over 0.75 hectares (1.85 acres). It is one of the largest in rural Norfolk, so there’s a lot to cover. If you like maths, the survey covers 233 squares, each one measuring 5 metres by 5 metres - a total of 765 sq metres.



John Ling and Sue Hill had a challenge on their hands with this broken headstone on which all they had left to read was the date of 1717 and the surname “Athow”.

This work has enabled us to create a Master Plan for the database - a scale drawing of the entire churchyard that plots the location of every visible headstone and gives the names of the people on it and their dates of death. It will be linked to a searchable database so that a researcher, having found a headstone on the list that matches a name search, can click on its image and the names of whose names are on it together with any information we’ve got on those people.

Bergh Apton’s churchyard has been a village burial ground for well over 1,000 years but the Churchwardens have kept accurate records only since the 1920s. Many burials before that date never had a grave-marker or had one that has not survived to help us. Thus, the Master Plan cannot be a record of every person lying in the soil of Bergh Apton’s burial ground. There are, though, a few ancient stones still visible including those of Ralph Ward (d. 1686) and Mary Culpeck (d. 1705) both of whom, you may care to reflect, were alive at the time of the Great Fire of London (1666).

All this is, I hope, an interesting introduction for you to the story of the Loyds and the Jimbys published in this edition of the Newsletter.



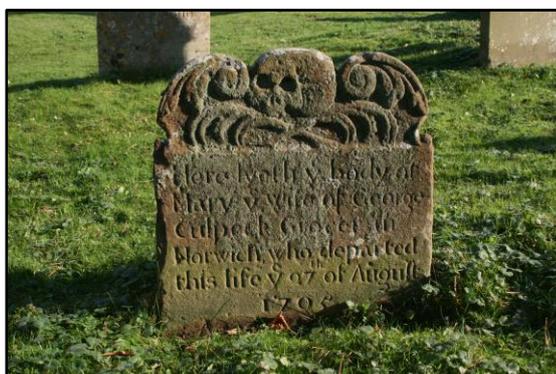
This picture of Stephanie Crome at work does, I hope, illustrate that surveying headstones in a churchyard can be fun!



Another tricky one! (l-r) Steph Crome, Pat Waters, Hilary Ling and Janet Skedge join forces to try and interpret the eroded inscription on the 1772 grave of Thrower Buckle, just outside the south porch.



Reading the inscriptions on a large tomb like that of Thomas and Hannah Kett of Seething Hall (erected in 1899) needed a bit of modest mountaineering by Annette Ford (left) seen here working with Pat Waters.



The 300 year-old headstone of Mary, wife of George Culpeck, Grocer of Norwich. The skull at the head of the stone was a common symbol of 18th & 19th Century memorials.

John Ling

A Burial Conundrum

A bit of a head-scratcher arose recently during work on the Headstone Plan for Bergh Apton burials. The nub of it was the question “were Martha Mary Jimby and Martha Mary Loyd the same person?”

It began during a session when we read the words on the gravestone of Edward Jimby, who died in 1922; “also of his wife Martha Mary”. There were more words below that but in the poor light of a January day they weren’t clear. At the time, it was not a serious issue but now, because we need to make our new headstone plan a comprehensive family research tool, it matters.

Fortunately, a three-strong team was on hand to help resolve the issue. Ann Etta Mann is Bergh Apton’s family research super-sleuth and Stephen Lord is archivist and researcher for Bergh Apton’s Lord/Loyd family. The third element is the Internet. With the help of www.ancestry.co.uk, followed by a few visits to the churchyard to follow up clues, we managed to resolve the riddle in the space of a few days.

Edward Jimby’s burial is in the Burial Register (that lists all burials in the churchyard) but there is no entry for the wife Martha Mary named on his gravestone. But she did exist because she is on the 1911 Census - living with Jimby in Ringland where he was a farmer.

Enter super-sleuth Ann Etta Mann. She found the 1932 marriage in Norfolk of a Martha Mary JERRIBY to an Ephraim Loyd and posed the question; “Could this be a transliteration error for the name *Jimby*?” Reckoning that could well be we searched our Marriage Register (a good place to start, we thought) for a Jimby/Loyd marriage.

And we found it - the nuptials, on 19th October 1932, of widow Martha Jimby aged 70 and Ephraim Loyd aged 80. We found him, albeit twenty one years earlier on the 1911 Census, a railwayman living in Romford with his wife Harriett. The next clue came from Stephen Lord, the Loyd/Lord researcher, who told us that Ephraim’s second marriage - following Harriett’s death in 1927 - was short-lived and that he died four years later. Our Burials Register confirmed that, recording his burial here in Bergh Apton on 22nd February 1936.

Ann Etta Mann then found his widow Martha Mary Loyd’s death on 27th March 1958 in Lingwood at the grand age of 95. The Burial Register confirmed her burial here but not where in the churchyard either she or Ephraim are to be found.

We considered again that inscription “also of his wife Martha Mary” on Edward Jimby’s headstone. Might that be a clue? It was! Looking at it again in the better light of a bright February morning, it now clearly read “who died March 27th 1958 aged 95 years”. Bingo! This was the final resting place of both Martha Mary Loyd AND Martha Mary Jimby - for they were the same person!

That led us to ask new questions: How did Martha Jimby, formerly of Ringland, meet Romford widower Ephraim Loyd. Why is Martha in the grave of her first husband? And where is Ephraim’s grave?

Ann Etta Mann found some of the answers in the Register of 1921 for Bergh Apton (a survey to identify men of fighting age). It records Edward and Martha Jimby living on Barns Hill, Bergh Apton (nowadays called Sunnyside) so it seems that they moved here when he (originally a Loddon boy) retired. Stephen Lord then found Martha in the Register of 1939, still here long after both Edward and Ephraim had died. But her address was more specific - as 6, Sunnyside.

That was another “eureka” moment for we knew from village history that, until her marriage to Jack Stone only a

Dates for your diary 2017

APRIL

5 th	19.00 for 19.30	B.A. Village Hall A.G.M.
12 th	19.30	B.A. Society talk by Jon Read on The Red Dragon & The Tylwyth Teg at Village Hall
15 th	09.30 - 12.00	Decorate Church for Easter
15 th	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
15 th	10.00 - 16.00	BACAT Workshop on Ceramics
18 th	19.30	Fete Meeting at the Village Hall
19 th	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee n Catch Up at the Village Hall
19 th	19.00	Parish Council Annual Parish meeting
20 th	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
23 rd	18.30	Poringland Singers at the Church
25 th	12.30	Tuesday Friends lunch at Church
25 th	19.00	P.C.C. AGM at Alington School
28 th	19.30	BALHG Film Night + Bring & Share supper at Village Hall

MAY

4 th	07.30 - 22.00	Polling Station at Village Hall
6 th	09.30	B.A. Church Spring Clean day
10 th	19.30	B.A. Society talk by Louise Chapman on The Lady Molecatcher
17 th	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee n Catch Up at the Village Hall
17 th	19.00 for 19.30	Parish Council A.G.M. at Village Hall
20 th	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
20 th	14.30	BACT Pond Dipping at Valley Marsh
20 th	19.30	"Those Were The Days" with Singing Group at Village Hall
23 rd	12.30	Tuesday Friends lunch at Church
25 th	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
27 th	09.00	11 Says assembly at Bergh Apton Village Hall
29 th	All day	B.A. Horse Show at The Manor

month before Martha's marriage to Ephraim Loyd, Martha's next-door-but-one neighbour at 4, Sunnyside was Hannah Greenacre who was Ephraim Loyd's sister.

This was another "eureka" moment! Might we not reasonably conclude that Martha met widower Ephraim through his sister Hannah? And that they found in each other a companionship that led to marriage followed by residence at Martha's Sunnyside home? That would have worked well for them and it must have been a sad day when, four years later, Ephraim died.

But where was Ephraim's grave? It is not on the map of the ground in use at the time of his death but, particularly in old village families like the Loyds, there are plenty of examples of burials near ancestors in older parts of the yard and that is where we found Ephraim - right next to his parents Stephen and Mary, under the lilac bushes.

With that discovery we could now, with some confidence, summarise events: Farmer Edward Jimby and his wife Martha retired to Bergh Apton from Ringland; on his death, she continued to live in the same house, met Ephraim Loyd the brother of her neighbour Hannah, and married him; but she lost him four years later and he was buried in Bergh Apton; sometime after 1939 she left Sunnyside to live in Lingwood where she died 22 years after losing Ephraim and was buried in her first husband's grave.

That still leaves the question "Why Edward's grave and not Ephraim's?" the explanation that feels about right is that, after Edward's death, she asked to be buried with him. Her marriage to Ephraim was so short-lived that she never wanted - or

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

The Bergh Apton Newsletter is published with the financial support of the following organisations:

Bergh Apton Community Arts Trust
 Bergh Apton Conservation Trust
 Bergh Apton Local History Group
 Bergh Apton Village Hall
 Bergh Apton Parish Council
 Bergh Apton Parochial Church Council
 The Bergh Apton and District Society

perhaps never thought - to rescind that request and thus it was honoured.

Martha effects, valued at £249 3s 10d (£249.19), would have enabled her executor to meet the cost of both her burial and the carving of that epitaph on Edward Jimby's headstone; "also of his wife Martha Mary who died March 27th 1958 aged 95 years".



The wording cast in lead on Ephraim Loyd's grave. "In loving memory of Ephraim, the beloved husband of Martha Mary Loyd, died 18th Feb 1936 aged 83 years; resting where no shadows fall"

This is the entry in Bergh Apton's Marriage Register of Martha Jimby's wedding to Ephraim Loyd on 19th October 1932.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Residence.
269	October 19th 1932	Ephraim Loyd	50	widower	Bergh Apton
	1932	Martha Mary Jimby	70	widow	Bergh Apton

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Ephraim Loyd and Martha Mary Jimby in the Presence of us,

John Ling