



The Bergh Apton Newsletter

October - November 2017

Issue No. 153

Editorial Comment

As I write this editorial it is still the beginning of September and the other day when driving through Aylsham I was very surprised to see a sign saying BOOK YOUR RIDE ON THE SANTA SPECIAL at the narrow gauge railway station, I thought why plan for Christmas this early there are still many exciting things to do in October/November some mentioned in this Newsletter but I know there is lots to do further afield before we reach December and start preparing in reality for Christmas, I still look forward to Autumn with the leaves changing colour making the countryside a beautiful natural tapestry that we can all enjoy, may this time of year go well with all of you.

Milton Harris (Editor)
Keeley Harris (Graphic Designer)

A BIG THANK YOU

The Members of the Bergh Apton Society would like to say a great big thank you to Lynton Johnson for all his hard work in organising our thoroughly enjoyable 4-day break whereby in mid-August we went by coach from Bergh Apton to visit a selection of gardens in Kent and Sussex namely Great Dixter. Borde Hill. Sissinghurst. Sheffield Park and Nymans. The trip itself was a great success and a good time was had by all.



This month's copy deadline will be the 1st November.

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

Thank you



Ever since 1938 (with a break for a spot of bother with the Axis Powers) the Bergh Apton Summer Fete has been a vital fund-raiser to help maintain our Village Hall and Parish Church.

The Manor gardens, that provide the unique atmosphere for the Fete, have been generously thrown open to us by Kip and Alison Bertram and their predecessors at Bergh Apton Manor. The whole effort in planning, and on the day itself, are a tremendous way for the whole community to meet and work together.

Over the years, the organising committee has been mustered by many chairmen. Milton Harris, the most recent of them, has this year steered the surplus - shared by the village hall and the church - to an impressive £3000+ figure. . . but Milton Harris and John Ling, who have both laboured long, hard and repeatedly to organise this popular event, both admit to getting a bit too long-in-the-tooth and have decided it's time to hang up their hats and stand aside for a younger generation.

So the Fete needs new volunteers, particularly from that younger generation of village residents, fresh energy and (why not!) new ideas to take it into the future . . . starting with the Fete of 2018 on Saturday 14th July . . . to safeguard the future of our only two public buildings.

Bergh Apton is a great place to live, with a real community spirit, so do come along to **the Village Hall on Friday 23rd February next year - at 7.30 pm** to join in a get-together over a glass of wine and refreshments, to exchange ideas on how we can keep this particular and immensely important village show on the road.

SONGLINE for DOGGERLAND

July 15th was a key date in the Play's development.

It was the occasion of the first airing of the script, that, since the writing workshops earlier in the year, Hugh Lupton has been using his creative pen and cold towel to write. And he has really delivered this time. Just wait and see. Bating breath until February may prove a bit frustrating, but it is only a few months away, now!!

Make sure you have the 2, 3, 9, 10 February Performances in your diaries

Here is what Phil McCallum has written about the "Read-through":

Having read emails over the preceding months, informing me of up coming workshops and later, of the enjoyable and successful days had by attendees - Saturday 15th July was a revelation. Walking into BAVH I was awestruck by the fruits of their labours. Having been unable to attend any of the workshops I was unaware of the beauty of the works produced.

The ancient flora of Doggerland exquisitely presented in the style of plates from a Victorian botanists encyclopedia, brought to life by Latin names, ancient lore regarding their uses and superstitions relating to them.

The fossil lamps formed of white clay, and intricately patterned to represent shells and structures of animals dead for millennia resembled ancient fossils recently exposed to the light of day from the chalky cliffs by the paleontologists prospecting pick.

Then when the assembled company was refreshed the read through began...

The script, a tale spanning the ages is a masterpiece of wordsmithery, the expert pens Hugh, much in evidence and on occasion that of Pat Mlejnecky too.

Through the eye of the hagstone a mystic saga unfolds, chronicling and weaving together the pre-history, present day (ish) and far future of Doggerland and its surrounding territories. Mysterious, funny and thought provoking.

I must admit to feeling like a bit of a goal-hanger when I appreciate the vast amount of time, work and application that has gone into the project so far.

The performances themselves, just the tip of a massive creative berg (Bergh Apton)!!

It was lovely to see old faces and new, and I look forward to being a part of yet another smorgasbord of theatrical delights from BACAT.

Phil McCallum (aka Noah, aka Hollyman, aka???)

Some twenty people had gathered in the Village Hall; some intending to Act, some Sing, some Play musical instruments and some to be Rude Mechanicals. All were caught up in the enthusiasm with which the quality of the writing and the unfolding story were received. It tells of what happened to the Doggerbanks, so well known from the daily **Shipping Forecasts**, and ???????. well, wait and see!!

We discussed various creative aspects of the play and **Charlotte Arculus, our esteemed director**, had/is having, not surprisingly, much invention and innovation for its staging.

The title has evolved & will be "**Songline for Doggerland**" And two more generous grants from private charitable funds.

The next few months, as autumn takes over, will witness gathering momentum as Rehearsals start. The Instrumentalists will be getting their first glimpses of the music in the next few days.

The big event, the BEACH BUILDING & INNUNUDATION, for which the date was altered to 16th Sept after investigation of sands & gradients & wave patterns. Watch this space in the Next Edition.

And finally, two more stories written during Hugh Lupton's writing workshops.

THE POOL OF TEARS

I see a shaded, deep, dark pool, which is never still, the surface constantly irritated by droplets falling from the canopy above, the morning mist settled on the large flat leaves – heavy with dew and expectation. As the burden becomes too much for each leaf, it releases a crystal clear tear to the pool below. The pool of tears, it is called.

It is a place of mourning – and hope, where the indigenous people come to collect water for their religious rites – the water from heaven, the tears of God to purify their own tears of loss.

This is a place where death is washed away before the burial of the dead. Where the dust of wisdom is flushed from the wrinkles of the creased lines of the aged; where the blood and sweat of fear is purged from the hunter, who becomes the hunter.

Here, families of ages gather; here hope is restored. A spiritual high before the earthly low of the grave. The occasional shafts of light, probing the canopy above, seeking a gap through which to send a piercing ray, illuminate the dense undergrowth surrounding the pool, the spirits of the dead speaking once more in the language of the heavens, the language of light. Life and death; death and life. This is the place where life faces death, and death is washed clean into new life.

Chris Ellis

EDGELAND

I see the land falling away towards the sea. The air is full of birdsong, ebullient and strong, soaring, piping and spurting from their throats in a torrent of sound. At once enveloping and drawing one out into the forest. The smell of the deep leaf mould fills the nostrils and the richness of the earth feels tangible before you even enter the trees.

Cranes take off to the right, in the salt marsh, and their deep cries echo as an undertone to the symphony already playing. Where the reeds end, the hazel begins. A few straggling saplings at first, then a thicket so deep a man can't put his arm between the stems. That's the place men come to cut and carry and harvest for the communal shelter.

Stepping in behind the hazel the oaks begin to dominate the space, young saplings and towering old trees, full of leaves and birdsong. Woodpeckers tap violently all around and, flitting between the trunks, multi-coloured finches and marsh birds, reed warblers and sedge warblers, and a bright flash of kingfishers, not just one, but a stream of turquoise and russet piercing the stream's surface and rising with a slip of silver in the bill. Fish are so numerous they swim into the hand and sometimes fill the reed nets so they burst open, spilling the harvest back into the water.

Sophie Saunders

Chris Meynell

Memorial seat and pond unveiling on Valley Marsh

When Bergh Apton Conservation Trust was set up in 1994 one of those who contributed to the purchase of the land which became our first nature reserve, and who supported BACT in subsequent years, was Phyllis Ride, who sadly died in April last year.

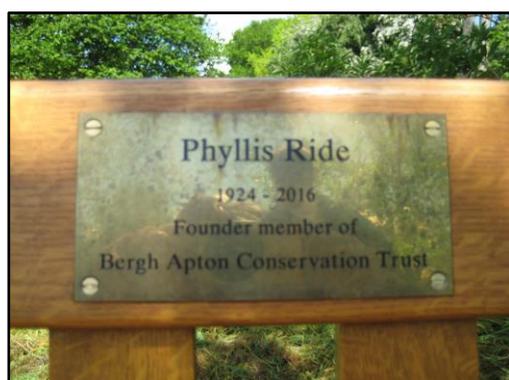


Tony Davy addressing members of BACT prior to the unveiling of the seat

It was therefore very appropriate that on Saturday 2nd September 25 members gathered on Valley Marsh to commemorate Phyllis' association with BACT by unveiling a seat in her memory. The seat was generously funded by Phyllis' cousins and made of English oak by Harry Stebbings of Great Hockham. BACT Chairman Tony Davy opened proceedings by explaining how the Conservation Trust came into existence and highlighting Phyllis' involvement then and subsequently. After a toast to Phyllis, Tony, ably assisted by fellow trustee Shirley Rimmer, pulled the cover off the seat to a round of applause. The seat accommodates three people comfortably and has been placed by the pond as this is the area where our work parties and social events have their tea breaks and is also close to the pond dipping platform.



Lorie Lain-Rogers and her team having just positioned the seat prior to the official unveiling



The plaque on the seat



Linda Davy, Tony Davy and Margaret Johnson try out the Phyllis Ride Memorial Seat

However, important as the commemoration of Phyllis was, this was not the only reason for the gathering. After more wine and cakes Tony described the original pond on Valley Marsh, which all could see was completely covered by duck weed, and why although being an asset to the reserve, it would never be very good due to being fed, via various pipes and settlement ponds, from the old landfill site on Welbeck Road. Years of research as to how to reduce the nutrients and duckweed had come to nothing so the trustees had decided the only alternative was to dig another pond well away from the original so we all walked to the new pond.



BACT members viewing the new pond on Valley Marsh

Tony explained how the new pond was dug in under 6 hours by an expert with a 13-tonne digger in November last year, with its water level determined by the natural water table. We marvelled at the "gin clear" water (Tony claimed this a scientific term for unpolluted water!) so in the bright sunshine we could see right down to the deepest part of the pond and all the gradients put in. Many areas of the pond have already been colonised by stonewort's, an ancient plant which grows only in unpolluted water, so very pleasing to see; we did not plant it, the spores were there in the peat just waiting for us to dig the pond. We could also see the many insects (dragonflies, damselflies, pond skaters, water boatman, diving beetles and spiders) already living in or around the pond and Bob Kerry pointed out the otter and deer prints in the mud by the pond as evidence of the larger wildlife now using it. Tony also explained the discussions

which took place on whether to have an island or not in the new pond and all the “for and against” arguments. The presence of the small island in the pond showed who won that argument!



Otter print found beside the new pond, the coin is a £2 piece



BACT Trustees Shirley Rimmer and Annette Ford look for, and find, a grass snake

Retracing our steps back to the seat some members took a look at the River Chet (or “Mighty Chet” as we like to call it, it being a least 10-foot-wide in places) which runs around the southern boundary of Valley Marsh and then looked under the corrugated iron sheet near the seat where Bob claimed “99 times out of a 100 you will see a snake”. With expectation sky-high Bob was hugely relieved that a grass snake was indeed under the tin for all to see. This was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon where a long standing and much missed BACT founder member was commemorated and a superb new asset to the reserve viewed by many members for the first time.

Bob Kerry

Open Garden, Washingford Farm. 30th July



Andrew and Gill Waters with Ann Harris

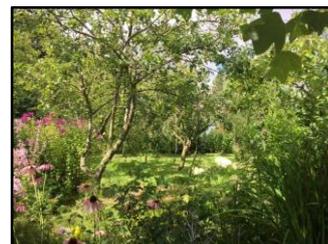
Sunday 30th July began grey and wet, not what you want when opening your garden for the first time.

However, come mid-morning all was dry and then sunny for the rest of the day.

The garden was opened in aid of Suffolk Art Link, a charity that works to improve the quality of life of people of all abilities through taking part in engaging and inspirational creative activities.

We had a tea and cake stall, plants, a raffle and meet and greet all manned by dear friends, to whom we send our heartfelt thanks.

We had a thoroughly enjoyable day and made an amazing £1090. Our thanks to all who made the day such a success.



Hugh and Tiff



The Norfolk folk rock band
that blends mediaeval, traditional
and new compositions,
keeping English folk music alive

**BERGH APTON
CHURCH**
7.00 pm, Saturday
28 October

tickets £ 10 each
including Refreshments

01508 480576
mands@mikerimmer.plus.com

DECORATE CHURCH FOR HARVEST FESTIVAL



Please come along to Bergh Apton church
On **SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER**

to help decorate the church
with flowers & harvest produce.

We will be there from 9.30am to midday
or just come for a cup of coffee.

Coffee Morning



at **Washingford House,**
Cookes Road
Bergh Apton, NR15 1AA
01508 550924
parisb@waitrose.com

Tuesday 10th October 2017
From 10 am to 1 pm

In aid of
MND Association
www.mndassociation.org
and
The Brooke
www.thebrooke.org

Herb infused oils,
Jewellery, Pottery,
Cards, Gifts,
Handmade Soaps
and bath oils
Cake and Tombola stall

Entry £2.50
to include coffee and
biscuits

Please park at the house,
Village Hall or at P.O.

Offers of cakes/Tombola
prizes would be greatly
appreciated 😊

Paris Back Liz Lester
Caroline Thurtell

THE REMARKABLE CAPTAIN MARENDAZ (1897-1988)

Bergh Apton's first-world-war aviator, engineer, ardent Black Shirt, and fantasist.

Donald Marcus Kelway Marendaz caught my attention because he registered Patent 542165 (for a gearbox clutch) in 1941 with the address "Holly Lodge, Bergh Apton". His name came up again only a few weeks later when I saw the statement "by direction of Captain D M K Marendaz" in a 1948 auction catalogue for Holly Lodge when he was planning to emigrate to South Africa to set up a manufacturing plant building small diesel engines for the agricultural industry.

Thus, I came by chance upon a former Bergh Apton resident of intriguing and clearly flawed character who, despite his extreme political views, flamboyance and combative nature, seems to have lived in our village for seven years without being noticed!



Marendaz owned this beautiful 1934 3½ litre Bentley, registration AXP 2, during his time at Holly Lodge. It may have been a familiar sight to residents on Sunnyside at the time.

So, I thought I'd better just record something of the life of this man whose career could be summarised as "flying combat in WW1, motor racing, car manufacturing, engineering, aircraft building, pilot training, collecting art and porcelain, supporting Oswald Mosley and marriage (he had two of 'em)."

His obituary in The Times, on his death at the age of 91 on 6th November 1988, described him as "a swashbuckling ex-Royal Flying Corps pilot who has a niche in the history of the sports car. He was responsible for a series of elegant custom built vehicles which bore his name in the nineteen twenties and thirties". It continues; "Captain Marendaz a flier of the old school [. . .] regarded his generation of pilots as the last of the true knights of the air [. . .] in their fragile contraptions of wire and fabric".

But The Times made no mention of his dubious claim to the rank of Captain that was at best flimsy (in Court, on trial for causing death by dangerous driving in 1930, he was charged as plain Mr Marendaz). Nor does it refer to other downsides including a short spell in prison when he was an Oswald Mosley Blackshirt political activist; several failed business ventures and a bankruptcy; and a claim by Bentley that the appearance of Marendaz cars plagiarised their famous marque. All these peccadilloes may explain his strong aversion to journalists who, presumably, would seek clarification on some of the exaggerated and oft-made claims he had made to prowess and triumph.

I came as close to "face-to-face" as can be with this fascinating man recently when, attending a friend's funeral in Lincolnshire, I had to travel only a few miles more to the village of Asterby and its tiny churchyard, where I found his grave. Hilary and I also went to see the extraordinary home he

fashioned to live in when he returned from South Africa in 1971. Buying a pair of semi-detached roadside cottages, he joined them together to create "Asterby Hall", an example of his tendency to obfuscate and exaggerate - being a faux half-timbered mansion with some of its chimneys fashioned from concrete culvert pipes wound around with rope to make a weird pastiche of the classic Elizabethan barley-sugar design.



"Asterby Hall", Marendaz' roadside cottage conversion in Lincolnshire, including its attempted replica of an Elizabethan chimney stack.

It was from Asterby Hall that Marendaz fired letters to defend his pre-war cars against what he considered unfair or inaccurate criticism - in both editorial and correspondence - in publications including the much-respected Motor Sport magazine. In one of the latter's articles its author comments "Marendaz has been described as colourful; I would think 'awkward and ingenious' more appropriate. He took me to task for calling the car he had raced at Brooklands in 1923 a Marseel, instead of a Marendaz. I could only reply that he had entered it as a Marseel on the official race card".

So, he was clearly a contentious character. But he was also recognised for his skill as a post WW1 racing driver on tracks including Brooklands and he was a very good engineer, applying energy and ability in the production of first "Marseel" and later "Marendaz Special" sports cars. They won races, created performance records and their engineering was recognised for its excellence including some very clever innovation.



Donald Marendaz in his racing days - but hardly dressed for action - at the wheel of an unidentified competition car, possibly on the Brooklands track.

But he gained a reputation as a slightly slippery character who was not above a few tricks that included buying parts from suppliers when he had no means to pay. Bentley, though they never took him to court (reflecting, perhaps, that he didn't have the resources to pay awarded damages) had good grounds for doing so because he fitted his cars with a radiator that was too close to the famous Bentley design to be a coincidence.

Nevertheless, many of his peers of some standing did respect him. Two of them, for example, joined him in August 1973 to form the Marendaz Special Car Register to record the cars still in existence. Marendaz himself was President, joined as

Vice-Presidents by Aileen Moss and Raymond Mays. Aileen, mother of Sir Stirling Moss, was herself a successful racing driver of the 1930s in a Marendaz Special. Raymond Mays was Britain's most successful racing driver of the 1930s-1950s who created the BRM racing stable for whom Graham Hill won his first F1 Grand Prix title in 1962.

Marendaz, with Swiss origins, was born in Margam, Glamorgan in 1897. During the First World War he joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1916 and became a pilot of the "stringbag" era. During the Battle of Cambrai (November 1917) he is claimed to have been the only British pilot to be able to fly on the opening day of the battle and to have saved the British cavalry from certain disaster at the Masnieres bridge over the St. Quentin-L'Escaut Canal. This exploit may be a fine example of how Marendaz' actions could tend to get drowned in hyperbole.

Here's how it came about, according to the British Fascist website (keeping alive the spirit of Oswald Mosely): *"All allied and German aircraft had been grounded. But there was Marendaz, cruising at 5,000 feet after nearly an hour's climb at 8 am that cold November morning. Unable to see a thing he took his Armstrong-Whitworth down to 150 feet, risking the onslaught of enemy rifle fire. Breaking through the fog blanket, he immediately saw that the severely damaged bridge would not stand the weight of a cavalry charge so he sent a message in Morse, an action that prevented a disastrous end for the cavalry"*. I can't help thinking in terms of *"Biggles to the Rescue"* as I read that!

Here, very different, is what happened according to the respected website The Long, Long Trail: *"Securing the bridge was going to be vital for the 2nd Cavalry Division [...]. However, the weight of the first tank to cross the bridge [...] broke its back. Infantry could cross slowly by a lock gate a couple of hundred yards away, but the intended cavalry advance was effectively halted. An improvised crossing allowed B squadron of the Fort Garry Horse to cross, but they were unsupported and withdrew. For no good reason it was not noticed, until too late in the day, that further canal crossings at Crevecoeur-sur-Escaut were very lightly defended."*

We could thus argue that, far from being the hero of the hour (if indeed he had been there) Marendaz was responsible for the attack stalling. Why, with his aerial view of the scene, did he not spot that other lightly-defended bridge that provided the way across?

I wonder if, in old age, he ruminated on this when alone in his bed at night looking back on his life. Did he also regret the times, for example, when he was taken to court by suppliers for failings in his commercial responsibilities? Or his part in the death of that motorist by negligent driving on the Kingston bypass in 1929? Or his appearance in a South African court, charged with *"theft, fraud and contravening the company and insolvency acts"*? I rather doubt it because I suspect that it was not in his nature to linger on remorse.

There is much more to record about Marendaz to illustrate his complex and controversial character but I suspect I have exhausted the patience of the Editor at this point . . . so I will conclude with an prime example of how he could combine bad and good taste all at the same time.

During recent email correspondence with motoring journalist Graham Skillen - who knew Marendaz and crossed swords with him - Graham told me that Marendaz claimed, amongst other valuable artworks, to have a Titian (seen clearly in one of the photographs in that Holly Lodge brochure of 1948). However, the internet reveals that the original of this painting is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York so it (and possibly others in Marendaz' collection?) was a copy rather than an original work of art.



The east wall of the lounge at Holly Lodge in 1948, with Marendaz' alleged Titian painting dominating the scene.

But it is a different story with Marendaz' china collection. That included very collectable Nantgarw and Swansea porcelain and there is a record that he sold it at a Christie's auction on 14th July 1958 in London that also included pieces owned by the Duke of Windsor and the Earl of Derby, two highly-respected collectors. The reported value of Marendaz' items in this sale was £5,050 that, taking inflation into account, would today be worth £112,000.

But it turns out that that was not the value of his complete collection. The Burlington Magazine of May 1973, fifteen years later, carries details of a Sotheby's auction on 8th May 1973 that included Lots owned by Marendaz. The auctioneers promoted the event as *"Early Nineteenth Century English and Fine Welsh Porcelain"* and described some items in the auction as *"Welsh Porcelain, comprising an important Nantgarw dish from the Mackintosh Service and a very rare armorial Swansea part service with Welsh arms"*. That, I feel, is a strong indication that they came from Marendaz but I have as yet found nothing to substantiate that, nor have I found a record of their sale value. But it would not have been modest because Bonhams sold just one plate from the Mackintosh Service at auction in December 2005 for £10,560.



The plate from the Mackintosh Service made by Nantgarw that sold at Bonham's in 2005 for £10,560. Marendaz owned Nantgarw porcelain and may have sold similar items at Sotheby's in 1973.

Thus, in relation to his art collection, he looks to have been either a mug or a poseur, but he had knowledge and taste in the world of valuable porcelain. These contradictory elements are two sides of the same coin that is the fascinating but flawed Donald Marcus Kelway Marendaz.

(Note: If they are of interest to readers, I have a note of all the sources of information I have used in this article)

John Ling

HOLLY LODGE - ITS HISTORY - PART 2

First, may I caution that, if local history holds no charms for you, you should stop reading right now!

That's because this article - with dates and other dull stuff - is really an "aide memoire" for Bergh Apton historians concerning Holly Lodge, that elegant "Gentleman's Residence" at the top of Sunnyside. This follows on from my first article about the house I wrote in the last (August-Sept 2017) edition of the Newsletter.

Since then we have learned much more about the house because of the kindness of its owners Michael and Gill Willcox. They have given us copies of contracts of sale and purchase on both Holly Lodge and its gardener's cottage, Green Shutters going back to 1933, when the property was sold out of Lord Canterbury's Brooke Estate. The Willcox documents are a mine of valuable local history information.

A key element, for example, is that it was Lord Canterbury who had title to the property in 1933 when it was sold. That backs up my initial hunch that Thomas Smallpiece Clark (the Gentleman Farmer who built the house in the 1820s) may not have bought the land on which he built his house, but leased it.

Knowing that Lord Canterbury had title, and that he had lived in the house himself from 1925 until the sale of 1933, makes it possible to have a stab at the date it was built. Let's make the reasonable assumption that Clark's lease was for 99 years (a quite usual term). If the expiry of that term was 1925 and it enabled Canterbury to occupy the house himself, it would indicate that the lease had begun in 1826. That would be just about the right time - the late-Regency period (of which the house is such a good example) - for Clark to have commissioned the work to build the house.

All the above is, sadly, conjecture because there are no records (or none that we have found) on the running of Canterbury's estate to consult. But it is at least informed conjecture!



Green Shutters in the 1860s. Stephen Lord (left) was Bergh Apton's Parish Clerk for twenty-four years. With him are his wife Maria and their children William and Martha.

Now we've got that out of the way let's look at what we now know about Holly Lodge after 1933 - the year that Lord Canterbury sold the house and grounds having decided to move to Lymington in Hampshire, where he died, heirless, in 1941.

He sold the whole property - Holly Lodge and its gardener's cottage called Green Shutters - for £2,200 to Brigadier-General George Dale CMG, Croix de Guerre, formerly of the Punjabi Regiment in the Indian Army. Dale lived there for seven years with his wife Martha until, in old age but nevertheless rather tragically they died within a few days of each other in November 1940.

Onto the scene now comes the object of my other article in this Newsletter - Donald Marcus Kelway Marendaz. We get an early inkling of his rather unusual dealings and personality in the fact that he registered a company called Holly Lodge Estates Ltd (maybe to take advantage of property tax law?) to buy the house and the cottage from General Dale's executors in October 1941 for £1,500. Marendaz (like the Dales) lived at Holly Lodge for seven years. His ownership came to an end when he emigrated to South Africa in early 1949.

It was in July 1948 that he offered the property for sale by auction at the Maid's Head in Norwich in two Lots - Holly Lodge and the gardener's cottage across the road. For whatever the reason, neither sold at that time and it was not until September 1948 that Holly Lodge was sold to Dr Thomas Buchanan and his wife Eva for £6,500. It was even later, in January 1949, that Green Shutters was sold to Mr Teddy Rushen for £1,650.



If Dr Buchanan was in his mid-60s in this photo it could be Holly Lodge in the background.

Thus, in seven years, and taking inflation (that had not quite doubled) into account, Marendaz had more than doubled the value of his investment.

Rushen sold Green Shutters after only ten months. If he was hoping for a quick return on his investment he certainly succeeded for, in selling it to Joseph Mobbs of Brooke for £2,100, he made a profit of £600 that, in today's values, was worth £20,000.

The same good fortune did not smile upon Mr Mobbs because, when he sold the cottage to Phyllis Ride more than five years later in October 1955, he sold it for £1,100 less than he had paid for it.

Phyllis's arrival on Sunnyside marks the beginning of sixty years of a happy settled existence for the cottage that ended with her death in April 2016. Six months later, and after almost seventy years as separate properties, Holly Lodge and its former gardener's cottage were re-united when, at auction in the Assembly Rooms in Norwich on 6th October, Michael and Gill Willcox bought Green Shutters from Phyllis's executors.



In 2005, Parish Clerk Stephen Lord's descendant Stephen Lord and his wife (seen here with house-owner Phyllis Ride) came back to find that little had changed in the intervening 135-odd years (except the garden gate, that opened the other way!).

Having traced the story of Green Shutters let's do the same with Holly Lodge but, by way of a change, do it in the reverse order by starting in 1986 and working backwards.

In May 1986, Michael and Gill Willcox bought the house from Herbert and Helen Rogerson who had lived there for 36 years. Old age and infirmity (exacerbated by the poliomyelitis Dr Rogerson had contracted in India during WW2 that resulted in his loss of a leg by amputation) forced them to sell in order to move Dr Rogerson into Saxlingham Hall nursing home where he died only a few months later. Helen Rogerson died in Hethersett Hall care home in January 1997,

The Rogersons' Holly Lodge predecessor was also in the medical profession. Dr Buchanan (a County Antrim Irishman despite his Scots name) had twice been Mentioned in Despatches (MID) while serving with the RAMC in Egypt in WW1. It was he who bought the house from Captain Marendaz but he lived there with his wife Eva for only two years (before moving to Wroxham, where he died in June 1976). He sold the house to Dr Rogerson in May 1950 for £6,375.



A portrait of Thomas Buchanan in the Royal Army Medical Corps during WW1 - before active service in Egypt led to him being Mentioned in Despatches.

That brings us full circle and completes this summary of the history of Holly Lodge and Green Shutters.

John Ling



Save the Children Christmas card sale and coffee morning

At the home of Carrie & Martin Holl
Hillside farm, Welbeck Rd,
Bergh Apton, NR15 1AU.

**On Saturday 14th October
10am-3pm**

Christmas cards, paper,
calendars, crackers etc

St PETER & St PAUL CHURCH BERGH APTON



HARVEST FESTIVAL and BRING & SHARE LUNCH SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER

**09.30am
Harvest Festival in Church**

**12.30pm
Bring & Share lunch
in the Village Hall**

All Welcome

LARDAL KANTORI



our Norwegian friends

return to

Bergh Apton Church on

Friday, 24th November

to welcome in our Advent Season with
songs and carols in Norwegian and English

7.00 pm

Tickets £10 each

including Seasonal Refreshments

Tickets in Advance from

01508 480439

hilary.ling@btinternet.com

BACT and BALHG visit to West Stow

When Bergh Apton Conservation Trust and the Bergh Apton Local History Group are planning their various events, they have to make sure the dates do not clash as many people are members of both. This was not a problem on Sunday 16th July when both groups visited West Stow Country Park, near Bury St Edmunds. This was chosen as it is a 125-acre Country Park with a large lake and bordering the River Lark but also the site of a reconstructed Anglo-Saxon Village.



BALHG and BACT members enjoying picnic on the long table at West Stow.

After an hour's drive, around 25 of us congregated in the large car park at West Stow and it being lunchtime we immediately found the picnic area where we put all the tables in one long line so we could all eat and chat together. Next, it was into the visitor centre to see the film which explained the history of the site, and then we walked to the Anglo-Saxon Village. This is a collection of many reconstructed Anglo-Saxon buildings ranging from a pig sty to a workshop, croft, weaving house, farmers house and hall; in fact, every type of building you were likely to see in an Anglo-Saxon village.



Tony Davy, Linda Davy, Annette Ford and Lorie Lain-Rogers looking at one of the re-constructed Anglo-Saxon buildings.

The village was occupied in the 5th to 7th centuries in the early Anglo-Saxon period, but was then abandoned. The village, originally around 70 buildings, was re-discovered in 1849 and excavations were not completed till 1972. Since 1977 a number of experimental buildings have been constructed on the site of some of the original buildings, using various techniques (a sunk floor or a raised floor, tall walls or no wall at all so the roof meets the ground etc) so

no two are exactly the same. Despite this when you are amongst them you do get a feel of what an Anglo-Saxon village must have looked, felt and smelt like as the Anglo-Saxons had not invented chimneys!



After looking in and around the various buildings it was time for the excellent museum which covered the history of West Stow from prehistoric times. After this some of us took advantage of the café and then it was time for the natural history part of the visit. A short walk along a track took us to the River Lark and whilst some of us turned right and walked around the large lake, others went left and walked to some old lock gates and an intriguing old Victorian pumphouse. We initially thought it was for pumping water only to find out from the information board that was built to pump sewage!

Whichever route was taken there was plenty to see, large fish in the crystal-clear River Lark, insects everywhere, huge numbers of bright blue banded demoiselle damselflies, water birds on the lake and wild flowers beside the path. There was a hide where we could look across the River Lark to the adjoining Lackford Lakes Nature reserve (Suffolk Wildlife Trust) where all manner of birds; gulls, geese, cormorants and waders including little egrets were seen.

The visit was very enjoyable and three things came to mind as I walked round. When the Anglo-Saxons arrived in the 5th Century what happened to the local Celts (did they stay put to become an underclass or forced to go west)? Also, good as the Anglo-Saxon timber, wattle and daub buildings were, I could not help thinking about the intricate stone and marble buildings the Romans were building 600 years earlier! Finally, why did the Victorians bother to go to so much effort and use such ornate and intricate brickwork in a sewage pumping station which was unlikely to be visited by tourists (in their lifetime anyway)?

Bob Kerry

Dates for your diary 2017

OCTOBER

1 st	09.30	Harvest Festival at B.A. Parish Church
	12.30	'Bring & Share' Harvest Lunch at B.A. Village Hall
3 rd	19.30	Village Hall Management Committee meeting
10 th	10.00	Charity Coffee morning at Washingford House
11 th	19.30	B.A. Society talk 'Marie Curie' by Clive Evans at B.A. Village Hall
14 th	19.00 for 19.30	Quiz and Chips at Village Hall
18 th	10.00-12.00	Coffee n Chat at B.A. Village Hall
18 th	19.30	B.A. Local History Group A.G.M. at B.A. Village Hall
20 th	19.30	Bergh Apton Parish Council meets at BA Village Hall
21 st	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
22 nd	13.30	BACT Fungus Foray. Meet at Church Field
24 th	12.30	Tuesday Friends lunch at B.A. Parish Church
26 th	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
28 th	19.00	"Stone Angel" concert at Bergh Apton church

NOVEMBER

8 th	19.30	B.A. Society MARKO at B.A. Village Hall
12 th	10.45	Remembrance Day Service at B.A. Parish Church. Followed by Soup at the Village Hall
15 th	10.00-12.00	Coffee n Chat at B.A. Village Hall
18 th	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
19 th	11.00	Shoobox Service at B.A. Parish Church
22 nd	19.30	Parish Council meet at Village Hall
23 rd	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
24 th	19.00	Lardal Kantori (Norwegian choir) concert at Church
25 th	09.00	11 Says Assembly at B.A. village hall
28 th	12.30	Tuesday Friends at B.A. Parish Church
29 th	19.30	B.A. Village Hall Management Committee meeting

DECEMBER

3 rd	12.30	Christmas Lunch at B.A. Village Hall
6 th	All day	Christmas Wreath workshop
8 th	19.00	Christmas Bingo at B.A. Village Hall
14 th	09.30	Decorate church for Christmas

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)

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The Bergh Apton and District Society