



The Bergh Apton Newsletter

December 2017 - January 2018

Issue No. 154

Editorial Comment



Rachel Parfitt very kindly sent in these photos that she took while out working on gardening jobs in the village. A mouse collecting sunflower seeds in Alington and a stoat or a weasel? Well, the stoat has a greater length with a much longer tail the last third of which is coloured black, but enough of the detail.

When I was very young I was told that "a weasel is weasily distinguished and a stoat is stotally different. I have always been fascinated by the idiosyncrasies of the English language such as words that sound the same but are spelt differently and words spelt the same but sound different for example, "the bough of a tree but you bow to your partner and we should all know how to tie a bow", there are many others such as "sight and site" or even another anomaly " a flight of birds and a flight of stairs". The nights drawing in makes me/us aware that the year is coming to an end and this little mouse gathering seeds for winter reminds me how unprepared we are in this Country for foul weather, be it gale, flood, snow or ice. On this and my earlier theme a short poem emphasises the strangeness of the English Language

Whether the weather be cold
Whether the weather be hot
We'll weather the weather
Whatever the weather
Whether we like it or not

So, have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year despite the idiosyncrasies of the English Weather.

Milton Harris (Editor)
Keeley Harris (Graphic Designer)



CHRISTMAS

BINGO

FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER

Doors open 7.00pm
for 7.30pm start

BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL

Families Welcome
BYO Refreshments

DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Please come along to church on

THURSDAY 21st DECEMBER

to help decorate the church for Christmas. We will be there from 9.30am or just come for a cup of coffee and a mince pie.

**ALPINGTON & BERGH APTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



CHRISTMAS

FAYRE

12-3pm

Saturday 2ND December

Gifts &
Stalls

Festive
Games

Rudolph's
RAFFLE

Mulled
Wine

Face
Painting

Jingle Mingle
CAFE

Santa's
GROTTO

FREE ENTRY

*With a 7ft Nordmann Fir Christmas Tree courtesy of Green Pastures

ALL WELCOME

A BIG THANK YOU

*Coffee Morning, Tuesday 10th October
at Washingford House.*

*Liz Lester, Caroline Thurtell and
Paris Back would like to thank all those
who donated, attended, ran stalls and
gave their time on the day. Without your
support, it would never have happened!*

*As a result, The Brooke and Motor
Neurone Disease Association shared
£1,270 between them.*



Save the Children

**Christmas Sale
and Coffee Morning**

Thank you to all who came
along and supported our event.
The weather was beautiful, and
we had a good turnout raising

£1552.72p

Carrie & Martin Holl



**National Parish Magazine
Awards 2017**

*In July 2017 we were given the opportunity to enter
our Newsletter into this national competition and
we did so, to give us an idea of where our hard work
as a community stands nationally.*

Awards were presented across 5 categories:

Best Magazine Overall

Best Editor

Best Content

Best Print Quality

Best Design

**Out of 410 magazine entries
Bergh Apton Newsletter achieved 27th place.**

*We were surprisingly pleased with this result
and plan to enter again in the future. We would like
to thank all those who have helped to make this
newsletter such a success.*

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Simon & Sarah of Tantallon, The Street,
are proud to announce the arrival of
Fraser Pointer born on 28-08-17,
weighing in at 9lbs 7oz [big healthy boy]
a brother for Leo.**

**Also, Renata & Paul of Holly Cottage,
The Street, are delighted to have
become Grandparents to
Rosa Leila Sawhney, born on 10-10-17,
weight 6lbs 6oz, a daughter for Lucinda
& Bim of Vale Farm Barn [Thurton].**

Congratulations all round.

BERGH APTON CONSERVATION TRUST

Annual Report 2017

The major excitement of the year was undoubtedly the excavation of a new pond on Valley Marsh in November 2016. You will know, from past reports, of the intractable problems of nutrient enrichment experienced by our original pond, largely because it comprises part of the surface-water drainage system for the nearby closed land-fill site. Hence our decision to create a pond in the deep valley peat that would be groundwater-fed. It was expertly dug in a single day by Dominic Arnold, using his 13-ton digger, and it filled with water over the following week. Overall, the pond is more than 20 m in diameter, features a small island, and is 2 m deep at its deepest point. However, it is mostly much shallower, with tiered shelves giving a range of water depths. This arrangement will provide valuable new habitat opportunities for many types of wildlife and also provide habitat complementary to the existing pond. By the time of our pond dipping day in the spring, pond life, including tadpoles and pond skaters, has already begun to arrive. The pond (and marsh) have attracted distinguished visitors: Dr Geoff Phillips (Environment Agency) brought a party on 2 August, Rick Southwood (Natural England's Senior Reserves Manager for the Broads) came on 19 September, and Dr Dan Hoare and his pond-life enthusiasts will be sampling tomorrow. On 2 September we held an inauguration ceremony, attended by 24 members, on a delightful sunny afternoon; the Stoneworts in the pond were burgeoning, the water was gratifyingly gin-clear, the members enjoyed sparkling wine, and we were mesmerised by the aerial mating exploits of the dragonflies, as they helped to populate the pond.

This was also the occasion for unveiling our magnificent bench seat in memory of the late Phyllis Ride. Phyllis was a founding member and loyal friend to the Trust in many ways. We are most grateful to her cousins for donating the bench, which was made from English oak by Harry Stebbings of Great Hockham, and to Lorie Lain-Rogers for procuring and installing it. It can be found in a scenic spot at Valley Marsh for the benefit of members and visitors seeking a quiet moment.

We had two excursions this year. The first, on 25 June, was to see the wildlife and management at Marston Marsh, Eaton. We were shown round by Matt Davis of the Norwich Fringe project, who had first whetted our appetites for the area in his talk after our last AGM. It was remarkable to see 60 acres of marsh beautifully managed for wildlife and amenity so close to the city centre and obviously enjoyed by so many people. The second visit, joint with Bergh Apton Local History Group, was to West Stow Country Park on 16 July. Many of the participants were members of both organizations, so an exploration of the famous Anglo-Saxon village provided a focus for a day that also showed us many plants and animals of Breckland and the valley of the River Lark.

We have again been delighted to host visits by the Brooke scout group. As ever, these involve a happy blend of recreational and educational activity (such as pond dipping) with valuable management work (raking, cutting, sawing and pulling up sycamore seedlings). The Beavers and Scouts came first in the light evenings of high summer (19-20 June)

and they returned last week (18-20 September), along with the Cubs. We are grateful to Shirley Rimmer and Jacque Ratcliffe for continuing to coordinate these activities.

Our local meetings have broadly followed the established and successful pattern. Our regular work days have focused on the reserve: cutting and raking vegetation, building bridges and dams, and the installation of a barn-owl box at a precarious altitude. As ever, they have benefitted from the assistance of visiting groups doing community service. The annual fungus foray on 23 October 2016, on and around our nature reserve, was led by the magisterial Dr Tony Leech and was the most popular field meeting of the year, attracting as it does, many non-members and many youngsters. The convivial bring-and-share Christmas party was at Flint Cottage on 17 December 2016. We organised a group of volunteers for the highly successful village litter-pick on Sunday 26 March 2017 and many bags of litter were duly taken to the tip. Our annual pond dipping on 20 May was exceptionally successful; some two dozen folk, including many of the children for whom it is primarily intended, explored our several watery habitats, including both ponds, dykes and the River Chet, and made many exciting discoveries. Bob Kerry led his customary two hedge surveys, on 14 June and 12 July; we are now close to having surveyed all the hedges in the village. The traditional midsummer barbeque on the 'millennium pageant' field was held on 24 June, courtesy of Christopher and Liz Meynell. With the lengthening nights of autumn, we held our first bat walk for some years on 4 September. Ben Jervis introduced the evening with a talk about bat biology in the church until the light faded and, as he predicted, the bats we came closest to were actually flying in the church itself. This was followed by a walk on and around the Trust reserve using bat detectors. If next year is half as eventful, we will still be having a very good time!

Tony Davy

Crib Service 2017 4pm Christmas Eve Bergh Apton Church



Would you like to be part of the tableau that helps to retell the wonderful Christmas story? Regardless of age – children of all ages, toddlers to great (!) grandparents.

Give me a call by 10th December
Shirley 01508 480576

Bergh Apton Society

Bergh Apton Society visit to the Chet and Waveney Valley Vineyard September 4th 2017

John was delighted when he was contacted by Lynton Johnson to ask if he would host a visit and wine tasting by the Bergh Apton Society.

We set the date and planned ahead. Luckily the weather was dry although overcast and so those that ventured out onto the vineyard did not get wet. John welcomed everyone to our newly developing vineyard which he planted just 7 years ago. The vines have been slowly but gradually growing as spotted by several observant neighbours on the corner of Whiteheath Road and Loddon road – very close to St Peter and St Pauls church. We had our first harvest about 3 years ago and year on year the yield has improved. This year we have pressed over 5,000 litres of grape juice.



This year was also the first year that we have actually had a wine ready to be bottled and put on sale – this was Solaris 2016 – a still white wine. This has been described by many as light, crisp, and aromatic. This was on sale through the Green Pastures Farm Shop on Hellington Corner but has now sold out! John's main product is English Sparkling Wine and this takes much longer to produce than still wine as there is a secondary fermentation in the bottle. This will be bottled, and labeled in our winery in Bergh Apton and will be ready for sale by Christmas 2017. It is called Horatio.

Back in the winery he demonstrated our state of the art winery equipment. We have a 1.5 tonne press where the grapes are crushed and large stainless steel vats where the wine ferments. He also showed the Gyropallete which is the modern version of the Remuage process where in the past a person has to manually turn the bottle 1/8th of a turn 2-3 times a day to gradually ease the pellet of yeast to precipitate into the neck of the bottle which is frozen to -26 degrees centigrade prior to the "tirage expedition" when this pellet is removed to leave beautiful clear sparkling wine!





The tour was followed by a tasting in our tasting rooms next to the winery where the BA society members were poured wines by John who then told them about each individually and members had an opportunity to score the wine for colour, nose (aroma) and taste. We compared the Chet and Waveney Solaris with a white wine from Denbies and from Chapel Down. The Chet and Waveney Valley wine did well compared to the others and we sold out of our wine on the day as a result of the enthusiastic interest of the BA Society members.



We really enjoyed your visit and we would welcome you again when we have a greater number and variety of wines to taste – this will be more year on year!



We were very pleased earlier this year also to be accepted as part of the Proudly Norfolk food and drink scheme which recognises Local providers who practice sustainably and responsibly and where all the processes in the production occur in Norfolk.



Accredited Member

Chet and Waveney Valley Vineyard is a Family run boutique Vineyard and Winery based in Sunny South Norfolk on 10 acres (with 19 acres yet to be planted). Artisan wines are handcrafted by prize winning winemaker John Hemmant using a fusion of modern equipment which includes pneumatic grape pressing and temperature controlled stainless steel tanks melded with traditional techniques including secondary fermentation in the bottle to make a sparkling wine with finesse. Still and Rosé wines are also produced.

<https://chetandwaveneyvalleyvineyard.com/>
chetandwaveney.vineyard@gmail.com

We are on Facebook etc. as
 Chet and Waveney Valley Wines
 Also on twitter and Instagram as
 @ukwinemakerwife, @ukwinemaker and
 @Chetandwaveney

Chet and Waveney Valley Vineyard
 Loddon Road
 Bergh Apton
 NR15 1BT
 Tel 01508 333002

Chet and Waveney Vineyard
 Winery and vineyard open by appointment

Stone Angel helps Operation Toasty Toes



Did Glastonbury come to Bergh Apton on 28th October? Anyone viewing the impressive array of equipment and instruments that arrived in preparation for the Stone Angel Folk concert might be forgiven for thinking so.

First came Dave Felmingham, armed with speakers, microphones, keyboard and sound system. Dave then disappeared in the direction of Carrow Road to endure that special and unique form of torture that all supporters of the Canaries can identify with!

The instruments appearing later in the afternoon confirmed that we were in for a treat. In no particular order appeared: piano accordion, flute, recorders, crumhorn, bowed psaltery, bodhran, cittern, Appalachian and hammer dulcimers, guitars of various and multitudinous descriptions.

Stone Angel – Ken and Joan Saul, Dave Felmingham, Andy Smith and Geoff Hurrell – are a Norfolk-based folk group with an established following, many of whom joined with us in enjoyment of the evening. The group combined new compositions and traditional folk tunes, some tweaked for local context, with a virtuosity across so many different instruments that created just the right sound and balance. Sounds of electric and acoustic guitar, mingled with flavours of the sea and ancient Druidic references to uniquely season the evening's entertainment, and banter between the group and their audience of both old and new acquaintance gave the whole evening a wonderful and relaxed family feel. We all felt that there should be a return event before too long.

Bergh Apton church is known for its warm welcome which, sadly, is not always mirrored by the warmth of the building! Remedy for that is on its way with Operation Toasty Toes - the installation of under-pew heating. Sincere thanks must be accorded to Roy Flowerdew, whose generous sponsorship of the occasion in memory of his wife, Jean, has allowed nearly all the proceeds of the evening to be assigned to the heating project.



**SOUTH
YARE
WILDLIFE
GROUP**

You are welcome to join us for a Winter Walk on Sunday 3rd of December.

This will be a guided stroll (1.5miles) from Church Plain, Loddon, to Pye's Mill on the River Chet, followed by seasonal drinks and mince pies at The White Horse, Chedgrave.

**Meet at Church Plain
car park at 2pm
or join us at
The White Horse, 5 Norwich Road,
Chedgrave, NR14 6ND
from 3pm.**

**Free parking in Loddon on Sundays.
Waterproof footwear advisable.**

**The walk including a mince pie,
will be free to members and
non-members. No dogs please.**

**Please view upcoming events on
www.southyarewildlifegroup.org**

A PARABLE FROM NATURE

From Francis Meynell's Book of Scraps - 1930's
Volume III
Translated from the Swedish
WHAT IS LIFE?

One day when the birds had sung themselves quite weary
A long pause ensued, broken at last by a philosophical
Chaffinch with these words:
"What is Life?"

They were all rather startled at the interruption,
but a little Warbler answered at once:
"Life is a Song!"

"No, it is a struggle in darkness!"
said a Mole, who had just succeeded
in getting her head above the ground.

"Life is a development!"
said a Wild Rose-bud as she
unfolded her petals, one by one,
to the delight of a Butterfly, who came to kiss her,
and exclaimed:
"Life is all enjoyment!"

"Call it rather a short Summer day!"
hummed a little Fly, as it flew by.
"I cannot see anything but hard work!"
was the lamentation of the small Ant
as she struggled with a straw ever so much too big for her.

The Magpie only laughed to cover his own poverty of
thought.
The general indignation at such levity
might have resulted in a quarrel
had not the Rain at that moment begun to fall, whispering
sadly:
"Life is made up of tears!"

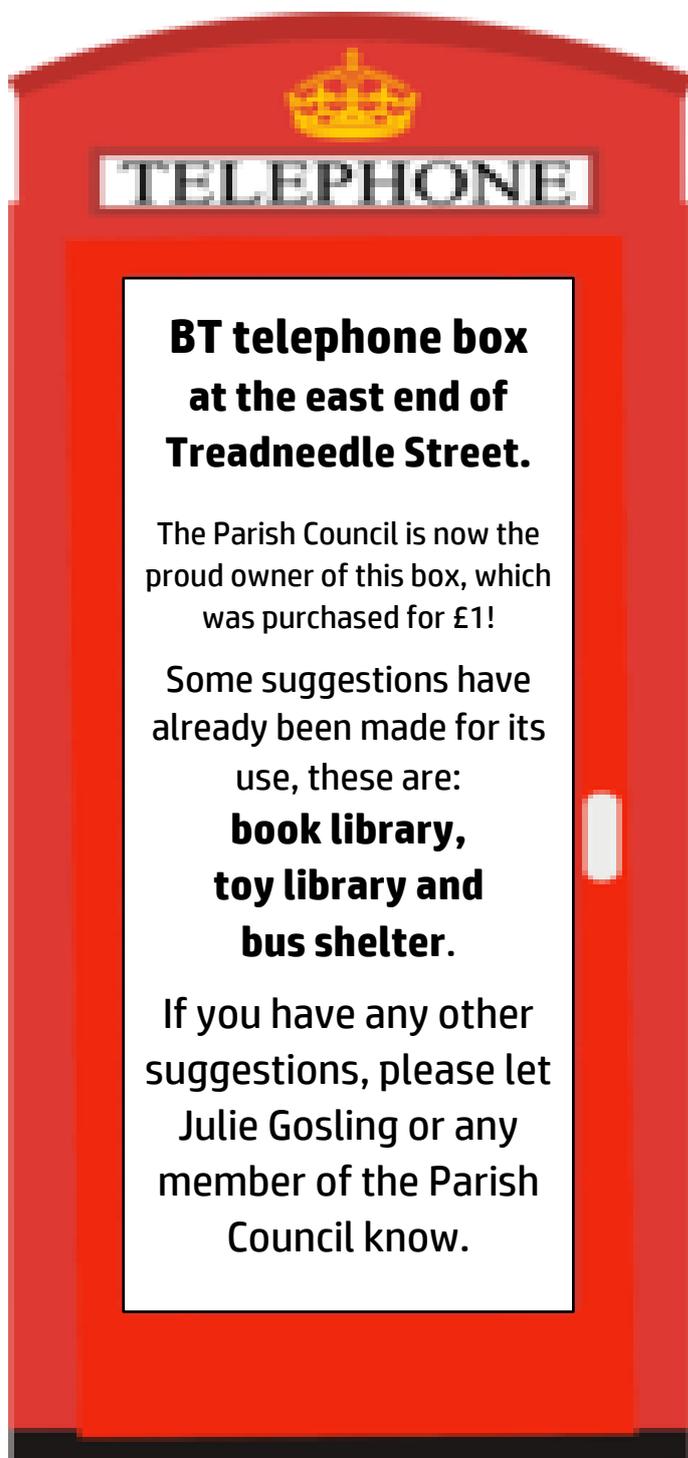
"You are all mistaken!", called out the Eagle, as he
sailed through the air on his majestic wings,
"Life is all strength and freedom!"

Meanwhile it had grown dark,
and a practically minded Bullfinch
suggested that they should go to rest,
and the Night-wind rustled softly through the branches:
"Life is a Dream!"

Silence lay over the town and country,
and the dawn was near, when the Scholar in his lonely room
extinguished his lamp and said:
"Life is but a School!"

and the Youth returned from a night of revelry, moaned in
his heart:
"Life is one long desire ever unfulfilled!"
"It is an eternal mystery!"
fitfully whispered the morning breeze.

Suddenly a rosy light sprang into the horizon,
and tinged with its glow the tops of the Forest Trees,
as it rose in the sky, and as morning kissed the awakening
Earth,
a mighty harmony rang through the world:
"LIFE IS A BEGINNING!"



BT telephone box at the east end of Treadneedle Street.

The Parish Council is now the
proud owner of this box, which
was purchased for £1!

Some suggestions have
already been made for its
use, these are:
**book library,
toy library and
bus shelter.**

If you have any other
suggestions, please let
Julie Gosling or any
member of the Parish
Council know.

SCRAP METAL

I need to clear the scrap metal
already collected before I
receive any more donations.
Many thanks to everyone who
have contributed to the "Pile".

Kevin Parfitt

Doggerland

And Now for some responses to the first music rehearsal (11 October) and the great Mundesley Beach Sculpture day.

Doggerland. Doggerland? Isn't that something I remember hearing in the shipping forecasts on the radio as a child: "Gale force five, visibility nil" and all that? Wait, no; that was Dogger Bight. Of course - Doggerland, as I know from an interest in ancient history, is the name given to the area of land which once connected what are now the British Isles and Continental Europe, today submerged beneath the sea and referred to by some as 'the Atlantis of the North'.

"Songline For Doggerland" is the title of the new production from Hugh Lupton, Charlotte Arculus, Mary Lovett and Bergh Apton Arts, to be performed this coming February.

Having had such a great time taking part in the previous "Mystery Plays" and "Midwinter Dreaming", I tentatively applied for a musician's role in "Doggerland", hoping that there would actually be a slot for a folk-guitar player. As good fortune would have it, I got the call - but while I was a couple of thousand miles away, so when I turned up for my first music rehearsal I was a bit apprehensive. I'd managed to download some of the files Mary had put on Dropbox for us, which proved to be quite an adventure for someone as technologically inept as myself, but it all seemed pretty musical for a humble folk-singer to tackle (although I'd managed to get to grips with the Irish bouzouki for "Midwinter Dreaming" - but that's another story).

I'd only had time for a couple of listens to one of the pieces, but fortunately turned up early at the Meynell's house on 11 October just as Mary herself was arriving, so was able to have a quick run through of one of the other songs with her, figuring out the chords fairly quickly, which was some achievement on my part since Mary was playing the ukelele!

Settling down with a mug of Christopher Meynell's welcome coffee (having audaciously requested a second), I resolved to relax as the other musicians arrived: Sue on flute, Linda on bodhran, Warwick and Carrie on violin and Louisa on accordion, and with Mary on piano, directions and explanations, we began to rehearse the tunes. I needn't have worried; I was able to establish the guitar parts surprisingly quickly as we tried out, tested and reworked the songs all within just two hours. The results were more than satisfying: the material really is superb and a joy to perform.

From the moment I saw The Beatles' first television appearance as a 10-year-old I knew what I wanted to be when I grew up: a member of The Beatles - but failing that, a singer-guitarist in my own right, at least. It eventually came about that I enjoyed a career as a solo musician for some years but I always hankered after playing in an acoustic ensemble of some kind. I managed to realise that ambition in "Midwinter Dreaming", thoroughly enjoying being in the minstrels' gallery for that production, but a little sad when it was eventually all over. But now we're back on the road! And playing such wonderful material too.

It's an honour to be a small part of this venture, being in such professional and talented company. I might not be in The Beatles after all but this is pretty well the next best thing as far as I'm concerned. And that's just the musical side of things. "Songline for Doggerland" is clearly going to be brilliant. Don't miss it, folks. Just don't miss it! **John Sayer**

Sand Sculpture Day with Liz McGowan Sunday 15th October

We arrive on Mundesley beach to a hubbub of activity, much shovelling, buckets full of sand, a multitude of wheelbarrows and a rather cryptic looking grid scored into the wet sand.

We are here to help make a giant sand sculpture which will be filmed to form part of the scenery for the Bergh Apton community play. The play explores Doggerland - the land bridge that existed between Great Britain and Continental Europe during the Mesolithic period.

We say hello to Liz McGowan who is orchestrating the day. Along with some of the others, she has been on the beach since 8am laying the outline and preparing the space so the whole thing flows effortlessly when thirty people all turn up at once to 'help'.



The sculpture is to be of a figure reaching for the sun, and a seal diving into the sea. Our creation will be filmed as the tide comes in and washes it away, just as the sea inundated Doggerland around 8500 years ago.



The outline has been carefully calculated and laid out to take account of perspective. From the ground, the seal has an enormous head and tiny tail and the figure has a tiny head and huge feet. But viewed through the camera on the top of a ladder, it is all in perfect proportion.

We get stuck in, loading up buckets of sand, spreading and sculpting between the lines. We chat and share snacks. There is also time for everyone to discuss preparations for the play itself, ideas and details are swapped with the sun on our backs and sand between our fingers.

Then it is off to do a spot of beach combing for stones and seaweed to add the final touches, taking the opportunity to dip our toes in the sea and take in the glorious day. We leave just after lunch, with the final smooth over and decoration well underway.

Later, at home, the sun sinking and the day drawing in, I look at the clock and remember that the purpose of making the beautiful piece of art today was, of course, to let it go. What a fitting activity for Autumn, the season that teaches us the beauty of letting things go.

Soon the tide will be up and will wash away our day's work whilst the camera rolls. Nothing will be left. Except the lasting inspiration of a beautiful day spent creating together, with the earth and the sea, the fresh air and the sun.

Anna Meynell



Perfect sunny weather for a day on Mundesley beach; way along the sand a group of people and a stepladder were sighted. It was 10.30am and Liz McGowan already had the design drawn, the area defined, wheelbarrows at the ready. Teams set to with a will digging and carting buckets of sand and shaping the figures with hands then plastering trowels. Smooth and complete the mystical human and seal took form, with gathered and sorted stones for eyes and flowing kilt and seaweed for hair. The sand all around was raked in waving lines and the camera up the stepladder recorded as the figures waited the obliteration of the rising tide.

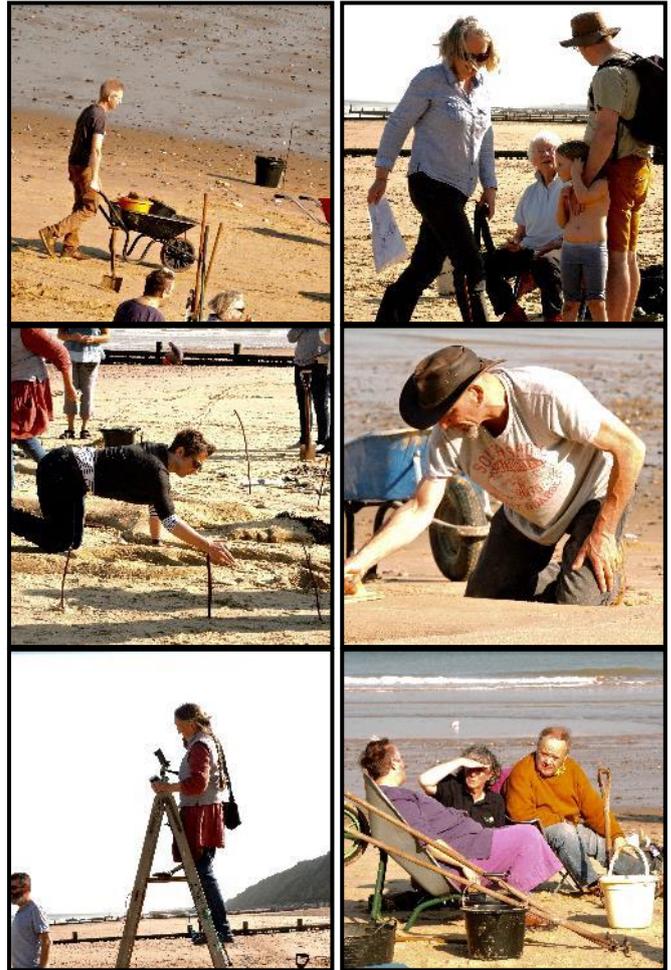
We waited too, the tide was laggardly, a seal poked up its head, curious, dogs were encouraged elsewhere, shadows lengthened, slowly the water rose.

Pippa Thurlow



The Seal & Man about to be inundated

Pics below of: Peter Lyle, Karen Whiterod, Pat Mlejnecky, Elsa & Francis Meynell, Mary Lovett, Phil McCallum, Liz McGowan, Charlotte Arculus, Avis Judd, Peter Sunderland



Pics by Charlotte Arculus, Sheridan Winn, Peter Lyle, Christopher Meynell

And, finally one of the stories written during the Hugh Lupton Creative Writing Workshops in April – this one by Francis Meynell. In the workshops the group developed storylines which Hugh used or alluded to in the Play. The stories published so far have been created around the prompt – describe a Mesolithic Location, and start with the words “I see...”

PEERING BASIN

I see children playing chase games up the wooded escarpment that protects the settled camp like an embracing arm. The children scatter, shrieking with delight, and flit and dart between the trees. Some of them reach the top, the brow of the escarpment, where the rising sun breaks the shadows and pours light into the dell below.

Regruk, the oldest boy, leads his younger sister over the lip of the dell and looks down onto the chasers, taunting them: "We're the Rarkun, We're the Rarkun!" - the shaman-hunter-chief in their language.

They had reached the impression in the land known to them as Peering Basin, a perfect lookout over the plains where the bison and mammoths and deer migrated. Peering Basin was the whole reason for the camp, pitched for the moment the herds would be on the move again.

The families watched the stars each night, chatting about little else, waiting for the moment the constellation of Haelnaes' belt in the night sky took charge over Peering Basin, stating the divine hunter Haelnaes was ready, and calling the families to get ready. When the constellation was in alignment, they knew this to be the moment when the migrating herds would be ready.

Francis Meynell

SONGLINE FOR DOGGERLAND

Bergh Apton Community Arts Production 2018

Preparations for the February Play are gathering pace. As each piece of the production puzzle is put in place the enthusiasm levels grow.

For November, December and January, the heat will get whiter as the rehearsals and preparations increase to a crescendo for BACAT's latest venture. Here are the key dates for your diaries. And do book early to avoid disappointment



Songline for Doggerland

Performances in Bergh Apton Church:

Fri2, Sat3, Fri9, Sat10 February.
Please book early.

Tickets £15, including Refreshments,
in advance ONLY

(limited to 100 per performance)

ONLINE:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/songline-for-doggerland-tickets-38208085412>

TELEPHONE: 01508 480696

Grape Harvest Volunteers

Thank you to all the grape harvest volunteers

John and Bridget Hemmant would like to whole heartedly thank those people from the villages of Bergh Apton, Sisland, Brooke, Seething, Broome, Upper Stoke and further afield, (Norwich, Southampton, Oxted and North London) who gave generously of their time and effort to help with the Grape Harvest at Chet and Waveney Valley Vineyard this Harvest season. We had a good yield this year which was a combination of the maturity of our vines, the weather conditions and the care and attention which John and his staff have been able to give to the vines, pruning, de-leafing etc. We welcome volunteers who are interested to get more involved with the vineyard and winery.



Please contact John or Bridget on 01508 333002 or at Chetandwaveney.vineyard@gmail.com
We are setting up a Chet Valley wine club – details available from John or Bridget.
www.chetandwaveneyvalleyvineyard.com/

Country Diary

SEAL AND HUMAN IN DOGGERLAND.

Seal and Human were born on a day when Summer was having a last fling. Born of sun and sand where the salt sea lips the hem of the land, where sea birds yell and yelp. They are beings of fortune, bound together through the ages by story and song. The bright sun cast fish scales of light on the restless waves. Seal is born knowing the secrets of the sea, born with the memories of his kind. Seal knows that soon, not so long to wait, the flowing tide will swirl around him, welcoming him to swim among forests of long leaved weed that stirs as the sea breathes. He waits with hope in his heart for the incoming tide.

Human is impatient to be born, already grasping for the sun, a being of light, land and air. The kilt of sea wet stones seems to fly like the wings of birds to bear him onward and upward away from the sea's hunger. His mind, like that of Seal's, is a treasure trove of memories and stories.

These sculptures, Seal and Human were made on Mundesley beach as part of our next event, 'Songline for Doggerland'. The making and the creeping in of the high tide to swallow them was filmed and shots will be shown during performances. As we were nearly finishing our masterpieces someone spotted a seal some way out cruising by the groyne and looking inquisitively at our efforts. A little later within a few yards of the shore there was a flash of silver and a fish leapt clean out of the sea, perhaps even one of the 'silver darlings', another interested spectator. We took these two sightings as omens of good fortune.

Seals and humans have a long association in folk tale and song especially common in the Hebrides, Orkney, Ireland and Iceland. The tales tell of the seal people, the Selkies. The Selkies leave the sea to shapeshift into humans and to do this they slip off their sealskins and hide them among the rocks on the shore. Some say this happens every nine tides and others that it happens on Midsummer Eve. To call the seal people to the shore one must weep seven tears into the waves. The stories have a similar thread that a fisherman sees these beautiful young women, steals and hides a skin so its owner cannot return to the sea. They marry and have a family of children, although the Selkie seems happy enough she yearns for her own seal people. One of the children finds the skin tucked away out of sight and shows it to her mother who knows what it is and off she goes to live with her own people who, in return, always see the fisherman's nets are full.

Seals love music and singing and once, quite some years ago while we were walking along Dunwich beach, there was nobody else about and a seal appeared just off shore. He kept pace with us as interested in us as we were with him. We stood at the edge of the beach and sang my favourite English folk song to him, it starts:

The water is wide I cannot get o'er
And neither have I wings to fly
Bring me a boat that will carry two
And both shall row my love and I.

Seal did not join in but stayed and listened, a moment to remember.

The British Isles has a number of 'drowned' towns, small islands, marsh areas and small settlements all around the

coast. Time has tricks up its sleeve and over millions of years now and then gives the tectonic plates a nudge, so they slip and slide, jostle, knock elbows and rearrange the continents. Vast continents, Gondwanaland, Laurasia, Pangaea and Mauritia broke up and formed new areas of lands and some sunk to form sea kingdoms. The British Isles were once neither British nor an island, Doggerland was a huge tract of land stretching from our east coast to the Continent and 'one might walk dryshod from France to England'*. Mesolithic people lived here, they were hunters and gatherers. Research has found it was an area rich in wooded valleys, hills and rivers with lagoon and marshes full of fish and fowl. It is thought that about 8000 years ago an earthquake off the coast of Norway caused a huge tsunami and this landbridge was engulfed.

'Cromarty, Forth, Tyne, Dogger.....'the litany of the shipping forecast, its familiarity assured and reassuring. Several hundred years ago the Dutch fished for cod over this drowned land and just as our fishing boats were drifters so theirs were doggers, hence the name, 'Doggerland'.

It is not only forces of Nature that bring change. In our event we show that in Victorian times the thirst for the sciences included geology and the ideas that came from the study of rocks and fossils challenged the long established teaching of the Church as to the age of Earth and its creation. Charles Darwin is probably the most well known of those who radically changed long held ideas. In Lyme Regis that fossil finder extraordinaire, Mary Anning, found creatures embedded in stone that stood once respected ideas on their heads! In our own twenty-first century we have become aware of the climate changing due to our species needs and greed.

Our events are not just plays but are immersive theatre and in 'Songline for Doggerland' past and present meet. Words, images, music, song all beautifully entwined to give a host of memories to delight the mind.

*H.G. Wells

Pat Mlejnecky



**BERGH APTON
VILLAGE HALL
JUMBLE SALE
REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE
SATURDAY 13TH JANUARY
2PM – 4PM**



Dates for your diary 2017/2018

DECEMBER 2017

3 rd	12.30	Christmas Lunch at Village Hall
6 th	10.00-16.00	Christmas Wreath Workshop at B.A. Village Hall
8 th	19.00 for 19.30	Christmas Bingo at B.A. Village Hall
15 th	19.30	B.A. Society Christmas dinner
16 th	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
16 th	19.30	BACT Christmas Party at Flint Cottage
18 th	18.30	Carol singing around the village, meet at Village Hall
21 st	09.30-12.00	Decorate Church for Christmas
21 st	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
22 nd	18.00	Carol Service at Parish Church
24 th	16.00	Crib Service at Parish Church
25 th	09.30	Holy Communion Service at Parish Church

JANUARY 2018

1 st	09.30	New Year Breakfast at the Village Hall
10 th	19.30	B.A. Society talk by Ray Wharton on Bygones + Cheese & Wine at Village Hall
11 th	19.30	Parish Council meet at the Village Hall
13 th	14.00-16.00	Jumble Sale at the Village Hall
17 th	10.00-12.00	Coffee n Chat at Village Hall
20 th	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
23 rd	12.30	Tuesday Friends at Parish Church
25 th	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
27 th	09.00	11 Says assembly at B.A.Village Hall

FEBRUARY

2 nd	19.00	Songline for Doggerland
3 rd	19.00	Songline for Doggerland
9 th	19.00	Songline for Doggerland
10 th	19.00	Songline for Doggerland

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 484052

(Bergh Apton Society)

Lynton Johnson: 01508 480629

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Bergh Apton Village Hall

Bergh Apton Parish Council

Bergh Apton Parochial Church Council

The Bergh Apton and District Society



February - March

Copy Deadline: 1st January

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Thank you