



# The Bergh Apton Newsletter

Issue 161

Bi-Monthly

February 2019

**COOKERY CORNER, ANYONE?** I'm thinking about doing a regular column on stuff like home cooking and household hints. In those long ago and unlamented days, when girls did kitcheny-stuff and boys did wood and metal working, I think it used to be called "*domestic science*". Based on the old adage that "*one volunteer is worth ten pressed men*" I'd like to invite you to take up this modest little two-monthly challenge. It doesn't have to be limited to cooking; you may have really good household skills and tips that you'd be happy to reveal . . . here's the opportunity! If you've learned such skills as doing the shake-and-vac (*ooops - that dates me!*) with one hand while making the perfect bechamel sauce with the other, this is your chance to tell us. You don't have to reveal who you are (except to me) and we can make up a *nom-de-plume* for you. Go on, you can do it! Give me a call on 01508 480439.

## LARDAL KANTORI

by Peter Boardman

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November the season of Advent got off to a wonderful start when Lardal Kantori returned to Bergh Apton Church for their 7<sup>th</sup> visit. This Norwegian choir never fails to entertain with a delightful variety of their own carols and some sung in both Norwegian and English.

They also sang a trio of carols written by Great Yarmouth organist and musician John Farmer and some items put to music by their own conductor Kjell Haakestad. One of these was taken from a little-known religious based book of short stories and poems written by Agatha Christie.

As ever, we the audience were asked to partake in the chorus and actions of the old favourite "O jul med din glede" which roughly translates to "O Christmas, you season of childlike delight".

The choir brought two soloists, newcomer Sakarias Fredriksen Tranvaag and Filip Haakestaad who was making his sixth visit to Bergh Apton. Each soloist sang quite beautifully before teaming up for a duet that simply filled the church with their powerful rendition of "O Holy Night".

The Choir returned to produce their own rousing rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus followed by the concert ending "We wish you a merry Christmas" in their own inimitable Norwegian style.

The concert was attended for the first time by the deputy Mayor of Lardal, Olav Nordheim who was not only keen to take a photographic record of both the Choir and the audience, but also gave a speech of thanks along with gifts of a book by the famous explorer Tor Heyerdahl of "Ra" fame, who was from the Lardal area.

The concert concluded with thanks from Churchwarden John Ling on behalf of Bergh Apton that were reciprocated on behalf of the choir by Kjell and, as already mentioned, on behalf of the town of Lardal by Deputy Major Olav Nordheim.

The audience and choir then enjoyed mulled wine and a wonderful buffet, mingling with each other as many of those watching as well as those taking part renewed old acquaintances.

This concert has become a firm fixture in the Bergh Apton Calendar and is even attracting an audience from outside the village.

A great evening, with many thanks to all concerned.

## THE TRIPLE-B (BERGH APTON'S BIG BREAKFAST)

There are few pleasures so early in the New Year as the experience of walking into Bergh Apton village hall on the morning of New Year's Day and catching the aroma of eggs, bacon, mushrooms, beans and so much more that wafts out of the kitchen (and the "pop" of the cork of yet another bottle of sparkle to freshen up the Buck's Fizz).

It's such a pleasure to meet and greet neighbours, friends and others who come from near and far, from Bergh Apton and from neighbouring villages from which many people walk to enjoy the experience of The Big Breakfast.

It's a triumph of good food, good planning, and super support from a team that runs the gamut from the specialist omelette-maker to the baked-bean cook, and from the washer-uppers to the Front of House team. I know it's a well worn phrase, but this lot really do tick all the boxes that make a good village occasion.

Plaudits must go (tho' they might try an hide from them) to the Parfitt family, the backbone of the event. It is orchestrated by Kevin and Theresa but, more and more, the event is being run by Rebecca, Johnny, Rachel and their circle of family and friends.

I thought this mangled but appropriate misquotation from Shakespeare's *Henry V Act IV* might be noted by those who missed it!

*And gentlemen in England now a-bed  
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here,  
And hold their manhoods cheap while any speaks  
That ate with us upon this New Year's Day!*

### **A BRIEF PORTRAIT OF GIL ELMER AS A BOY**

*Our Birmingham-based but Bergh Apton-raised correspondent Gil Elmer was born in Canada in 1930 during the quite short time that his mother Florence (nee Bush) lived there. Three months after he was born they returned to UK where, the following year, Florence married Arthur Elmer.*

*As a five year old child Gil has only vague memories of the time, in 1935, when they moved from Seething to what is now Endene Cottage (below in the 1930s) on The Street, Bergh Apton.*



*But his memories of three years later, when he and his sisters Doris and Brenda fell ill with Scarlet Fever, are very sharp - including the day that they were taken by ambulance from their parents' freshly-fumigated home to the (brand-new but reported as outmoded even when new) Isolation Hospital in Dereham.*

*Gil remembers fondly his days at Bergh Apton's National School (opposite the church) to which he walked every day, and his friends Maurice and Owen Lock, the children of the Postmaster at the Post Office (now Holly Cottage). Later, when Gil stayed on at Bergh Apton but the Lock boys went to fee-paying Bracondale School in Norwich, Gill recalls that though they remained friends their mutual feelings did change.*

*Here below is Gil's latest news and some more Bergh Apton memories:*

### **DOWN MEMORY LANE**

*By Gil Elmer*

Hello to you all. I will start by sending all my best wishes for a straight forward and happy life, with few political problems, during 2019. I just wonder if that is possible, would be nice to think so.

I trust you had a trouble free Christmas and New Year. I had a nice start in the lead up to Christmas; I was sitting in my chair, minding my own business, when the phone rang. I answered the call, and a voice said, "Can you help me as I am trying to speak to "Giggy". I realised who it was and let out laughing. I could not really make out what was being said and I said, "Is that you Peter."

And, of course it was Peter Annis. We had quite a long chat, talking over many different things and then he asked if I would like to have a word with Poppy. I did so and it was nice to have a chat with her. She seemed to be doing OK and I was pleased about that. So a big thank you to them both.

Whilst we were talking, we mentioned my family. After the call I thought about the happenings over recent years and just wondered if those of you who remember the family are aware of what has hit us over recent years. As some of you may know, Doris married Bob, US Airman, and they settled in Bangor, Maine. Bob had a sad ending, suffered the Big C and died in 1993.

Anne and I attended his funeral and that was our last visit to USA. Doris then had a very tough few years with her heart, diabetes and cancer which, sadly, took her life in April 2012.

At that time Brenda was enjoying the best of health. We understood she had a heart condition and she sadly passed away in May 2012, very suddenly, with cancer. This left Russell on his own and he seemed to be coping very well and his three daughters were there for him. He had not been ill but in March 2015 he was found dead in his chair and he had suffered a heart attack.

So the immediate family is almost gone, just Olive and myself left. Olive is still living in Norwich but I never hear from her. When she has been approached she just stated she has her own family to think about. It is very sad but you can't account for the views of individuals.

I think that sums up the family situation for the time being so I can now get to work in looking back over my life to see what I can find about life in "The Good Old Days", as they say, during the last War and then years that followed.

I know I have mentioned many things that I could recall so I hope I will not be repeating too many in the coming months. It gets the old brain working, digging deep, hoping I can write something that makes sense and educate the younger generation as to what we had to do to amuse ourselves. Money was always short and we had to be satisfied with whatever was given at Birthdays and Christmas. We could not ask for and expect to get a large amount of toys and games. To the younger generation this might seem vey mean but that is how it was and had to be accepted. I have to say I had a very happy childhood, as I think most children did because we were all in the same situation. It made us appreciate what we were given.

Well folks, I will leave you for now hoping you have a pleasant winter, a little snow would be nice but I am sorry I have no control over that.

My regards to all, Gil.

## COUNTRY DIARY—THE GREEN KNIGHT - Part 2

*In the December 2018 edition of the Newsletter, in her first part of telling of the Legend of the Green Knight, Pat Mlejnecky told us of the young Saxon named Grif who travelled with his dog Grim to the Court of King Arthur in Avalon where the celebrations for the 12 days of Christmas, and how those celebrations were brought to an abrupt halt with the entrance of the terrifying Green Knight. He challenged any Knight to cut off his head but, a year and a day hence, to submit himself to the same treatment by the Green Knight. Arthur's nephew Gawain stepped forward and struck. All present saw the now-headless Green Giant stand up and leave, having reminded Gawain of his obligation.*

From full moon to full moon the year aged. Tomorrows became todays and todays became yesterdays. At Hallowmas, with head held high but with heavy heart, Gawain prepared to set out to find the Green Knight. Pages buckled on his harness and his destrier Gringolet was led out, his iron shod hooves clattering on the cobbles. All gathered to wish Gawain Godspeed and a safe return.

Which way should he go? Then, high overhead, a flight of wild geese like an arrow head in formation pointed the way and I, Grif, whispered, 'Follow.'

The one true God or the little gods, who knows, set not only Gawain on his way but I, too, with Grim at heel followed the way of the wild geese.

It was a winter without pity, such a winter that tales would be told long after. Icicles long as lances hung from crag and spur and wild winds swept stinging sleet across the land. Gawain rode on haunted by thoughts of what was to come. Nobody he met had heard of the Green Knight. He met with fierce foes, grappled with giants, battled with bears. Wodwos<sup>1</sup> and wolves lay in wait for him and dragons wreathed him in fierce flames.



It was Christmas Eve and Gawain recited his paternoster and, in despair, prayed to Our Lady Mary to help him. Then, through the trees, he saw turrets and towers, a stronghold of stone. He approached and asked the gatekeeper if the Lord of the castle would grant entry to a weary traveller. Within moments the drawbridge was lowered and Gawain rode in and no man was made more welcome than Gawain.

Gawain dined with his host, Sir Bercilak, a tall knight with fox red hair and beard. Feasting and fun restored Gawain and he became spry and spruce. To him the evening passed like a dream. Sir Bercilak's wife favoured him with shy smiles and soft whispers. Gawain explained why he journeyed, he had a promise to keep so he must leave the next day.

<sup>1</sup> A medieval "wild man of the woods"

Sir Bercilak told him the Green Chapel of the Green Knight was but a couple of miles away and to lose so gracious a guest as Gawain would be sad, there was no hurry for him to leave. He would be hunting for the next three days but Gawain must rest and his wife would entertain him.

He suggested a strange game that what he caught while hunting he would give to Gawain and what Gawain gained in the castle he must give to his host. Gawain thought this a puzzling pact but a good game and agreed.

While the winter moon was still faint and frail in the sky the hunt set off next morning with shouts of, 'Halloo, hoi, hoi, hoi.' Gawain awakened as his door opened and his host's wife entered. She coaxed and charmed, flattering him with the suggestion he would make a fine bedfellow. Gawain, mindful, of his vows as a knight, just gave her one kiss and sent her away.

When the huntsmen returned Sir Bercilak gave Gawain a fine stag and asked what he would get in return and Gawain kissed him once. When Sir Bercilak asked from where the kiss came Gawain replied that to tell was not part of their game.

The next morning with the avaut from a hunting horn to quicken the blood, away galloped men and hounds. As before his host's wife entered and teased and tempted him and enticed him to give her two kisses.

Later in the day the huntsmen returned after killing a great wild boar in a fierce and ferocious hunt. Sir Bercilak presented it to Gawain and asked what he would have in return. Gawain put his hands on his host's shoulders and kissed him twice and when he was asked from where he got the kisses he again replied that to tell was not part of their game.

On the third morning while Orion hunted in the fields of heaven and too early for the mistle thrush to bring in the morning, the hunters rode out with hounds belling and hooves clattering. Gawain awakened. He was well rested now and knew he must leave the next day to find the Green Chapel and meet the Green Knight. He drowsed and yet again the beautiful wife of his host came in. She kissed and caressed him and chided him that he did not respond. Did he have a love in Camelot? Gawain assured her there was no love of his heart and that he must stay staunch and steadfast to his vows as a knight. She took from her finger a ring set with a ruby that gleamed and glowed as though full of fire and offered it to Gawain as a keepsake.



*Huntsmen sound the Avaunt. A late 12th Century hunting scene from "Livre de la Chase"*

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But he refused, saying that he had nothing to give and would accept nothing.

She untied her belt, a narrow band of grass green velvet hemmed with stitches of gold thread. 'Then take this to remind you of me. It seems but a trifling thing but has powerful magic to protect the one who wears it. Do not tell my husband I have given you such a gift, we will keep it a secret, you and I.'

Gawain had no wish to be killed, he was no Green Knight to pick up his head and ride back to Camelot. He accepted the gift and now, with hope in his heart, faced the day.

When Sir Bercilak returned from hunting Gawain greeted him with three kisses. 'You have been lucky today, all I got was this scrawny fox, tell me how came you by these kisses ? Gawain shook his head and replied yet again to tell was not part of their game.

The next day Gawain and his guide followed an old military road across country. After a mile they turned into a track edged with wind-bitten hawthorn and briar. A threadbare moon hung in the sky and high overhead a hunting buzzard mewed - the only sound in a winterland stripped of life. It was the wolf's season.

*To be concluded.*



Bergh Apton Conservation Trust is running its

## Annual Litter Pick

on:

# Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March

meet at

### Bergh Apton Village Hall at 1.30PM

*Everyone is invited to come along  
and help us clean up our village!*

For more information  
call Bob Kerry  
on 01508 480661



# B-Lines



Come and learn more about  
how we can help bees and other  
pollinating insects in our area

A talk by Paul Hetherington of 'Buglife'

## 7.30pm Thursday 14 March



Porringland Community Centre, Overtons Way NR14 7WB  
Members free, non-members £2, under 16s free.  
All welcome. No booking required.

[www.southyarewildlifegroup.org](http://www.southyarewildlifegroup.org)

Charity Ref No: XT31995 2019

Read Tony Day's article on p..6 for the story behind this poster (above) and how Bergh Apton's Valley Marsh (images on the left) is involved in a new wildlife project.

## CHRISTMAS TREE PLEA

It's only February - surely far too early for any of us to start thinking about Christmas 2019! But you can be sure that they're already planning "Seasonal Promotions" on the High Street and at Amazon.

Here in Bergh Apton - based on our experience this year over the church Christmas tree - we too need to be the early worm!

**So here's the question: Do you have, somewhere on your property, a well-formed fir tree of somewhere between 12 and 15 feet high, that you would be willing - when the time is right - to donate to become the centrepiece of Bergh Apton parish church's 2019 Christmas Season?**

If you do, and maybe even two (so that we can plan 2020 as well!) do call John Ling on 01508-480439 who will be delighted to hear from you.

You will be following in illustrious footsteps. The trees of the past seven years have come from Janet and David Skedge (2011), Hugh and Tiff Porter (2012), Tony & Linda Davy (2013-2105) and Anna Guy (2016-2017) who allowed John Ling and Dennis Moye to raid their garden with Dennis's chainsaw and carry off a magnificent trophy to the church on John's trailer.

Before 2011, and for many years until it almost exhausted their small plantation on White Heath Road, the tree had come from George and Audrey Harvey.

But our experience of 2018 tells us that we need not just to plan ahead; we must also take nothing for granted as we just might have done this year.

It was this way: Jill and Richard Herring had kindly offered to provide the tree for 2018. It was a magnificent fir growing in their garden on Cooke's Road. We all relaxed, source of tree secured, awaiting the season.

But consternation! In the days leading up to the

time to fell it, a closer evaluation revealed the telephone line passing close to one side of the tree and the power line the other! Even professional tree surgeon Simon Aylmer assessed the potential as "impossible without running too great a risk".

So we had, for the first time in years, to put our hands in our pockets and pay for a fine 12 foot tree from Green Pastures to stand in the church.

But we'd love to revert this year to the greatly-appreciated gift of a tree from a village household. If you can help, please do give John a call (01508 480439)

## WOULD YOU BE A GOOD PARISH COUNCILLOR FOR BERGH APTON?

*by Julie Gosling, Clerk to Bergh Apton Parish Council*

Bergh Apton Parish Council has a composition of seven councillors. There are no vacancies at present but, In May 2019, there is to be an election of a **new** Parish Council.

All present Councillors who wish to serve again, and all who wish to serve as new Councillors, are eligible to stand.

Being a parish councillor is a rewarding and varied form of public service. Councillors contribute to the work of the Parish Council by:

- Having a say about the things they care about
- Putting forward ideas for better services
- Responding to needs and views of parishioners
- Seeking the best outcome to local issues
- Getting involved in making decisions
- Helping to make Bergh Apton a better place to live

Bergh Apton's Parish Council normally meets every 2 months at the Village Hall. Meetings commence at 7pm and, depending on the Agenda, last around 2 hours. Councillors have a statutory duty to attend meetings on a regular basis.

We are keen to encourage prospective parish councillors. Why not come along to our next meeting on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February** to see what happens?

You can read about the forthcoming election process on the South Norfolk Council website:

<https://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/residents/elections-and-registration/current-elections>

South Norfolk Council is also running

### A PROSPECTIVE COUNCILLOR EVENT on 11<sup>th</sup> February,

Places can be reserved online at [elections@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:elections@s-norfolk.gov.uk) for which the closing date is 30<sup>th</sup> January... but it's worth checking in case that deadline has been extended.

If you can't attend you will be able to find the information when SNC uploads it to its website.



*Kevin Gotts took this photo that includes the beautiful 14 ft tree that Linda and Tony Davy donated in 2015.*

## THE CHET VALLEY B-LINE

by Professor *Tony Davy*

You might have noticed that there are ever fewer bees and butterflies about as the years go by.

In this era of habitat loss, insecticide use and climate change, pollinating insects need all the help we can give them - if they are to survive in sufficient numbers to perform their essential tasks. 'B-Lines' are a multifaceted approach to conserving pollinators and the flowers on which they depend. They will be a series of insect-friendly corridors weaving through our countryside, villages and towns, along which we aim to restore a series of 'stepping stones' rich in flowers, food plants and habitat for overwintering. They will link existing wildlife areas together creating a network that will benefit bees, hoverflies, butterflies and a host of other wildlife.

Bergh Apton Conservation Trust is promoting a B-Line along the valley of the River Chet – the first in Norfolk. Central to this is our own 10 acres of marsh, wet-



land and woodland in Bergh Apton but it will run all the way from Poringland to Hardley, including we hope many other sites of conservation

value. Poringland Parish Council voted to support it at its January meeting and agreed that the B-Line could start in its Community Land Project when that project is up and running. This land includes springs which are a source of the Chet. At the other end, Chedgrave and Loddon Councils have recently passed motions in support.

You could help! If you manage any land in the Chet Valley (defined broadly) in a pollinator-friendly way, or would like to, please contact Tony Davy ([a.davy@uea.ac.uk](mailto:a.davy@uea.ac.uk)) to join the discussion and be associated with the B-Line. We are in only the early planning stages at the moment.

Would you like to learn more about how we can help bees and other pollinating insects in our area? The South Yare Wildlife Group (SWYG) is pleased to announce that Paul Hetherington of the conservation charity 'Buglife' will be coming to the **Poringland Community Centre** to talk about 'B-Lines' on **Thursday, 14 March. The door opens at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 start.**

There will be time for discussion if you have ideas you would like to share. It is free for members of SYWG, or £2 for non-members.

## RECOLLECTIONS OF CYPRUS 1963

by *Christopher Meynell*

*In this article Christopher Meynell of Bergh Apton remembers the dramatic events of December 1963 when he was serving with the British Army Garrison in Cyprus, located in what was known as the Episkopi Sovereign Base Area near the south coast city of Limassol, and a little over 65 miles south of the capital Nicosia.*



*Cyprus, 1963: Major General Peter Young and his ADC Christopher*

*Christopher, then a young officer in the 1st Green Jackets, formerly the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (the Ox and Bucks), was Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to Major-General Peter Young, the Commander of British Land Forces in Cyprus who, over Christmas 1963, was called on by the Cyprus Government to help calm the hostilities*

*that had broken out between the Greek and Turkish communities of the island. This was an ancient internecine rivalry that had been brought to boiling point a few days earlier by the murder of two Turkish Cypriots by Greek Cypriots.*

*The island, granted independence from Great Britain only three years earlier and after nearly a hundred years of colonial rule, was governed by an uneasy coalition in which the ethnic Greeks were led by the President, Archbishop Makarios, and the Turks by the Vice-President, Fazıl Küçük. The first part of Christopher's account of events takes us from the outbreak of hostilities a couple of days before Christmas to a crucial meeting two days later between General Young and Vice President Küçük that saw the dawning of a resolution that would divide the island into two separate parts, Greek and Turk, that remain segregated even today - fifty-five years later.*

### **Christmas Day, 1963. Cyprus**

Frantic! Telephones ringing – church – office – ops room – home. Christmas Service led by the RAF padre George Church(!) in the morning. Check on teleprinter's latest offerings. Quick lunch. Hardly normal for Christmas.

Not even time to walk with my dog, Giselle. Everything was blowing up. Then we received the news that President Archbishop Makarios and the Vice President Küçük had called for a cease-fire and had asked the British Army to supervise it.

Back home in England nobody was interested. They were all too busy eating their Christmas pudding. Ankara definitely was interested, though, and sent two Turkish Air Force fighters to buzz Nicosia and warships to appear off Kyrenia, causing anxiety levels, especially among the Greek Cypriots, to rise to new heights.

General Young wrote afterwards *“Somehow we had our family Christmas Dinner that night but it was a fairly distraught Daddy who carved the turkey (and that was not a metaphor).*

*“After dinner, Christopher Meynell my ADC and I removed our funny hats and returned to work. He to organise our move, and I to a teleprinter conference with the Ministry of Defence for which I had asked.”*

Early on Boxing Day General Young flew to Nicosia where, by 1000 hrs (10 o'clock), he had organized a combined British, Greek and Turkish force – the Joint Truce Force – to operate under his command.

All quite unprecedented; a British Army force together with units of two foreign armies (albeit fellow-members of NATO) all under the command of a British officer, standing in the middle of a war in an independent Commonwealth country!

His resources being slim, General Young defined the role of the Force as being limited to “keeping the peace”, leaving the task of restoring order (even tho’ they seemed to have little interest in such action) to the Government of Cyprus. The General’s main objective was to stop the majority (70%) Greek population from attacking the (30%) Turkish population of the island.

Readying for the trip on the main road to Nicosia with all the uncertainties of the situation in mind, I seemed to be rushing around gathering anything that might be needed without knowing how long, where, or with whom we might need it. Talk about “hoofing” it!

Collecting a pistol from a surprised armourer called in from his day-off, I strapped it to my belt, packed my toothbrush and we set off for Nicosia in a small convoy made up of the General’s car and a Land Rover fitted with a wireless set. Our party consisted of the General, me, our two drivers - Mac Macdonald and Bill Moss - Rifleman Taffy Richards and a wireless operator. We were joined by Major Michael Perrett-Young, the head of the British Army Intelligence Unit. Contrary to protocol and hoping that it would provide a degree of protection (but knowing it would be of little use if the shooting started) we flew a large Union Jack on the bonnet of the General’s car.

Those uncertainties on the road were indeed present: unexpected roadblocks; tortuous and dusty diversions; armed and probably untrained irregulars; and the sounds of gun-shots. At one point we were flagged down by an hysterical woman who told us in barely intelligible English that her village had been attacked and pleaded for our immediate intervention. But our priority was to get to Nicosia post-haste so we put a radio call out for the incident to be investigated.

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## **BERGH APTON & DISTRICT SOCIETY**

### **ANNUAL DINNER** *by Jasmine Wood*

Forty-four people, comprising members of the Bergh Apton and District Society and their guests, enjoyed the Society’s Christmas celebrations in the Gardener’s Kitchen at Green Pastures on 24<sup>th</sup> November. The staff had prepared great food and there was a good selection of wines set out on the five beautifully-laid and decorated tables. A raffle organised by Jennie Daniells Shelagh and Terry Yallop was enormous and ranged from hampers, whisky and wine to pot-plants and chocolates.

The Society’s chairman, Lynton Jonson told the company that the Society’s membership is increasing each year. He thanked Jenny Hall for her research into and the booking of the good variety of interesting speakers and demonstrations for the monthly meetings held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in Bergh Apton village hall (*see p.9 for 2019 talks*).

Lynton was applauded for the arrangements he had made for our Summer outings and this year’s holiday on the Isle of Wight. He responded by acknowledged everyone who had helped to make the Society such a success this year.

We look forward to another good year in 2019. Thank you, Lynton!

## **NEW ROAD NAME SIGNAGE**

In late 2018 the Parish Council sought the help of South Norfolk District Council (SNC) to repair or replace original street name signs on Bergh Apton’s roads and lanes that were not enhancing our image as a community.



Many of them, through old age, weather damage, the odd incident of vandalism and even the impact of the odd car or two, had begun to suffer and needed either TLC or replacement. In other locations such as Lion Lane a name sign was either missing or, possibly, had never been installed.

You may have noticed that, since sometime in November, SNC has leapt onto the job with enthusiasm and has replaced many of the damaged signs and installed where missing. Signs with bent and mangled angle-iron supports are gone and have been replaced by smart new ones made from recycled synthetic material that make them both eco-friendly AND with a significantly longer life than the old steel ones. Thank you South Norfolk Council!



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At times during those diversions we had to take our lives into our hands - actually in Mac's hands - and then came up to and overtook a convoy of the Gloucestershire Regiment (famous as *the "Glorious Glosters"* who had won universal respect for their actions at the Imjin River in Korea). They were also on the road to Nicosia, and they, too, were flying enormous Union Jacks (see right) under the command of Peter Varley who had won the VC in Korea .



The Glosters had been given only 24 hours' notice to deploy and this rapid response to a crisis was repeated by British units all over the island including 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Jackets, the RAF Regiment and numerous logistical support teams.

At times on this helter-skelter trip my hand hovered all a-tremble above my unbuttoned pistol holster. The main scare was at the outskirts of Nicosia at a police roadblock manned by a desperate-looking quartet of decidedly trigger-happy Greek Cypriots.

Though we Brits were publicly welcomed, it was always at the back of our minds that it was fellows like these who had fought against the British only a few years ago in the time when EOKA, Greek Cypriots who wanted union with Greece, had killed 400 British soldiers during a brutal struggle that had ceased only when the island gained its independence in 1960.

Luckily for us Mac knew a back route through to RAF Nicosia where our HQ had been established in some hangars. There we set about finding ourselves places to work, lining up telephones, food and somewhere for the night, while Peter Young went off to



*Evidence of flight; possessions piled onto a makeshift trolley in Nicosia as a Turkish family prepares to flee the fighting in the city.*

talk to the people at the British High Commission and at the Turkish Embassy (that had been under fire from Greek Cypriots for three days and was serving as a sanctuary for several hundred women and children).

He then persuaded the Greek & Turkish Ambassadors and the Commanders of their respective armed forces to meet him that afternoon. All agreed to form joint patrols - one man from each army who shared at least one common language.

These patrols, in the charge of Major Paul Greenwood (of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Jackets), proved highly successful in gathering information and, on occasion, stopped the fighting.

Peter Young eventually rejoined us at midnight in the RAF hangar, having been negotiating hard with President Makarios. But we wouldn't be there long. The next day, 27<sup>th</sup> December, we set off in our convoy that had been given added protection in the form of two RAF Regiment Ferrets (small fast armoured scout cars) to meet Vice President Küçük at his residence, the former Deputy Governor's house now guarded by armed irregulars, all looking in need of sleep and a shave, all nervy and on-edge.

Peter Young was accompanied to this meeting in the house by one of his key advisers, Major Ted



*General Young outside the old Deputy Governor's house with two of the leaders of the Turkish Cypriot community .*

Macey, a vastly-capable Greek and Turkish speaker who held a black belt in judo, was an expert knife thrower and pistol shot - a regular 'superhero'. Tragically, he was later killed by irregulars in an incident the full account of which has never been uncovered.

I remained outside the house with the radio, noting important events to pass on in due course and taking the

odd photograph for posterity. We even had a moment to play cards on the bonnet of one of the armoured cars.

Suddenly, a commotion! Michael Perrett-Young stormed out of the house having discovered that his pistol had been stolen. After I threatened the unshaven guards with airstrikes and the full paraphernalia of war the pistol was shamefacedly returned.

This incident did have one beneficial outcome. It gave General Young a bit of return leverage to balance the Turks' annoyance that Young, on the previous evening during his discussions with Archbishop Makarios, had come to an agreement without consulting them (a consultation that, under the circumstances, was simply not possible).

*Ed: next time, Christopher writes of the Greeks offering their entire Navy and Air Force to General Young and of Duncan Sandys, British Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, flying in to a conference that would resolve the immediate crisis. It was during these talks that a dividing line was agreed to separate the two island nationalities. It was a line that was to have a lasting impact on the history books - via a green chinagraph pencil.*

**BERGH APTON CONSERVATION TRUST  
ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2019**

- Saturday 9 March:** Litter Pick, meet at Bergh Apton Village Hall, 1.30 pm
- Saturday 18 May:** Pond Dipping, Meet on Valley Marsh, 2pm.
- Wednesday 19 June:** Hedge survey. Park on hard-standing on Cookes Road, 2 pm.
- Saturday 22 June:** Midsummer Celebration at Flint Cottage (Davys), from 6.30pm
- Sunday 7 July:** Butterfly Hunting at Holt Country Park. Meet at Church Field at 11.15am (or at Holt, 12.30 pm)
- Thursday 18 July:** Hedge survey. Venue to be decided, 7 pm
- Saturday 20 July:** Silver Jubilee Celebration (Provisional - details in due course)
- Sunday 28 July (provisional) :** Summer excursion to Grimes Graves in conjunction with History Group. Meet Church Field, 11.15am
- Thursday 5 Sept:** (Back up Monday 9 September): Bat Evening. Meet at the Church, 6.15pm
- Date to be Fixed:** Insects
- Wednesday 25 Sept:** AGM at BA Village Hall. 7.30 pm. Speaker to be arranged
- Sunday 20 October:** Fungus Foray. Meet at Church Field, 1.30 pm
- December:** Date to be arranged. Christmas Party. 

**TRUST LANDS WORKDAYS**

*If you like the open air and take pleasure from maintaining natural habitats, you will be most welcomed to join us on Workdays on Church Plantation and (below) Valley Marsh. We meet in the Church Field at 10.00 am on the third Saturday and fourth Thursday of every month.*



**SPEED MONITORING IN BERGH APTON**

A SAM2 speed monitor is now in place on Mill Road, a black rectangular sign mounted on a post. It will, over time, move to different locations in Bergh Apton’s 30 mph restricted speed zones.



It has been bought by the Parish Council using our CIL funds so that its capital cost and maintenance will not fall on us as residents.

If you drive above the permitted speed limit of 30 mph a flashing “SLOW DOWN” message will alert you that you are speeding. The fact is that most of us do exceed speed limits from time to time and it’s often because our attention has switched to something else. So these SAM2s help to alert us and re-focus our attention on the road and safe driving.

Our SAM2 - and another that operates in Yelverton parish - will, as I wrote above, be moved about on a regular basis so that they don’t become just another part of the street scenery and lose their effectiveness.

**BERGH APTON & DISTRICT SOCIETY  
TALKS FOR 2019 FROM FEBRUARY ON**

**13th Feb:** David Ashworth, CEO of Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service talks about the work of the Service

**13th Mar:** Georgiette Vale presents “Five o’clock tea with Miss Betsy”. Meet Elizabeth Fry in 1845 and hear her talk about her life as a Quaker, her work on Prison Reform, philanthropy, the anti-slavery campaign and more.

**10th Apr:** Alex Ross on wildlife and landscapes of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads including Ranworth and Benacre Broads, Haddiscoe Island, the Ted Ellis Reserve at Wheatfen, Breydon Water and the Berney Arms reserve.

**8th May:** Sally Bass talks about the Norfolk Gardens Trust and its objectives. She looks at three Norfolk gardens; Kimberley, Langley and Melton Constable, that were the work of Lancelot “Capability” Brown.

**11th Sep:** Christine Garnier on “Return to the Falklands”

**9th Oct:** Marko brings us “The Entertainer, Part 2”.

**13th Nov:** Meet BBC TV presenter David Whiteley

### **JIM TURNER (1931-2018)**

Jim Turner (*right, in a recent family photo*), who died at home in Seething on 19th November 2018, was born in Mundham and lived most of his life in Seething. He merits a place in the Bergh Apton Newsletter because he went to our old (closed in 1981) school opposite the church and always maintained a great interest in the village in which he was educated.

Baptised Gerald Charles James he was always known as Jim. These given names probably came as a surprise to many of those who came to pay their respects at the Seething funeral of this quiet intelligent man.

Jim was always fascinated by aircraft. It seems to have begun in wartime Bergh Apton when he befriended the crew of a searchlight based on Cooke's Road (the site is still there) where he learnt about searchlights and became an expert in aircraft identification.

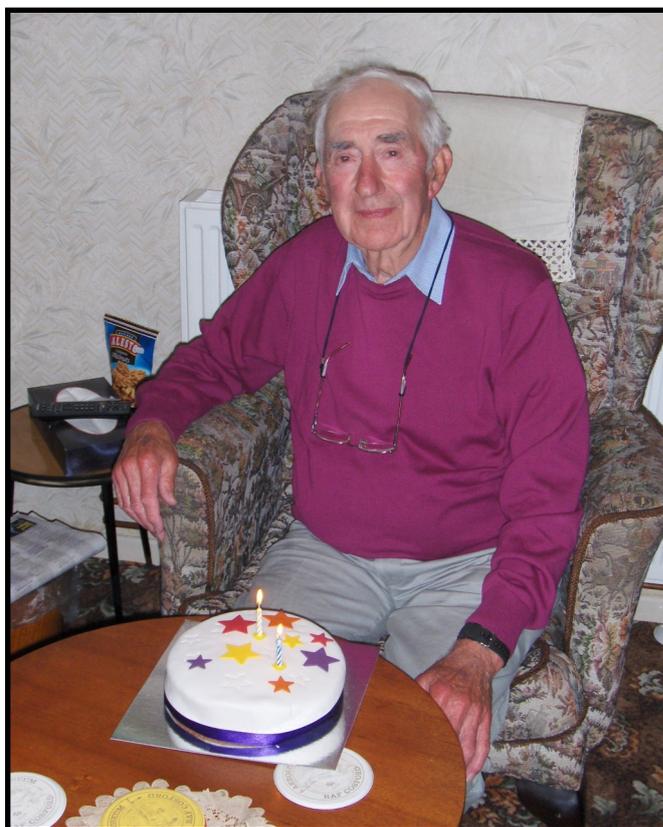
He was eleven years old when the US 448 Bomb Group arrived at Seething airfield with their giant B-24 Liberator bombers. They and their personnel dominated Jim's life for over two years from mid 1943 until the 12th June 1945 when the last B-24 left after the end of the war in Europe.

But they would focus Jim's interests for the rest of his life, including the restoration of Seething's control tower re-opened as Station 146 in the summer of 1987. A team of local volunteers including Jim and his good friend the late Tony Jeckells activated and maintained this project that gave them many hours of activity and interest for the rest of their lives.

When Jim left school soon after the war he was apprenticed to local thatcher Walter Drake and went on to roof many local buildings including the church in whose ground he is now buried.

But the 1960s were a time of decline in thatching and Jim turned for employment to a boyhood love - begun at that searchlight base in Bergh Apton - by qualifying in electronics and joining the GPO for whom he worked on the groundbreaking automated letter sorting machines, based in Norwich, that were the beginning of today's postcode age. He took early retirement from what had become BT when electro-mechanical phone switchboards were overtaken by the arrival of the modern BT digital telephone network.

Jim married Nancy Vincent of Seething in 1961 and their son Keith is now the owner of Seething Post Office. That was where Jim, until his sudden and greatly-lamented death, could often be found, helping out a bit (and unable to resist the occasional tinkering with the machinery!).



*Above: The late Jim Turner*

### **DAVID BROWN RIP**

David Brown of Fairwinds on The Street in Bergh Apton died on 29th December 2018 at home, peacefully, and after a long and dogged fight against cancer.

His funeral and cremation is to be at Beccles Crematorium, Ellough, on 1st February and thus will have happened before most readers of this Newsletter will be reading this notice.

Our thoughts go out to Eve, to her sons Alistair and Stuart and to all her family. We hope they will have been uplifted by the support and messages from the many people to whom David was a generous and entertaining friend.

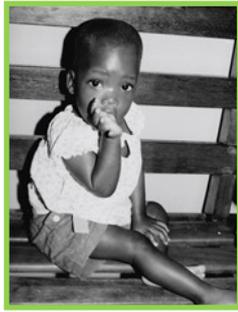
We will publish an obituary for David in the Newsletter edition published in April.

### **SORRY, WRONG NUMBER!**

Despite best efforts, there is an error in the information published in the recent revision of the Bergh Apton Information booklet distributed with the Newsletter in October last year. If you have your copy handy, turn to Page 6 and amend the telephone number for the Revd Chris Ellis from 01508 484178 to:

**01508 484174**

## Sanyu Babies' Home KAMPALA, UGANDA



### THANK YOU & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

This is Darius Muwanguzi, one of the SANYU babies whom you helped by contributing to the Christmas Appeal. Darius says "Thank you" to all, including PCCs, who gave so generously and who bought plants from the Everetts at Applebee. Your interest in the Sanyu Babies & their welfare is really, really appreciated and helps us to meet costs like these:

*A morning visit by Dr Alex: £21  
An anti-malarial Mosquito Net: £4  
A week's stay in Mengo hospital: £115*

There is still time for further gifts before we remit to the Home. Our target is £4,000 of which about £3,000 has come in since we began the appeal. **We are so nearly there - do please help us achieve the target.**

### Three ways you can give:

1. Hand to John or Ruth Everett at Applebee Orchard, Rockland
2. Send a cheque to Liz Meynell, Bergh Apton Hall, NR15 1AX i.f.o. "Sanyu Babies Home"
3. Send a cheque to Liz Meynell Bergh Apton Hall, NR15 1AX i.f.o. "Bergh Apton PCC" and endorsed on the back "Sanyu". This will help us to reclaim income tax you paid on your gift.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SANYU  
CALL LIZ MEYNELL  
01508 550440

## Smile of the month



Ah . . . so THAT's where it is!



### HERE'S TO THE NEXT TIME . . . .

The closing date for copy or articles for the next edition of the Bergh Apton Newsletter is **SUNDAY 10th MARCH**. Send anything you have - preferably as a Word or Publisher document - to [john.ling@btinternet.com](mailto:john.ling@btinternet.com)

If space is tight - or to ensure a balance of the content of the Newsletter- I may ask contributors to await the next edition, or to reduce the length of a submitted article or to split it into two parts - the second part to follow in the next edition.

## Thank you!

This column is for anyone to thank supporters of a past event and people who help out or are kind in any way that deserves community recognition. No takers for that purpose this time, so I thought we should say a big "Thank You" to the staff at Royal Mail's Norwich Sorting Office on Thorpe Road. They found a package posted by mistake in a Bergh Apton post box. It contained Gift-Aid envelopes that we need to claim Gift Aid for Sanyu Babies home - so it was valuable. It would have been so easy just to bin the package but the Royal Mail staff found an address on one of these envelopes and returned the whole package to the lady whose address it was, and she returned it to us.

**Thank you, Postmen and kind lady!**

**Are you planning a Bergh Apton-based event to help a Registered Charity or a Good Cause? If we have space we'd like to try and help you.**

*Email details to [john.ling@btinternet.com](mailto:john.ling@btinternet.com)*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DIARY FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH 2019

#### FEBRUARY

- 5<sup>th</sup> 13.30-16.00 BA Local History Group Archive Project at the Village Hall
- 13<sup>th</sup> 19.30 BA Society talk on 'Fire & Rescue' by David Ashworth, CEO of Fire & Rescue Norfolk. At BA Village Hall
- 16<sup>th</sup> 10.00 BA Conservation Trust Workday. Meet at Church Field
- 16<sup>th</sup> 19.30 BA Local History Group annual dinner at the Village Hall
- 20<sup>th</sup> 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Catch Up at the Village Hall
- 21<sup>st</sup> 10.00 BA Conservation Trust Workday. Meet at Church Field
- 26<sup>th</sup> 12.30 Tuesday Friends lunch at Church
- 27<sup>th</sup> 19.00 Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall

#### MARCH

- 5<sup>th</sup> 13.30-16.00 BA Local History Group Archive Project at the Village Hall
- 13<sup>th</sup> 19.30 B.A. Society talk on Elizabeth Fry at the Village Hall
- 16<sup>th</sup> 10.00 BA Conservation Trust Workday. Meet at Church Field
- 20<sup>th</sup> 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Catch Up at Village Hall
- 21<sup>st</sup> 10.00 BA Conservation Trust Workday. Meet at Church Field
- 26<sup>th</sup> 12.30 Tuesday Friends lunch at Church
- 30<sup>th</sup> 09.00 Assembly of 11 Says at the Village Hall

#### Heads Up for APRIL

- 4<sup>th</sup> 19.00 Annual Parish Meeting at the Village Hall
- 13<sup>th</sup> 14.00-16.00 Jumble Sale in the Village Hall

Please let me have Articles and Contributions for the April-May issue by end of  
**10th March 2019**  
email to [john.ling@btinternet.com](mailto:john.ling@btinternet.com)

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

<b>Monday</b>	<b>1700</b>	<b>DOG TRAINING</b>
<b>every other Tuesday</b>	<b>1000-1300</b>	<b>PAINTING CLASS</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1930</b>	<b>SING-SING-SING</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1430 - 1630</b>	<b>MARY LOVETT SINGING GROUP</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1000 - 1145</b>	<b>YOGA</b>

### USEFUL 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
Sing-a-Long	Karen Bonsall	07900 968739
Mary Lovett Music	Mary Lovett	07952 171998
Painting Class	Barbara Fox	01508 550168
BA Society	Lynton Johnson	01508 480629
Archery	Bob Kerry	01508 480661

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## THANK YOU

We could not publish the Bergh Apton Newsletter without the financial support of the following organisations, to whom our grateful thanks:

- Bergh Apton Community Arts Trust
- Bergh Apton Conservation Trust
- Bergh Apton Local History Group
- Bergh Apton Village Hall
- Bergh Apton Parochial Church Council
- Bergh Apton & District Society
- Chet & Waveney Valley Vineyard