



# The Bergh Apton Newsletter

April - May 2015

Issue No. 138

## Editorial Comment

Has Spring Sprung. I feel we have just had a very mild winter, indeed the mildest I can remember for many years, I hope I am not being too hasty because my mother used to remind me that I was born in a blizzard at the beginning of April; indeed I was due on the 1st but fooled my mother by being late an occurrence that I have tried to make

an habit. This year Easter is at the beginning of April, Easter Sunday being 5th April. We should remember that the word Easter is itself derived from the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, Eostre. So let us thank God that Spring has Sprung.

*Milton Harris* (Editor)



## DIAMOND WEDDING

Congratulations to Kenny & Heather Perfitt of 16 Church Road on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding. They were married at St Mary's Church Yelverton on March 5<sup>th</sup> 1955. Kenny crossed the A146 from Bramerton. They began their married life at Surlingham, until they moved into their new house at Church Rd in Jan '57. Two daughters [Angela & Linda] were brought up there, and now there are 5 Grandchildren, 4 Great-grandchildren of whom they are very proud. Kenny did his National Service, and for many years was a lorry driver for Oliver Rix then John Riches delivering agricultural equipment from their depots in Norwich. Heather worked for many years at Colmans Mustard in Customer Services. We wish them both well for the future.

Mary Southgate & John Guymer.

## BACAT CALLING THE TRIBES OF TON

Those of you who took part in the Cycle of Mystery Plays will know that after the last performance there was a great swell of enthusiasm, energy and excitement (and exhaustion) and the cry of everyone's lips was, 'What do we do next?' Those who came to see the plays from far and near plead to be kept in touch about our next event. Plans are already afoot! A play but quite different to the Mystery Plays. There will be two evening performances in Bergh Apton Church on Saturday 30 January and Saturday 6 February 2016. There will be a meeting in Bergh Apton Village Hall on Tuesday 28 April at 7.30 so come and hear all about it and bring your friends and relations. Here's looking forward to a gathering of the tribes.

## APPOINTMENT OF CHRIS ELLIS, OUR NEW RECTOR

Applause greeted the news, announced in church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, that the Rev'd Chris Ellis has accepted an invitation to be the new Rector of the Thurton Benefice to lead the congregations of Ashby St Mary, Bergh Apton, Framingham Pigot, Thurton and Yelverton-with-Alpington.

Chris, at present, the Vicar of Thorpe Hamlet in Norwich, was invited to accept the post following a meeting in late February with representatives of the five parishes and the Diocese. He is expected to take up his post here in early June.

We look forward to welcoming Chris and his wife Melanie into the Benefice and to meeting them and their family when they have had time to settle into the Rectory on Ashby Road in Thurton.

## BALHG HISTORY SUPPER

Bergh Apton Local History Group's annual February Supper this year, in the village hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February, continued the tradition of selecting an interesting world event that requires no association with local history, only that its anniversary occurs on a convenient Saturday in early Springtime.

Previous celebrations have ranged from the Treaty of Westminster by which Great Britain was granted the city of New York (19 February 1674) to the publication of John Bunyan's "*Pilgrim's Progress*" (18 February 1678), the rescue of Alexander Selkirk from the island of *Más a Tierra* (22 April 1709), the Battle of Cape St Vincent (14 February 1797), and the opening of Tutankhamen's tomb (16 February 1923).

This year, suitably dressed to reflect the terrifying speeds of travel in the early nineteenth century, over thirty guests assembled to celebrate the first time in history that a steam locomotive carried passengers and freight on a railway track. They leaned during the evening that they were not celebrating the 1825 event when Stephenson's "*Locomotion*" travelled from Stockton to Darlington but the much earlier (21 February 1804) journey made by Richard Trevithick's locomotive that successfully hauled ten tons of freight and seventy passengers on the 9.75 mile journey from Pen y Darren to Abercynon near Merthyr Tydfil in Wales.

But, rather than these semantics of record-breaking, the focus and conversation of the BALHG members and their guests were much more on the good company and the excellence of the supper cooked and served by Hilary Ling, Margaret Johnson, Linda Davy, Stephanie Crome and Janet Skedge.

The centre of attention in the hall itself was a magnificent railway engine, loaned for the evening by Lorie Lain-Rogers' Seven Cs Trust project in Norwich, part of a children's play train that the Trust is building for a client. It certainly attracted much attention and, as our photo shows, allowed those with a yearning for the age of steam to renew childhood fantasies of being an engine driver!



*Steam age travellers Tony Davy and Eelen Kennedy try out the fireman's seat on the engine lent to BALHG for the annual supper in the village hall.*

## BIG SKY RETURNS TO BERGH APTON CHURCH!

Some four years after they last performed in Bergh Apton church we are delighted that Big Sky will be here again on the evening of Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

We are greatly looking forward to the return of Sian Croose's extraordinary choir that she leads into mesmerising rendition of songs from all over the world that entrance their audiences.

There are details of the concert here in the newsletter. You can reserve and pay for seats either by telephone or via the Eventbrite website of which the details are given on the poster.

This is an event not to be missed for we cannot be sure when Big Sky will be able to come again.

# *Big Sky*

*Directed by Sian Croose*



**Singing traditional and contemporary music  
from around the world**

**Saturday 18th April, 8pm,  
St Peter and St Paul Church, Bergh Apton**

**Tickets £10 and £8.50 call 01508 480439  
or visit the Big Sky Facebook page:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/bigskychoir>  
to book through eventbrite**





Reg Charity No 1048271

## **Join us to help clean up our village**

Bergh Apton Conservation Trust are running a  
Community Litter Pick on:

**Saturday 25 April**  
**meet at the Village Hall at 10AM**

This is part of the South Norfolk Council's Big  
South Litter Pick and litter pickers, hi-viz jackets,  
gloves and sacks will be supplied.

We will be clearing litter along Threadneedle Street and  
Cokes Road plus other roads in the village depending  
how many attend.

**Everyone is invited to attend and help us  
tidy up the village.**

For more information call Bob Kerry on 01508 480661

# **BERGH APTON CONSERVATION TRUST**

## **TRUSTEES**

Prof A J Davy (Chair)	01508 558453	Mrs S Crome (Sec)	01508 480573
Mr R J Kerry (Treas)	01508 480661	Miss L Lain Rogers	01508 480613
Mrs J Ratcliffe	01508 493672	Mr D Moye	01508 550396
Mrs S Rimmer	01508 480576	Dr Annette Ford	01508 480150

## **ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2015**

### **Saturday 16 May:**

Pond Dipping at Valley Marsh, 2.30pm.

### **Wednesday 10 June:**

Hedge Survey at The Manor, 2pm.

### **Saturday 20 June:**

Midsummer Celebration, 6.30pm at Pageant Plantation. Bring your own bbq.

### **Wednesday 15 July:**

Hedge Survey at The Manor, 7pm.

### **Sunday 19 July:**

Summer Excursion to the River Glaven, Bayfield Estate, Holt.

### **Wednesday 30 September:**

Annual General Meeting,  
Bergh Apton Village Hall, 7.30pm - Speaker: Christian Whiting

### **Sunday 18 October:**

Fungus Foray, 2pm (provisional date)

### **Christmas Party:**

Saturday 19 December

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

#### **Saturdays:**

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

#### **Thursdays:**

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

# **BERGH APTON HORSE SHOW**



**Dogs From 1pm**

**AT BERGH APTON MANOR**

## **MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

**Equifest, 15 Plus, TGCA, Think Pink Qualifiers**

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

**katiebrown007@hotmail.co.uk**

**Schedule available on [horsedates.co.uk](http://horsedates.co.uk)**

## BERGH APTON'S BIER

In the nineteenth and early twentieth century many villages had a wheeled bier available for use by the family of a deceased resident to deliver his or her coffin to the churchyard for burial. These were ingenious steerable contraptions with large wheels running on solid rubber tyres and fitted with rollers, detachable pallets and other clever engineering features to make the task easier. A brass plate on Bergh Apton's bier tells us that it was presented to the village in 1910 by the Rector Harvey Thursby, who served the parish from 1897 to 1920.

The post-WW2 growth in the provision of comprehensive funeral services by Undertakers saw the need for this local means of transporting coffins decline to extinction. Our bier was made redundant far longer ago than any of us can now remember and was then lodged in the old stable in the churchyard opposite the schoolhouse for many years. When that was demolished in the 1980s George and Audrey Harvey found it a home in their outbuildings on White Heath Road then, for the last fifteen years, it has been housed in one of the looseboxes at Hall Farm.

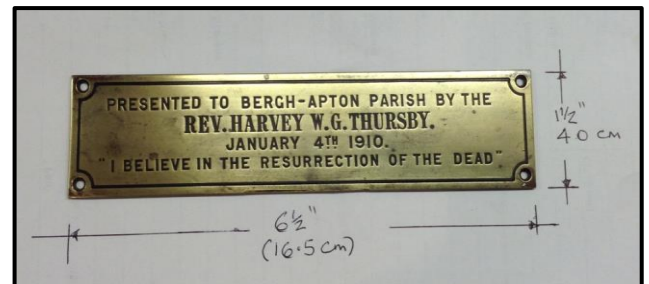
There is no record to tell us when it was last used for its original purpose but it did make one brief and memorable appearance in the great Millennium Pageant of July 2000 when it acted as the rather anachronistic (being four hundred years younger!) carriage on which Bergh Apton's plague victims were borne away to the graveyard.

Time, woodworm, several other forms of wood rot and the general ageing of wood and of metal have all played their part in the gradual decline of the vehicle to the point where it would now require extensive and very expensive restoration even if a use and location could be found for it. The PCC decided that it had to go and, with the help of Christopher Meynell, a new home has been found for it in Gloucestershire.

The vital element of local interest - the brass plaque that records Harvey Thursby's gift - has been removed and is now part of Bergh Apton Local History Group's archive.



Harvey W G Thursby, Rector of Bergh Apton who donated the bier in 1910.

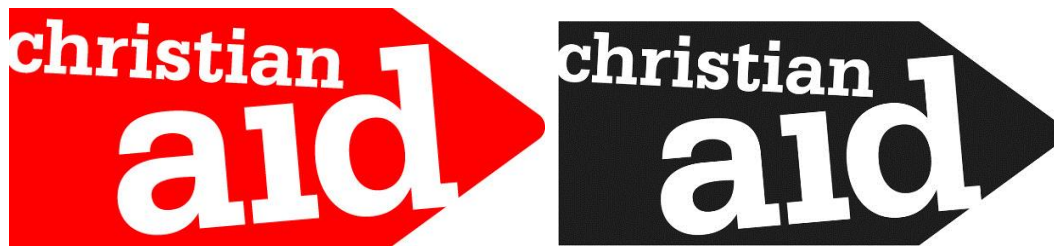


The brass plate off the bier, now in the local history archive.



The bier in its present rather dilapidated condition that may soon see a dramatic change.

## Christian Aid Week is coming round again - 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May



Last year, Christian Aid's annual fundraising push in Norfolk raised nearly £30,000, of which over £19,000 came from house-to-house collections. Incidentally, Bergh Apton did brilliantly, raising over £400. Thank you so much for your generosity.

You may be interested to know that the organisation we now know as Christian Aid was founded in the 1940s by British and Irish church leaders. Its function then was to help European refugees who had lost everything during WWII. Christian Reconstruction in Europe, as it was called then, raised in its first decade about as much as Norfolk did in 2014! The very first Christian Aid week was in 1957

Its purpose was then, and still remains, not one of evangelism, but to alleviate suffering for ordinary people, no matter what their faith might be. Since those early days in post-war Europe, the benefit of Christian Aid's work has been felt in many areas of the world where conflict, deprivation or natural disasters have created a need.

The most recent concentrated programmes have been in response to humanitarian crises in West Africa and the Middle East - Iraq, Gaza and Syria, but they still continue their ongoing work in the Middle East, South America, Asia and Africa. In addition to campaigning for greater justice, better local governance and improving access to health and education, much of their work is aimed at helping families and communities to work their way out of poverty and dependence, developing sustainable livelihoods. Their slogan this year is '**Help the poor help themselves**'. For more information about the work of Christian Aid, you might be interested in their website

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/whatwedo/>

Of late, the media have been full of stories of people pouring into Europe, seeking to escape appalling conditions in the Middle East and parts of Africa, and things there have got to be pretty bad for so many to risk so much adversity and danger to escape it. Christian Aid is one of the agencies striving to alleviate hardships and inequalities so, when that red envelope plops through your letterbox in early May do, please, give as generously as you can.

Many thanks Shirley Rimmer.



## Election Fever or Voter Apathy?

On 7<sup>th</sup> May we have a unique event. Four elections on the same day – Parish, District, County and National! I do not think that this has ever happened before, but what a wonderful chance to register our votes across the board.

We do have a problem, however and it is simply that we ideally need eight people to put their names forward to stand for the Bergh Apton Parish Council. Without candidates to offer themselves we could be forced into a situation where Bergh Apton is absorbed by a neighbouring parish such as Alington or Thurton. It is as serious as that.

Our Parish Clerk, Phillippa Fuller has all the forms and information so please give her a call on 01508 558280 or e-mail [clerk@berghapton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@berghapton.org.uk)

At the beginning of April, we will have a defibrillator installed on the wall of the Village Hall. It is very simple to use and gives verbal instructions when in operational mode. There

will be several training opportunities but probably the easiest session will be at the Parish A.G.M on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May. As many people as possible should try to attend as a professional trainer will be present and can take individuals through the process. This means that the evening will start with the training at 7 p.m. followed by the A.G.M. itself. As usual wine, sandwiches and nibbles will be available – so, no excuses – be there!

Finally everybody now knows of the Community Award given by South Norfolk to Kevin Parfitt. There is no need for me to add to all that has already been said. We have a star in our midst and we can all bask in his reflected glory. Congratulations, Kevin – deeply deserved and frankly, long overdue.

So please, get involved, please volunteer to stand as a Parish Councillor but more important DO VOTE.

Derek J. Blake.



## Country Diary

### Ammil\* to Zugs\* by way of Pirr\*, Blinter\* and Eit\*.

If, like me, you are the 'Compleat Bookworm', interested in the natural world and a big fan of Robert Macfarlane's books then you will have greeted his latest, 'Landmarks', with great pleasure. If you have read his other books you will also have appreciated his knowledgeable, elegant and precise use of language. His books are not a quick read, they need a meditative turn of mind.

'Landmarks' is a return to a lost vocabulary, the language of landscape, both formal and dialect. It is a defence of the spirit of language. For years he has collected words used by fishermen, scientists, climbers or walkers, words used in geology, archaeology, forestry and mountaineering, words connected with water, mountains, woods and edgelands. It is a word hoard from Gaelic, Welsh, Irish, Scots and English counties. Even flicking through this book one realises how impoverished our language is today with its thoughtless and empty clichés, 'over the moon', 'keeping you in the loop', 'it's all gone pear shaped' and 'taking a rain check'.

Man has always named places and actions and this book reveals a vast and imaginative treasure trove of words, either lost or now only used by a few.

He tells of other writers who he admires, who loved and knew well their particular landscape. Nan Shepherd, Roger Deacon, J. Baker and Richard Jefferies, he sees their particular places through their eyes and experiences.

An unusual book, thought provoking and a great call for reconnecting with the natural world. Hooray for Robert Macfarlane.

Ammil: the sparkle of morning sunlight through hoar-frost. (Devon).

Pirr: a light breath of wind such as will make a cat's paw on the water. (Shetlands).

Blinter: an ice splinter catching a lowlight. (Scots).

Eit: placing quartz stones in moorland streams so they sparkle in moonlight and attract salmon in late summer. (Gaelic).

Zugs: soft, wet ground, a little bog island about the size of a bucket. (Exmoor).

Pat Mlejnecky

## IN SEARCH OF G B RAIKES OF BERGH APTON AND ENGLAND

Author Stephen Musk is looking for information on George Barclay Raikes, Rector of Bergh Apton from 1920 to 1936. GBR was the man under whose captaincy Bergh Apton's cricket team gained such a fearsome winning reputation that some teams would not play them, particularly in home games when Raikes would lead his team out onto the field where the village hall now stands, whose changing rooms were in Glebe Cottage, across the road.

Raikes was no ordinary country parson and local cricket hero. He represented Oxford University at both cricket and football and played football in goal for England (1895/96). He played cricket for Hampshire and Norfolk and represented England in an international match against Australia in 1912.

Stephen is hoping to gather enough about GBR to write a book about him and would be grateful for any memories and reminiscences of the man and his life in Bergh Apton. Please contact John Ling (480439) with any information you may have.

## CHURCH FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

A group comprising members of Bergh Apton's PCC (Parochial Church Council) and people involved in many of the events organised in Bergh Apton parish church met on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February for some training and familiarisation in the use of the two types of fire extinguishers that are located in the church.

Steve Horsfield, Tas Valley Fire (UK) Ltd's engineer who services the fire-fighting equipment in Bergh Apton's parish church and the village hall, explained and demonstrated the use and mis-use of the extinguishers. As our photo shows, those attending the course had a hands-on opportunity to use them!



Shirley Rimmer tests a carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) extinguisher watched by (l-r) Steve Horsfield, Pat Waters, Milton Harris, Janet Skedge, Hilary Ling (partly-hidden) and Roy Flowerdew.

### OLD MAN

*By your side  
There is peace,  
A quiet place  
Of beauty and realisation,  
Where wisdom  
Seeks reason and understanding,  
Where myth is laid to rest  
By the reality of knowledge.*

*By your side there is hope  
That arrogance and greed  
Will not destroy,  
That selfless love  
Will prevail.*

*By your side,  
Life is sacred,  
A future  
For the children  
To unfold.*

*By your side,  
In your presence,  
There is love.*

*By Chris Roe*

## Thank you

We have been humbled by your kindness and true sense of community. Thank you all so very much for being our friends through a very difficult time. Thank you... Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart.. Thank you from Sarah and Tim Hooper x

### Conservation Trust – a Thank You

The Trustees would like to thank everyone who rallied to our recent bid to acquire the cherry orchard in Threadneedle Street for the village. We appreciated all your expressions of support, whether financial, practical or moral. The response of our membership, the broader local community, kindred organizations and other friends was tremendous and heart-warming. Thanks to this generosity, we exceeded what we had thought was an impossibly ambitious target of £35,000 in only three weeks. Sadly for us, it was still not enough in the event and so the cheques and payments are being returned on this occasion. The legendary community spirit of Bergh Apton is alive and well.



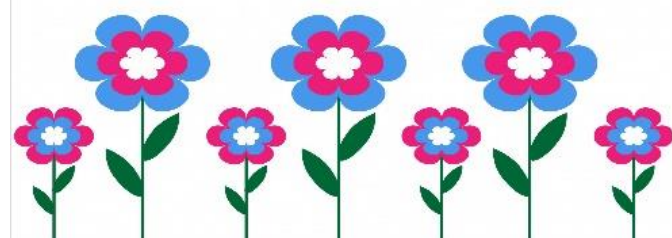
## Dates for your diary

### APRIL 2015

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 09.30 Spring Clean Church day  
 3<sup>rd</sup> 11.30 Good Friday pilgrimage around Benefice – arrival at B.A. church  
 4<sup>th</sup> 09.30 Decorate Church with Easter Flowers  
 8<sup>th</sup> 19.30 B.A. Society talk '19<sup>th</sup> C. Norwich' in Village Hall  
 15<sup>th</sup> 10-12.00 Coffee n Catch Up at the Village Hall  
 15<sup>th</sup> 19.00 for 19.30 B.A. Village Hall A.G.M.  
 18<sup>th</sup> 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field  
 18<sup>th</sup> 19.30 Big Sky concert at Church  
 21<sup>st</sup> 19.30 Annual P.C.C. and AGM at Alington & BA School  
 22<sup>nd</sup> 19.30 Parish Council meet at Village Hall  
 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field  
 24<sup>th</sup> 19.30 B.A. Fete meeting at Village Hall  
 28<sup>th</sup> 12.30 Tuesday Friends lunch at Church

### MAY 2015

- 5<sup>th</sup> 19.30 P.C.C. meet at church  
 7<sup>th</sup> 07.00-22.00 Election at B.A. Village Hall Polling Station  
 9<sup>th</sup> 19.00 for 19.30 Bramerton Group Quiz at B.A. Village Hall  
 13<sup>th</sup> 19.30 B.A. Society talk on 'The Countryside in Summer' at Village Hall  
 15<sup>th</sup> 19.30 B.A. Village Hall Committee meeting  
 16<sup>th</sup> 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field  
 16<sup>th</sup> 14.30 BACT Pond Dipping at Valley Marsh, meet at Church Field  
 16<sup>th</sup> 19.30 BALHG Film Akenfield and supper at Village Hall  
 20<sup>th</sup> 10-12.00 Coffee n Catch Up at the Village Hall  
 20<sup>th</sup> 19.30 Parish Council meet at Village Hall  
 21<sup>st</sup> 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field  
 25<sup>th</sup> All day B.A. Horse Show at The Manor  
 26<sup>th</sup> 12.30 Tuesday Friends lunch at Church  
 30<sup>th</sup> 09.00 11 Says stuffing at Bramerton Village Hall



### DECORATE CHURCH FOR EASTER

Please come along to church on  
 SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL to help decorate  
 the church with spring flowers.  
 We will be there from 9.30am – or just come  
 for a cup of coffee.

## Regular Activities

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

## Activities Contacts

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

The Bergh Apton Newsletter is published with the financial support of the following organisations:  
 Bergh Apton Community Arts Trust, Bergh Apton Conservation Trust, Bergh Apton Local History Group, Bergh Apton Village Hall, Bergh Apton Parish Council, Bergh Apton Parochial Church Council & The Bergh Apton and District Society.



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

Please send articles to me  
 Milton Harris [Editor] at  
[town\\_farm@btinternet.com](mailto:town_farm@btinternet.com)  
 Thank you



### BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL A.G.M.

WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

REFRESHMENTS FROM 7.00pm

Come along and have your say in our  
 newly refurbished Village Hall.