



The Bergh Apton Newsletter

October - November 2015

Issue No. 141

Editorial Comment

Having just attended a cheese and wine evening to celebrate the Bergh Apton and District Society's 20 years of success and also remembering how we celebrated 20 years of Bergh Apton's Church Horse show I realise how fortunate we are to live in this active community. Also in this issue there is

some mention of members of the Vincent family who were involved in a lot of building work in this area; indeed the last job Vincent's firm did before he retired was work for Ruth and myself here at Town Farm before we moved in on April 1st 1970 I don't think that it was a foolish move to make!!!

Milton Harris (Editor)

Note from John Rudd



Sir Cloudesley Shovell was Admiral of the Fleet and was born in Norfolk but died off the Scilly isles having been on board "Association" and is now buried in Westminster Abbey.

What has Sir Cloudesley Shovel got to do with Bergh Apton? Well, nothing really, but my story begins with a very good friend and workmate Frank Olley who died in February 2014.

I worked with Frank when we were both at A Vincent & son's Builders at Bergh Apton in the mid 1950's. Frank had not long been out of the royal navy, and at first was employed cheery picking as Monsey Vincent (the son) had a large cherry orchard. Every year the men that worked on the building firm were required to pick the fruit. We then went on to painting schools in the area as we always gained some contracts to paint them either inside or out as required. This usually needed extra labour in the form of painters. These were recruited from the labour exchange at Loddon (We got some 'right' ones too sometimes) When Frank said that he was a painter he was given a permanent job and stayed with the firm for a few years. He and I got on

well from the start as we both enjoyed a good sense of humour and we remained good friends thereafter.

After Frank died his daughter, Judy, gave me some letters and a book that she thought might interest me. The letters being from an old shipmate of his whilst serving in the Fleet Air Arm.

Apparently Frank had read an article in a national newspaper about this team of divers who were diving down to the wreck of Queen Anne's man-of-war "Association" and three other warships that sunk when they foundered on the western rocks in a storm off the Scilly isles on the night of the 22nd October 1707 with the loss of 1450 men, one of the greatest naval losses recorded.

His shipmate Richard Larn edited the book I referred to. It transpires that Richard Larn was a local boy being born in a nursing home in Unthank road Norwich in September 1930, and his parent's home was in Alington. In a letter to Frank dated 10th December 2010 He said that he had just realized that Frank lived at Chedgrave which he knew was near Loddon and that his grandparents on his mother's side were named Vincent and lived at The "Villa" Bergh-Apton He remembers the cherry orchard and that his grandfather, Arthur Vincent and his uncle Monsey, were the local carpenters, wheelwrights and undertakers.

The Vincent's had several brothers who lived in and around Loddon, one of whom drove a local Bus service, taking people to Norwich on market day for shopping. He says he remembers that if you wanted him to stop and pick someone up (since his timekeeping was very erratic, depending on how much he had to drink!) You stuck a broom upside down in your hedge by the house gate. When he eventually stopped outside the house he would toot his horn to let you know he was there.

Plants, Pies and now a Post Office at Green Pastures!



After the busiest year we've ever known, we have finally finished all the changes that we had planned for Green Pastures. The new building is complete, the restaurant is doing fantastically well and the Post Office is open 7 days a week. The only thing we're waiting for now is the birth of our third child who is due in a couple of weeks!

It has been an incredible journey to get this far and we really couldn't have done it without the support and help from the village. It seems like everyone has had a part in the change, from supporting the plans, to helping with the build, trying the restaurant and buying plants. We would like to say a really big THANK YOU to everyone who has got involved, one way or another. We are really proud that we've been able to add something to the village and to have used Bergh Apton contractors to do it. Mick Hardesty completed the groundworks, roofing and general works; K&J Parfitt carried out the site clearance, Gary Beckett was the electrical contractor and A W Plastering (Thurton) were the plasterers. We reckon that, in total, over half of the man hours billed were from Bergh Apton businesses.



Gardeners Kitchen

Our new 'Gardener's Kitchen' restaurant has been a really big hit and we are attracting amazing reviews on TripAdvisor, as well as making it into the final for the Norfolk Food and Drink Awards (results will be known 14th September). If you haven't made it in to

see us yet, we think you're really missing out! All our meals are made from locally sourced ingredients (some from our own growing areas) and you can eat in our restaurant or out on our patio (weather permitting!)

The 24th August 2015 was a momentous day for the village as we opened the new Bergh Apton Post Office. This reinstated a community asset which had been lost since Barry & Richard Cushing retired. We know that this was eagerly awaited and very important to the village so we are extremely proud of this addition to our shop.

Following that we seemed to fast be becoming Norfolk's new media stars! If you've read a newspaper or turned on the local news in the last few weeks you may have found it hard to avoid us! You could have seen us in the EDP, heard us on BBC Radio Norfolk with Wally Webb or watched us on Look East. We were also chosen to be featured by the Post Office as the 3000th Post Office branch to be open on a Sunday. Two days after we opened to the public, we were visited by their press team who interviewed both us and our customers, and put together a video which was sent out to the national media. We were featured in The Independent, on the BBC News business website, on the ITV pages and on Yahoo and BT websites. For a short time, Bergh Apton seemed to be the words on everyone's lips!



Paris Back stars in the Post Office film

Once again, we couldn't have done it without our loyal village customers. Paris Back featured in the Post Office video and proved herself to be an absolute star. She was one of our very first Post Office customers and was literally jumping up and down with excitement!

If you haven't seen the video and would like to have a look at our local stars then go to YouTube and enter "3000th post office" in the search bar.

To top it all, on Sunday 30th August, Jacqueline Byford became our first Bergh Apton villager ever to use the Post Office on a Sunday.



Jacqueline Byford becomes the first ever customer to use a Bergh Apton Post Office on a Sunday!

Finally, we are really proud that Green Pastures is very much a part of the village and hope that we can continue to keep all of our Bergh Apton customers very happy for a long time!

Bergh Apton's New Post Office Services include....

Mails & Postage (a variety of services including overseas and special deliveries)

Bill Payments

Free Cash Withdrawals

Personal Banking Services (*may vary depending on bank)

Euros exchange

Other Foreign Currency (within 1 working day)

Moneygram

Mobile Phone Top-ups

Postal Orders

Fishing Licenses

Gift Voucher cards redeemable at a large variety of national retail outlets

Post Office Opening Hours
(same as Garden Centre & Farm Shop)

Monday to Saturday 9am to 5.30pm

Sunday 10am to 4.30pm

Bank Holidays 9am to 4.30pm

Sad News

As we go to press it is with sadness that we feel we should announce the death of Bernie Bobbin who died on Saturday 6th September.



at Washingford House,
Cokes Road, Bergh Apton, NR15 1AA.

Thursday 15th October 2015
From 10am to 1pm

In aid of
The Brooke
www.thebrooke.org
and
The Naxal Orphanage
In Nepal

Jewellery, Cards, Gifts,
infused oils for drizzling,
Handmade Soaps and bath oils,
homemade jams,
Cake and Tombola stall.

Entry £2.50
to include coffee and biscuits

Park at the house, Village Hall or at P.O.

Contact: Paris Back 550924
parisb@waitrose.com
Liz Lester 480387
lester435@btinternet.com

Offers of cakes/Tombola prizes would
be greatly appreciated 😊



CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

Bergh Apton Village Hall
WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER
10am – 4pm

Come along and make your
own Christmas wreath under
the guidance of an expert

£15 including lunch

Advance bookings only
Contact Tiff Phoenix on 01508 480433



CHRISTMAS BINGO WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER



Doors open 7.00pm
for 7.30pm start



BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL

COUNTRY DIARY

THE MIDNIGHT FOLK

The First Player:

In the lean hours Fox trots among the untamed trees. He follows a path which sneaks through the wood, a narrow path made by hoof, paw and claw. Time is his own, he comes and goes unbidden. Thorn tipped claws and polished ears that take soundings, eyes full of moonlight so they shine silver. Tree shadows net him and he becomes a creature of leaves and light. Then he is gone in a shiver of air, a trick from Night's sleeve.

The Second Player:

Scissored from darkness, the bat banks and glides, flickering to and fro. He knows the songs of sight in the night. He stole the night from the birds and learned its secrets, its mysteries. For a moment he is fixed in the moonlight and then flings back into the dark.

The Third Player:

What does the owl see as he stares from his perch searching the shadows? What will the darkness reveal? What does he hear? A wood mouse's footfall, a scurrying shrew? What does he sense? A vole rustling in a tent of grass? His silent wingbeat has its own music, his husky hoot questions the darkness and rattles the bones and quickens the heartbeat of the soon-to-be-dead. With solemn deliberation he swoops up and away, a haunting presence.

The Fourth Player:

The fire filled stars look down on Brock, the bear of the woods, of ancient lineage, masked, a dusky lord. On a bank among a straggle of ferns, woodsage and foxglove all bound about with honeysuckle and a bony trellis of ivy he has mined shafts with his scimitar claws. Shafts which lead to halls, galleries and chambers, he has raised ramparts and dug ditches. He stands and considers, his is an old magic. For a whispered spell, a ceremonial summoning, he may pause in the dappled light, turn and honour you, in slow ritual with a look from his moon filled eyes.

The Fifth Players:

Enter Night's Cinderellas, the Forester, the Old Lady, the Footman, the Emperor, the Tiger and the Elephant, moths as silent as shadows, settling as dust on late blooming honeysuckle, last bells of foxgloves and purple cockades of thistle. With wings closed and coloured like worthy fustian, sober tweed and stippled, striated, ringed and veined in pearl, umber, soot, clay and frost, forming constellations which flash secret messages. They open like a patterned fan to show underskirts of seaweed green, berry bright red, saffron yellow and mauve as pigeon's neck feathers.

Pat Mlejnecky

BACT

A memorable weekend for Bergh Apton Conservation Trust

Saturday 18th July dawned as just another day for members of Bergh Apton Conservation trust as we gathered on Church Field ready to go down to Valley Marsh for our regular monthly workday. The weather was pleasant – warm and sunny but with a slight cooling breeze; ideal as the task for the day was cutting and raking off the vegetation on the marsh, which we have done for many years now at this time of year.

As we were enjoying a well-earned tea break we stood on the pond dipping platform built over the large pond on Valley Marsh when some of us saw the unmistakable electric blue flash of a kingfisher fly from a branch to the far side of the pond. This was greeted with much excitement as since buying Valley Marsh in 2007 this was the very first time we had seen a kingfisher on the reserve.



Linda Davy (sitting), Tony Davy (laying), Shirley Rimmer, Annette Ford and Lisa Flatman on the pond dipping platform looking at the wildlife in the pond, 18th July.

With the kingfisher gone we studied the pond as the sunshine allowed us to see deep into the water; even to the bottom. In the past the pond has been dark and cloudy and almost devoid of life. Today it was clear and full of millions of creatures; water boatman, whirly-gig beetles, pond skaters, daphnia, water beetles and dragonfly lava were in profusion whilst colourful butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies flew over the water. Such was the wealth of the wildlife to see it was hard work getting back to the cutting and raking.

In the last few years we have placed tin sheets at various places on Valley Marsh and Church Plantation as we knew this encouraged lizards and snakes so as it was such a fabulous day we looked under a few of the sheets and as expected found a number of grass

snakes and slow worms (legless lizards which look just like a snake). As if all this was not enough for much of the morning a pair of buzzards were soaring majestically over the marsh – something that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago. It really was the most fantastic place for watching wildlife and proof that all the work we have carried out on our nature reserve over the years has had a very beneficial effect.



BACT members looking at the newly restored River Glaven on 19th July.

The following day was our summer outing; every year we like to visit somewhere local to see what other groups are doing for conservation. This year we travelled to Bayfield Hall just north of Holt where the River Glaven Conservation Group has literally recreated the river which had been buried in a tunnel for 120 years. We were given a guided tour of the new stretch of river by Henry Crawley (chair of RGCG) and Robin Combe (owner of Bayfield Hall) who explained how they planned the meandering course of the new river (using the latest laser technology) and organised the removal of over 8,000 tonnes of soil.

All the work was done last year and water let into the new river only in October 2014. We may have expected to see a barren muddy stream but already the riverbanks had been colonised by all manner of plants, there were small trout swimming in the new river, a large colony of banded demoiselle dragonflies had established themselves on the river bank and three heron and a pair of little egrets were hunting along the banks; and all this in just 9 months – it was incredible. It was very uplifting to see what Man can achieve when he puts his mind to it instead of the usual destruction of habitats we hear so much about.

If you are not a member of Bergh Apton Conservation Trust but would like to join us please contact Bob Kerry (01508 480661 or bob.kerry@btopenworld.com) for a membership form as new members are always warmly welcomed.



Save the Children Christmas Sale

**Saturday 10th October
from 10am to 3.30pm**

at the home of Carrie & Martin Holl,
Hillside Farm, Welbeck rd.,
Bergh Apton, NR15 1AU.

There will be a huge selection of
Christmas cards,
wrapping paper
and trimmings for sale.

Free refreshments!

Indoor car boot sale

Sunday 1st November

Bergh Apton Village hall

10am-12 Midday

Set up at 9am

Early booking essential



Contact Sue Bewick 01508 480623 mobile 07900977724 for further details
and to book your table.

Parish Councillors

As there are only 5 Parish Councillors at the moment the Parish Council advertised for volunteers to fill the 2 vacancies.

As more than 2 people have come forward there will be a process of selection & a decision will be made at the next Parish Council meeting which will be on the 18th November.

It is very encouraging that we will be able to have a complete council of 7 members.

David Skedje (Vice Chairman)

Bergh Apton's New Restaurant; Voted Best in Norfolk!

As if there's not been enough excitement around here already, Green Pastures is delighted to announce our victory in the EDP Norfolk Food and Drink Awards where The Gardeners Kitchen was declared winner in the "Best Restaurant" category! To be quoted as "Norfolk's answer to River Cottage" was terrific and we are so grateful to everyone who voted for us (we gained over 1,000 votes!).



GARDENER'S KITCHEN OPENING TIMES

MONDAY TO SATURDAY 9.30AM - 4.30PM

SUNDAYS 10.00AM - 4.00PM

BANK HOLIDAYS 9.30AM - 4.00PM

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Dates for your diary

OCTOBER 2015

10th	10.00-16.00	BACAT Lantern making Workshop (full) at B.A. Village Hall
14th	19.30	B.A. Society talk 'Pink Ladies Tractor Run' at B.A. Village Hall
17th	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
18th	11.00	Harvest Festival at B.A. Parish Church Followed by 'Bring & Share' Lunch at B.A. Village Hall
21st	10.00-12.00	Coffee n Chat at B.A. Village Hall
21st	19.30	B.A. Local History Group A.G.M. at B.A. Village Hall
22nd	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
25th	13.30	BACT Fungus Foray meet at B.A. Church field
27th	12.30	Tuesday Friends at B.A. Parish Church
28th	19.30	Village Hall Management Committee meeting
30th	18.00	B.A. Society Ghost Walk round Beccles
31st	19.00/19.30 start	Quiz n Chips for Church funds at B.A. Village Hall

NOVEMBER 2015

1st	10.00-12.00	Indoor Car Boot Sale at B.A. Village Hall
8th	10.30	Remembrance Day Service at B.A. Parish Church. Followed by Soup at the Village Hall
11th	19.30	B.A. Society talk 'Loddon First Responders' at B.A. Village Hall
14th	10.00-14.00	BACAT drop-in Workshop making stars from reeds at B.A. Village Hall
15th	11.00	Shoebox Service at B.A. Parish Church
18th	10.00-12.00	Coffee n Chat at B.A. Village Hall
21st	10.00-16.00	BACAT bird candlesticks Workshop (full) at B.A. Village Hall
21st	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
24th	12.30	Tuesday Friends at B.A. Parish Church
25th	19.30	Village Hall Management Committee meeting
26th	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
28th	09.00	11 Says Assembly at Bramerton Village Hall

DECEMBER 2015

2nd	19.00	Christmas Bingo at B.A. Village Hall
9th	10.00-16.00	Christmas Wreath Workshop at B.A. Village Hall

Regular Activities

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

Activities Contacts

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

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 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 November.

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

Thank you