



# The Bergh Apton Newsletter

December - January 2016

Issue No. 142

## Editorial Comment

At this time of year as we anticipate Christmas and think of our immediate families we should not forget others who are probably less fortunate. We recently celebrated the annual Shoebox Service which supported the Samaritans Purse Appeal who donate gifts to children in many countries across the world. We also had a very successful Quiz and Chips evening. Thank you to all who supported,

assisted and competed enabling us to make £324 net monies for Bergh Apton Church and £203 for the charity EACH towards their nook appeal. Hope you are all prepared for and will enjoy the indulgences of Christmas, we look forward to the New Year without making too many resolutions.

*Milton Harris* (Editor)

*Wishing our readers  
Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year*



## Christmas Rectory Ramblings

I am sure most of you have heard people say (or indeed have said yourself!!) that children are the focus of Christmas. It is easy to see why this view is very common, because to share the anticipation of a child in the days running up to Christmas, and then their excitement as they unwrap presents on Christmas morning, cannot fail to bring joy into our hearts.

It seems to me that the word 'Joy' is almost exclusively reserved for Christmas; I do not often hear people refer to themselves as 'joyful' when asked how they are. Standard responses might be: 'very well', 'ok', 'fine' etc - but 'joyful' is pretty rare. And yet, when we send Christmas cards, the printed message is often: 'wishing you joy this Christmas' and our Christmas Carols are overflowing with the word.

In many ways, children are better at expressing joy than adults. Joy is a response to something that has moved us in such a way that we cannot help but

respond – in a sense it requires us to let go of our inhibitions and the self-control that we learn as adults and reveal our inner feelings; in doing this, however, we make ourselves quite vulnerable by removing any veneer of reserve.

Perhaps what connects our ability to be joyful with the season of Christmas is that sense of vulnerability. We experience the joy of Christmas because we consciously or sub-consciously understand the way in which God made Himself vulnerable in the Christ-child. His purpose in coming into the earthly realms was to make a new connection with us, to reveal his very nature through Christ. Christmas is the celebration of God's vulnerable gift in Jesus, a gift entrusted to us and to be received by us his children with excitement, with wonder and above all with **Joy!**

I wish you all a peaceful, happy and joyful Christmas.

*Chris*



## SANYU BABIES HOME, KAMPALA, UGANDA. YOUR HELP, PLEASE.

### **AN APPEAL - Money or Plants for Christmas (or even both) PLEASE, OR Offer yourself as a Volunteer???**

Many of you know that some twenty years ago, the Rector, Peter Knight, sought out through Liz & Christopher Meynell, an opportunity overseas for the parish to support. After scouring the world(!), our eyes alighted on Sanyu Babies Home, taking in abandoned babies from around Kampala, Uganda, gives them a name, food, health, a bed and vitally, a life.

Individuals and churches in the group have been generous and we have been able to fund a new truck & new rooves for a rainwater collection system. Since 2008, we have been paying for bi-weekly visits of a Doctor and permanent nurses. Locally, major supporters have been John & Ruth Everett, who's Applebee Orchard in Rockland, sells plants in aid of Sanyu. They have done brilliantly. Anyone who has plants at any time, surplus to their own requirements, please take them to Applebee where the Everetts will be very pleased to move them on for you. This year alone they have raised over £1000. Several people have generously set up standing orders and there are regular cheques from the likes of Jo & Don Threadgold. Thank you everyone.

We have just received Sanyu's regular newsletter and here are some extracts. These show new babies over 3 months, a focus on one baby's plight and the thoughts of a British volunteer. It is important to note, too, that they are fund-raising themselves. They recently held a sponsored marathon, raising US\$104,500.

### **HELLOS AND GOODBYES**

In the past three months, we have received 8 children, 4 have been re-united with their families, and 1 transferred.

#### **Admissions:**

Diana Nassolo (1 month old) Arrived on 30th June 2015; She was wrapped in a blanket and abandoned by an unknown person near a pit latrine in Nansana.

Patrick Agaba (3 days old) Arrived on 14th July 2015; He lost his mother shortly after delivery in Mulago Hospital.

Enoch Ariho (2 days old) Arrived on 16th July 2015; He was abandoned by an unknown person around a garbage area in Rakai District.

Daniel Muwanguzi (2.5 months old) Arrived on 20th July 2015; He was rescued by residents from his lunatic mother in Wandegaya Kampala.

Tendo (6 months old) Arrived on 18th August 2015; She was rescued by the mob in Kampala New Taxi Park from a seemingly lunatic man also suspected to have kidnapped her.

Abigail Kiconco (7 months old) Arrived on 21st August 2015; She was rescued by a police officer of Wakaliga Police Post from a fighting couple that attempted to strangle her.

Patience Nabukeera (6 days old) Arrived on 9th September 2015; She was a result of rape of a teenage mother by a stranger!

Mercy Malaika Nvanungi (11months old) Arrived on 25th September, 2015; She was rescued by Police from a good Samaritan - see below:

### **FEATURE: The Arrival of Mercy Malaika**



Born with half arms, Mercy's story was a fight for survival right from her birth.

At 1 day old, her mother tried to strangle her to death when she realized that Mercy has special needs. Luckily enough, a Good Samaritan rescued the baby but the mother disappeared. For the past 11 months, Mercy has been under the care of the Good Samaritan who was struggling financially and hence decided to use her as a tourist attraction to raise funds to care for her family. On Friday 25th September 2015, the Njeru Division Police – Buikwe District rescued her and brought her to Sanyu Babies' Home for care and protection. On arrival at Sanyu Mercy was very weak and small for her age. She



was listless and so extremely sad you just wanted to hold her and reassure her. For Mercy, this is a new beginning, she is fortunate to have been removed from her distressing life so far and she is already thriving from being in an environment where she is loved and cared for. She has been seen smiling and interacting with the other children, each day there is a new milestone for her. Please pray for Mercy's continuing improvement and that she may grow stronger each day.

### **VOLUNTEER REPORT - Tina Gardner**



It had been a year since I left Uganda. A long, painful year that had tested my trust in God more than anything had before. I hadn't realized, going to Sanyu a year ago, how deeply I'd fall in love, or how much it would hurt to leave. I spent a month there last summer, but when I left, I spent each day praying for the kids and mamas I had grown to love so much. I was able to return to Sanyu this April, and stay for 3 1/2 months. I can't say enough amazing things about this Home. You might think that a home for abandoned babies would be a sad place, but Sanyu truly is a home of joy. The diligent, hard-working mamas pour love into each and every child that passes through Sanyu, whether for 2 days or 4 years. It was so cool to see how much the kids that were still at Sanyu had grown since I was there, and how well they were all doing! It was so encouraging to see how many kids had left to join families of their own. This meant so many new little ones to love. When a new child arrives, it is such a hard adjustment for them; they've gone through so much already. But after a few weeks of love and care, they are running and playing with the others! One boy, Francis, arrived while I was there. He was so sad and quiet for the first couple weeks, his

huge, beautiful eyes showing how hurt and lost he felt. Every smile I could get out of him was an achievement. But the boy when I left was completely different, carefree, happy, loving. Or Joram, who just wanted to be held. After a few weeks, he was playing and laughing with all his new friends! It is beautiful to see the new life in these kids after a few weeks of love and care. I must mention the amazing nurses, Juliet and Sylvia, who work so hard to keep these kids healthy! All the workers amaze me. Many have their own families at home, but they still love all the kids at Sanyu like their own. While I have left Sanyu for now, I am blessed to be able to come back and visit on weekends, getting to cuddle all the kids, and be "Mama Tina" again. It truly feels like going home.

### **Volunteer Opportunities at Sanyu Babies' Home**

There are opportunities to volunteer at Sanyu. On site is a guesthouse, providing each volunteer with a comfortable and safe place to stay while being steps away from the babies' home. Please check their website [www.sanyubabies.com](http://www.sanyubabies.com) or **Facebook** where a new video has been posted; **LIKE AND SHARE!**

## **SILVER MILE**



### **From the Village Hall Management Committee**

There are 88,495 five pence pieces in a mile if they are lined up in a straight line! Together they make up a Silver Mile.

Over the past few years the village has raised £932.50 (or 18,650 five pence pieces) to help towards the running of the village hall by donating any spare change they have lying around. We want your five pence pieces (and your 1p, 2p or any other denomination) to help achieve our target of the Silver Mile.

If you have any spare change you would like to donate please drop it off at our Treasurer Peter Lyle's house: Fairdown, Church Meadow Lane, or give it to any other Village Hall committee member.

**THANK YOU**

## COUNTRY DIARY

Sunday 31 October, All-Hallows Day, the eve of All Saints Day. It will be, as always, the small pleasures that weave brightness into a day. This day dawned into a mist that blots and blurs outlines, blunts sound and smudges the sun to the dull gleam of a well worn sixpence. The last leaves on the bird cherry trees hang limp necked and then, in a stir of air, fall like a shoal of little yellow fish and land as quiet and soft as a hare's breath. A first flock of fieldfares, the Norse tribes have arrived. In the afternoon, when the sun burned through, my shadow companion's long legs scissor the path. A charm of King Harrys gather on the feeder. A quiet day cures an overdose of life.

In late afternoon as daylight fades, mist blooms again and melancholy and an unquiet quiet seeps among the shadows, it is Hallowe'en., the time when we pray for deliverance from ghosties, ghoulies and long legged beasts, it is Fright Night! For Celts, it was Samhain, summer's end, one of their 'thin' times, when the veils between the worlds thinned. At dusk, as a half consumed moon rises, the countryside becomes a place of myth and mystery, lanes and lakes, meadow and marsh and unleafed and birdless trees hold an uneasy power and from these are born the songs and stories, rituals and rhymes for the ending of a year. No dreadful American import of Trick or Treat have a place here.

In one of the papers, writers told of their own Fright Night. M.R. James' stories of a haunted and malevolent countryside, a painting by Ken Currie, films, uncanny clowns with their whitened faces and a piano concerto by Mozart. One writer chose Walter de la Mare's poem, 'The Listeners', she said no matter how many times she read it gooseflesh rose on her arms. Beautifully written and uneasy but far more goosefleshy is the 'Lyke-Wake Dirge, this is ancient and would probably have been sung by a woman over a dead or dying soul. It is in Yorkshire dialect:

This ae night, this ae night  
Every night and all  
Fire an' fleet an' candleleat  
And Christ receive thy soul.'

Listen to the whole song sung on You Tube by 'Pentangle'. The words are raw-boned, bleak, uncompromising and speak of a harsh and moral law by which to live. The last line becomes a prayer for the dead or dying soul.

Across the North Yorkshire Moors is the Lyke-Wake Walk, a trail of forty miles.

*Pat Mlejnecky*

## Remembering the late Ronald Farrow 03.05.1925 - 24.07.2015



Known to everyone as Ronnie or 'the man with the VW Caravette' Ronnie and his Wife Barbara had their bungalow built in Church Meadow Lane, Bergh-Apton in 1957 where he lived until his recent death in July. They brought up their 4 children there and Barbara still live there today.

In his early days Ronnie worked for the Dye Brothers at Rockland and Woolnough and Cogman of Poringland before starting up on his own as a painter and decorator in the late 50's. He also loved his football and in his younger days played for Carrow, Poringland, Rockland and Yelverton.

Ronnie had to take early retirement but was however a very keen ballroom dancer and gardener which filled his time. He would always be giving away his surplus produce to family, friends and neighbours. Sometimes anyone else who was passing his gate if he was tending the front garden. Even his Dr's were on the receiving end of his courgettes, tomatoes and apples.

On 13th October 2011 Ronnie had an operation, which went well at the time but a week later saw him fighting for his life and at the time the Dr's didn't expect him to make it through the night. For the following year he was in and out of hospital, Saxlingham Hall and All Hallows' but such the fight he had in him he was able to get home on 29th March 2012 to celebrate with Barbara their Diamond Wedding Anniversary and receive their card from the Queen. He then fell ill again and was again in and out of hospital and All Hallows' until January 2013 where with the support of his Dr's at Heathgate Surgery, the carers of 'Nightingale' Poringland and the love and devotion of his Wife Barbara, with support of the family he was able to remain at home.

Ronnie passed away peacefully in his sleep 24th July 2015 with his family by him.

Thank you to those who attended his funeral and the donations in his memory to Heathgate Surgery which amounted to £280

*Ann Walker* (Daughter)

# MIDWINTER DREAMING – A PLAY FOR CANDLEMAS 2016

## January 24<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> & February 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Bramerton Group of Villages is at it again!!

Having created such a stir in 2014 with their Mystery Play Cycle, the call went out again. Nothing could hold back these intrepid inhabitants of Kirby Bedon, Surlingham, Framingham Pigot, Rockland, Ashby and of course, The Tribes of Ton – Alington, Yelverton, Bergh Apton, Thurton, Bramerton, Carleton & Claxton. The call was answered. Some forty people are involved in script writing, acting, singing, music making, rude mechanicalising, creating props and costumes and general dogsbodying.

So DO come to see what they have all been working at – for your enjoyment.

*Darkness is dispersed. Light takes over. The sounds of summer in winter's depths. Ancient tales, woven together produce an enchanting evening. A band of motley clothed players. Mediaeval rhymes spun into musical cloth. Scarcely visible musicians. A hive of activity.*

*All this with Wassailing and Cutty Wren hunting and, of course, the unexpected. All to celebrate the coming of the Light and Candlemas. This is Midwinter Dreaming.*

Along the way we have been helped by a significant contribution from the international writer and story-teller, Hugh Lupton. And for the performance, Charlotte Arculus, Director and Mary Lovett, Musical Director have added innovation, drama and song transforming the play into an atmospheric experience. Candlemas is a Festival of Light. The Light of the World has arrived and Spring is around the corner as the Sun brings much needed warmth.

There are three performances of Midwinter Dreaming.

The audience is asked to arrive at 6.30pm to drink Wassail to the performance, refresh and warm themselves before joining a Lantern led procession to Bergh Apton church, darkened, for the mysteries to unfold.

This is a Bergh Apton Community Arts Production. This production would not have been possible without BACAT's support.

It will be a special experience.

It will carry everyone from deepest, darkest, coldest winter towards the delights of spring and summer, picking up where the Christmas Story might have gone and taking us all into the Light.

**INFORMATION &  
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW (100 PER PERFORMANCE ONLY)  
SOLD IN ADVANCE @ £10**

**FROM**

**<http://berghapton.org.uk/candlemas-play-2016/> Or**

**01508 480696**



## BERGH APTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2015

This year saw the loss of two of our members, both of whom played a large part in the History Group. Bill Boardman and Derek Blake were two influential and colourful individuals who are greatly missed within the village and beyond.

The research, advisory and social activities of Bergh Apton Local History Group is ongoing. An assortment of events were organised throughout the year for members to enjoy.

The Remembrance service in November is always well attended and next month's event will, I'm sure, be no exception. We have many visitors from afar and our hospitality here, after the church service is always much appreciated. Our annual February dinner this year commemorated Richard Trevithick, a Cornish railway pioneer. An elegant gathering of Victorian gentry partook of a fine repast with a magnificent train acting as a centre piece. Thank you to Lorie and the seven C's charity for loaning us this wonderful model.

In May we had a Bring and Share Supper followed by a showing of the film "Akenfield". This was very successful and was much enjoyed by everyone and stimulated much discussion about rural life over the years.

June saw a large group of members enthusiastically ducking and diving down Norwich alleyways, discovering hidden gems within our lovely city. A gargantuan Indian meal rounded off a very convivial evening. We give our sincere thanks to June Boardman who so bravely agrees to herd an unruly mob around Norwich.

We joined the Alington and Yelverton History Group on an outing to Earsham Hall, in July. This is a most interesting place to visit and we had an enjoyable and informative afternoon followed by afternoon tea (it should be noted that most of our events seem to involve eating and drinking at some time in the proceedings!)

The Hare, in August, was its usual highly successful event. The beer ran out even earlier than usual so next year we may invest in two barrels! Since then, there has been some metal detecting done on the field with some interesting finds. A Tudor sixpence, some cufflinks and other bits and pieces.

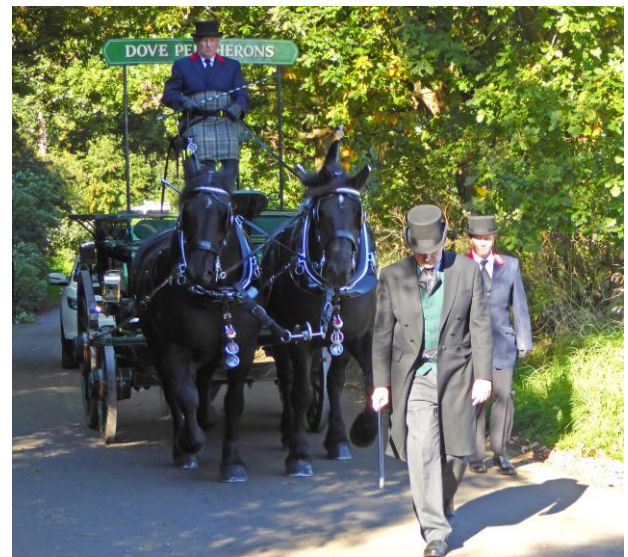
Tom Licence, of the Archaeological Faculty at UEA had to postpone his visit to us due to overseas commitments but we intend to reschedule this for next year. Finds that were recovered were washed, assessed and recorded and can be seen on his database <http://www.whatthevictoriansstrewaway.com/>

We are investigating the possibility of erecting a small structure in a corner of the church field to house our archives. Plans are with the South Norfolk Planners at the moment and we will keep members informed of progress.

We would like to thank Milton Harris for producing the Village Newsletter which is such a valuable source of village information, please keep supplying him with articles and information to cover as many areas as possible. It is striking how useful these documents are to researchers trying to understand the minutiae of society at any particular time. Major events are covered by professional media but the nuances of everyday life are often overlooked. The recording of everyday life, village activities, photographs of individuals and buildings is a very important legacy to future generations. If we all made a real effort to send him material, not necessarily long articles, little scraps of news and information are just as valuable and entertaining, then the newsletter will continue to be a real insight into our village.

*Linda Davy* Chairman

### A Huge Thank You



I would like to thank everyone who has helped me to cope in so many ways with the loss of Bernie.

My gratitude for all the practical help; the genuine concern; the cards and letters which mean so much - I shall treasure them forever; the donations in Bernie's memory for Priscilla Bacon Lodge and last but, certainly not least the Hugs and there have been many!

Milton asked me to compile a short piece for inclusion in the News Letter.

I feel everything that needed to be said about Bernie was heard by all those who attended his funeral on 30th September.

This wonderful picture of the horses from The Dove at Poringland bringing Bernie to the church in Bergh Apton helped to make his last day on earth a really memorable one.

God Bless.

*Jean Bobbin*

## MEMORIES OF PRE-WAR BERGH APTON RECTORY

It was a real treat to talk to Ellen Yallop when I met her in her Rockland St Mary home in late September. In her youth she had worked for Rev'd and Mrs Heard at Bergh Apton rectory so she is a direct link to our village pre-1939-1945 world war days in which there was an order of things that has long gone. It's not that anyone (well, very few of us!) wishes them to return but, as with any period in history, some knowledge of how they worked, and the people that worked in them, is of real value to those interested in local history.

Heather Lewin, who has been Ellen's hairdresser of many years, knew how interested I would be to talk to Ellen about her life and times at the Rectory and she intrigued me further with the promise that Ellen had photographs of those days. It was Heather who arranged for me to go over the Rockland and chat to Ellen over a cup of coffee. Our muddle over times past turned out to be not just a great pleasure in itself but it also resolved a niggling question that crops up every time any of us look at one particular photograph of the Rectory (of which more later).

Ellen was raised in Yelverton as one of eleven brothers and sisters, one of whom is Peter Saunders, proud owner and chauffeur of the gleaming white Rolls Royce that he delights in providing for local events and celebrations including delivery of VIP guests to the Bergh Apton Christmas Lunch.

Ellen began her work at Bergh Apton Rectory in 1938 as a teenager when she joined the small staff of house servants and gardeners employed by Reverend Alexander St John Heard, Rector of Bergh Apton from 1936 to 1941. One of the duties of the house staff was to look after the Rector's Australian wife who suffered from spinal paralysis. Betty Heard would have married Mr Heard after WW1 (in which he is recorded as an unmarried Chaplain in the AIF – the Australian Imperial Force) and may have met him when he served as a curate in Townsville, Queensland, before the war.

The rectory house staff comprised Ellen and the Ashby sisters Doris (parlour maid) and Barbara (the cook) who all had bedrooms in the annexe attached to the north side of the rectory until that was taken over in the early part of the war to house the three evacuees from the London area who were taken in by Rev'd Heard. Thereafter the house staff moved into bedrooms in the main part of the house.

The gardening team at the rectory, Levi Lord, Frank Freestone and Alfred Boggis, were all local men of whom one, Alfred Boggis, shared with the Rev'd Heard the sense of family loss in WW1 in which Alfred's father (also baptised Alfred) and Heard's brother Robert had been killed.

Rev'd Heard moved on from Bergh Apton in late 1941 or early 1942 to take charge of the parishes of Mulbarton and Cringleford. It was in the latter's Rectory that he and Betty Heard took up residence and where Ellen also moved to look after Mrs Heard for a further 2 years.

Then, in quite a dramatic change of responsibility, she took a job with the Women's Land Army in Briston near Fakenham where she took on the challenge of running a hostel for a team of sixty young and probably high-spirited Land Army Girls. A far cry, one suspects, from the relative calm of working for a country clergyman and his disabled wife.

We hope to bring you more stories of Ellen's life "below stairs" and of her own family of three daughters and three sons who, between them, have given Ellen eleven grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren (so far!). Her experience of dealing with those Land Army girls will probably have come in handy when trying to cope with a gathering of this family! More of these in subsequent editions of the Newsletter.



*Ellen Yallop (née Saunders), a teenager in 1940, in the morning uniform she wore as a member of the Bergh Apton rectory household staff.*



*Ellen (back row) in the rectory garden with evacuees Jean and Kathleen Britton and Hilda and Edith Bowering sometime in 1940.*

## BERGH APTON CONSERVATION TRUST – ANNUAL REPORT (30 September 2015)

Unusually, it has not been an entirely good year for the Trust: I have to start by recording the sad loss of a number of members, good friends and supporters. Foremost in our thoughts is Bernie Bobbin, whose funeral coincidentally took place earlier today. As a life-long lover of nature, Bernie was the driving force in the purchase of Church Plantation and the formation of BACT in 1994, enlisting like-minded folk to join him as founding trustees. Without his initiative and foresight this Trust simply would never have existed, and many of our lives would have been so much the poorer. Characteristically, for decades he allowed our unkempt assemblage of tools a home in his otherwise immaculately tidy shed.

Unfortunately, it does not stop there: with the sad loss of Bill Boardman, also went an encyclopaedic knowledge of plants and an infectious enthusiasm for the natural world. Members may recall especially his remarkable capacity to find new and rare fungi, and his jovial friendship at our events. Derek Blake, who died in tragic circumstances in the summer, had guided us to the generous grant from South Norfolk Council for the power-scythe that has been so crucial to our management of valley marsh. Anyone who has attended our famous 'Breakfasts with the Moths', will have warm memories of the expert double-act of Judy and John Geeson, who amazed and educated us by turns. Sadly, Judy passed away in January, far too young. Yet another loss in the summer was John Guyer, the legendary digger driver, who had done sterling work for us at an age when most are long retired. We offer our sincere sympathy and condolences to all of their families and friends.

Perhaps the major event of the year was our attempt to buy a 5-acre remnant of derelict cherry orchard in Threadneedle Street for the village. We committed most of our own resources and launched a public appeal for the balance at short notice. The response of our membership, the broader local community, kindred organizations and other friends was tremendous and heart-warming. We exceeded what we had thought was an impossibly ambitious target of £35,000 in only three weeks. Unfortunately it was still not enough in the event to secure the orchard and so the monies raised were returned. The project was, nevertheless, another testament to the legendary community spirit of Bergh Apton.

Our summer excursion to a place of conservation importance was hugely interesting. On 19 July we travelled to Bayfield Hall just north of Holt, where the River Glaven Conservation Group has re-created a 1.2-

km stretch of chalk stream, which had been buried in a tunnel for 120 years. This involved precise engineering of depths, meanders and riffles to create a full range of riparian habitats. 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). It was astonishing to learn that the new river had been opened as recently as October 2014, given the apparent maturity of colonization by diverse plants and animals. We are grateful to Carrie Kerry for organizing this visit to an exemplary ecological restoration.

Our quest for public engagement continued, starting with 'Wild about Norfolk' in October 2014. Our work days have again benefited from visiting groups doing community service and parties of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The latter have helped particularly with pulling of sycamore seedlings, cutting bracken and raking-up of cut vegetation, at the same time enjoying some pond dipping and finding animals under our sheets of tin. Brooke Scouts have built a luxurious 'Bug Hotel' in Church Plantation. We are grateful to Jacquie Ratcliffe and Shirley Rimmer for organising and managing these visits.

The year started after the last AGM with another terrific talk by Carrie Kerry on 'Peregrines at Norwich Cathedral', also featuring Clive Britcher and his tiercel, Crecy, and accompanied by a film made by the Hawk & Owl Trust of the highlights of the 2014 breeding season. The fungus foray in October saw a return of the charismatic Dr Tony Leech as leader; it was very well attended by many local people and some from further afield. The dedicated pond-dipping afternoon in May was greatly enjoyed by the small group of young people attending, as well as us. Bob Kerry led his customary two hedge surveys, both this year at Bergh Apton Manor.

We would like to pay tribute to the two long-standing trustees who are standing-down at this meeting. Lorie Lain-Rogers was a founding trustee in 1994 and has served continuously ever since, including as our first chairman and subsequently as secretary for many years. We are grateful for her immense contribution to the development and organization of the Trust. Dennis Moya is also retiring after many years as a trustee; we will miss his wise and practical council on a wide variety of matters. We look forward to their continuing participation in our activities at a slightly greater distance.

*Tony Davey* Chairman



## THE MYSTERY “THING” IN THE RECTORY WINDOW

In the article about Ellen Yallop (on page 7) I mentioned a photo for which Ellen provided the answer to a puzzle that has intrigued us in the more-than-ten-years we have had a copy in the village archive.

It is of a large group of people sitting or standing on the south lawn of the rectory whom, we knew, had a bell-ringing connection. It included the Rev'd Heard, Canon Gilbert Thurlow of Great Yarmouth (later Dean of Gloucester Cathedral) and Bergh Apton ringers Alfred and Herbert Boggis, Bob Warman and Lionel Lester. It also included the rectory staff (Ellen is seated fourth from the left in the front row).

What had long-puzzled us, was something protruding from the bedroom window behind the assembled company, dropping to the ground behind them. Was it a very long bed sheet? Or even a stream of water?!

Ellen had the answer. The meeting was, she confirmed, of Norfolk bell ringers in about 1941, hosted at the rectory by the Rev'd Heard who was a very keen, knowledgeable and generous ringer (see note below). She told me that this strange object was a tapestry that illustrated a complete “method” in the ancient English skill of church bell change-ring in which every bell will be in a different position relative to all the other bells, at every stroke, and that in a full “peal” (that this cloth may have illustrated) could comprise 5,040 individual lines of the “ring”. No wonder it was long!

The remaining mystery, of course, is “where is this cloth now?” Another history quest looks about to begin!

*Note: Soon after his arrival in Bergh Apton Alexander St John Heard gave the bell-ringers of Bergh Apton a set of twelve hand bells in a very fine casket for their practise and entertainment. It is still in the possession of the church and one of them may feature in the forthcoming Candlemas Play in the church – almost seventy years on from the time of his gift.*



*The puzzle photo. Caption: Bergh Apton rectory in 1941 with Rev'd Heard (far right standing). His guests and staff on the front lawn. Ellen Yallop is seated, 4<sup>th</sup> from left, in the front row. Behind them, falling from the bedroom window, is the bell-ringing tapestry.*



*The hand bells presented by Rev'd Heard in their box with its inscription recording his gift.*





## BERGH APTON'S REMEMBRANCE

Over 150 people - village residents, members of the families of our memorial's Fallen, and our friends from towns and villages all over England - gathered in Bergh Apton's parish church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November to remember those who died in the two World Wars.

Our main focus was the 51 men whose names are on the village war memorial set in the churchyard (37 in the First World War of 1914 to 1918\* and 14 in the Second World War from 1939 to 1945) but Remembrance nowadays embraces a far wider scope that we thought of those whose countries were once our enemies, who have died in later conflicts, and of civilians everywhere in the world who have died through warfare.

In the most beautiful weather for an early November day - warm and sunny with barely a hint of a wind - we met in the church before gathering at the memorial, led by Chris Ellis in his first Remembrance Day service of his ministry in this parish. Precisely as Bob Kerry's bugle sounded the last note of Last Post the church clock sounded the first stroke of eleven o'clock - probably the closest that we have ever come in the tricky task of perfect timing for The Silence!

This year's two village wreaths - one for the First and another for Second World War - were laid on the community's behalf by Sergeant Major Deepack Shrestha, late of the Brigade of Gurkhas, now with the Royal Engineers, and Lance Corporal Somo Khangembam of Royal Signals, whose dual presence was appreciatively applauded when they were introduced to the congregation before the service.

Deepack is from the Gurkhas' home country of Nepal and Somo is from India's most easterly State, Manipur. The significance of their presence may not have been apparent to all in the congregation but Deepack's own service in Iraq was in the same land as that of four men on our war memorial who died on or as a result of their wounds on WW1's Mesopotamian battlefields and, in WW2, our memorial's Stephen Hallett was briefly stationed in Somo's home city of Imphal on his route to Hpaunzeik in Burma where he died soon afterwards.

Afterwards many who were at the service gathered again in the village hall for hot soup (hardly needed in this weather!), coffee and a chat with each other before making their way homeward.

*\*The recitation of WW1's Roll of Honour included a thirty eighth man, Reggie Beaumont. His name is not on the memorial but his gassing in the war may well have been the cause of his death two years after it ended. Reggie was the brother of Robert Beaumont who died at Broodseinde in Belgium in October 1917.*



*Having planted poppy crosses in their name, Ann Harris, Peter Annis, Ann Cooper and her sister Pauline Oliver pause to honour Walter Alexander, Arthur Annis and Alfred Bligh at the war memorial.*



*After the Remembrance Day service, Chris Johnson flanked by Deepak Shrestha (left) and Somo Khangembam who laid the village wreaths.*



*Peter Annis, assisted by Shirley Rimmer and with Chris Ellis in the background, lights the Peace Candle at the start of the Remembrance service.*

## NEWS OF BERGH APTON PEOPLE

### JOHN & JOY LESTER

John and Joy Lester, late of Mill Road and now of Tower Mill Lane in Bungay, celebrated their Golden Jubilee this year having spent sixty years together following their wedding in Bergh Apton church on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1955. They received congratulations from the Queen but are mystified as to the identity of the person interested and knowledgeable enough to have told Buckingham Palace of this auspicious day. No one in their family or among “the usual suspects” has owned up!

John and Joy’s first house following their wedding was the bungalow on Mill Road immediately south of what is now Green Pastures where they lived until their move to their present home in Bungay a few years ago.

They moved to the Mill Road bungalow when Charlie Carver made arrangements for his farm foreman Reggie Frost and Reggie’s wife Alice to move into Millers Cottage, the Carver’s former home now owned by Himu Gupta and Joy Munden at Hellington Corner.

### RIP JOY SMITH (NEE FROST).

That brings us to a brief family ceremony held in Bergh Apton churchyard on the afternoon of Sunday 27 September when Tony Smith and his family brought the ashes of his late beloved wife Joy back to Bergh Apton to be buried in the grave of her parents Reggie and Alice Frost who featured in the story above. Tony and Joy were married in Bergh Apton and we include a photo of them on their wedding day outside the church.

The day would have marked Joy’s 71<sup>st</sup> birthday and the passage of one year since her death and cremation in Norwich.

### RIP SARAH STONE

Sarah Stone, who has died at the age of 102 years old, was the youngest child of John Richard (Jack) Stone and his wife Mary Alice. She was born in 1909 and was sister to Robert, Emma, Frank, Mabel, Alec, Dorothy, David, Sarah Anne, and Margaret. Her brother Aubrey was killed on 17 September 1916 in France. Sarah’s funeral was very well attended by her large family that includes Mervyn Ducker who still lives in her native village of Bergh Apton.



Joy (née Frost) and Tony Smith at Bergh Apton church on their wedding day in the summer of 1972.



We had a very successful  
Christmas card sale and  
coffee morning for  
save the children,  
a huge thank you to our  
helpers and supporters.

The total raised was **£2279.52**

*Carrie & Martin Holl*

Liz Lester, Alex and Clive Evans and  
Paris Back would like to thank all  
those who came, supported and  
helped for our Coffee Morning  
on 15th October.

As a result of your generosity,  
we raised **£1462** for The Brooke,  
The Naxal Orphanage in Nepal  
and  
Marie Curie Cancer Care.





## A Taste of Christmas at Green Pastures

Despite the great weather for growing this autumn we've certainly not let the grass grow under our feet here at Green Pastures! No sooner had we celebrated our magnificent achievement at the Norfolk Food Awards we received an unexpected visit from the judges of the Norfolk Tourism awards. Sadly we didn't reach the finals for the latter but we have just been advised we've been nominated for a "Rural Oscar" in the Countryside Alliance Awards; watch this space!

Our annual "Pumpkin Day" on 31<sup>st</sup> October was a roaring success and thank you to all who visited. Almost every member of staff arrived in fancy dress as did several customers too, including a rather fetching Nigel and Paris Back! Among the activities was a pumpkin sculpting demonstration by Norwich Sculptor Ray Noakes and a unique treasure hunt featuring Sarah's Minion painted pumpkins. Congratulations to Sam Atkins who won our Pumpkin Pie Bake Off.



Among our preparations for the Christmas season we've been busy getting ourselves licensed for alcohol sales both in the farm shop and in the restaurant. By the time this newsletter hits the letterboxes we'll be well stocked with an exciting range of local wines and beers.

Christmas lunches in the Gardeners Kitchen are already proving popular; look out for some of the dishes being featured in December's edition of the EDP Norfolk Magazine! Our Christmas menu will be available 6 days a week until Christmas but don't forget to pre-book!

We're also busy creating lots of other Christmas goods this time of year. Michelle and Mark form the backbone of our wreath making team and they're always glad to hear from anyone who has any spare holly that they'd like James to come and prune! Sarah now becomes our

"Hamper Queen" creating a beautiful range of food hampers, which can be tailored to anyone's individual requirements with lots of Norfolk and other locally produced ingredients at her disposal.



Don't forget our Christmas Food Ordering Service in the farm shop. From free range Norfolk Bronze Turkey's to Christmas Puds cooked right here in the Gardener's Kitchen we can cater for most of your household's festive requirements. Check out our extensive list of products available and place your order by Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December to guarantee availability. We can even send Alwyn to deliver it for you!

Finally, James and Michelle would like to say a huge "Thank You" to all of our customers who have given us such tremendous support and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### **Festive Opening Hours for Farm Shop, Restaurant, Post Office & Plant Centre**

Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Open (closing 3pm)
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Closed
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> to Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Open
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Closed

## From Alington & Bergh Apton CE VA Primary School

We are now well into our school year and the “new” 15 Reception children have settled in very well. Already the admission process for next year has begun! Do you have a child who will be five between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017? If so, your child could start full time in September 2016 and you should apply to Norfolk County Council by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

Apply online: [www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk) (website open between 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. and 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.) or application forms can be obtained from Norfolk County Council Customer Service Centre Tel. 0344 800 8020 Email: [admissions@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@norfolk.gov.uk)

If you have an older child at school or your child is currently attending a nursery, please don't assume that no further action is required on your part. You still have to apply for a place for your child in the normal way.

Parents who missed our Open Morning and would like to visit, please ring to make an appointment 01508 492700.



**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 12.00 till 3.00pm.**

Come and meet Santa and his elves in our fabulous Christmas grotto.

The Christmas café will be serving delicious seasonal savouries, cakes and drinks.

There are shopping opportunities – cards, crafts and jewellery as well as games to play, prizes to be won including raffles and tombolas.

This is always a very popular occasion.

**We hope to see you there.**

## New Arrival

Our newest member of the family, Beau Evan Debbage was born on Tuesday 29th September.

## A Thank You from us

We would like to say a very big thank you to all the people who so kindly contribute to this parish newsletter, we can only include articles, adverts and announcements if they are provided to us and we have to say we were very pleased to receive our largest collection to date for this very edition.

There is always room for more and if any member of the village would like to contribute a piece for the newsletter, small or large, we are more than happy to include it.

As always please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to the Editor, Milton Harris at: **town\_farm@btinternet.com**

*Milton Harris* Editor  
*Keeley Harris* Layout

## Car Link Volunteer Drivers needed in your area

Car Link is a partnership between ERS Medical and Voluntary Norfolk, providing non-emergency patient transport throughout the majority of the county. Our volunteer drivers provide an essential service, transporting up to one hundred patients to their destination each day.

We are looking to recruit new volunteer drivers to join our busy team, and would love to hear from caring, calm and reliable individuals with their own car. As well as drivers to do journeys to hospitals in Norfolk and East Anglia, we are also looking to find volunteers happy to go above and beyond the usual, by taking on early morning appointments, and appointments in London.

All expenses are reimbursed, and training is provided.

**Please call Jules on  
01603 883860  
or email**

**[jules.alderson@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk](mailto:jules.alderson@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk)**



SHADOWS, SILENCES, SONGS, SIGHTS,  
FLICKERING LIGHTS, FLEETING FIGURES,  
LAUGHTER & ANCIENT STORIES WOVEN

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in

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# Midwinter Dreaming



## A PLAY FOR CANDLEMAS

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**CHARLOTTE ARCULUS** DIRECTOR

**MARY LOVETT** DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

WRITTEN IN COLLABORATION WITH **HUGH LUPTON**

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**Sunday 24 & Saturday 30 January**  
**Saturday 6 February**

**6.30pm at Bergh Apton church, NR15 1BX**

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**Tickets £10 – BOOK EARLY**

FROM <http://berghapton.org.uk/candlemas-play-2016/>  
OR BY TELEPHONE 01508 480696

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## Dates for your diary

### DECEMBER 2015

6 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Christmas Lunch at Village Hall
8 <sup>th</sup>	19.00 for 19.30	Christmas Bingo at B.A. Village Hall
9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00-16.00	Christmas Wreath Workshop at B.A. Village Hall
11 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	B.A. Society Christmas dinner at Green Pastures
17 <sup>th</sup>	09.30	Decorate Church for Christmas
19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
19 <sup>th</sup>	19.00	BACT Christmas Party at Flint Cottage
20 <sup>th</sup>	18.00	Carol Service at Parish Church
21 <sup>st</sup>	18.00	Carol singing round the village meet at Village Hall
24 <sup>th</sup>	16.00	Crib Service at Parish Church
25 <sup>th</sup>	09.45	Holy Communion Service at Parish Church

### JANUARY 2016

1 <sup>st</sup>	09.30	New Year Breakfast at the Village Hall
6 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	Parish Council meet at the Village Hall
16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00-12.00	Coffee n Chat at the Village Hall
20 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	P.C.C. meet in Church
21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
24 <sup>th</sup>	18.30	'Mid Winter Dreaming' a play for Candlemas in the Parish Church
26 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Tuesday Friends at Parish Church
30 <sup>th</sup>	09.00	11 Says assembly at Bramerton Village Hall
30 <sup>th</sup>	19.00	'Mid Winter Dreaming' a play for Candlemas in the Parish Church
31 <sup>st</sup>	11.00	Unity Service at the Parish Church followed by Bring n Share lunch at the Village Hall

## 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

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**The Copy Date for the next issue is 10th January.**

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

*Thank you*