



# The Bergh Apton Newsletter

August - September 2017

Issue No. 152

## Editorial Comment

*Seeing this field of flax in our immediate locality I searched details on line and discovered that flax is grown in cooler parts of the world, hearing that the weather in Norfolk was hotter than Miami I felt that the boffins had got it wrong again or perhaps I/we should just blame global warming. Please read this Newsletter containing several interesting articles and enjoy it and the sunny weather and may we all have a fruitful and enjoyable summer.*



Milton Harris (Editor)  
Keeley Harris (Graphic Designer)



## Thank You, Bergh Apton!!!!

Your generosity in Christian Aid Week 2017 raised over £650. With the addition of tax reclaimed on Gift Aid slips, Bergh Apton has this year contributed £734 to the valuable work of Christian Aid around the world.

We won't know exactly where it will be used but the need is ongoing and, thanks to people like you, the donors, the volunteers who delivered and collected the envelopes and many, many others, the work can continue.



## CALL FOR HELP!

**We are in desperate need of adult help.**

Indeed, we might have to close both the Beaver & Cub Sections in the near future if we do not have any new Leaders & Assistants.

Beavers is Monday 6 - 7

Cubs is Wednesday 6.30 - 8

Scouts is Tuesday 7 - 8.30

Explorers (10-14 years)  
is Thursday 7.30 - 9.30  
(temporarily meeting at Saxlingham)

**Nicky Summers**  
Group Scout Leader  
Brooke & Poringland Scout Group



**This month's copy deadline will be the 1<sup>st</sup> September.**

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

*Thank you*

## Doggerland News

February 2018 is growing closer. Preparations are gathering pace and much is afoot - readying everything & everyone for the four performances of Doggerland.

Important DATE for your Doggerland diaries.

**On Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> October you are invited to the Beach, probably Winterton Beach.** To make a giant something – a Mammoth perhaps!!

The whole process, the making of the giant and its drowning by the incoming tide will be filmed and will form an important part of the Play.

On the 7<sup>th</sup>, your creative impulses will be under the guidance of environmental artist Liz McGowan. She has been a stalwart of every Bergh Apton Sculpture Trail and we are delighted she has joined the Doggerland team. See her short video taken on a beach somewhere in England to show something similar!

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/156315630>

So do come to build an extra special sandcastle!!! **Come wind, come weather we shall go ahead. Come and take part in something quite different!**

**If you are interested, please get in touch with Pat Mlejnecky, - 01508 480696 or [p.mlej@btinternet.com](mailto:p.mlej@btinternet.com).**



Now, what has been happening in Doggerland!

**Another feather for our caps! To be awarded one grant from the Arts Council of England is a real achievement, to be awarded two!!!!**

**First time - to stage 'The Legend of the Rood. And now a second to enable us to go full steam ahead with 'Doggerland'. The Arts Council are obviously impressed that a small rural group can put on events of such quality and that well known and respected professionals, such as Hugh Lupton, Charlotte Arculus, Mary Lovett and Liz McGowan are more than willing to work with us.**

**Prehistoric flowers and plants.** Peter Lyle ran a fascinating workshop to invent what might (well) have grown before the inundation. Suzanne Bryant tells us more, and Peter's photographs show what was achieved – see below:



**On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June we joined in the Imaginary Plants from Doggerland workshop at the Village Hall.** This was the latest BACAT workshop and was organized by Peter Lyle. Using pressed flowers and leaves we created our own imaginary plants, which could have grown in Doggerland. Peter and Pat had pressed a wide range of flowers for us to experiment with including some collected in Cornwall. Then came the difficult part creating a common name and its Latin name. We were assisted by an extensive list of Latin terms and Peter's knowledge. In addition to the names we wrote notes about the places our plants grew and how they could have been used. There were some beautiful new plants created with the most wonderful uses.

**The workshop had a nice calm atmosphere with everyone creating something unique. Both adults and children took part and stayed as long as they wanted. The works will be mounted and displayed in the church during the performances.**

Whilst we have been sunning ourselves imagining how the ice-age might have felt Hugh Lupton has been coolly creating the **story-line and script** for our play. We knew nothing of whether or how the muse might have been working, but on 15<sup>th</sup> July our wait was over. **The Tribes of Ton gathered in the Village Hall for the first 'read through'** – await the next exciting instalment to tell all

And finally, here is the next short story developed at one of Hugh Lupton's three writing workshops, by Sheridan Winn.

## **THE MAMMOTH OF RAGAHOC**

*An icy wind sears across the plain of Ragahoc. In the large tent, Celador's family draw close round the fire. Tomorrow Carac will kill the mammoth and there is an air of excitement. On the fire a large haunch of venison roasts and the children turn the spit. The women cut off pieces of meat using sharp blades of flint and hand them to the men and children.*

*The tent is made of animal hides stitched together with sinews and fixed over a wooden frame. Layers of hides cover the floor of the tent to keep out the night cold. Twenty-six people live here – Celador's family, known as the Bear Clan.*

*Now forty-two years old, Celador is the hunter, the head of the clan. His parents and his wives' parents are the elders and the youngest member is a granddaughter one moon in age.*

*Tomorrow the Bear Clan will hunt the mammoth seen roaming on Ragahoc – and Carac must make the kill. Thirteen years old – one hundred and sixty-nine moons – and the eldest grandson of Celador, this is his initiation.*

*In the glowing light, Celador looks across at Erak, his son – and they both glance at Carac. The boy looks nervous. Carac is small for his age but keen-eyed and skilled as a hunter. His aim is true. If the mammoth is to be killed with honour, it must be killed quickly and without suffering. The arrow must pierce the mammoth's skull between the eyes. Carac has reason to fear. Many hunters have been trampled or gored in the attempt at such a shot.*

*On his head, Celador wears the antlers of a red deer. Over his shoulders is a bearskin and around his lower body are the skins of wolves stitched together with sinews. He sits on a tall wooden stump raised above the tribe.*

*Celador tears at the meat and chews thoughtfully. Soon, he will tell the story of his initiation on the grassy plains of Ragahoc. Once the family has eaten and drunk sufficient, they sit back and wait. Outside the wind blows, but in the flickering light of the fire everyone turns to Celador.*

*With his hands on his knees, he shakes his head then lowers it and roars, as if to charge. The huge antlers wheel and dance in the firelight. Celador sits up and clears his throat. Nobody moves. His eyes glitter as he looks round at the tribe, one by one – then fixes his gaze on Carac.*

*'Tomorrow we will eat well,' says Celador. 'We will have oil for our lamps, hides for our tent and garments, and bone for our tools.'*

*Carac draws a sharp breath. His grandfather's gaze pierces his chest.*

*'May the Great Spirit be with you, Grandson,' says Celador. Carac gives a respectful nod – and waits.*

*'Now, I will tell you the story of the mammoth hunt many moons ago when I was Carac's age.'*

*'As the sun rose, the mammoths came from the west. There were three of them – a bull the size of a tree and two females. The day was cold and my skin was raw. We were downwind of the beasts. You have to remember, Carac, that the mammoth can hear you a long way away. It hears sounds much deeper than we do. It might not see you – its eyes are weak, but it will smell you. So you always keep downwind and you move like a feather over the grass.*

*We lay in the grass, the wind on our backs – and we watched. We watched and we waited until the mammoths were close. My father asked which beast I would kill and I told him the bull. It had huge tusks that could smash out a man's brains in a moment.*

*My father and uncles separated the mammoth and drove the females away. Then we surrounded the bull, waving our spears and shouting. The huge animal raised its trunk and trumpeted, pounding its feet on the ground. The Earth began to shake as the great bull turned – and turned again, pounding, pounding. I was terrified.'*

*'Get in place, Celador!' shouted my father. 'You must take the first arrow.'*

*Right between the eyes, he told me. That was where I should pierce the beast's skull for instant death. That was where a true hunter would hit.*

*My heart was pounding as I braced myself, and drew the arrow from my quiver.*

*'Waahhhh!' the mammoth trumpeted again – and I almost fell over.*

*'Get up, get up!' I told myself, my heart going so fast I could hardly breathe.*

*As fast as I could I placed the arrow in the nocking point and drew back the bowstring. The belly of the bow swelled as I pulled back the bowstring with all my might. My mind went clear as I took aim – and time seemed to lengthen. I remember pulling back the bowstring. I remember taking aim at the mammoth's head, right in the centre. I remember seeing the huge beast begin to charge straight at me. I remember releasing the arrow and watching it fly.'*

*Celador looked down at the ground – was silent. Everybody waited. Outside the wind howled round the tent, but inside all was still.*

*Then the older man looked straight at his grandson and said, 'And, I killed the beast. It dropped in front of me no further away than you sit.'*

*'Hold your nerve, Carac. Always hold your nerve.'*

**Sheridan Winn**

*Chris Meynell*



## BACT Scout Group Visit

### Wildlife on the Bergh Apton Conservation Trust included Beavers in June!

The Bergh Apton Conservation Trust (BACT) plantation and marsh present management challenges as well as environmental and outdoor learning opportunities and since BACT Trustee, Jacquie Ratcliffe, initiated a working relationship with the Brooke Scout Group a few years ago, the association has yielded many mutual benefits.

The Scout Group comprises several different sections. Divided roughly by age, they're Beavers (5-8), Cubs (8-11), Scouts (11-14), Explorer Scouts (14-18). We've enjoyed having them with us on several occasions and the most recent was in late June. On a very warm Monday evening we were joined by the Beavers on site for an hour. They divided their time between some rather muddy pond dipping and raking trash off recently-mown paths on Valley Marsh.

While the prolonged dry period that preceded their visit helped the trash removal, water levels were very reduced, so the search for creatures was something of a challenge. After a very successful pond dipping a month earlier it was interesting to note how the tadpoles' progress towards 'froghood' had advanced (they now had hind legs and, when the group returns in September, we won't find tadpoles at all). All the youngsters wanted to puddle about in the mud and it was a delight to witness their glee when encountering fish and other creatures

lurking in the slime. The discovery of a three-inch long dragonfly nymph, a truly fearsome-looking beast, always creates a lot of excitement.

After an hour of frantic and noisy activity, the Beavers departed and peace again descended on the BACT site, albeit for only 24 hours. Then the Scouts arrived. They split into two groups – those who had sawing/cutting experience and those who didn't. Under close supervision, the former group convened in the Plantation, cutting back small sycamores. Their labours will reduce the canopy to let light into the woodland, encouraging a more diverse under-storey.

The latter group trekked down to the Marsh where they raked paths not cleared by the Beavers the evening before, also clearing trapped flotsam from the Chet - logs and twigs which threatened to deviate the stream from its course along the edge of the Marsh, using the debris to reinforce the banks.

You can see some photos of the Group's visit on the Facebook page of the Brooke and Poringland Scout Group (19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June). Sadly, the Cubs couldn't come this time but we look forward to welcoming all three groups again in September. Their activities help our management of the site but also fit with the Scout Group's aims of community help and environmental engagement. Like so many volunteer organisations, they are keen to enrol more helpers/leaders and would be delighted to hear from you if you're interested.

*Shirley Rimmer*

## SEEN HERE IN ITS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THE LESSER SPOTTED PUMPING STATION

If you have a private pumping station at the bottom of your garden or in your street we need to know about it. You are currently responsible if anything goes wrong but the good news is that from October 2016 we will take responsibility for many private pumping stations in our region. This will include the cost to maintain and run them, but we have to find them first. If you're not sure what you're looking for our handy spotter's guide can help.

So if you have one get in touch today:

**03457 145 145**

Or email us at:

[privatepumpingstations@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:privatepumpingstations@anglianwater.co.uk)  
[spotapumpingstation.co.uk](http://spotapumpingstation.co.uk)



The man in the moon came down too soon  
And asked his way to Norwich,  
He went by the south and burnt his mouth  
With supping cold pease porridge.

.....and on Friday 12 May he had found his way for there he was outside the Forum in town and he had brought the moon with him. A full moon, not made of green cheese but a rare blue moon and he had it on a lead. This, of course, was 'The Museum of the Moon' and one of the events during the Norfolk and Norwich Festival. It was a giant inflatable moon, seven meters in diameter and with NASA imagery of the surface. It was coloured in shades of blue from silver blues to navy, mountains and seas, there they all were, quite wonderful. If you Google 'Museum of the Moon' you can see photos of this moon in other places in Britain.

In this country we see a man when we look at a full moon but in other countries they see a hare and this story tells why this is so:

Prince Siddhartha left his kingdom in the skies and lived on earth and, because of his wisdom, he became called Buddha which means 'enlightened'. He lived as a hermit and once he met an animal whose kindness and concern for others was an example to both Gods and Men. The Lord Buddha was sitting in the shade of a banyan tree on the edge of a forest, the sun poured its golden light through the leaves like milk into cups. He had lit a fire and his pot of water was boiling but, alas, he had nothing to put in it to make a meal. A jay with blue barred wings flew by carrying a spray of little dark cherries, dark as a moonless night in his beak and let them drop into the pot. A monkey swung down and tossed a handful of beans in, a cobra with hooded head brought spices, cumin, coriander and cayenne. A wild dog sneaked near and splashed a stolen egg into the boiling water. Next came a hare and he said to the Buddha, 'You have the look of a good and gracious man but also a hungry one.'

'That is quite true my long eared friend,' replied the Buddha, 'but my friends are helping me.'

'I have nothing but myself O Lord Buddha.'

With that the hare leaped into the pot of boiling water. Down he went and the water hissed and steamed and bubbled but to the hare it felt cool. With the speed of a striking hawk the Buddha snatched the hare from the pot.

'Those who give of themselves little Leaper-in –the-Corn are greatly blessed, it is the greatest gift of all. You will live for ever Little-Racer-Round-the –Field to dance for joy on the moon.'

The Buddha lifted the hare up and up and higher still till the hare landed on the moon. Now, we on earth, can look up at night and see the little hare and remember

his generosity and selflessness and perhaps learn a lesson.

Here's hoping that those who think it legitimate sport to hunt and harry wild creatures using lame excuses that they are vermin will remember this story and be equally generous and merciful.

How do we on earth see the moon, the astrophysicist, the goblin, 'the lunatic, the lover and the poet', how do they view this silver disc? The astrophysicist knows it is a ball of grim stone, grey as ashes, pitted and pocked by craters, he knows it circles the earth, its appearance changing night by night. The new moon just a cuticle of light, fattening to the first quarter then to a gibbous moon and ripening to show us its full face. He knows it holds the tides of the sea on a leash controlling its going out and its coming in. Here is an old riddle, which phase of the moon does it describe?

In Mornigan's park there is a deer,  
Silver horns and golden ear,  
Neither fish, flesh, feather nor bone,  
In Mornigan's park she walks alone.

The goblin longs for the nymph's green glass beads which came from the moon. Ancient man saw the moon as a goddess, Selene, her brother was Helios, the sun. As day faded to night Selene, with a crown like a crescent moon, rose from the sea. A silver chariot she drove pulled by horses white as winter's frost. Across the sky they galloped silvering the world with light stolen from her brother. Storytellers tell of the Moon Spinners. These are sea sprites who walk the shores of the earth. They each carry a spindle and on to these they spin the moonlight, white as milk. Their task is to see the world has its hours of darkness so they spin the moon out of the sky like white wool. As night follows night the moon's light wanes and at last its light is gone, the world has darkness and rest and creatures are safe from the hunter. On the darkest night, the sea sprites take their spindles to where the sea lips the land to wash their wool. As it slips from the spindle it unravels in long ripples of light and see, there is the moon, at first just a thin thread of light. When all the wool is washed and is a white ball in the sky, then, once more, the Moon Spinners start to wind its light on to their spindles until the night becomes safe once more for all hunted creatures.

As the sun sets the time of darkness comes, the Evening Star, Venus herself appears first as herald to her companion, the Moon. What better way to welcome the coming night and the Moon herself than with the opening prayer of Compline, the last service of the day: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

*Pat Mlejnecky*



## Ena Margaret Smith 24-07-1928 - 21-05-2017

Arthur & Ena Smith came to live at Endene Cottage in the Street soon after their marriage on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1955. This was their home together until Arthur died in 1996 and Ena remained there for the rest of her life. Arthur worked on the land and spent a large part of his life working for Mr Christopher Harris at Washinford House Farm, one of a number of Christopher's loyal team of skilled employees.

Ena was born at Starston nr Harleston, one of seven children with just one brother. Her family moved to Howe with her father working for Mr Ben Burgess as Head Cowman. Ena received her education at Brooke Primary School and upon leaving became a housemaid for the Todd family at the George & Dragon PH at Thurton. From there Ena went to Colmans, Carrow Works in the soft drinks dept, then to the Mackintosh's/Caley's chocolate factory at Chapel Field. There she remained until her retirement on 24-07-1988. Ena always worked the 9am-4pm shift catching the 7.50 am Cullings service that ran through Bergh Apton and usually returning on the Eastern Counties17 service on the A146 to Hellington Corner. Arthur would then ride his bike to meet Ena, steering his bike with one hand, Ena's cycle to his left with his other hand and inevitably a Woodbine on his lips!! To my knowledge he never had a mishap.

Arthur & Ena's shared a great love of their Cats [16 at one time], and their garden, Arthur with his fruit & vegetables growing and Ena looking after the flowers & shrubs. Arthur's great motto "Hoe when there are no weeds and then you'll never have any". When the village had the first open Gardens called 'The Sunflower Trail', there was £5.00 at stake to anyone who could find a weed in Ena's garden, the money, in fact, was quite safe and it was noticed that even the small stones lining the path edges had been freshly painted white!! Everything was neat, tidy and weed free.

Ena was also enthusiastic about washing, for her there was much pleasure in seeing a washing line full of linen drying in the breeze. In fact she was so keen that when there was no laundry to be attended to she would make Arthur take his bib & brace overalls off at the back door and put them into the wash, whether or not they were dirty and once, they were washed without the pockets being checked so the weekly wage packet with Arthur's watch had a good cleanse too. The wages and watch recovered after being carefully dried on the kitchen table.

Ena enjoyed Village life, when she was able, she would attend the Church regularly, and in the past few years appreciated The Tuesday Friends lunch at the Church. A cake would often be made for The Fete, for the "Guess the weight of the Cake" competition, a good cake well worth winning.

Over the years Ena had belonged to many clubs in Bergh Apton & Alington. She loved going out to lunch with her sisters, meeting up with her extended family and when visitors called, taking a glass of sherry with them.

Ena was grateful that she was able to remain in her own home, which was only possible with help from her sisters June & Anne, Social Services, District Nurses & her neighbours keeping an eye on her.

Ena would have been overwhelmed by the number of family & friends, from near and far, who attended her funeral on June 13<sup>th</sup>. It was quite fitting that for Ena it was a warm summer's day with Oxeye daisies lining the path to her burial place when she was laid to rest with Arthur, and among friends and neighbours in the south eastern corner of the churchyard. Bless you Ena, a good life well lived.

*Kevin Parfitt*

## Bergh Apton Horse Show 2017



On Monday 29th May which was this year's Spring Bank Holiday, we held our Horse Show at Bergh Apton Manor as we have since 1994 with kind permission of Kip & Alison Bertram. This year was a great success and many people had a very enjoyable and for some rewarding time. Indeed, I was amazed how many people came just as spectators. I feel sure our village has been put on the entertainment map by the action of several groups of people well done and thank you.

To return to the horse show, the people who came to spectate were surprised that they didn't have to pay for parking, I just recommended to them that they bought tickets for the raffle in which we were supporting both the RDA [riding for the disabled] and NICU [Neonatal intensive care unit] at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Charitable Trust. The Event went well the weather treated us kindly though did turn a bit chilly towards the end. The injuries were well catered for by Jamie from the APMS [Allsworth Practice Medical Services Ltd] Ambulance Service Ltd.



The photos show people, horses and dogs having a good time they were generously supplied by Andy Langley who



runs an esteemed photography business in North Norfolk, he took many other photos of the competitors at our show. It went so well that even Amy on the Burger van ran out of burgers.



Indeed, everyone that helped did a tremendous job especially Katie Brown as secretary who coped incredibly well despite the fact that she was getting married a fortnight later on 10th June. That day went very well too, indeed she is now Katie Waterfield and although her mother has advised her not to be involved in future I know Mrs Katie Waterfield has booked a Burger Van for next year so it seems all you generous people who have helped in the past, THE SHOW MUST GO ON so please get ready for a repeat performance next year, thank you.

*Milton Harris*  
Bergh Apton Horse Show Chairperson



## HOLLY LODGE: A RE-UNITED ESTATE

Anyone who lived in Bergh Apton during World War Two and a few years afterwards may remember the extraordinary Donald Marendaz, the Royal Flying Corps reconnaissance pilot of WW1 who lived at Holly Lodge on Sunnyside. His activities and interests ranged from aircraft building, pilot training and flying to motor racing, engineering, collecting porcelain, supporting Oswald Mosley . . . and marriage (he had two of 'em).

I hope to tell you something of the exploits of this interesting but flawed man in the next edition of the Newsletter but, as a prelude, here is the story of Holly Lodge, the rather splendid house on Sunnyside where he lived from 1940 to 1948. He sold the house by auction in Norwich in 1948 prior to emigration to South Africa where he lived for twenty-three years before returning to England (more about that next time!).

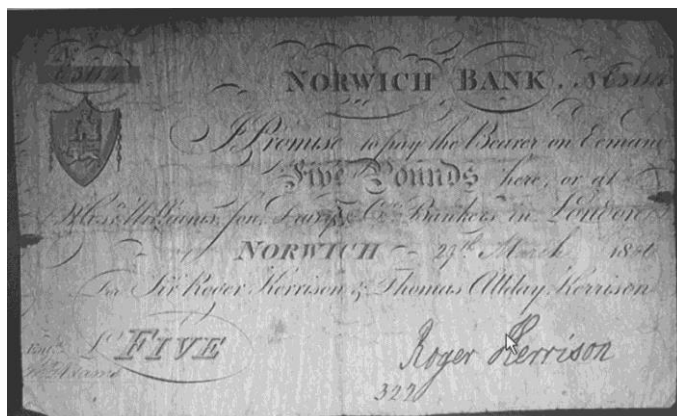
In the auction, at the Maid's Head in Norwich on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1948, his property was offered in two lots. Holly Lodge itself was Lot 1, described as "a picturesque early Georgian residence, standing in 5½ acres of grounds [...] easily maintained by one full-time gardener". Lot 2 was the cottage called Green Shutters, on the opposite side of the road. From census records in the 1800s it seems likely that it was the gardener's cottage to Holly Lodge.

I cannot be sure but I think that the two houses remained as one property and were bought by Herbert and Helen Rogerson who lived in the main house from about that time until the mid-1980s and who, in the 1950s, sold Green Shutters to the late Phyllis Ride who lived there until her death in April 2016.

Of current topicality is the fact the two houses have been re-united by the purchase of Green Shutters in October 2016 at auction in the Assembly Rooms where the successful bidders were Michael and Gill Willcox, the present owners of Holly Lodge. Thus this unification re-establishes the estate as it was in the time of Captain Marendaz.

He had bought the two-dwelling property from Lord Canterbury, whose Brooke Estate, based at Brooke House on the southern side of Brooke, covered much of the villages of Brooke, Kirstead, Seething, Mundham and Sisland as well as virtually the whole of Bergh Apton's Chet Valley, from Hillside Farm in the west to Washingford Bridge in the east.

In the late 1700s the estate had been built up by a Norwich Banker, Sir Roger Kerrison but, when he died in 1808, he was found to have been bankrupt to the tune of £460,000 (equivalent to many £millions in those days) so the whole estate had to be sold to meet his liabilities. It was bought by the Kett family of Old Seething Hall – a branch of the rebellious Kett family of Wymondham.



A £5 banknote dated 1806, issued by Kerrison's Norwich Bank, signed by Sir Roger Kerrison of Brooke House. Two years later the note was made worthless by the Bank's crash



The 17-bedroomed Palladian-style Brooke House in the time of the Ketts and Lords Canterbury. Eric Mackintosh demolished it in the 1930s to build the present-day Brooke House.

At the time of that sale Holly Lodge did not exist but it had been built by the time the Tithe Map of 1839 was published. One supposes (but without evidence as yet) that the man for whom it was built, Thomas Smallpiece Clarke (TSC), secured a long lease on the lands from the Ketts.

TSC was born in Bergh Apton in 1796. He was the second son of Samuel Clarke who farmed at Street Farm and was a friend of the radical land-reformer William Cobbett. When TSC died in 1867 at the age of 71, almost certainly at Holly Lodge, he was buried in our churchyard where he joined his youngest son Thomas Bound Clarke who, at the age of 18 in 1844, had died in a shotgun accident while out hunting on the borders of Bergh Apton and Thurton.

TSC's wife Elizabeth, thirteen years his senior, died four months later. She was buried with them beneath a large tomb that records the eight members of the family buried therein between 1824 and 1886.



Thomas Smallpiece Clarke in his uniform as an officer in the First Western Regiment of Norfolk Militia in which he served from 1815 and was still on half-pay at the time of the 1851 census.



The occupation of Holly Lodge, after the deaths of TSC and his wife, becomes a little uncertain but at the time of the 1871 Census Holly Lodge's sole occupant was Samuel Clarke, unmarried fifty-year-old farmer of 140 acres whose age gives me confidence that he was TSC's eldest son who died in 1892. But by the time of the 1881 Census the Clarke family had gone from Holly Lodge. It was occupied by Irishman William Cummins, Rector of Hardley, with his wife, four children and three servants - House/Parlour Maid, Cook and a Nursemaid who probably tended their youngest sons Herbert (4) and Norman (1).

Ten years later 41-year-old John Youngs was in residence. He was unmarried and tended by four resident servants (including a 14-year-old pageboy, Charles Andrews). He also had a gardener close at hand in Green Shutters so he must have been either a splendid prospective husband or, more likely, a man already dedicated to a comfortable bachelor existence.

So that brings us almost up to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century when the 1901 and 1911 census results reveal little of interest. The next milestone, recorded in Geoffrey Kelly's Book of Bergh Apton (p.119), was 1925 when Holly Lodge had a new occupant in the form of Charles Graham Manners-Sutton, 6th and last Viscount Canterbury. He still owned the Brooke Estate but had sold the estate's principal residence, Brooke House, and had moved to Bergh Apton Cottage (now Bergh Apton House - just down the road on the way to Loddon).



Lord Canterbury (wearing the sunhat) at a Holly Lodge bowls match - date unknown. On the left is Lionel Lester. A son of Lord Canterbury's estate manager John Lester he was, for many years, our Councillor on the old Loddon Rural District Council.



One of the photos of Holly Lodge published in the Prospectus when the house and its estate were sold by Captain Marendaz in 1948.

Lord Canterbury lived at Holly Lodge from 1925 until, at the latest, 1933 (by which time he was living in Lyndhurst in Hampshire where he died in 1941). Thereafter, but from an uncertain date, General Arthur Dale and his wife Martha lived there, possibly as tenants to the Canterbury Estate, until their deaths - within ten days of each other - in late November 1940.

That brings us right back to Captain Marendaz. We don't know if he bought the two houses before moving in or, perhaps, moved in as a tenant and bought it later. But it's likely that he had become their owner by 1946 because, when "the remaining portion of the Brooke Estate" was sold at auction - at the Royal Hotel in Norwich on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1946 - the two houses were not part of the sale.

More, next time, about Holly Lodge's most extravagant owner Captain D M K Marendaz who was described in one obituary as "a swashbuckling ex-Royal Flying Corps pilot, who has his niche in history".

*John Ling*

## DECORATE CHURCH FOR HARVEST FESTIVAL

Please come along to Bergh Apton church on

### SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

to help decorate the church with flowers & harvest produce.

We will be there from 9.30am – or just come for a cup of coffee.



## BACT Trip to Marston Marsh



On Sunday 25 June we visited Marston Marsh, Eaton, run by the Norwich Fringe Project. This was as a result of the presentation given at our last AGM by Matt Davis, which wetted appetites to see what had been achieved under his stewardship.

We were not disappointed. Fortunately, the weather was dry and somewhat cooler than it had been and it was a delight to wander part of the 60 acres which made up the reserve.



Thanks to the services of hungry cattle moved regularly around the site, the wildflowers were prolific. Some of those found were yellow rattle, orchids, meadowsweet, lesser stitchwort, red bartsia, marsh woundwort, valerian, purple loosestrife and ragged robin. This has created perfect habitats for other creatures, amongst which we spotted the five spot burnet moth on tufted vetch. Also spied were the banded demoiselle dragonfly and some meadowbrowns. In ditches, we saw stonewort and frogbit. Colin and Michael, the farmers who supplied the sixteen animals currently there, were also present with their sister Heather to give more in depth explanations and memories of their many years in farming.



The reserve is bounded by the River Yare which runs beautifully clear. Matt explained the management of the site in his easy manner; the coppicing, drainage (especially interesting to Bob), path formation etc. The day was not without excitement, one of the cows was found floundering in a dyke and with encouragement it was safely recovered.



Judging by the numbers of people encountered this is a really popular piece of countryside right on the doorstep of the city and a visit is thoroughly recommended. We were extremely grateful to Matt for giving up his Sunday afternoon to guide us.

*Stephanie Crome*



## Bergh Apton Fete 2017

Bergh Apton's Annual Fete of 2017 happened on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July in the grounds of The Manor. What began as a rather overcast morning developed into just the kind of afternoon Fete organisers dream about; bright sunshine, not too hot, with a gentle breeze.

That brought out a considerable attendance that we didn't count but estimate to have been around the 250-275 mark. Another reason for a high turnout was the presence of Amelia Reynolds of the BBC TV's "Look East" who was our Guest of Honour this year, accompanied by her husband David Whitely and their daughters Annabel and Cleo.



Amelia Reynolds, Kip and Alison Bertram, Melissa Findlay and Fete Chairman Milton Harris on the front steps of The Manor, as Amelia speaks to the assembled fete-goers prior to declaring the Fete open. (photo by Angela Adams).



Thomas Denny-Cooke's three great granddaughters who came to the Fete: (l-r) Melissa Findlay, Nickie Morton (with her partner Ivan - in full face-paint!) and Joanna Harrison with Kip Bertram (and Boozie)

Standing on the front step of The Manor with hosts Kip and Alison Bertram, listening to Amelia's welcome to the attending crowd, were three other very welcomed guests in the form of Nicky Morton, Joanna

Harrison and Melissa Findlay. All three are great granddaughters of the Thomas and Beatrice Jessie, the last members of the Denny-Cooke family to live at The Manor that was sold following Mrs Denny-Cooke's death in 1960, bringing to an end a single-family ownership that had lasted over 400 years.

Part of the charm of Bergh Apton's Fete (and always part of its publicity material) is its determination to remain, as much as possible, an event in the tradition of the English village fete. That was more easily achieved in such sunshine as Fete Day this year when one might have started the afternoon with an ice cream, followed by a wander around to find a bargain or two among the 19 stalls that included (new this year) an Accessories stall with a range of stylish and fashionable hats, scarves and handbags.

Maybe, after that, a glass or two of Pimms before spending time in The Manor's exquisite Front Garden (with an entry price of £1, probably the best value in Norfolk that day!). At some time in the afternoon a "must do" is to sit down with a cup of tea and a bowl of strawberries and cream and listen to the pleasant strains of Savoir Faire who, having delighted us all for fourteen years, have almost assumed the mantle of "Resident Trio".



Savoir Faire, the Fete's resident band, is just off to the right of this photo (by Sheridan Winn) that shows fete-goers relaxing between the Pimms and Tea stalls listening to the Trio's mellow sound.

Altogether a great day, achieved by the efforts of a team of over 50 volunteers, some of whose work starts halfway through the preceding week and ends two days afterwards. On the day itself work begins at 7.30 and lasts until sometime after 9.00 that evening. The other group whose work makes this day memorable is Kip and Alison's Estate Team of Peter, Matt and Jill who keep the gardens and the grounds looking picture perfect all year round and whose ready help and enthusiasm in the work of putting on the Fete is greatly valued by all involved.

*John Ling*



## Osprey sighted over Conservation Trust Nature Reserve!

Work has been continuing apace on Bergh Apton Conservation Trusts two nature reserves, Church Plantation and Valley Marsh, with many and varied jobs being accomplished recently. The two work days in May were typical with preparation for the pond dipping on the Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> (a separate report of which can be found in this newsletter) and on the following Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> a bridge to build and a nest box to put up. The bridge was relatively simple as it was a railway sleeper to put over one of the ditches on Church Planation to make access to that part of the marsh easier. Luckily, we had some strong lads there and they made short work of carrying the sleeper down to the marsh and placing it in position.



Richard and an unknown helper carrying the railway sleeper over the northern ditch of Valley Marsh, watched by Lorie Lain-Rogers and Milton Harris.



Bob Kerry (up the ladder) helped by Alan Hadman and Richard Cofie-Agyeman putting up the barn owl nest box.

The nest box was another matter entirely as it was for a barn owl, and they like a big box so it was very large and heavy and selecting the tree and getting the box up it was

quite a challenge. The box had to be placed quite high up and facing south overlooking the marsh but ideally not in the full sun. After much crashing through the undergrowth we selected a suitable tree and hoisted the box up the tree with a rope thrown over a higher branch, and whilst one person held on to the rope another attached the box to the tree; no easy task as we were at the limit of our ladders. However, the job was completed safely and we adjourned to the seating area near the pond for well-earned tea and biscuits.

It was then that we heard a strange “thrumming” noise approaching and were amazed to see not one but two ospreys fly over at very low level; it was like they were flying in formation! I had never seen ospreys over the reserve before as they are “rare birds” indeed. They can be mostly found in the United States with a few in Israel and India but the UK ospreys, which number just a handful, are usually to be found in West Suffolk. Some of you “birders” must be by now wondering what on earth I am on about as this country has a slowly increasing population of ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) with around 200 breeding pairs, mostly in Scotland, a lot more than a handful.

You may by now have realised that the ospreys we saw fly over that day were not birds but “warbirds”, the Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey American multi-mission, tiltrotor military aircraft. It has not been in service very long and just a few are used by 7th Special Operations Squadron of the United States Air Force based at Mildenhall in Suffolk. As I am interested in military aircraft it was a real thrill to see these Ospreys so close; they are an amazing aircraft, a cross between a normal aeroplane and a helicopter, with two huge rotors on a wing which moves depending on whether fast level flight or vertical landing and take-off is needed. It is the huge 38ft diameter propellers that make the amazing “thrumming” noise. So, next time you hear a very loud low-level and unfamiliar noise look up and you may see an Osprey, but I hope it doesn’t land as they normally carry “Special Forces” after somebody!



One of the Bell Boeing V-22 Ospreys flying over Valley Marsh

As if that weren’t enough we were on the reserve a few days later and saw a couple of apaches, but that’s another story! We of course hope to one day see “proper” ospreys (the bird) over the reserve; what a day that will be. Despite owning the reserves for many years, the jobs to be done show no sign of easing up so if you feel like coming down to help (on the third Saturday of every month and the following Thursday) you will be most welcome.

Bob Kerry



## Pond Dipping

Water. In so many guises – restful, beautiful, soothing, exciting. For the two dozen-or-so folk (a good mix of children and adults) who arrived to participate in the Bergh Apton Conservation Trust pond dipping afternoon on 20<sup>th</sup> May, it also provided an opportunity for discovery. In the warm May sunshine, coloured with spring flowers and a choice of watery sites to dip, it was a perfect day.

Our old pond is, sadly, very unrewarding. The nutrient levels in the water are constantly topped up, to the delight of the duck weed that carpets the surface and denies light and oxygen to creatures that might otherwise dwell in the depths. A myriad of tiny daphne jostle in the water, but not much else.

Frustrated with its limitations, last autumn the Trust engaged a skilled pond excavator, who dug a new pond for us, complete with island. Only six months old, we wondered whether it might already have been colonised by some creatures – but who? The frogs had obviously been busy earlier this year and, approaching the pond cautiously you could see the tadpoles basking in the warmth of the shallow water. Seeing movement above them they would take fright and scurry to the shelter of the deeper water. Pond skaters skittered on the surface, and whirligig beetles and water boatmen explored the deeper water.

The Chet forms the boundary to the south and, crouching on the banks to carefully dip in the fast-flowing, chuckling waters, the smell of wild garlic rose around us. Here we found shrimp and some leeches, but it was the southernmost of the two dykes that cross the Marsh that gave the richest pickings. Looking muddy and uninviting, they nevertheless yielded up many living treasures to be transferred to holding tanks for study and admiration.

Not one, but two, Great Diving Beetles, nearly four centimetres long (an inch and a half in old money), sticklebacks, water hoglouses (hoglice?). leeches, a water scorpion, more tadpoles, stonefly and damselfly nymphs, leeches, bloodworms and mosquito larvae. There's a water spider who uses its own sub-aqua tank – hairs on its back trapping a silvery bubble of air which it carries to its submerged air bubble nest. Perhaps the most dramatic finds were the dragonfly nymphs – chunky, fearsome-looking characters, nearly the thickness of a little finger and over four centimetres long. The biggest ones were the young of the hawk dragonfly, and big enough to take a small fish. Intriguingly, they actually breathe through gills in their tails – and what child doesn't want to know that it breathes through its bottom?!

All our finds had been safely returned to their watery homes and our last visitors had headed home when water in the form of a sharp downpour accompanied our final clearing up.

We're look forward to seeing how another year in the development of the new pond will add to the variety of creatures we might find there. If you'd like to join us, keep an eye on the village newsletter for April/May or look out for the posters.

*Shirley Rimmer*



*Shirley Rimmer watched by Jacquie Ratcliffe and Lorie-Lain-Rogers pond dipping the new pond on Valley Marsh*



*Pond dipping in the southernmost ditch on Valley Marsh*



*Great Diving Beetle*



*Water Scorpion*



*Dragonfly nymph*



## TREVOR SILLETT (1941-2017)

Trevor Sillett, who has died at the age of 75 on 31<sup>st</sup> May, was one of the quiet and unassuming “do-ers” of this busy village. A ready and enthusiastic volunteer in the teams that ran events like the Sculpture Trails and the Fete, a familiar figure on the car parking and logistics teams. His popularity and the respect in which he was held was reflected by the attendance of nearly 180 people at his Memorial Service in Bergh Apton church on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June following an earlier service attended by the family and close friends at Earlham Road Crematorium.

In the Memorial Service congregation with his family were his friends and people from the many organisations and activities in which Trevor played a part throughout his adult life in which he worked as a Storeman for a number of local companies including Bartrum Mowers.

Reference was made during the service to his sports interest in which he played cricket and football for Thurton and Ashby teams, and his later and continuing support to junior football in Bungay where he acted as physio. Another of Trevor’s sporting pastimes was bowls, both indoor and outdoor, and his interest in local history was met by membership of both the Bergh Apton and Loddon History Groups.

His social interests all centred around his pleasure in other people’s company including the Chet Staithe Probus Club and the Wednesday Mardle at the Surlingham Ferry Inn. Perhaps a surprise to those who thought his nature to be introverted was his enthusiasm, for many years, for Country music and dancing.

He greatly enjoyed the latter with his wife Sandra whom he married in 1970 and with whom he moved to 14 Church Road in Bergh Apton soon afterwards to raise their daughters Donna and Melissa. That was from where the two girls were married and where Sandra died in 2005.

Following Sandra’s death Trevor continued to give help, whenever asked, for Bergh Apton events that included “Brass in the Park” in 2008 when the Minden Band of the Queen’s Division came to Bergh Apton Manor. That event was part of the fund-raising campaign to support families of the nine Royal Anglians who had been killed when the Regiment served in Afghanistan in 2007/8, and to raise the funds needed to refurbish the village hall, of which he was a Trustee from 1976 to 1987 and Chairman from 1983 to 1985.

He was also a founder member of the village group that, between 2007 and 2013, visited all the battlefields, war memorials and cemeteries on the Continent where Bergh Apton men died in the two World Wars. It was during this time that Trevor’s friendship with Jasmine Wood, who had lost her husband John at much the same time that Sandra died, developed into a late-flowering romance that delighted their many friends in both Bergh Apton and in Jasmine’s village of Ashby St Mary.

Trevor’s daughters Donna and Melissa also made him a very happy Grandfather through the birth of his grandchildren Maya and Fin to Donna and Harvey, Devyn and Elsie (Elsie-May) to Melissa.

During the Eulogy at his Memorial Service, that was conducted by the Rev Chris Ellis, Trevor was described as a gentle man who cared for others but not in a showy way, remembered (by a childhood friend from Thurton, where he

was born) as “Steady . . . going at his own pace”. The eulogy concluded that this description perfectly described Trevor’s qualities of prudence and thoughtfulness that accompanied his warmth and care for others that were concealed behind his quiet and reserved nature.



Trevor (back, centre) at Beaumont-Hamel on the Somme with Bob Kerry, Linda Davy and Tony Davy during the 2008 battlefield tour.



Graham, Bishop of Norwich, with Trevor following his Confirmation in Norwich Cathedral in March 2016

*John Ling*

Trevor was a truly stalwart member of the Bergh Apton Society, ever since its formation twenty years ago. He was always available to undertake any position that needed filling, specialising in organising the various interesting speakers for all types of subjects over the years.

When our founder Lynton was indisposed for eighteen months or so Trevor took on the task of keeping the society in existence whilst still arranging the speakers, this also involved arranging day trips by coach to various locations in the East of England. Thus, keeping the Society in existence.

Trevor was present at our last winter meeting in May, he will be very sadly missed not just from the society, being born and bred locally by everyone who came in contact with him. We send our heartfelt condolences to Jasmin and daughters Donna, Melissa and grandchildren.

*Terry Yallop*  
Bergh Apton Society



## Mobile Library

The mobile library service provides residents living in more isolated rural communities that do not have a library building, with the opportunity to borrow books and access other library and council services.

Mobile libraries are free to join and are open to people of all ages. Items can be chosen from the vehicle or reserved via the online library catalogue or the Norfolk libraries app for collection from a mobile library, then can be returned to any branch library or mobile library in Norfolk.

All vehicles are equipped with a lift for people with mobility problems, wheelchair users and prams/buggies.

Our mobile libraries offer:

- *Fiction books for adults and children (book request: adults - 60p, children - free)*
- *Non-fiction books for adults and children (subject requests are free)*
- *Large print books (book request 60p)*
- *DVDs for adults and children (a small charge applies)*
- *Audio books on CD and cassette tape (tapes – free, a small charge applies for CDs for adults, children - free)*
- *Jigsaw puzzles (free)*
- *Long loan periods*

15 books can be borrowed free of charge at any one time per person. Mobile libraries do not charge for overdue books, although a repeat loan charge may apply for hired items (principally DVDs, CDs, and spoken word formats) not returned on the due date. A replacement charge may apply if items are lost or stolen.

We offer a free e-mail reminder system to advise our customers that the mobile library will be in their area within the next two days. Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing lists should ask their mobile library driver for the green e-mail slip to complete, or alternatively contact us direct with their name, e-mail address and route number or village name.

We are keen to recruit more 'Mobile Library Friends' - volunteers who help us to promote the service by doing any of the following:

- *telling their friends/neighbours about the mobile library*
- *delivering fliers locally*
- *putting up posters*
- *suggesting improvements/alternative stops.*

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please ask them to speak to the mobile library driver or to contact us direct.

## Bergh Apton Parish Council

Bergh Apton Parish Council has had some recent changes which we would like to share with residents.

At the AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> May Liz Robinson stepped down as Chairman and the Parish Council would like to thank her for her time and huge efforts whilst being in post. We wish Liz all the best for the future.

Philippa Fuller has also resigned as Clerk and the Parish Council would also like to thank her for her invaluable assistance over many years. The new Clerk is Julie Gosling who has lived in the village for the past 25 years.

The Parish Council is now complete with 7 Councillors and a new Chairman in place. With a full strength Parish Council this will allow us to be more pro-active on issues affecting the village and exciting times are ahead. Currently the Parish Council is looking at the way in which the CIL money from various developments in the village can be spent to enhance our environment and if anyone wishes to make suggestions we would be most appreciative.

If you wish to attend the Parish Council meetings these will be held at the Village Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 20<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30 am or if you wish to make contact please email the Clerk on [clerk@berghapton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@berghapton.org.uk) or 01508 480416.

Councillor's names and contact details:

David Skedge (Chairman) 01508 550709  
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*Julie Gosling*  
Clerk to Bergh Apton Parish Council

## Dates for your diary 2017

### AUGUST

2 <sup>nd</sup>	19.30	Village Hall Management meeting
16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 – 12.00	Coffee n Catch Up at the Village Hall
19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
22 <sup>nd</sup>	12.30	Tuesday Friends at Church
23 <sup>rd</sup>	19.30	Fete Wash-up meeting at Village Hall
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
25 <sup>th</sup>	18.30	The Hare open again at Bob Debbage's field

### SEPTEMBER

4 <sup>th</sup>	19.00	BA Conservation Trust – Bats with Ben Jervis, meet at Church Field
9 <sup>th</sup>	All day	Norfolk churches cycle ride
13 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	B.A. Society talk on Antarctica with Sue Sursham
16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 – 12.00	Coffee n Catch Up at the Village Hall
20 <sup>th</sup>	19.00	Parish Council at Village Hall
21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
26 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Tuesday Friends at Church
27 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	BA Conservation Trust A.G.M. at Village Hall.
30 <sup>th</sup>	09.30 – 13.00	Decorate church for Harvest Festival and Church Gift Day
30 <sup>th</sup>	09.00	11 Says assembly at Bergh Apton Village Hall

### OCTOBER

1 <sup>st</sup>	11.00	Harvest Festival Church service + Bring & Share lunch at the Village Hall
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## 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



## Annual Sponsored Bike Ride Saturday 9th September 2017

Is Norfolk flat? Thousands of cyclists will be able to confirm (or otherwise) on the 10th September after they have biked around the towns and villages for the annual Sponsored Bike Ride. Most churches in Norfolk participate in this event (I have a list of those that will be open), so if you prefer to visit churches in a different part of the county you may transport your cycles by car and then bike (or walk) around the churches in that area. Churches will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Half the money raised is retained by The Norfolk Churches Trust, who organise the event, to enable them to continue making grants towards the repair and restoration of Norfolk's churches and chapels. The other half is for the church nominated by the cyclist.

I shall need people to spend an hour or two in our Church to welcome and "sign in" the visiting cyclists (this can be sponsored too). Please let me know if you can help.

If you would like more information or a sponsor form, please give me a ring.

**Patricia Waters**  
**Telephone: 01508 480373**

## 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 Parochial Church Council  
The Bergh Apton and District Society