



The Bergh Apton Newsletter

Issue 159

Bi-Monthly

October 2018

FAREWELL FROM OUTGOING EDITOR MILTON HARRIS

"The Bergh Apton Newsletter, of which the earliest copy I still have is Issue 8 for August/September 1993, began life in June 1992. It started because people wanted more Bergh Apton parish news than was possible in the eleven-parish newsletter "Eleven Says" and Eileen Lain-Rogers took on a daunting task as Editor. Her daughter Lorie took over for some years and was succeeded in 2001 by Sally Leigh under whose editorship the publication, just like Topsy, grew and grew and became "The Bergh Apton Magazine". John Ling held the fort from August 2012 to November 2013 and produced "The Bergh Apton Diary" while we sought another volunteer to take over. That turned out to be me because, as the distributor of both "Eleven Says" and our Newsletter to our volunteer deliverers, I felt driven to keep the Newsletter alive. With my daughter-in-law Keeley's skilled help with the layout and graphics we have now published it for five years, turning it into a bi-fold, full-colour publication back under its original title "The Bergh Apton Newsletter". Keeley has now felt obliged to retire from the graphics work and, though we both enjoyed doing it, I feel it's time for new blood. So, it's with pleasure that I hand the reins back to John Ling who, being not entirely "new blood", knows enough about the Newsletter and its history to take good care of it".

PLAYPARK IMPROVEMENTS

The Parish Council has commissioned significant work to improve Bergh Apton's playpark for children who enjoy its swings, climbing equipment and springy animals that delight younger children.

The work entails: (1) the total replacement of the old pine nugget bark surface that had become very pitted and compacted; (2) the removal of tree roots that were causing widespread development of suckers; (3) replacing one of the climbing walls that was deteriorating, and; (4) removing a rather straggly tree that had begun to overpower the playpark and impede the development of a magnificent chestnut tree.



Above: Part of the playpark completed with its new bed of pine nuggets that research showed to be the best and safest surface for playparks.

The Council will install a new swing in bright modern colours that has a cradle unit to allow young children to use it safely. Other work includes re-siting the springy animals so that there is space for a new climbing dome when there are funds to buy and install it.

Other new play and sports equipment will follow when Council available monies allow.

The Parfitt team of Kevin, Johnny and Rachel is doing the work that was awarded to them following the issue of a competitive tender by the Parish Council.



The new swing unit will go here when it is delivered. The scene also shows the young chestnut tree revealed by the removal of another, rather scruffy, tree

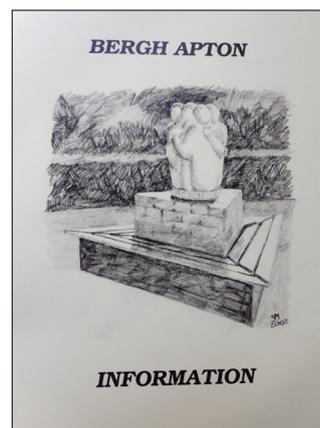
The cost of this work will be met from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) that the Parish Council receives from construction of new housing in the village including the present tranche of CIL by the Hawthorne Drive development near the village hall.



Left: Some of the large chunks of concrete, that anchored previous elements of the Playpark, that had to be removed during the work.

UPDATED VERSION OF "VILLAGE INFORMATION"

The A5-size booklet "Bergh Apton Information" was published in 2005 and was given to every house in the village. If you don't use it but have lived in your house since then, it may well be at the bottom of that kitchen drawer where you keep all the things you think might one day prove useful!



In a recent review of what information is available to new arrivals in the village, the Parish Council decided that the time has come to publish an up-to-date version that will be delivered to you with this Newsletter.

It's a racing certainty that, since June, some of its content is already redundant or outdated but that's life! Despite that, we hope you find it useful.

BERGH APTON TO MARK THE END OF THE GREAT WAR (1914-1918)



On 11th November we shall mark with all due solemnity and remembrance the 908,317 men (source: *Enc. Britannica*) from Great Britain and the British Empire who died in the battles in the Great War of 1914-1918.

Thirty-seven of those men are listed on Bergh Apton's war memorial in the churchyard because they were either born here, baptised or married in our parish church, went to our village school or lived amongst us during lives cut short by an early death.

Commemoration will take many forms all over the world but ours may well be unique in its form and because our research into our men since the late 1990s will make it possible for us to place a marker for each man close to a particular house in Bergh Apton in which he lived. In the few cases where we cannot be certain of an address we will place the man's marker on the bank outside the churchyard on Loddon Road.

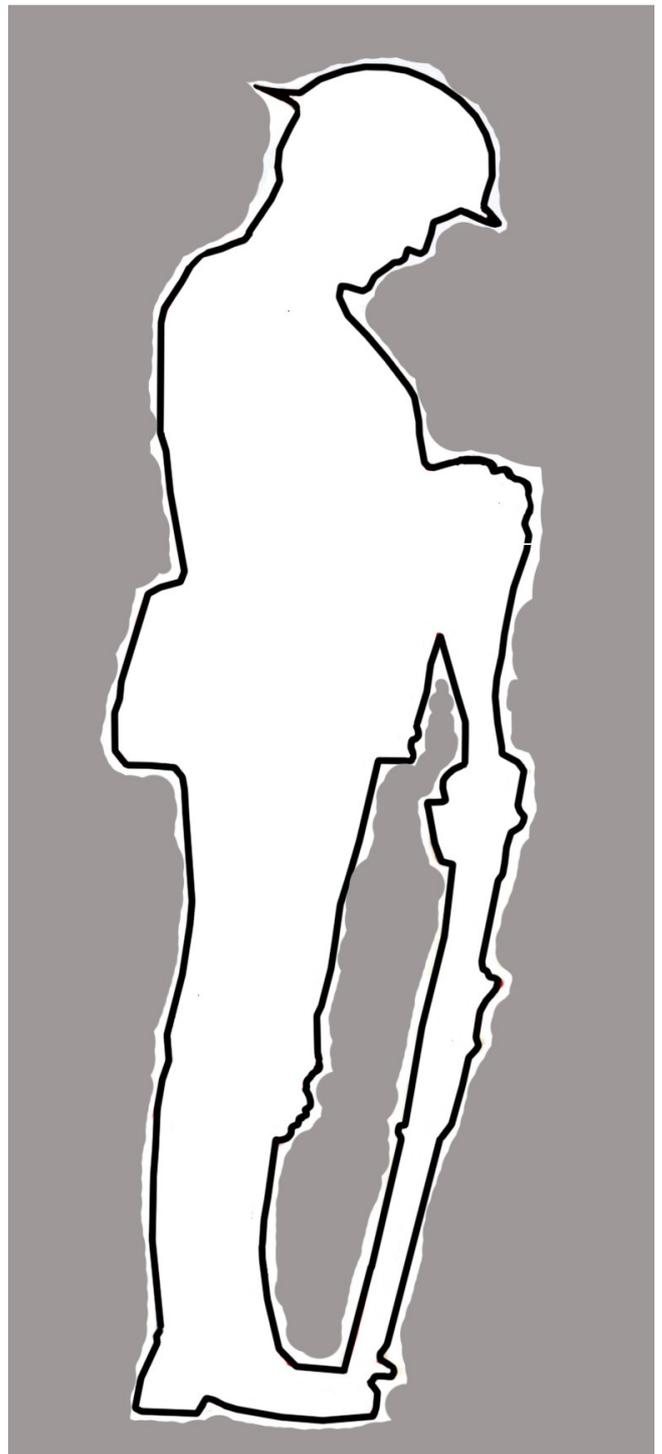
The markers will be in the form of a life-sized silhouette of a soldier in the stance known as "Resting on Arms Reversed" - a traditional sign of sorrow and respect. We based this powerful image on the statue of a soldier that is part of the City of Manchester's war memorial to reflect the fact that one of our men, Robert Beaumont of Penny Hill on Sunnyside, was serving with the 22nd Battalion the Manchester Regiment when he was killed near Zonnebeke in the Ypres Salient in 1917.

Each man's marker will give his name, the Regiment or Service in which he served, the date and place he died and the place, somewhere in the world, where he is buried or his name is carved on a military memorial.

We are developing website information that will include all this data and other information we have learned about him as well as photographs we have gathered during our research. You'll be able to find these details by visiting Bergh Apton's website www.berghapton.org.uk and following the links to a page about the World War One Commemoration. We will set these markers in their places, and publish the website information, to coincide with the launch of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal campaign on Saturday 27th October. So keep an eye out for these emotive reminders of servicemen who gave their lives in warfare for our safety and freedom, and whose deaths had a direct impact on families and friends who were our predecessors as residents of Bergh Apton.

As we do every year, we shall honour these men, together with those who died in the Second World War, at our Remembrance Day service in Bergh Apton's church that begins at 10.30 on the morning of Sunday 11th November, exactly one hundred years ago to the hour that the guns fell silent throughout the world.

If you feel moved to join in this tribute you will be very welcomed; listen as their names are read out at the war memorial and keep the silence that ends when our bugler Bob Kerry sends the sound of "Last Post" and "Reveille" to echo across Bergh Apton's fields and woodlands in which so many of them worked, and to be heard in the houses where they once lived.

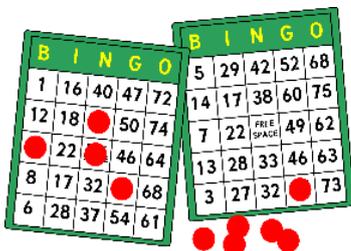




Hawthorn Drive (where we understand that No 5, the last house available on the market, has now been sold) was completed in late 2017 though much subsequent work has continued to resolve construction and completion issues.

The photo above, taken in early August, shows that the area is now maturing and is becoming an integral part of the village. The presence of its houses is also proving a significant benefit to the village hall whose car park is no longer the isolated and unobserved rendezvous that it once seemed to be for unwelcomed people who would meet there in cars on dark nights, perhaps to trade illegal substances.

And, while we're on the subject of the Village Hall . . .



**CHRISTMAS BINGO
FRIDAY
7th DECEMBER
A Family Event
at
BERGH APTON
VILLAGE HALL**

Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start
BYO refreshments

**THE HARE - OPEN AGAIN
FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY**

Bergh Apton pushed the boat out in more ways than one on Friday 24th August when History Group members and their guests raised a glass or two of Fat Cat bitter to “The Hare” and its predecessor “The Adam & Eve” that stood in the field on Threadneedle Street from the 1760s to the 1790s, before ending its days at Royston House on The Street a few years later.

With Bob Debbage’s field a maize crop it was at Royston House, with the kind permission of its owners Andrew and Gill Waters, that the merry company met for this year’s annual celebration.

The conversation, stimulated by good Norwich ale, fought the noise of rain drumming on the roof of the marquee erected to represent the pub’s tap-room but the noble drinkers refused to give way to the wet weather and thus the evening, despite being damp and quite cold, was voted a resounding if noisy success.



“Landlady” Linda Davy pours a pint for Brian Bugg. Other members and guests behind them, including Tony Davy, Gary Tuson and Chris Johnson look to be putting the world to rights.

Sanyu Babies' Home KAMPALA, UGANDA

By Christopher Meynell

Back in 1997 our then-Rector Peter Knight was seeking a project that our villages might support. The link with Sanyu was established and has prospered. One of our appeals, to which Bergh Apton responded wonderfully, was to buy a truck needed to collect babies discarded by their families, to ferry babies to hospital and everyday tasks needed to keep the Babies' Home running.



Above: Joyce Lulindy outside the Sanyu Babies' Home in Kampala with Christoher and Liz Meynell and the original (and now long ago expired) "Bergh Apton" truck.

Today we're launching a new appeal here because they need a replacement for "our" truck's replacement's replacement.

For those new to Sanyu's story here is a brief introduction. The Home was founded in 1929 by a missionary sister, Milnes Winifred Walker at Mengo Hospital in Kampala. She recognised the need on seeing so many babies, abandoned at the Hospital.

Since then the Home has developed on its own site in the grounds of Namirembe Cathedral, supported by private donations substantially from within Uganda, but also from UK & elsewhere. Today there is capacity for 50 children aged from only a few hours to 4 years.

The stories of the finding of the babies can be horrific – in cesspits, in plastic bags tied to a gate, dumped in a ditch, on the step of police stations. Appalling.

Having been named, cared for, fed, and given some basic education, the babies are, by the age of 4 or 5, adopted, fostered, or returned to their families.

Here is just one story, extracted from the Sanyu newsletter, of a new arrival, James Allan Kasule aged 9 months):

He arrived on 29th March 2018; He was dumped in the pit latrine at Matuga Health Centre 11 by his biological mother who disappeared. He was rescued by the Nurses who reported the matter to the Police Station at Matuga.

They forwarded the case to Kasangati Police Station and referred the baby to Sanyu Babies' Home for care and protection as the investigations are carried on.

Here's the story of an amazing coincidence: Bergh Apton, as part of one of its Sculpture Trails, was raising money for various causes including Sanyu. Information about the Home was displayed (and still is) in Bergh Apton Church. It was seen by a family visiting the Trail; she American, he from Halesworth, with their son and two adopted children who, before they adopted them, had been rescued and cared for at Sanyu Babies Home!! Celebrations all round! The family is now in Beijing.

Since 1997 many people have been so very generous, from so many villages in the 11 Says area and the Bramerton Group and even further afield, too.

We have funded not only the truck, but also the re-roofing of the buildings to save on water costs by creating a rainwater collection system. And we send monthly payments to meet the cost of two resident nurses and the weekly visits of a doctor. They have not only improved the babies' health, they have saved lives and reduced hospital costs. So, thank you.

One of the great things about this relationship is that we are able to manage donations and send them out to Uganda without horrific admin expenses. So our donors' gifts contribute directly to the welfare of the Babies.

And visitors from this end have experienced the Home first hand: John & Ruth Everett, who raise great sums by selling plants from their Applebee home in Rockland; Cate McCarter (now Sam Knight's wife); and Liz & Christopher Meynell and also Zanna Meynell.

Visitors are very welcome as are volunteers who help so much by spending time at the home looking after the babies. There is even a guest house.

Barbara the resident Director of Sanyu with whom we



are in close touch keeps us up to date with the Babies' Home quarterly newsletters.

Here is Zanna Meynell's account of her visit: "During my half term holiday in October, I went to Sanyu

Babies' Home with around 30 bibs and absolutely no expectations. It was going to be my first experience at an orphanage and I didn't fully think about what it would actually entail. The first thing we did was go and speak to Barbara – the boss - in her office and she was as lovely as expected and expressed huge gratitude to Bergh Apton and the people in the area for what they have done for the home.

I was completely shocked by a couple of photos in her office showing the difference between a baby on the

day of arrival and that after a few months at the home – a transformation.

Most of the rooms were empty as all the children were having their bible time which involves everyone apart from the tiny babies so we had an excellent opportunity to see the gorgeous bedrooms, filled with many, patterned wooden beds all lined up next to each other.

My favourite room was the potty room (right); a variety of different coloured potties all around much to our amusement. We then went into the washing room and Barbara expressed their need for new washing machines as theirs were



breaking; very evident from the piles of sheets and clothes waiting for a wash. As you can imagine, the amount of washing created by a whole load of babies & toddlers is excessive so washing machines are hugely important in the running of the home.

We finished the tour by seeing the little physio room with a doctor helping the kids unable to walk/ crawl as a result of their initial upbringing. This was quite hard to watch; I had never seen anything like it. We finished off by joining in the bible time and it was just so wonderful to hear the toddlers all singing and joining in on their mat. I really struggled to leave, especially because of one or two that I

cuddled and the way they just clung on to me completely broke my heart. Overall the whole place is doing an absolutely amazing job and their policies were remarkable – in particular the fact that they don't break up siblings when it comes to adoption, so 5 children were all adopted together which is simply incredible."



Below, to give you some idea of the costs of running Sanyu, are some details:

A week's pay for nurses, Christine and Caroline:	£31
A morning visit by Dr. Alex	£21
Anti-malarial mosquito net	£4
One week's accommodation for a baby in Mengo hospital	£115
A full fuel tank for the truck	£65
One New tyre for the truck	£247 - £617
One day's food for all the babies	£90
So. now, to the nitty gritty:	

We have been asked to raise funds for a new truck (pictured in the next column)



Sanyu and its babies need your help to achieve their goal so do please give generously.

Here are some options:

- If you would like to make a donation using Gift Aid (to add to your gift the UK tax you paid) please make your cheque payable to "Bergh Apton PCC", We will send you a Gift Aid claim form to complete.
- If you would like to make a straight donation, please make your cheque payable to "Sanyu Babies' Home".
- If you would like to make regular donations by Standing Order please ask me for information.
- If you would like to receive the Home's Newsletter by email, please let me know (via email address below)
- Let me know if you would like to find out more about visiting Sanyu, or volunteering to help.

For more information, please contact:

- **Liz & Christopher Meynell**
Bergh Apton, NR15 1AX
01508 558440 or c.m.meynell@gmail.com
- **John & Ruth Everett** on 01508 538231



**Christmas Card Sale
& Coffee Morning
for
Save the Children
Saturday
13th October
10 am to 3.30 pm
at Hillside Farm
Welbeck Rd
Bergh Apton NR15 1AU
Cards, wrapping papers,
calendars etc
All welcome.
Free refreshments!**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP PREPARE FOR HARVEST FESTIVAL?



To prepare for the Festival we decorate the church with flowers and harvest produce (including grapes from the Chet & Waveney Valley vineyard!) on

SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER

Work starts at 9.30 but any time after that is fine. We aim to finish by Midday. If you'd like to come along to see how it's all going you'll find the coffee pot is on.

If you'd like to help, you'll be even more welcome!!

Harvest Festival - celebrating bringing in of this year's crops - to which you are also warmly welcomed, is on

Sunday 7th October at 11.00 am.

With a bring-and-share lunch afterwards at 12.30 at the Village Hall

HARVEST SCENES



Above: A wide Norfolk autumn sky silhouettes the church beyond the bales of straw in the Town Farm field across from School Road. Below: Wine grapes ripening in the Chet Valley vineyard.



PARISH CHURCH GIFT DAY

Saturday 6th October 10am-12 noon

'Be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God... the threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil' (Joel 2: 23a,24)

The prophet Joel reminds us that Harvest Thanksgiving is a time of rejoicing for the blessings we enjoy in our lives; not just in the food we need but the love of family, friends and community.

Though Bergh Apton is a dispersed village its people are very good at finding focal points for meeting. The Church of St Peter & St Paul is one of those places and has been for centuries. It is our gift from past generations; it belongs to all who live in the parish and is open daily as a place for worship, prayer and reflection.

It is a challenge to fund the maintenance of the building and that is why we look each year for help from the wider community through our Gift Day.

I shall be in church between 10.00am and 12noon and I do look forward to meeting you and receiving any gift you are able to offer. If you are a taxpayer, please consider completing the 'Gift Aid' declaration on one of the envelopes found in church.

If you are unable to call in on the 6th October, but would still like to make a gift, you can post it to me at: **The Rectory, Ashby Road, Thurton, NR14 6AX. Please make cheques payable to: 'Bergh Apton PCC'**

Thank you for your support.
The Revd Chris Ellis. Rector .

COFFEE MORNING

at Washingford House, Cookes Road
Bergh Apton NR15 1AA

Tuesday 16th October from 10 am to 1 pm

In aid of

**Pricilla Bacon Hospice &
The Brooke (Equine Charity)**

**Handmade Aprons, Aga Towels, Baby Items,
Cushions, Jewellery, Pottery, Cards, Gifts, Advent Calendars.**

Handmade Soaps and Bath Oils

Cake and Tombola stall

Entry £2.50

to include coffee and biscuits

**Offers of cakes/Tombola prizes
would be greatly appreciated**

**Paris Back, Liz Lester, Clive and Alexandra Evans
For further details contact Paris on**

01508 550924

parish@waitrose.com

ST MARTIN'S EVE CELEBRATIONS AT CHET VALLEY VINEYARD



Chet Valley Vineyard invites you to celebrate St Martin, the patron saint of winemakers and viticulturalists (vine growers) **and** of the old church of St Martin that served Bergh Apton until the 1500s and stood in the Church Farm field south of Dodger's Lane. The celebration is on **Saturday 10th November** - the eve of St Martin's Day **and starts at 4.00 pm.**

Events will begin at Church Farm farmyard to note some items of interest before going to the site of St Martins' Church. Then the Rector, Chris Ellis, will lead us on a 1.3 mile procession via the ancient trackways of Longlands Lane and Wrong Lane to the vineyard. There, after a short ceremony to mark the day, there will be food, wine and a concluding fireworks display.

Fireworks are bad news for dogs so do leave yours at home even if you're tempted to bring him or her with you.

Kevin Parfitt has agreed to allow us to park on the hard-standing in Dodger's Lane, at Church Farm. It will help greatly, though, if some of you park at the Winery (*just east of the Sunnyside's junction with Loddon Road*). At the end, you can help by ferrying drivers back to their cars at Dodger's Lane.

The procession distance may be too much for you and you can, as an option, go straight to the Winery and then follow signs leading up the bridleway to the area where we'll eat and watch the fireworks. We'll aim to be there at **about 5.00 pm**

Tickets at £10 each will cover a glass of wine and a burger or hotdog and the fireworks, and make a contribution to the Bergh Apton church heating appeal. Tickets are available:

- Online at www.chetvineyard.co.uk/wines
- By email to chetandwaveney.vineyard@gmail.com



BERGH APTON & DISTRICT SOCIETY GOES TO PARLIAMENT

By Sarah Bush

If you'd been near the Village Hall at 5.30am on a Monday morning in August you may have seen a group of bleary-eyed folk boarding a minibus. We were not off on a mystery tour of North Norfolk but on a trip to the big city of London to visit the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey.

Remarkably chipper considering the early start, we sped on to The Smoke with a welcome comfort/coffee stop en route at the recently-updated and glamourised M11 Birchanger Services area.

As a reward for that pitch-black start we saw the sun rise over London and glimpsed the iconic landmarks of the Olympic Park, Shard, Gherkin and something I think they call The Walkie-Talkie! When we passed the Tower of London we thought we were close to our destination but, sadly, closed roads made our journey rather more deviated than expected and we positively crawled along in the heavy traffic towards heading to Westminster. We must have been stopped by fifty red traffic lights!

Our organizer and tour leader Lynton Johnson, though itching to hop off the bus and walk, remained calm and, thanks to the wonders of the mobile phone, made contact with Parliament's visitor centre to warn them of our late arrival.

Once there we were ushered through airport-style security to meet with our guide who gave us an excellent tour of the Hall of Westminster and the robing room where her majesty and Prince Phillip prepare for the State Opening.



Library pics of the Speaker's Chair and the Woolsack.

We saw both Houses, leant (not allowed to sit) against the benches and marvelled how small they are compared to seeing them on TV. The tour took us to iconic places: we stood beside the shelves of leather-bound Hansard records (red for Lords, green for Commons), went through the lobby where votes are counted, saw the Speaker's

Chair and Woolsack, and noted the marks on the door made by the many knocks rained upon it by Black Rod over many hundreds of years as he summoned the Commons to join the Lords for the Queen's Speech.

... Continued on p.8

LARDAL KANTORI



our Norwegian friends

return to
Bergh Apton Church on

Friday, 30th November

to welcome in our Advent Season with
songs and carols in Norwegian and English

7.00 pm

Tickets £10 each

including Seasonal Refreshments

Tickets in Advance from
01508 480439
hilary.ling@btinternet.com

BERGH APTON'S QUIZ 'N' CHILLI CHALLENGE NIGHT

MAKE UP A TEAM FOR
SATURDAY 27 OCT 7.00PM

£8.50 EACH

RESERVE WITH MILTON HARRIS

01508 550473

Bergh Apton Society

Autumn meetings

October 10th **Woad**
Ian Howard will tell us about
this versatile plant & its uses

November 14th **The History of Anaesthesia**
A talk by David Nunn

7.30 pm
Bergh Apton Village Hall
Cooke's Rd
NR15 1AA

£3.00 including refreshments

BERGH APTON VISIT TO PARLIAMENT

... continued from p.7

An extra treat was a thought-provoking exhibition on The Suffragette movement to encourage more woman to enter Parliament. It was made the more interesting because I had spotted the new statue of Aldeburgh-born suffragist Millicent Garrett Fawcett in the square opposite . . . the first statue placed there that celebrates a woman. Following Lynton's yellow file held aloft to guide us we then crossed to Westminster Abbey where we had lunch.

The plan, following lunch, had been to tour the Abbey and see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Nelson Mandela's memorial stone, Poets' Corner (not to mention the many many tombs of past Kings and Queens of England) and to ascend the Western Tower to visit the newly opened Galleries.

Only a few of us managed to do this as our late arrival that morning had put us at risk of missing our rendezvous with our bus for the journey home.

Though it was a disappointment it didn't spoil our day that was, as we all agreed, worth the early start. Thanks must go to Lynton for all his hard work and we look forward to a future trip when we will make the Abbey the focus of our visit.

Helping to fund the new
Framingham Pigot Hospice
for

EACH

East Anglia's Children's Hospices

Please
save your postage stamps
(especially at Christmas)

Cut the stamps out
(but leave a 2cm border)
And drop them off at Hillside Farm

or I can collect them if you call me

Carrie Holl, Hillside Farm.
Welbeck Rd ,
Bergh Apton. NR151AU.
01508 550260

Are you planning a Bergh Apton-based event to help a Registered Charity or a Good Cause? If we have space we'd like to try and help you. Email details to john.ling@btinternet.com

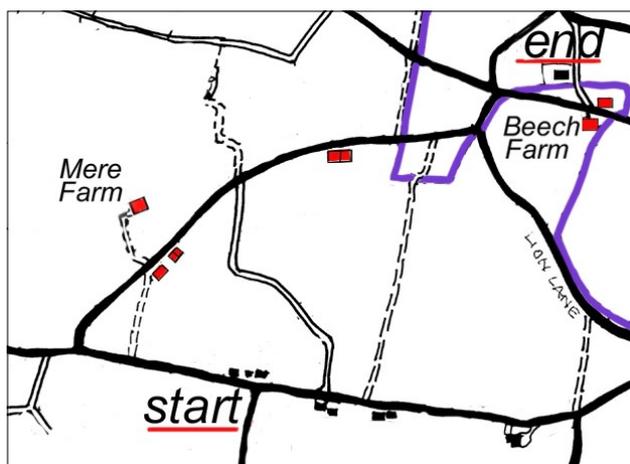
1911 CENSUS - PART 2

SUNNYSIDE TO THURTON CHURCH

In the previous (Aug 2018) Newsletter I wrote about Edmund Leeder's journey as he began his task of delivering the 1911 Census questionnaire to every house in Bergh Apton. We went with him from his home at Valley Farm on Welbeck Road, first to the schoolhouse and then as far as Rose Cottage farm on Langley Road, right on the boundary with Chedgrave, before cutting back to Bussey Bridge where we followed the river Chet to Sunnyside¹.

On this first leg of his walk he called at twenty-nine houses. I suspect that, when he got to the top of Sunnyside, he may have called it a day (I certainly did, as I thought I had probably taken up enough of your time for one session).

This time we'll start (see the map below) from the top of Sunnyside at White House Farm and accompany Leeder up White Heath Road to Thurton and we'll call it a day in an interesting little enclave of Bergh Apton that snuggles close by the walls of Thurton church because the boundary between the two parishes (the purple line) looks as though it was defined by a slightly demented person wielding a fly-swat!



So, let's get back and join Edmund Leeder at the junction of Sunnyside and Loddon Road leg. In the time before Norfolk's ancient landscape, was enclosed we would be part-way between two of Bergh Apton's three medieval open heathlands² that Geoffrey Kelly writes about in *The Book of Bergh Apton*.

If you walk along Whipscrew Hill - the high ground from Bussey Bridge to the area now called Sunnyside - you are on what was known as "Barnes Heath". Travelling on from Sunnyside towards Thurton you were crossing "White Heath" that, in medieval times, covered much of the land between Sunnyside and Thurton³.

To get from Sunnyside to his first port of call (Mere Farm) Leeder would have turned towards the church and then he might have taken a footpath⁴ that begins on School Road at John Hemmant's vine-

yard gate to emerge onto Thurton Road (modern White Heath Road) directly opposite the track to Mere Farm that had, at one time, been called Sumps Farm⁵). There he would have met 67-year-old James Farrow and his wife Mary Ann, their daughter Edith Mary and her husband Arthur Foreman who worked the farm with his father-in-law.



This photo of the farmhouse, the only one we have, is from the sale catalogue for Mere Farm when it was put up for sale in 1914, three years after the Census.

There was a fifth resident, Iris Arlis, defined on the Census form as a 10-year-old "boarder" who may have a story of her own worth investigating one day.

For many years after the house in our photograph above was demolished, its south gable and chimneystack remained gaunt and ivy-covered until, too, was removed sometime in the early 1990s as a safety measure.

Leeder had quite a trudge to get to Mere Farm down its long approach road off the Thurton Road and back but, having regained the road again, his next port-of-call was very close by in the form of the pretty thatched cottage now owned by the Yallop family. In 1911 it was occupied by market-gardener Henry Sturman with his wife and three daughters. One of the daughters, Alice Aramenta Sturman, is recorded as an "uncertificated assistant teacher" in the employ of the County Council⁶.

Further down the road to Thurton was a pair of small semi-detached cottages, now a single dwelling. At the southern end was farm-labourer Charles Jermy, his wife and his son Charles Henry who was also a farm-labourer. It's not unreasonable to suppose that both father and son were employed at the adjacent Mere Farm.

The other half of the building was occupied by 58-year-old Rural District Council roadman⁷ John Everett and his wife Louisa who, from the information they gave in their Census return, were childless.

The next dwellings, the last ones in Bergh Apton of the six on this road⁸, were a pair of semi-detached cottages restored and enlarged a few years ago by Paul and Milly Hemmant of Poplar Farm in Sisland.

..... (continued on p.10)

In 1911 each one had five rooms including the kitchen, so they probably had three bedrooms in the common Norfolk layout in which access to the smallest bedroom was off one of the other two.

The Etheridge family lived at one end, headed by 55 year-old farm-labourer James whose wife Martha was 15 years his junior. Four sons and two daughters, with ages ranging from 1 year up to 15 years, lived with them. The eldest was Horace, a cowman on a farm at the tender age of 15. Three years later he was to volunteer on the outbreak of war for army service with the Norfolk Regiment and would die of wounds he received during the second Battle of Gaza (in Egypt) in April 1917.

Next door to the Etheridge family lived Ephraim Loyd, yet another farm-labourer, from a Bergh Apton family that spelt its surname with a single "L".

Though he wrote on the Census return that he was a married man there is no wife and there were only two other people living at the house on the night of the Census; one was his blind 81-year-old widowed mother Sarah and the other his 49-year-old spinster sister Mary Ann.

A few hundred yards further along the road at the beginning of a tall lilac hedge, Leeder came to a spot where - perhaps by some quirky ancient landholding rights - a chunk of the parish of Thurton plunges down into Bergh Apton and, after about two hundred yards, a chunk of Bergh Apton stabs upward into what should logically be part of Thurton, penetrating right up to the south wall of Thurton churchyard (see the picture below).



From there it heads south again to meet up with Lion Lane and resume some sense of order of which today's politicians would approve but that would eliminate that quirky essence of history and serendipity that created our parish and county borders.

There were only two households within this Bergh Apton enclave. The larger was Beech Farm, occupied by 75-year-old widow Sophia Ellis who defined herself as "Farmer" and recorded her 39-year-old spinster daughter Harriet and 28-year-old bachelor blacksmith Robert Sayer as the only other residents in this very handsome farmhouse.

Across the road from Beech Farm was the 30-year-old home⁹ of John Raven Brinn, a market-gardener who worked the extensive growing ground abutting the track leading from Thurton church downhill to the old main Loddon to Norwich road.

Brinn was a widower who lived with his unmarried daughters Edith Maud (34) - who looks to have kept house for him - and Lily (27) who was an assistant teacher. Living less than five minutes' walk from Thurton school we might reasonably assume that Lily worked there (rather than further afield).

We're now at a logical point to call a halt until the December newsletter when we'll follow Edmund Leeder down the track from Thurton church to the village itself and maybe call in at the George & Dragon (as Leeder may well have done) before heading up the hill towards Norwich.

There Leeder came to Prospect Place, another Bergh Apton outpost whose footpath link to the rest of Bergh Apton, Sandy Lane, is an ancient trackway that forms a major element of our eastern boundary with Thurton.

By John Ling

Notes

- ¹ *The Chet flows east at this point so strictly speaking we didn't follow it - we headed upstream.*
- ² *The other one was Apton Heath.*
- ³ *Small maps in The Book of Bergh Apton (pp 13 & 60) show the extent of these heathlands.*
- ⁴ *I am guessing that Leeder walked and used footpaths if they helped him. He might, of course, have used a bike or even a pony-and-trap. I don't suppose we'll ever know which method he adopted!*
- ⁵ *I have never seen this name in print so cannot say if it was "Sump's, perhaps after a man who =had farmed there or "Sumps" because of the large pond and possible springs in the farmyard.*
- ⁶ *In those days before any significant rural public transport and long before ownership of cars was widespread, it's probable that Alice worked at Bergh Apton's school opposite the church, only minutes away on foot or by bike.*
- ⁷ *Roadmen were known as "Lengthsmen" because each one was allocated a specific length of road in a village or town to tend and repair as need be.*
- ⁸ *Conrol Lodge (close by that footpath that Edmund Leeder may have taken on his way to Mere Farm from Sunnyside) wasn't there in 1911. Nor were Mere Farm House and (on the Thurton side of the bridleway/footpath crossing) Greenway and Orchard House.*
- ⁹ *A plaque inset on the south wall of the house records that it was built in 1882.*



KENNY PERFITT RIP

Kenny Perfitt who has died at the age of 87, lived at 16, Church Road in Bergh Apton for 60 years with his wife Heather (nee Lain) in one of the award-winning Tayler & Green houses where they lived from the time it was new in 1957. From there they led a busy social life with many friends and Kenny enjoyed his gardening and his sporting activities - focussing on football and his carpet bowling in Bergh Apton village hall as well as outdoor bowls in Brooke and other villages nearby.



Kenny was born in Bramerton in June 1931, served in the RAF during his National Service as an aircraft engine mechanic, and had a varied working career before retiring in 1993.

He and Heather were married in Yelverton church in March 1955 and raised a family of two daughters, Angela and Linda. The girls and their respective husbands Andrew and Robert provided Kenny and Heather with five grandchildren who, in their turn, have given them, to date, eight great-grandchildren. This large and spirited family became the focus and delight of both Kenny and Heather.

A major element of Kenny's life began in August 1944 when he and friends hurried to the site, in a Kirby Bedon wood, where a USAF Liberator bomber had crashed. The friendship they established with survivors Roger Leister and Frank Bales, the plane's pilot and co-pilot, took Kenny and Heather and other Kirby Kids to the USA four times between 2000 and 2007 to be with the two airmen (sadly now also deceased) and their families.

Kenny died on 18th August in Trees Nursing Home in Harleston. Heather, now suffering from dementia, is being cared for at Chevington Lodge in Bungay. But the 63 years of their marriage was, until recent illnesses took them to live apart, immensely happy and fulfilled.

And, to close



On the left is a real "Health & Safety" sign. It may be a sign, too, that we are losing touch with common sense.

There are more where this came from so I'll put others in as time goes by and space permits.



HERE'S TO THE NEXT TIME

The closing date for copy or articles for the next (Christmas) edition of the Bergh Apton Newsletter is **Saturday 10th November**. Please send anything you have - preferably as a Word document - to john.ling@btinternet.com

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

If those of you who recall my own seemingly endless articles marvel at this case of Poacher-Contributor turned Gamekeeper-Editor, so do !!



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

- 6th 09.30-12.00 Church decoration for Harvest Festival & Gift Day
- 7th 11.00 Harvest Festival at the Parish Church (*see p.6*)
- 12.30 Bring & Share Harvest Lunch at the Village Hall
- 10th 19.30 BA Society talk '*The Magic of Wood*'
Speaker: Ian Howard. At the Village Hall
- 13th 10.00-15.30 Coffee & Christmas Sale at Hillside Farm (*see p.5*)
- 16th 10.00-13.00 Coffee Morning at Washingford House
- 17th 10.00-12.00 Coffee 'n' Chat at the Village Hall (*see p.8*)
- 17th 19.30 BALHG AGM at the Village Hall
Speaker: Jack Cornish of the Ramblers Assoc.
- 20th 10.30 Conservation Trust workday. Meet at Church Field
- 20th 14.00-16.00 South Yare Wildlife Group '*Hedgehog Event*'
at the Village Hall
- 23rd 12.30 Tuesday Friends lunch at the Parish Church
- 25th 10.00 Conservation Trust workday. Meet at Church Field.
- 26th 18.00 BA Society Ghost Walk & Supper. Meet in Beccles.
- 27th 19.00 Quiz 'n' Chilli Challenge at the Village Hall (*see p.8*)
- 28th 13.30 Fungus Foray: meet at Church field.

NOVEMBER

- 10th 16.00 St Martin's Eve: Walk & Vineyard Supper (*see p.5*)
- 11th 10.30 Remembrance Day Service at the Parish Church
followed by hot soup at the Village Hall
- 14th 19.30 BA Society talk '*History of Anaesthesia*'
Speaker: Dr David Nunn. At the Village Hall
- 17th 10.00 Conservation Trust Workday. Meet at Church Field
- 18th 11.00 Shoebox Service at the Parish Church
- 21st 10.00-12.00 Coffee 'n' Chat at the Village Hall
- 21st 19.30 Parish Council meet at the Village Hall
- 22nd 10.00 Conservation Trust Workday. Meet at Church Field
- 24th 09.00 11 Says Assembly at the Village Hall
- 24th 19.00 BALHG WW1 Evening; "Bully Beef" Supper
& talk by John Ling: "*Reflections on the Great War*"
- 27th 12.30 Tuesday Friends lunch at the Parish Church
- 28th 19.30 Village Hall Management meeting
- 30th 19.00 Lardal Kantori at the Parish Church (*see p.8*)

DECEMBER

- 2nd 12.30 Christmas Lunch at the Village Hall
- 5th 10.00-16.00 Christmas Wreath workshop at the Village Hall

Please let me have Articles and Contributions
for the December-January issue by end of
10th November
email to john.ling@btinternet.com

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Monday	1700 onwards	DOG TRAINING Village Hall
every other Tuesday	1000-1300	PAINTING CLASS Village Hall
Tuesday	1930	SING-A-LONG Village Hall
Friday	1000 - 1145	YOGA Village Hall

USEFUL CONTACTS

BACAT workshops	Pat Mlejnecky	01508 480696
Conservation Trust	Stephanie Crome	01508 480573
Local History	John Ling	01508 480439
Village Hall	Hilary Ling	01508 480439
Sing-a-Long	Karen Bonsall	07900 968739
Painting Class	Barbara Fox	01508 550168
BA Society	Linton Johnson	01508 480629
Archery	Bob Kerry	01508 480661

THANK YOU

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- Bergh Apton Community Arts Trust
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- Bergh Apton Village Hall
- Bergh Apton Parochial Church Council