



The Bergh Apton Newsletter

Issue 164
Bi-Monthly
August 2019

Most of you will know that Editor John Ling and Hilary are on their 'Around the World in 80 Days' trip of a lifetime which looks fantastic and we all wish them bon voyage. I have volunteered to step in to edit this and the October issue. I previously did this for around 11 years but it's funny how one forgets! I'll do my best to maintain John's excellent standards.

GLEANINGS FROM GARDEN FARM

HOW I REMEMBER IT

by Bob Debbage of Garden Farm

I was born in 1943 on Mill Road in the house called Melrose Cottage where Heather Sarsby now lives.



My father Sam (on the left of this photo) was foreman for Charlie Carver (upper right) on Charlie's fruit farm at Hellington Corner. Charlie employed several men and upwards of 40 lady fruit-pickers, many of whom came out from Loddon. One came

from as far away as Topcroft!

In the late 1940s my father took a tenancy with Norfolk County Council (NCC) on a smallholding vacated by the Tubbys on Church Road where Andrew Riseborough now lives, just past the Blockworks. The Tubbys had moved to a farm at Swainsthorpe where Alan Tubby, followed by his son Brian and later his grandson Alan grew fruit and vegetables at Dunston until a few years ago.

There were two smallholdings on Church Road, two of the six that then occupied the Street Farm land bought by NCC from the Denny Cookes of Bergh Apton Manor in 1919. My parents' neighbouring smallholder was Carlos Glasspoole who grew some fruit but was really a livestock farmer.

Turning into The Street from Church Road and pass-



Bob Debbage, in late May this year in his yard at Garden Farm, stands in front of a Massey Harris MF35, a favourite market garden tractor (this one still owned by Kevin Parfitt) having just used it to set onions on his son James's land on Church Meadow Lane.

ing the former farmhouse of Street Farm, re-named Apton Manor in the 1960s (though there never was a Manor of Apton!) and then past Derek and Jill Harvey's Street Farm of today, you come to Church Farm just off to the east on Dodger's Lane. That was where Kevin Parfitt's uncle Wesley Parfitt and his father Aubrey grew vegetables but Kevin's land, although the Parfitts were a notable market gardening family, was mainly arable and livestock.

On the corner of Cooke's Road and The Street were



Bob Debbage still has a few of the old Bergh Apton vegetable boxes in almost mint condition. The top one in this photo belonged to his grandfather Charlie Dye and the bottom one to Ebenezer Hindle.

the Annis family's market garden lands. Peter's father and mother lived in what is now Royston House and grew vegetables and fruit on both sides of the road. Before Jimmy's son Peter bought his own lorry his Jimmy and Alan Tubby shared a lorry, hired from local haulier Kenny Thurtle, to take their produce to market. Jimmy, a veteran of the First World War in which he served in the Royal Flying Corps, had several members of staff and was well-known and respected.

On the north side of Cooke's Road, towards Bergh Apton's border with Thurton, Cecil Watkinson grew Christmas trees as well as rhubarb, asparagus and other fruit on land including what is now Giant's Wood where the Lovatts found the vegetable trays reported in the Newsletter last time. Cecil had a wonderful array of horse drawn equipment lined up on the edge of the road.

In 1954 Cecil also took over the Red Lion pub (known as the "Br'apton Lion" though strictly speaking it was in Thurton) and held the licence until the pub closed its doors in 1962.

Further on towards Thurton, Harry Ellis lived at what is now White Heath House, at the end of the public footpath called Longlands Lane. He was the market gardener supreme whose strawberries were a delight to the eye.

Coming back to what is now Threadneedle Street (then all part of The Street) were another two of the Street Farm smallholdings. They were worked by the Whitings and the Alexanders and stood on the field where a pub called The Hare once traded in the late 1700s¹. In Mill Loke, on the other side of the road, Raymond Wall had orchard fruit and grew fantastic mushrooms that he took to the Annis family for Peter to take to market.

Further along, at Beech House, was dear old Lionel Lester who had quite a few orchard fruits and was well-known as our District Councillor as well as serving as a Parish Councillor. He was also on the Parochial Church Council. You had to be pretty well dedicated to do that!

A little further towards Mill Road lived Jack Lovewell at what is now October Cottage. Jack tinkered with his orchard while his wife ran the little shop at October Cottage that was one of two shops we used to have in Bergh Apton. The other, first on The Street and then at Howgate Cottage, was run by Grace and Walter Cushing and then by their sons Barry and Richard. We also had a separate post office located at what is now Holly Cottage on The Street.

Back in Threadneedle Street, to the west of Mill Loke, Arthur Vincent was where Eelen Kennedy now lives. He ran a successful Builders and Undertaker business as well as the cherry orchard which survives to this day behind the houses on my grandfather's south side of the road. At cherry-picking time, the buildings business team was directed into the orchard.

At the crossroads was an orchard owned by Mr Botting that once belonged to Ebenezer Giles Hindle² who is said to have introduced the shiny black cherry that was unique to Bergh Apton and Alington (that I remember the late Bill Boardman speaking of as "The Hindle").

Ebenezer and Polly lived in a little wooden bungalow renovated but that was eventually knocked down to make room for Failte, home to Garry Beckett and Karen Howes.

Mr Botting sold his orchard to my parents and that was where they built the bungalow called Crossways Farm, now owned by Gillian Ducker on Church Meadow Lane where our son James built a house next door, and still farms the land behind it. Mr Botting had another orchard in Mill Road, run by "Dodger" Drane, that was eventually sold to Bill and June Boardman to become the famous "Garden in an Orchard" that was open to the public in the Summer and was one of the jewels in the crown of the Bergh Apton Sculpture Trails.

Opposite the Boardmans were Charlie Carver's packing sheds for the business that he founded at Hellington Corner on the site that is now Green Pastures. Charlie died before his time at the age of 64 in 1956 and his son Colin then developed the business into a massive concern with several wholesale outlets.

In more recent times Derek and Gill Harvey at Street Farm put Bergh Apton on the map with their PYO strawberries, raspberries and onions and I must not forget dear old Albert Kerry down at Bussey Bridge Farm on Bergh Apton's border with Seething. He grew strawberries extensively. Albert, who also supplied Wimbledon, once told me that he felt like a King during the strawberry season².



Ebenezer and Polly Hindle, their cart stacked high with his market garden boxes, in the early 1900s outside their cottage on Threadneedle Street. Buildings just visible on the extreme right of the photo are Arthur Vincent's workshops that were where Seven Bells and Oak Tree House

All of that, sadly, is water under the bridge like the rest of our market gardens. The fatal blow was dealt by supermarkets killing off all of the corner greengrocers and market stalls and now selling produce from the Fens and even further afield, mainly harvested and packed by migrant labour as in many other branches of the food industry. But watch out for Brexit, it could all change!

Editor's Notes:

It's very pleasing to include more of Bob Debbage's "Gleanings" in the Newsletter after a few years' absence and I hope we may see more in due course. A couple of things occurred to me as I read Bob's memories of how it was:

¹ In 1919 this building became the homestead for one of the six Street Farm smallholdings. It was demolished in the 1950s.

² Ebenezer Hindle was one of ten children born to Honor (née Giles) and Jonathan Hindle. Honor's father Ebenezer Giles for some time (and certainly at the time of the 1861 Census) ran Bergh Apton's post-mill at Mill Farm (on Mill Road). Lionel Lester, another market gardener in Bob's article above, also had a Giles connection in that he married Margaret Giles, great granddaughter of miller Ebenezer. She and Ebenezer Hindle were, thus, first cousins (twice removed).

³ Albert Kerry's nickname, amongst the folk in the Bussey Bridge and Sunnyside parts of Bergh Apton (and probably further afield too) was "Hartley". I think it may have reflected his association as a supplier to the famous Cambridgeshire jam-maker.

THIS MONTH'S HANDY HINTS FROM OUR DOMESTIC GODDESS

Summer is the time to enjoy a cooling glass of Pimms but many people find the traditional recipe is too sweet. Try this; instead of one part Pimms to three parts lemonade make it up as one part Pimms, two parts lemonade and one part tonic water. Add ice, fruit, cucumber mint and borage flowers. Enjoy! Little Owl

HIGH SPEED BROADBAND ARRIVES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

What would the founders of the Village Hall have thought- way back on 1953 when the hall opened - if they'd been told that, one day, this modest little building in the heart of Norfolk would be connected to the whole wide world by an invisible wireless signal beamed from the parish church to a tiny dish set on the south gable roof of the hall?

In their day there were some houses not yet connected to the telephone network . . . and some buildings (including the parish church) had yet to be connected to the power grid.

But early in June this year, Sebastian, an engineer from WiSpire/In Touch, arrived at the hall to set up



the dish and router that will enable users of the village hall to access the World Wide Web.

Wispire's signal is beamed from the tall towers near Postwick, and routed through Bergh Apton's church tower) at a fast download speed in excess of 30 mbps (megabytes per second).

Some of us are intensely envious as we are still struggling to get service with a speed less than 1/10th of that (for example, the signal at Bussey Bridge sometimes drops below 1.0 mbps!)

This development is a joint initiative of the Village Hall committee and The ICENI Microscopy Group (www.co.uk) who are regular users of the village hall for their microscopic research projects associated with insects -particularly honey bees - that can be greatly benefited by access to the Internet for information and dissemination of their own work.

The Parish Council is another beneficiary of the WiSpire connection. In the photo above (l-r) Steve Whitby, Janet Skedge and new Parish Councillor Ian Ratcliffe are able to access details of online planning applications and other information previously unavailable during the council's meetings.

South Norfolk Council is also a facilitator for this project for which it has met the set-up costs to install the system and its router.

GOOD NEWS FROM KAMPALA!

Christopher and Liz Meynell who, in October 2018, launched the appeal in the Bergh Apton Newsletter and in Eleven Says for funds to purchase a new vehicle for Sanyu Babies Home in Kampala have received news from Barbara Mutagubya at the Home that cares for orphans and babies abandoned in Uganda's capital city and surrounds.

We are delighted to respond to Christopher's request that we publish his and Liz's thanks to all of you whose generosity has made it possible to

achieve the success that Barbara Mutagubya of Sanyu has just reported to them. Christopher writes:



"Your generosity is being put to good use for the benefit of the abandoned babies of Kampala, rescued off the streets. You have helped them to buy a replacement van to fetch and carry the babies, to collect provisions, to take them on outings. It is a vital resource for the Home". Here is what Barbara Mutagubya has just written to us:

I am very pleased to inform you that Sanyu Babies' Home has acquired a new van.

Through the fundraising efforts together with your substantial donation, we managed to raise 75,000,000 Uganda Shillings by April, 2019. Since we were far from reaching the amount required for the 2nd-hand pick up and yet the need safe transportation was urgent, the Governors resolved to purchase a van whilst we continue with our fundraising efforts.

On behalf of the entire Sanyu Babies' Home family, I wish to thank you so much for your support and generous donation towards its purchase".

BERGH APTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

The Parish Council is looking for a new Clerk to act as a proper officer of the Council, managing day to day Council business, providing regulatory advice to the Council and implementing the Council's decisions.

Previous experience and qualifications in a similar role are desirable, but not essential as training can be given. A local candidate is preferable to join this enthusiastic and pro-active Council.

The post is home based, part time with requirements to attend meetings (generally every other month).

Hours: The contracted hours are 4 hours per week

Salary: Pay and conditions are based on the National Association of Local Councils, depending on experience and qualifications.

To apply: Please forward CV and letter of application in the first instance to:

Mrs Julie Gosling

Lodge Cottage, Sunnyside, Bergh Apton, NR15 1DD

or clerk@berghapton.org.uk

For an informal chat about the position please call Julie on 01508 480416

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 16th August with a view to a start date of 23rd September 2019.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SPONSOR

The publication of this Newsletter, delivered to every house in the village and to a list of former residents who like to keep up with happenings in Bergh Apton, depends entirely on a number of groups and businesses who share the cost. Their generosity ensures that we may deliver the Newsletter to you without charge and without the need to include advertisements*.

You'll find the names of these kind benefactors on the back page. I'm very pleased to ask you to note that their number has now increased to nine names.

The new sponsor is **Country Holiday Cottages Norfolk Ltd**, a local company owned by the Willcox family of Holly Lodge on Sunnyside who have established Cherry Tree



Cherry Tree Cottage

Cottage and the late Phyllis Ride's former home Green Shutters - now Green Acres - as letting accommodation right in the heart of the Chet Valley, sleeping eleven and eight people respectively. Lucky visitors!

People have stayed at the cottages for a number of reasons including family reunions, guests attending local weddings and companies wishing to use one of the properties as a base for assessing the area in which to set up their businesses.

Thank you Michael and Gill for agreeing to support us, and welcome to the generous group of organisation that has ensured, right from the start with Issue No 1, that we may keep everyone up-to-date with news, reviews, obituaries, the village diary and all the other elements that makes this newsletter a pleasure to edit and, I hope, an interesting read.

**Advertising for local facilities and services is the bed-rock that supports Eleven Says, that comes to you free with news about the wider area around Bergh Apton.*

THE FETE

On a day when the weather forecast suggested grey skies and only 17 degrees we were pleasantly surprised when the sun made an appearance and the temperature rose.

Alison, our hostess and Rob Bates, fete organiser, pictured here with Alison and Kip, opened the proceedings to large crowds.



THE QUEEN'S 90th BIRTHDAY TREE



To commemorate Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday in 2016 Bergh Apton Parish Council, with the agreement of landowner Norfolk County Council, planted a rowan tree on Scop Hill, set within the circle of Lucy Unwin's sculpture "The Dance".

Further consideration over time resulted in a decision that the tree would be better located near, rather than within, the sculpture and it was moved, with the help of NCC's on-site maintenance team, slightly uphill but still close to the sculpture and the seating from which it may be admired by people taking a break while enjoying a walk on Scop Hill



The Parish Council has now installed a black-japanned brass plaque in front of the tree to record the commemoration and our photo here (taken on a rather dull Summer's day) shows parish councillor Hugh Porter putting the final touches to the installation.

SPOTTED IN THE LINE-UP



In the June edition of the Newsletter we published part of this photograph of the Thurton Football team in which Len Cain, killed in Normandy in July 1944, is seated to the right (left in the photo) of the Captain holding the trophy.

When he read this article, eagle-eyed Bob Debbage noticed that the player sitting on the ground immediately below Len Cain was the late Jack Whiting, another Bergh Apton man.

That raises the possibility that this cup-winning side from our neighbouring village may have included other Bergh Apton players. So we'll get going on research to see if we can identify all of them for a future edition of the Newsletter.

The date of the photo, stated as 1937 in the June edition, may also be a little suspect. The date is a bit obscure in the photo and Len Cain looks much too young to have joined the Royal Norfolk Regiment the year and a few months later. We're hoping that his brother Ron, now living in North East Scotland, may be able to help with both these issues.

We'll also hope to publish an article, with the help of his family, about Jack Whiting who was one of the tenants of Norfolk County Council's "six Street Farms of Bergh Apton". Jack and his wife Josie were well-known and much-respected members of the agricultural community that was the life of our village.

MARGARET CHAPPELL RIP

Margaret Chappell though she was born and raised near Halesworth in Suffolk, spent more than 60 years of her life in Alington and Bergh Apton (where she lived in The Old Forge on Mill Road).

Margaret worked for over 20 years at Alington and Bergh Apton Primary School, teaching many of the local children to read and write.

She enjoyed gardening and created a happy family



BERGH APTON'S PARISH CLERK TO LEAVE

Bergh Apton parish councillors were saddened when, at the conclusion of the Council's meeting on Tuesday 25th June, their incumbent Clerk Julie Gosling told them that she had decided to resume her role as a Surveyor and had accepted a contract of employment with Norwich-based NPS Group.

As a consequence, and with regret, she tendered her notice effective in three months' time.

Chairman David Skedge, echoed by the entire Council, expressed his profound regret at losing Julie and the very considerable contribution she had made to the Council's work and its development in the two years she had held the post.

Councillors praised the sense of humour that is a hallmark of her dealings, her dependability, her knowledge and her work, always done with speed and skill.



Chairman David Skedge and Parish Clerk Julie Gosling at a recent Parish Council meeting in the village hall.

Julie's development of a good working relationship with local County and District officials has also, and in no small measure, contributed to the effectiveness of the Council's work.

Julie, who lives on Sunnyside, began her time as Parish Clerk in June 2017 and successfully juggled her work as the Parish Clerk with her family activities and responsibilities to her husband Mark and their daughters Cara and Christy.

... continued on p.6

home at The Old Hall, Alington for her husband Stanley, three daughters and many animals.

School holidays were spent working on their house and large garden but also travelling to different European countries, particularly Italy, in a series of camper vans.

In her retirement Margaret concentrated on her love of writing with one of her plays performed both at the UEA and at The Playhouse in Norwich. Her book, Cookley Green, was published in 2003.

Margaret was often to be seen on her daily walks around the local area which continued into her late eighties.

She is much missed by her daughters and grandchildren.

THE VILLAGE SIGN - THE MASK



In the December 2018 and April 2019 editions we had a look at two of the illustrations on our village sign. On the face that celebrates elements of the ancient settlement (up to the 11th Century and the time of the Norman conquest).

Just for a change this time, let's look at something on the other face - the one that looks to the North - that celebrates an event that put Bergh Apton on the map as one of Norfolk's top-line Arts events. It is the Bergh Apton Sculpture Trail, run by what eventually became established as the Bergh Apton Community Arts Trust (BACAT).

BACAT ran six of these early-Summer arts and gardens spectacles at intervals between 1997 and 2011. They brought many thousands of visitors to the village to walk, bus, bike or trailer-ride to see sculptures set in private gardens all around the village.

Eventually there was a feeling amongst some of the huge band of volunteers that we had come to a natural end to the series in 2011 and that, in artistic terms, we should move on. Others had begun to run out of puff as had some of our magnificent band of Gardeners, and we had lost Bill Boardman of "The Garden in an Orchard" that was one of the cornerstones on which the success of the Trail was built.

The visitor crowds, too, had become intense over the three weekends of the event with more than 12,000 flooding the village in 2011. Roads and lanes of the village had become overcrowded and road-rage was at times close to the surface leaving a potentially distasteful mark on residents and kinder-tempered visitors alike.

So the Trails came to an end in 2011 to take their place as part of village legend (until some younger generation decides to take up the challenge!).

But they are still celebrated on the village sign in the form of "The Mask", a most intricate and beautiful metal sculpture by Ros Newman ARBS who exhibited in 1997 in the garden of Mere Farm House on White Heath Road (at that time the home of Maria Philips and the late Canon John Philips).

Ros became a regular and much-admired exhibitor on every one of the six Trails and such was the quality of her work that we asked (and she agreed) that an image of "The Mask" might be adopted as BACAT's logo.

BACAT WORKSHOPS

by Peter Lyle

In May, this year storyteller Hugh Lupton led three Bergh Apton Community Arts Trust (BACAT) writing workshops at Pat Mlejnecky's house on Cooke's Road in Bergh Apton, at which we who were present created riddles, conundrums, stories about portals and imaginary constellations.

Then, in June at the Village Hall, Di Griffiths led a print-making workshop in which we created illustrations based on our stories.

The stories and the illustrations will now be compiled into a book called "Clew" (from the clew - or ball - of thread that Ariadne gave Theseus to help him find his way back out of the Maze after he killed the Minotaur).

The workshops will have another exciting product as Hugh Lupton will use their results as the basis for the script he creates for BACAT's next theatre project "Tom Tiddler's Ground" planned for September 2020.

The photo below was taken by Hilary Ling in a break during the print-making workshop when the workshop group toasted not just the successful conclusion of the "Clew" project and the future success of "Tom Tiddler's Ground" but Pat Mlejnecky, too, for the thought



Peter Lyle, Pennie Riches, workshop leader Di Griffiths, Pat Mlejnecky (with swift in hand), Christopher Meynell, Pippa Thurlow and Sophie Saunders. Sophie is a former resident of Alington now living in Tunbridge Wells, who was Pippa's house-guest at the time of the workshop and so joined in.

and work she put into organising and hosting the workshops.

To show our appreciation we presented Pat with the sculpture of a swift made by Andy Jarrett, one of the local artists who exhibited at every one of the six Bergh Apton Sculpture Trails between 1997 and 2011.

Continued from p 5 Parish Clerk needed

So the search now begins to find someone to follow in her footsteps. If anyone knows of someone who may fit the bill they can talk to Julie (01508 480416). She will be able to advise on the responsibilities and duties of the Parish Clerk and the skills, experience and qualifications that the Parish Council will be looking for in the person who takes on the role.

Advertisements for the post will appear, in due course, on the Norfolk Parish Training and Support website and on the Bergh Apton website.

BERGH APTON HORSE & DOG SHOW



The broad acres of the East Park at Kip and Alison Bertram's Bergh Apton Manor were, once again, the venue for the annual Bergh Apton Horse and (fun!) Dog Show this year. Luck was with the organisers as the day, Saturday 22nd June, dawned bright with light clouds then developed into brilliant sunshine that lasted into the late evening.

Numbers of entrants in both the equine and canine competitions was a little down this year due, we think, to the event taking place three weeks later than its hitherto regular "slot" in the horse events calendar - the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. The change came about in a plan to give the grass crop on the park a little more time to develop and thereby improve its yield.



Three friends have a spot of lunch in the shade, with a chance to catch up with the gossip.

We expect, over time in the coming years, that this new schedule will become the norm and the number of entrants to climb again to former levels.

But for those riders and spectators, both in the horse and dog departments, this was another day of great enjoyment.

We hope that the Secretary, Katie Waterfield, and her team that ran the event, together with the Show Chairman Milton Harris and his crew that did all the work to set up and run the showground, will all look back and conclude that this was a good day.

Proceeds from both the horse and dog events helps to maintain and run Bergh Apton's ancient parish church of St Peter & St Paul. The proceeds from the raffle at the show went to Riding for the Disabled.

JOHN FULLER OBE

You may have read the news in June that our District Councillor John Fuller was appointed an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his contribution to public and political services.



Congratulations to John, who has been our District Councillor since 2004 and lives in Brooke with his wife Philippa and their daughters Susan and Laura. Philippa, too, has been much involved in Bergh Apton's life having been our Parish Clerk for the thirteen years between 2004 to 2017.

The news of John's accolade came on the same day that he learned of his success in being re-elected to serve the Brooke ward in the recent District Council elections.

VISITS TO WADDESDON MANOR, LAVENHAM AND BETH CHATTO'S GARDEN

On Wednesday 5th June several members of the Bergh Apton and District Society went on a very enlightening trip to **Waddesdon Manor** which is some 6.6 miles west of Aylesbury, departing early at 7.40 am from Harford Park and Ride, the driver took us on an unusual journey to Waddesdon Manor.

It is a very large impressive country house built in the Neo-Renaissance style of a French Chateau for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild between 1874 and 1889, it was not built as a residence but for entertainment and show. It has made a marvellous setting for the Baron's tremendous art collection with emphasis on French artwork.

The property was bequeathed by Baron James de Rothschild to the National Trust in 1957. I/we were stunned by the artwork which is all still on display, the gardens and grounds were landscaped to impress including the planting of many adult trees as the property was built on a hilltop the views are spectacular, as we spent a considerable time in the house unfortunately we finished up with insufficient time to fully appreciate the gardens apart from an outstanding Rose Garden the rest would be worth a return visit.

It was on Monday 24th June that my Wife Ruth and I were very fortunate to go with several other members of the Bergh Apton and District Society to both **Lavenham** and **Beth Chatto's Garden**.

Lavenham a small town near Sudbury in Suffolk is in a Medieval time warp, that is most of the houses are still the

... continued on p.8

...continued from p 7

houses built before 1600 AD, the market place is especially strange being used as a car park surrounded by houses built between 1460 AD and 1540 AD, Ruth and I enjoyed morning coffee/tea in the National Trust tearooms in the ancient Guild Hall and chatting that we ran out of time so didn't do much visiting a pity we didn't get as far as the Church of Saints Peter and Paul as is Bergh Apton's Church.

In the afternoon we were taken to Beth Chatto's Garden in Essex on arrival it started to rain, but we were able to eat undercover from a very extensive menu which was very good quality, after the meal as it was still raining we looked at the display of plants for sale which were inside a polythene greenhouse.. Milton Harris

Shortly the rain stopped and we were able to enjoy the garden which was much more extensive than I had expected, including pools and running water a lovely place to appreciate many varieties of plants and the various shades of green I as a known non-gardener really enjoyed it; even the coach driver who had never been to Beth Chatto's Garden before, said he was very pleased that he had been given the opportunity to be there.

UPDATE ON CYCLONE IDAI

On March 14 this year Cyclone Idai hit Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, battering the region for a week. Only 6 weeks later Cyclone Kenneth hit the same region.

Vast areas were totally submerged, affecting 3 million people.

Those people who managed to escape from homes collapsing in the flood waters - who survived drowning - were left with nothing to start rebuilding their lives. In the face of such wholesale devastation there are no contingencies families could put into place and, with whole communities left in the same situation, no resilience within those communities to start to rebuild.

Crops were destroyed; clothes, food reserves, cooking utensils gone - no means to prepare food even if there is any. With no sanitation and water resources either destroyed or contaminated disease, especially cholera, threatened. Road and rail links were washed away.

DEC (Disaster Emergency Committee), the umbrella group of 14 UK charities including Christian Aid put out an appeal. Christian Aid, via their local partners in the region, were able to prioritise the most vulnerable, providing shelter items, food parcels and water filters, water purification tablets, cash grants for shelter repair, hygiene and dignity kits.

CYCLONE IDAI continued

Why are those people directly impacted by storms so badly prepared to respond to disaster, even when there are warnings? The very poorest live from day to day, struggling to put food on the table, to find money for education and health care in addition to trying to cover the additional costs of local corruption. They're hardly well-placed to build resilience into their lives.

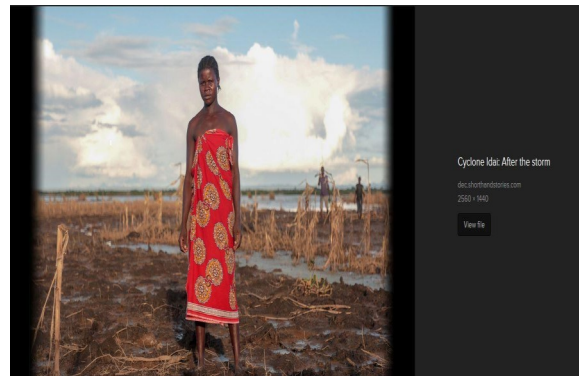


photo courtesy of DEC shorthand stories

While the world's poorest bear the brunt of ever more powerful storms (in just three months this year some of the most devastating cyclones occurred - Cyclones Idai and Kenneth hit south-eastern Africa; Cyclone Fani battered India's coastline in early May), international leaders have done little to address the devastating impact of climate change. Even in temperate Europe we're not immune to climate change extremes. At the end of June, France recorded its highest ever temperatures - 46 degrees. Christian Aid is campaigning for greater awareness of climate change in commercial arenas and at the highest levels so that real changes might be brought about.

At the coalface, when the world's cameras have moved on to the next newsbyte, Christian Aid is still there - in Kerala, Nepal, Indonesia, still helping the Rohingya; campaigning for greater global tax justice; for better protection for displaced people; tackling root causes of poverty so that women, men, children and communities are strengthened against future knocks.

So, if you contributed to the DEC appeal after Cyclone Idai, or if you helped the Bergh Apton's doorstep Christian Aid Week collections to reach the impressive total of £522 - THANK YOU!



BERGH APTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Local Archive Project

We continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the village hall attempting to bring order to the huge amount of documentation amassed over the years. Although still in the early stages of doing a rough sort all sorts of interesting items have been unearthed. Our last session was mainly taken up with matching a file of old photographs with the properties relating to the families identified. This led to a few trips “down memory lane”!

We have been accepted as a partner with the Norfolk Records Office for a funding bid. If successful this will mean the offer of support of an archivist, together with training, a laptop and £250 to assist in purchasing containers and archiving materials. This will all help our work immensely. The outcome will not be known until the autumn.

If any of this takes your interest, please do pop in and see what we are up to. We will be there from 1.30pm – 4pm.

It is hoped that in the autumn we will hold an Archiving Day to bring everyone up to date.

Annual Programme upcoming events

AGM Wednesday, 16 October. Further details in the next edition of the Newsletter.

TALK by Chris Johnson on his India Tour. Saturday 23 November, to include a curry supper (alternative available). Further details in the next edition.

Any queries please contact Linda Davy (linda.davy1@btinternet.com, 01508 558453) or Suzanne Whitby (suzanne@gravelpitfarm.co.uk, 01508 550093)

BERGH APTON CONSERVATION TRUST UPDATE

Workdays: Workdays are the third Saturday and following Thursday of each month. Meet at 10 am Church Field.

It has been so gratifying to see the number of volunteers on workdays increasing and the results achieved; clearing of sycamore seedlings and general maintenance. By the time this article goes to press we hope to have cut and raked footpaths and fenced off an exclusion area.

NEXT GENERATION REPORT

Pond Dipping and Scouting Activities

Once again, our pond dipping day in May was well attended. Over 30 adults and children visited Valley

Marsh to enjoy the afternoon. It was not even necessary to dip into the gin-clear waters of the new pond to see many of its residents. Dipping, though, is always a great and irresistible adventure. As in previous years, dragonfly, damselfly and other nymphs were found in abundance, along with numerous tadpoles, beetles and other curiosities.



Our partnership with the Brook Scout Group has continued this year.

The Cubs approached us back in March with an interesting project they were undertaking for their Environmental badge. For the months of April, May, June and July, they would spend their first meeting of the month studying selected areas of our site and observing any changes as the season progressed. BACT Trustees, parents and leaders have been on hand to assist and guide their identification and observations.

The regular visit by different elements of the Group in mid-June enjoyed varied fortunes. The Beavers arrived on a balmy, sunny Monday evening and were escorted on a nature ramble through the Plantation and onto the Marsh. While their noisy enthusiasm limited sightings of the more timid residents of the Trust land, they were thrilled to discover ants' nests, centipedes and spiders, and still spotted a couple of slow worms and grass snakes. In the new pond they found not only tadpoles at different stages of development but also fully-formed, but tiny, froglets - and on the old pond, a family of ducks with 5 ducklings. Great excitement!

The following day, the Scouts arrived accompanied by rather threatening skies. They did sterling work to reinstate a set of steps which should more accurately have been described as 'a slope'!

Using sycamore trunks and boughs, which had been felled as part of our woodland management programme, their teamwork was impressive and enthusiasm very infectious. They might have completed the work had a few rumbles of thunder not suggested that we should remove ourselves from the woods. We also wished to ensure that the Cubs would have a

... continued on p.10

chance to practise their own skills on the Wednesday evening.

Alas! The arrival of the Cubs in the church field on Wednesday coincided with a cloudburst. A hastily-erected tarpaulin allowed them to shelter while the situation was assessed (a Cub leader's car seems always to contain whatever is needed!). Sadly, the rain persisted so heavily that the troop decided to adjourn to the Cub Den in Brooke. On the evening of their planned visit in early July they were able to split their time between completing the studies for their Environmental Badge and continuing the transformation from 'slope' to 'flight of steps'.

We really enjoy the visits of these enthusiastic young folk and their patient and dedicated leaders. Their help is invaluable and knowing that we might be helping the next generation to hatch an interest in, and love of, nature and the environment makes our work on the Trust worthwhile.



Hedge Survey 18 June:

This part of the survey of all the hedgerows in the parish. This stretch covered part of Cookes Road and will continue on 18 July.

Midsummer BBQ 22 June: Numbers attending were low but the wonderful weather meant for an enjoyable evening.

Butterfly Hunting at Holt Country Park: Unfortunately this event was cancelled.

Dates for your diary:

Bat Evening 5 September (Bad weather back-up date Monday 9 September): Meet 6.15pm at Bergh Apton Church

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 25 September: 7.30 pm at Bergh Apton Village Hall. Our speaker will be Prof. Diana Bell from the UEA School of Biology on "Hares". We also hope to be in a position to show the results of our filming project of the Reserve throughout the year.

Fungus Foray: Sunday 20 October: 1.30pm at Church Field.

For any queries please contact the Hon Secretary, Stephanie Crome, on 01508480573 or stephanie.crome@btinternet.com.
<https://berghaptonconservationtrust.org>

DOWN MEMORY LANE By Gilbert Elmer

Hello all you lovely people and it very nice to be able to send you a progress report. For the last few months I have been through some rough periods, fortunately our wonderful NHS was there and pulled me through. It started one evening going to bed. As I stood beside the bed, I lost all control of where my body wanted to be and fell to the floor. I was due at Hospital next day and whilst I was there, same thing happened. Within seconds I was surrounded by medical staff and finished up on a ward. I was aware of all that was happening but lost all control. I was in hospital for 16 days and it appears my troubles were due to my taking Aspirin and Warfarin since 2004. No longer taking those drugs and feeling so much better. Four weeks later, at Hospital again as I had blown up enormously. In two days they extracted 14 litres of fluid from me. My weight is now much lower than it has been for years.

John sent me a copy of the June issue and I was sorry to see John Bunting had passed away. He was a few years younger than me but used to see him often. I recall he lived with his grandparents and his mother, whose house was next to Dr Wardle [if the spelling is correct]. In later years, when I was in the Police, I saw much more of him as I was stationed at Rockland and he was a lorry driver for Cullings. He was certainly a hard worker, especially at the year's ending when he was busy taking sugar beet to Cantley. He was a great person to know as you always ended laughing with him as he could tell some funny stories.

Now I am getting more active, I will prepare a more interesting article for the next issue so will sign off with my thanks to you all for your kind attention and best wishes.

JOHN LING CELEBRATES HIS 80th BIRTHDAY

John celebrated his 80th birthday in June with a cruise on the Norfolk Broads.

It's unusual for John to spend a day away from Bergh Apton, as he does so much for our village giving his time on groups, committees and a range of projects that help to keep our active village alive and well. This is not the time or place to list everything John and Hilary do for the Bergh Apton community as it would then probably not leave room for anything else in this edition and as the usual resident Editor for this newsletter, being one of the many things John is involved in, we know that's not what John would want. Instead read the article from John's very good friend Ian Robins on the following page.

John and Hilary, who both do so much for the village of Bergh Apton, were able to enjoy their day on the Southern Comfort with some deserved sunny weather taking them, along with friends and family from Horning for an afternoon cruise along the broads.

Keith Mann

A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES WITH JOHN LING



As many of you know, John Ling passed his 80th birthday on the 1st of June 2019, which he celebrated with a most enjoyable cruise along the Broads from Horning on the

Southern Comfort. John has always been interested in sailing so this waterborne celebration was most appropriate. John has had an interesting life much of it involved with shipping and maritime matters – so the trip on the Southern Comfort was in many ways a reflection of that long interest.

I have known John since before we were born. Our mothers were very good friends, so John and I doubtless bumped into each other before arriving independently on this earth. I have known John ever since and was pleased to be asked to be his best man when he married the lovely Hilary.

His father had a boat which John sailed in Norfolk. He also sailed off the west coast of Scotland in quite tricky waters where his knowledge was vital. In Aberdeen he worked for an organisation which supplied the offshore oil rigs parked up to 150 miles off the North Scottish coast. Due to John's maritime and sailing expertise he was asked to run the Cutty Sark Tall Ships race from Aberdeen. He clearly did so well that he was asked to run the next one from Edinburgh, and a third later again from Aberdeen. In his leisure time he partook in some thespian activity and I can always remember him dressed in slightly wrinkled pink tights as he strutted the stage in a Shakespearean epic.

I should add that for our 65th birthdays our wives organised a weekend on 'Excelsior', an ex-Lowestoft trawler. With eight other passengers we sailed from Ipswich out into the North Sea and battled tides and strong winds for several hours. We moored in Brightlingsea that evening but ran aground overnight. The boat was towed off the sandbank in the morning and we set off back to Ipswich. The journey back fought wind and tide again in a rough sea where John was masterful in calming the other frightened passengers who were sick most of the way home. A memorable two days.

John has been a good friend to me over his eighty years (and mine). And, might I suggest that he has been a remarkable friend to Bergh Apton. He has taken a very full part in the village's activities, starting with his involvement with the Sculpture Trail, his work on the PC and on the PCC, and as a Church Warden. His extensive research into the men from Bergh Apton lost in the First and Second World Wars has born remarkable fruit and he is currently travelling the world which will in-

clude a stop in Burma to visit the grave of one of these men. 'They shall not be forgotten' thanks to John Ling's dedication to their memory.

He will return home at the end of September, with innumerable stories to tell in the inimitable way only John can tell'em. I look forward to hearing them. It is interesting to note that last time he and Hilary were in the States he had to run to New Orleans from a hurricane which hit Florida. Just yesterday I heard of an earthquake on the Californian coast where John and Hilary landed earlier in the week!

Bergh Apton owes a lot to John Ling, but I doubt if he will slow down once he gets home and will continue to serve the village with his customary dedication.

Ian Robins

THE FETE... *continued from p.4*

As always all the stall holders had worked very hard setting up and supplying items for sale, so it was very pleasing to see that they had a busy time. The tea stall was so busy that extra



Annie Ball in readiness to man the tea stall



Above Jenny Lovatt with one of the pirates. Below— Pirate bowling with the prizes and a rather ferocious pirate.

milk was borrowed from The Manor and the Flower tombola had soon cleared its shelves. It was positive to see many new faces including some of Bergh Apton's new residents. Thanks have to go to our wonderful host and hostess

Kip and Alison for once again allowing the fete to take over their garden. The fete would not be



the same elsewhere. Also thanks must go to the committed band of helpers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes and of course all who attended and made the afternoon a great success. Tiff and Hugh Porter

2019 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

17 th	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
20 th	19.00	Parish Council meet at the Village Hall
21 st	10.00-12.00	Coffee n Catch Up at the Village Hall
22 nd	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
23 rd	19.00	The Hare open again on Bob Debbage's field
27 th	12.30	Tuesday Friends lunch at Church
28 th	19.30	Village Hall Management meeting

SEPTEMBER

11 th	19.30	B.A. Society talk on Return to The Falklands by Christine Garner at Village Hall
18 th	10.00-12.00	Coffee n Catch Up at the Village Hall
21 st	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
24 th	12.30	Tuesday Friends lunch at the Church
25 th	19.30	BA Conservation Trust A.G.M. at Village Hall.
26 th	10.00	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
28 th	09.00	11 Says assembly at the Village Hall

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 12th October

10 am to 4 pm

Christmas card sale

in aid of

Save the Children

at

Hillside Farm, Welbeck Rd, Bergh Apton

ARTICLES/CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT EDITION

for the **October-November** issue
please send **by 10th September** at the latest
to
sallyjaneleigh19@gmail.com

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Monday	1700 onwards	DOG TRAINING
every other Tuesday	1000-1300	PAINTING CLASS
Thursday	1930	SING-SING-SING
Friday	1000 - 1145	YOGA

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-Sing-Sing	Karen Bonsall	07900 968739
Painting Class	Barbara Fox	01508 550168
BA Society	Lynton Johnson	01508 480629
Archery	Bob Kerry	01508 480661

Roberts & Son Printers

Litho & Digital Colour Printing
Printer Ink/Toner/Spares
Office Supplies

We print: Office Stationery •
Business Cards • Posters • Leaflets •
Flyers • Postcards • Raffle Tickets •
Multi-part NCR Sets / Books •
Invitations • Brochures • Calendars •
Magazines • Memo Pads

We supply: A4 & A3 Copier Paper •
Printer Toner / Ink Cartridges •
Envelopes • Labels • Continuous
Stationery • Other Office Supplies

High Quality Colour Photocopying and
Laminating Service available

T 01508 520221 F 01508 528313

E print@robertsandson.co.uk
www.robertsandson.co.uk

2-6 Bridge Street • Loddon • Norwich • NR14 6EZ

THANK YOU, SPONSORS

We couldn't publish the Bergh Apton Newsletter without the financial support of the following organisations, to whom our grateful thanks:

Bergh Apton Community Arts Trust
Bergh Apton Conservation Trust
Bergh Apton & District Society
Bergh Apton Local History Group
Bergh Apton Parish Council
Bergh Apton Parochial Church Council
Bergh Apton Village Hall
Chet & Waveney Valley Vineyard
Country Holiday Cottages Norfolk Ltd