



The Bergh Apton Newsletter

Issue 167
Bi-Monthly
February 2020

In the early Summer of 2019, walking through our churchyard one day I thought how lucky we are as a community that the rate at which our residents shuffle off this mortal coil seems to be mercifully slow. Since Bob Burlingham's wife Vera was laid to rest in the new area by the south wall of the churchyard in early 2003 there have been forty burials and twenty-two interment of ashes in Bergh Apton. That's an average of four souls each year. But in 2019 we said farewell to nine people who lived here or, in the case of Lady Ann Mackenzie and Roy Flowerdew, had contributed much to our village life before they moved away. That's sad for their kin and it leaves great gaps in our midst. And it makes this edition of the Newsletter copious in the number of its obituaries. I am confident that you will want to join me in offering our condolences to all the families who have lost those they loved.

BA'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH & NEW YEAR BREAKFAST

by Tricia Gunson

For a small committed group of BA residents the planning for Christmas festivities of one year starts almost as soon as the turkey leftovers and the last of the mince pies of the previous one have been eaten!

This has been the case for very many years now for the good ship known as "The Bergh Apton Older Persons' Christmas Lunch" captained by Kevin and Theresa Parfitt, with their able crew of family, friends, and other volunteers (in the main but not exclusively from BA). This year, about 80 of us sat down as their guests at this amazing event.



Celebrating the end of a busy lunch time are Holly and Daisy Theobald (left) of White Willows, two members of the "front of house" Christmas Lunch team masterminded by (r) Rachel Parfitt and her brother Johnny.

possible one as both were delicious. Once again we must thank Janet Skedge for making those excellent trifles. A glass of port - to wash down the last of the desserts and to accompany the cheese and biscuits - rounded off the proceedings.

In case we were still hungry (how so!?) a tempting slice of Christmas cake, baked beautifully by Gill Waters, was the final wonder of the meal.

No party is complete without musical entertainment and Johnny Flinton took up his guitar to regale us with a medley of songs.

In previous years several guests have taken to the floor to show off their dance moves, (eat your heart out 'Strictly' professional stars!) but this year more people

... continued on p.4



The village hall was a joy, with its colourful and tasteful decorations and with the tables neatly laid and ready to be occupied by the guests.

To warm us up on a winter day we were greeted by the smiling front of house staff, all young and enthusiastic and offering us a glass of sherry with which to mingle with friends to catch up with each others' news before finding a seat at one of the tables.

After Rev. Chris Ellis had said the Grace the team offered us with a choice of paté or vegetable soup followed by the traditional turkey accompanied by the familiar trimmings. All perfectly cooked by the highly-skilled volunteer chefs.

To enhance our enjoyment of the food, the team served us with a selection of delicious wines provided, as ever, by Kip and Alison Bertram. We missed their company this year, and that of a few other regular residents because of a most inconsiderate last-minute re-scheduling of a football match at Carrow Road. Only Norwich City fans can tell us if the sacrifice was worth it!

No meal is complete without pudding and the choice between the Christmas pudding and trifle was an im-

"THOSE WERE THE DAYS" - A LA-LA TRIUMPH!

by Stephanie Crome

The Bergh Apton Singing Group (affectionately known as the "La Las") would like to thank everybody who supported the performances on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th November.



... continued on p.2

..... continued from front page

The concert raised a grand total of £1,271.45 for the Nook Appeal.*

It was amazing that there was such a demand for tickets the singers had to arranged a second performance and it did seem that both audiences had a really enjoyable time. This was helped by the delicious buffet provided by Ray Wharton and Lynton Johnson. Thanks also to Ray Wharton for acting as compere.

This event couldn't have happened without Karen Bonsell and her brave band of singers who led the proceedings. They really appreciated the enthusiasm with which the audience joined in. Appreciation also for the mystery "hand" who was responsible for bringing in the backing music.

Anyone, regardless of age and singing ability, is welcome to join the group which meets on Thursdays at Bergh Apton village hall at 7.30pm. The singers have a go at the old pop classics and anything else that takes a fancy.

It's an opportunity for a feel-good exercise of the vocal chords in a non-judgemental atmosphere. The message is **"Come and join us and give it a try!"**

* the £10 million appeal to finance the building of the new EACH (East Anglian Children's Hospices) hospice at Framingham Earl, opened by the Duchess of Cambridge in November 2019. It has reached £9.55 million and hopes to achieve this target by April 2020.



With thanks to EACH for permission to reproduce this photo of the Opening Day

EDITOR'S GRUMBLE

Just before Christmas the Duke of Edinburgh was admitted to hospital for treatment related to a pre-existing condition. What, I wondered, is "a pre-existing condition"? The prefix "pre" is Latin for "before" or "earlier" isn't it? So, if one tacks it onto the front of "existing" doesn't that change it to "something that existed before it existed"?

I looked in Collins Dictionary for help. It defines "pre-exisiting" as "something that exists already, or existed before something else existed". It gives two examples of usage: "... the pre-existing tensions between the two countries" and "people who have been infected in the course of treatment for a pre-existing illness ...".

Try either phrase omitting the "pre". Can you detect any difference in the meaning? No, neither can I. So is it mere verbiage? Certainly looks that way!

A GOOD NIGHT OUT - GOING TO THE DOGS



A visit to Great Yarmouth Stadium for an evening of greyhound racing is a regular favourite on the programme of Bergh Apton & District Society outings.

The most recent trip, on an evening in late December, a happy band of some 40 punters climbed aboard a coach at Bergh Apton village hall and, avoiding a horrendous traffic queue on the A47 by crossing the Had-discoe Dam, arrive at the Caister Road stadium in good time to find their dining tables overlooking the track and to order drinks before the first race got under way.

These evening are really well-organised by both our Society team of Ray Wharton and Lynton Johnson and the stadium's team of waiters and race guides.

The race guide assigned to each table (who probably have a more fancy title, but this one will do) help the diners to select a dog for each race, take the bets and pay out (hah - not in my case!) the winnings.

This betting is based on the Tote system tho' you can lay more adventurous bets with the bookies down at trackside (but who wants to go out into the cold and rain of the very eastern edge of England when you can do it in the warmth of the dining room?).

Did anyone board the bus at the end of the evening, pockets laden with life-changing winnings? I'm not sure, but the happy chatter on the return journey indicated that everyone had had a really good time.

The highlight of the evening was the point at which representatives of the Society were invited to the Winners Enclosure (actually a damp patch of gravel on the "home straight") for the presentation of the winner's trophy for Race 6 that was sponsored by the Society.

Our photo shows the winner (the dog in the eye-catching tartan coat, not the rather grumpy-looking handler who was accompanied by three of his party). Around them are (to the left) Hilary Ling and (to the right) Richard Loades, Ann Woods, Ray Wharton and Lynton Johnson. Ray is the one presenting the trophy (a statuette of a greyhound) to the grumpy handler.

Ah well, you can't please all the people all the time, can you!





CHRISTMAS ROUND-UP 2019

Here are three things that happened in the Christmas Season



SHOEBOX PRESENTS FOR SERBIA



The aim of our annual Shoebox Service in the church is to invite people to fill a shoebox with small gifts and useful things that a child who may have little and whose life is a challenge would love to receive as a Christmas present. Then we gather them into the church and send them - all brightly decorated with wrapping paper - on their way. Ours

went to needy children in the area around Novi Sad in Serbia where we have sent nearly 1,500 boxes in the last 15 years.

Our photo shows (l-r) Inge Crowe van Rooyen and Roseanna Stephens helping Hilary Ling to build the mountain of over 80 shoeboxes that, at a point early in the Service, are passed from the back of the Nave by a human chain to the Chancel.

FESTIVE WREATH WORKSHOP

Tiff Porter's Decorative Wreath workshop in the village hall is becoming a must-do item in Bergh Apton's reparations for Christmas. On 4th December, and for the third year running, Tiff organised the workshop and provided the key structural ingredients for the front-door wreaths and table decorations that everyone was there to learn about and to construct.

She also brought structure materials, greenery and other foliage from her beautiful garden at Washingford to augment the materials that she asked her students to bring with them **and** she provided a delicious lunch for the students on her day-long course.

The results of the day were some superb examples of floral art of which many were to be seen over the Christmas period hanging on the front doors of Bergh Apton's houses or on the tables that, on Christmas Day, would be groaning with the weight of the turkey and all its trimmings.



A CHRISTMAS TREE FOR THE CHURCH

For many years now the tall Christmas tree that's the focus of the parish church Christmas decorations has been given by a succession of kind donors living in the parish. Last year, knowing that our current donor's stock of suitable trees was now exhausted, we sought another donor by a plea in the April Newsletter.

We had an immediate response from Kip Bertram offering a tree from the East Park plantation at The Manor and inviting us to go along and choose one.

That was how, one fine day in May, I went to the plantation with Kip's estate manager Peter Cooke. We earmarked a fine specimen of the height that we need (16 or 17 feet).



Come the day the church was being decorated, Peter and Matt Barrett brought along the tree that they had felled the previous day. Not only did they transport it and carry it into the church. . . they got it upright onto its support base, steadied it while its steel guy ropes were put in place to stabilise it and even put the lights on it. Our rather grainy photo (*but it's the only one we have*) shows them, including rather fetch-

ing festive garb, after the job was done. They promised to come back and remove the tree after the 12 days of Christmas had passed - which they did.

Our thanks to the Bertram family for their generosity in providing the tree and to Peter and Matt for all the help they gave us in getting it in, getting it up - and getting it down again.

AND HERE'S SOMETHING TO DO IN MARCH!

**BERGH APTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP'S
BRING-AND-SHARE SUPPER
and
ANNUAL ARCHIVE FILM EVENING
In the
VILLAGE HALL
6.30 pm
SATURDAY 28TH MARCH**

After supper (please bring enough for you and one other) we'll see films of life in past times, and have a good old mardle about how it was.

Tickets from Suzanne Whitby
Phone: 01508 550093
email: suzanne@gravelpitfarm.co.uk

. . . . continued from p.1

preferred to continue chatting or to sit and listen.

Kevin welcomed us and spoke about the sad loss of BA villagers whose company we have enjoyed in the past, but who we lost in 2019. Closest in his own family was Eileen Goody, Theresa's mother who died suddenly the week before the lunch. We also remem-



(left) Johnny Parfitt and his partner Naomi. Their relaxed air and the shiny clean chafing dish indicate that it's all over and that the Annual Christmas Lunch has been a huge success.

bered Poppy Annis, David Brown, Connie Ducker and Audrey Harvey.

Kevin also announced the serious condition of Roy Flowerdew following a stroke a few days earlier. Sadly Roy died a few days later.

As is customary, those who are unable to attend the lunch in person - owing to illness or frailty - are not forgotten and the catering team made home deliveries to several people in this condition (see Mary Southgate's letter in the right hand column).

On New Year's Day the fun starts afresh for the team because they are in action again with the world-famous Big Breakfast in the village hall that attracts people from Bergh Apton and much further afield (some keen perhaps to put their hangovers to one side) to enjoy a delicious cooked breakfast in cheerful company.

Both of these wonderful events were initiated and have been run, in the case of the Lunch for nearly twenty years, by Kevin and Theresa Parfitt with the

help of a big team of family and friends to cook, serve and wash up from 9.30 until the food runs out or the last diner leaves.



Bob Kerry and Sue Price of the washup team that faced the mammoth task of washing up, drying and putting away over 1,000 items of crockery, plates, cutlery and cooking pots and pans etc



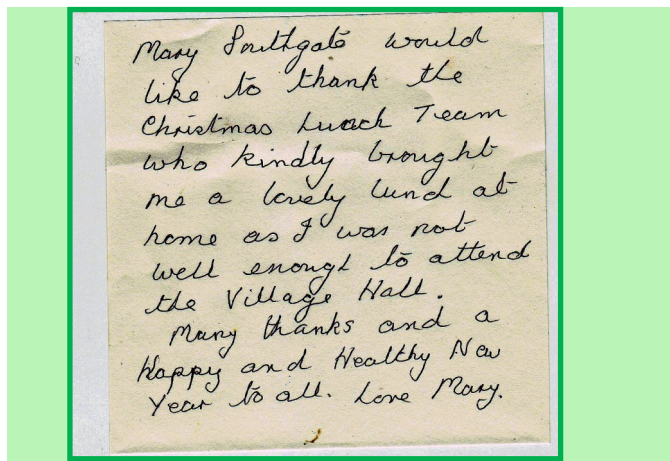
All of them contribute to the huge success of this venture for which the planning and organisation have now been passed to the team of Rachel and Johnny.

All of the people involved put a huge amount of effort and care into both the lunch and the breakfast and do it with such modesty, warmth, and friendship for us all. We don't see all the work that goes on be-

hind the scenes but every one of this big team of volunteers deserves our grateful thanks, as do those whose donations towards the lunch are much appreciated.

For many of us these two events are at the heart of the Bergh Apton Christmas and New Year celebrations. Whatever the year 2020 throws at us we have memories of good food, excellent wine at the lunch, and the best of company to remember and to cheer us through the months to come.

But there's no time for the Parfitt team to relax - the planning for the 2020 lunch has probably already begun!



NOT A JOB PEOPLE CLAMOUR TO DO!

By Shirley Rimmer

It's a job that sometimes involves standing out in blazing sunshine but more often in the freezing cold and lashing rain. Sometimes in freezing cold and lashing rain AND at night! And it's unpaid. And why, you may ask, do people do it? Because they've been asked to help. 'What is it?' you may ask.

It's helping to park cars at village events; the fete, concerts, weddings, funerals - and it's invariably on a field.

Space is generally limited so if every driver is to find a place there needs to be some guidance. And space may be limited because the field is muddy, and everyone who parks will want to leave without the assistance of a tractor. 'It's fine - I've got a 4X4 so I'll get in - and out'. Good for you. It might be true, but can you do it without

rendering the surface of the field unusable for weeks to come?

That's where parking marshals come in. They know the field; they know how many cars can fit onto the available space; they know where the swamp is; they know that they may be called on to push people out of the mud.

And what do they get? Sometimes they get thanked for their trouble, their soak-

ings, their advice and their help. But they also get ignored, abused and even, on occasion, driven at!



The marshal you see in the high-vis vest isn't an officious jobsworth. He or she is a volunteer, a fellow resident in the village and, probably, one of the organisers (or organiser's spouse) of the event you're attending.

They know how to drive; they may even drive a 4x4 themselves; they can see what is happening around you; and they know how many cars may be squeezed into the space available.

They're there to help you and everyone else. So do, please, treat them with respect and consideration

AUDREY HARVEY (1932-2019)

With thanks to Pat Waters

Audrey Mary Skipper was born on 18th May 1932. She was an only child and was brought up in the Unthank Road area of Norwich. When she left school she worked for Barclays Bank in the city. She enjoyed badminton and, clearly, was rather good at it as she was selected to play for Norfolk county and won a National award. She was a keen golfer who, in 1978, was Bungay Golf Club's Lady Captain.



Audrey met George Harvey at the YMCA in Norwich

where she had been playing badminton and he had just finished a game of snooker. Soon thereafter George asked her out for a date and took her to the Star Hotel in Great Yarmouth (that was, in those days, one of the very smartest places to rendezvous). One date led to another and another and they were married on 26th October 1958 in Christ Church in the Norwich suburb of Eaton, with the Reception at The Royal Hotel, followed by a one-week honeymoon in Paris.

The new Mrs Harvey worked in the Post Office on Ber Street that her husband George ran adjacent to his principal Wine Merchant's business. They set up home in the flat above the shop and lived there until 1962 when they moved to the house built for them on White Heath Road in Bergh Apton that was to become their home for the next fifty-seven years.

Audrey soon became an integral part of village life in Bergh Apton. As Hon. Treasurer and Trustee of the village hall she ensured that the accounts were kept meticulously and herself met the fee for their audit.

She also got things moving for the Trustees by opening negotiations with adjacent landowner Christopher Harris when the opportunity arose to buy the land to the east of the hall that became its garden. She was one of those people who quietly just get on with the task in hand.

Audrey also became a member of the Parochial Church Council and was later elected as one of the two Churchwardens. It was a task she carried out diligently, not only its mandatory duties but all those voluntary ones that, in small country church like Bergh Apton, its wardens do so that the church is well cared-for.

Audrey and George gave the church its Christmas tree for many years from the woodland that surrounds their house, and the table that serves as the Altar and will do so for decades and perhaps centuries to come.

Audrey was also a true stalwart of the Annual Fete for which she acted as Hon. Treasurer. It was no small job as it involved not only the accounts but the considerable leg-work required to distribute the cash "float" to each stall and, at the end, collecting the proceeds, counting it and banking it. During the Fete itself she was on the team that runs the "Bottles and Groceries" stall.

The Harveys were also sponsors of one of the equestrian events of the annual Bergh Apton Horseshow and provided the cup for the horseshow's Churchwardens' Trophy.

Audrey died in Brooke House towards the end of October 2019. Her funeral and burial in Bergh Apton churchyard was on 11th December.

She was a real treasure in this small but active community and will be remembered for her friendliness, reliability, helpfulness and kindness. Those who worked closely with her will recall with a smile her own smile and that impish sense of humour and common sense she brought to many of the discussions that might, otherwise, have become somewhat turgid. She was indeed a blessing.



Audrey and George celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary at Brooke House in October 2018

MORE ABOUT TED ARMIGER MM

by John Ling

Back in 2014 in the June and August editions of the Newsletter, Editor Milton Harris was kind enough to publish parts 1 and 2 of a my 3-part article about the late Ted Armiger (who lived in the cottage on the bend in Dodger's Lane where the late and greatly-lamented Eileen Goody lived).

The tale I told was how Ted won the Military Medal (MM)* in 1943. I concluded Part 2 with the words "*In the Newsletter's next edition I hope to tell you about how Ted met King George VI*".

I'm really sorry for the delay if you've been waiting with baited breath for the answer, but you need wait no longer! Rummaging in my files I found the draft of this story so, only five years late, here's what I intended to tell you about this remarkable man who was awarded the Military Medal (higher, for bravery in the face of the enemy, than all save the Victoria Cross and the Distinguished Conduct Medal) he charged headlong and single-

... continued from p.5

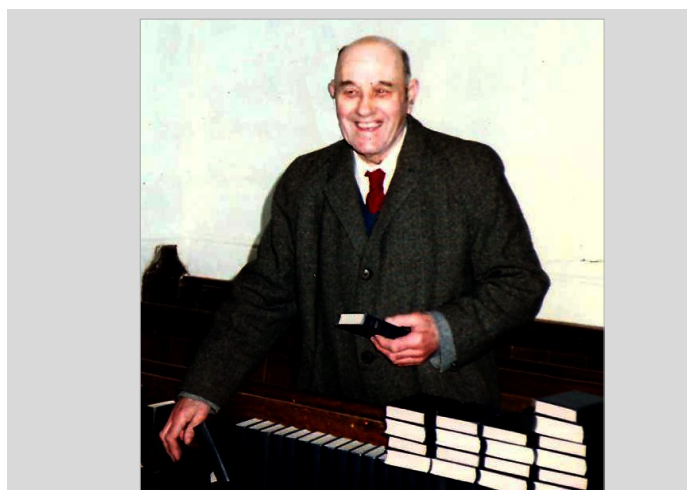
handedly into a column of Italian troops armed only with a light machine gun, his fists and his courage.

That may well come as a surprise to those who remember Ted for his calm and cheerful mien. They may well marvel at the hidden grit that surfaced that day in July 1943 on a dusty road near the Sicilian village of Lentini.

Just to recap, 980290 Lance Bombardier Edward William Arminger of 124th Field Regiment Royal Artillery landed in Sicily on 10th July with the 8th Army.

Within a few days of landing, and when near Lentini, Ted's Battery became engaged in a fire-fight with Italian tanks during which he first knocked out a DR (Despatch Rider) with his bare fists. Then, carrying a Bren Gun into the fray, he jumped onto the leading enemy tank and forced its crew (followed by the crews of the other tanks) to surrender.

Those who knew Ted (who died in Chevington Lodge in Bungay in 1999, aged 89) will wonder at this tale of a fighting tiger when bringing to mind the mild-mannered Bergh Apton churchwarden. But such is often the way with gentle men when roused.



A visitor who once talked with Ted at Beauchamp House in Chedgrave (where he lived for a time in his old age) remembers Ted talking about the Regimental Parade at which his Commanding Officer announced the MM award to the assembled Regiment. The visitor asked Ted how he felt. His reply was "I didn't know what to say, so I said nothing"!

Ted later learned that he would be presented with his medal by His Majesty King George VI at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace ... and that Ted's wife Dora was invited to go with him.

Ted said that Dora had never been to London. In fact she had never been further than Norwich. So this was a momentous occasion for both of them and Dora bought herself a new hat before they set off for London (presumably by train to Liverpool Street).

Of the medal ceremony itself Ted said little but recalled the King saying to him "Well done Ted".

The thing he spoke of fifty years later as a most treasured memory of that special day was the Cream Tea that he and Dora Armiger shared in the Lyons Corner House in the Charing Cross Road!

See column 1 on p.8 for a note on this story that may prove that the world really is a small place!

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

from the Parish Clerk

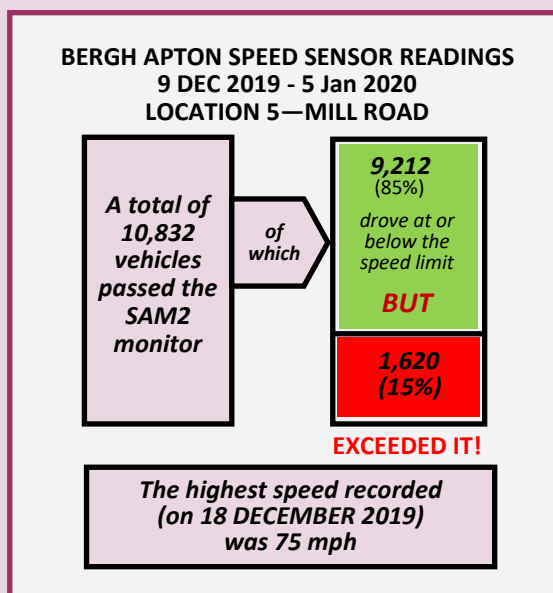
The first Parish Council meeting of the new decade was on Tuesday 7th January. It proved to be quite an interesting one!

Please visit the Bergh Apton village website to find out more from the Minutes of Parish Council Meetings (that are always posted there within two weeks of the meeting) alongside all sorts of other useful information about village life and events, so it's well worth a look!

Traffic and Speeding in the village

Councillors have looked at the NCC speed management strategy and it seems that although we do meet some of the criteria for a new speed limit, we don't meet all of them.

The latest speed graph (below) shows that there has been an overall reduction in speeding with 15% of traffic exceeding 30mph (down from 21%). But this is still an ongoing issue - one vehicle recorded travelling at 75mph down Mill Road on 18th December.



Dates for future Parish Council Meetings

Tuesday 18th February (please note that this date of this meeting has been moved from 4th to 18th February due to our new Parish Councillors attending their induction training)

Items due to be discussed at this meeting are the Draft Greater Norwich Local Plan (councillors will report back from the briefing meeting on 23/1/20) and possible uses of the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money.

Councillors agreed at the last meeting to allocate some of this money to support BACT in their purchase of an additional 12 acres of land for the nature reserve - we are so lucky to have this wonderful facility in the village!

Tuesday 31st March - the Annual Parish Meeting - representatives from all the Parish Groups will be invited to attend and give their annual report.

Tuesday 21st April - Annual General Meeting at which the Chair of the Council and other officers are elected for the year.

LADY ANNE MACKENZIE (1920 - 2019)

Lady Anne Mildred Ismay MacKenzie who with her husband the late Major Colin MacKenzie MBE MC lived at Bergh Apton Manor from 1968 to 1989, died in October 2019 a few months short of her 100th birthday.

In the twenty years that they lived at the Manor, Lady Anne and Colin played a significant part in Bergh Apton's life of which perhaps the key element was the annual Fete they inaugurated and hosted in the Manor garden, from which the proceeds were shared equally by the village hall committee and the church's Parochial Church Council on which Colin served as Honorary Treasurer for many years.

Her father Charles Fitzroy had met and married her mother Lady Doreen Buxton in South Africa when he was serving as ADC to Doreen's father Viscount Buxton, Governor General of South Africa. Lady Anne, their first child, was born in 1920 in Cape Town.

When she was still a child her father brought his family back to England where he ran an uncle's estate at Oakham in Rutland and where Anne's life and those of her four brothers revolved around the estate's farms, riding, hunting and holidays at Ardtornish on the west coast of Scotland.

It was on a journey to Ardtornish that her father learned of the death in a car crash of his cousin the Duke of Grafton, to whose title he was the successor.

It was thus, as Lady Anne's daughter Laura observed in notes she kindly sent to us for this obituary, that the family left Rutland as Misters and Misses, but arrived as Lords and Ladies! It also changed their lives with the move to the Euston Hall estate near Bury St Edmunds where her father, now the 10th Duke of Grafton, had his own estate to run.

During the Second World War in which her brother Oliver was killed in action, the 19 year-old Lady Anne Fitzroy worked first at a military hospital in Buckinghamshire and then drove a mobile canteen in the Brighton area dispensing tea and other comforts to people who had been bombed out.

She and Colin MacKenzie met soon after the Second World War in India where she had travelled to be companion to Pamela, the daughter of the Governor General, Lord Wavell to whom Colin was ADC.

Their marriage followed in 1947 at Euston Hall. Soon thereafter Colin's Army service took them to Fort George near Inverness where Anne's experience of a piper blowing "Reveille" below their quarters at 0600 hrs every morning aroused a life-long loathing of the instrument.

Colin left the Army to run his family estate at Farr in Invernesshire. The challenge of making the estate pay, and sadness following the death of their 3 year-old son Alistair, led to Colin, Anne and their son Philip moving south to Oxfordshire where Colin became Factor on an estate owned by Ian Fleming's brother Peter.

It was here that their daughters Caroline and Laura were born. They then moved to Norfolk where Harriet was born in 1959 while the family was living at Bramerton Grange.

Lady Ann's interest in breeding horses later generated the search for a house with more land, a need fulfilled by the acquisition of Bergh Apton Manor in 1968 from Sidney Morse, a Director of the brewers Steward and Patterson.

In 1989, soon after the marriage of their daughter Harriet at Bergh Apton parish church, the Mackenzies left Bergh Apton and returned to Colin's estate at Farr in Scotland.

Lady Anne, reluctant to make a complete break with Norfolk, acquired Garden Cottage on Chapel Road in Ashby to which she came regularly and for as long as she was fit and able to make the journey.

On these visits she was a welcomed member of the congregation of Bergh Apton's parish church whose services she attended as often as she could.

On Colin's death in 1999 she moved to be near Laura and her children at Tynningham in East Lothian.

It was here that she died peacefully on 4th November during her regular nap after lunch in the care home to which she had moved only two weeks previously to give her the 24-hour care she had come to depend on.



Lady Anne and Major Colin MacKenzie at Bergh Apton Manor in July 1985. She is being presented with flowers from the Fete Committee during the opening ceremony for that year's Fete that had a Victorian theme. Front left with the microphone is the Fete Chairman, Fred Littlewood.

Mary Southgate of Church Road and her late husband Arthur worked for the Mackenzies for twenty years, many of them living in the cottage attached to the Manor. She remembers Lady Anne fondly and with great respect. She told us:

"Arthur was the Major's gardener at the Manor and I helped Lady Anne in the house and when she needed staff for dinners and the like. They were so kind to us in so many ways without fuss or ceremony and it is a great pleasure that we have still kept in touch all these years. After they left for Scotland I would go to see Lady Anne at her Ashby cottage on her visits south, and I still get news from her daughters Laura, Caroline and Harriet.

In the April edition of the Newsletter we hope to include an item on Mary's memories of her family's life in those good times at Bergh Apton Manor.

EILEEN GOODY 1933-2019

with thanks to Kevin Parfitt



Eileen Joyce, pictured here on one of the islands of Aran in Galway Bay, came to live at Corner Cottage on Dodger's Lane in 1996 to be near her daughter Theresa Parfitt and son-in-law Kevin at Church Farm.

Born in County Galway she was the eldest of six children and the only girl. She came to England with her father in 1952, both looking for work.

In 1956 Eileen married John Goody and began their married life at 11, Railway Cottages near to Colmans' Carrow works in Norwich where John worked.

Eileen herself worked at Harmers clothing works, Caley's chocolate factory and then in an architects' office on Thorpe Road where, after taking evening classes in typing and shorthand, she became the secretary and stayed there until she retired.

Eileen loved cooking traditional Irish recipes including soda bread - often being baked and especially when a family gathering was imminent. There was always an abundance of home-cooking including trifles, apple pies, crumbles and shepherds' pies that found their way to the Parfitt family's table at Church Farm on Dodger's Lane.

In 1973 John and Eileen moved to 19, Rectory Lane in

Poringland where, in 1984, John died after a short illness at the age of 49. Eileen carried her grief with fortitude and courage but it was a heavy burden for her to bear and she found much comfort and strength in her faith, attending Mass regularly at the Roman Catholic church in Poringland.

Eileen loved being Nanny Eileen to Rebecca, Rachel and Jonathan Parfitt and, as they grew up, was a great help to Theresa (though she spoiled the children as only a Nanny can!). More recently Eileen became Greatnan to Ryan, Charlotte and Seth.

In her retirement, Eileen took an active part in Bergh Apton's life. She enjoyed trips at home and abroad with the Bergh Apton & District Society, helped with hospitality at the Sculpture Trails, manned stalls at the Fete and assisted with the village hall Jumble Sales. She attended the monthly Tuesday Friends lunch at the church and the Coffee & Catchup mornings in the village hall.

Though she was quiet and self-effacing Eileen had a natural warmth and made friends easily. Amongst them were other passengers on the local bus service into and out of Norwich whose driver would often take her down Dodger's Lane and drop her off at her cottage to save her walking down with her shopping trolley.

Eileen always missed the Emerald Isle greatly but felt part of our community and asked to be laid to rest in Bergh Apton churchyard.

It is fitting and it feels right. She lies with friends that she made over the years and she will be remembered fondly by those who pass her grave and recall this gentle Irish lady whose life was tinged with sadness, but was well-lived amongst people who loved and admired her.

TED ARMIGER - A WARTIME COINCIDENCE?

When I was doing desk research last month for the article about Ted Armiger (see pp. 4 & 5) I learned that Ted Armiger's unit, 124th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, was part of 50th (Northumbrian) Division and that another Royal Artillery unit, 74th Field Regt, fought alongside them against Rommel's army in the Western Desert in 1942/3.

One of the men of 74th Regt RA at that time was Gunner Herbert Podd, whose family lived at Shoemakers Cottage on Threadneedle Street in Bergh Apton. He died on 28th June 1942 during the Battle of Gazala.

My research told me that, for a time around that period of fighting, 275 Battery of the 74th Regt was attached to 124th Regt RA.*

Though we don't know if Herbert Podd was with 275 Battery it may be so. If it was so, it means that two men associated with this tiny Norfolk community - Ted Armiger, who came to live on Dodger's Lane after the war, and Herbert Podd whose family lived on Threadneedle Street, might have known and fought alongside each other.

It would indeed be a small world if that was the case.

* p.173 "The Norfolk Yeomanry in Peace and War 1782-1961 by Jeremy Bastin, Icen Press.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

musings from Gil Elmer

For something like 15 years we have had regular contributions to the Newsletter from Gil (Gilbert) Elmer who lives in Birmingham with his wife Ann. Gil is a Bergh Apton boy, raised in what is now Stanley and Ann Woods' house on The Street and his letters usually deal with life in Bergh Apton as he remembers it in his 1920s and 1930s childhood and youth. His latest letter - that arrived just too late for the December edition of the Newsletter - tells us something about his life as a young man sent abroad in the years after WW2.

Hello again. I am very pleased to be able to sit down and, as we used to say, put pen to paper and enjoy a few minutes looking back on a long life.

I have to say that I have had a most enjoyable life overall and have been very fortunate in having visited many countries.

I served for five years in the Royal Air Force, joining up in 1948, three years after the end of the Second World War, and I found it to be a wonderful experience.

I volunteered to join the RAF because I didn't want to serve in the Army and be subject to those long uncomfortable route marches that were part and parcel of Army service!

I served for 2 years in what was then Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Being a country lad, growing up in a Norfolk Village, I could see what was ahead of me having lived through those hard years and having experienced a certain amount of hardship.

I was now wondering what I might find in Rhodesia. What a surprise I had in that dry and very hot country. I was based quite a distance from Bulawayo, away from the local residents, so on most Saturday evenings we would catch a bus at the Station entrance and spend the evening in Bulawayo.

A group of us found a very good restaurant where we would make our way for a meal having discovered that they did a delicious mixed grill at a very reasonable price. That was my choice as I had not experienced anything like it in the past. We also found the local staff, who treated us well, to be very friendly and so this became our regular Saturday evening place.

The heat over there was another matter. It was so very hot and Christmas especially seemed so unusual - being able to sit outside and eat our Christmas dinner!

I did enjoy the posting as it was a wonderful experience after what I had lived through in the previous years. Back home after those two years in Africa, to serve out my RAF term of service, it took a while to settle back into a different way of life that included the cold English weather that had never bothered me before I went abroad. But it did make me realize what benefits we had.

I'm pleased to say that my health has been kind to me these last few weeks. My problem is my legs and I feel that I need two replacements . . . but I know that will not happen. But I am so lucky to be alive even though I have such limited ability to walk.

I enjoy what I have and I watch all that is happening in this crazy world. Every day the news seems to a little worse than the day before and I'm wondering what will happen later this month with the Election taking place. What do we have to look forward too? Bye for now, and I'll talk to you again in the New Year.

DICK WESLEY LUTKIN (1932 - 2019)



Richard Lutkin, known in the family as Dickie and by many here in Bergh Apton as Dick, lived on Hall Road - that intriguing part of Bergh Apton that includes Beech Farm and lies within a stone's throw of Thurton church. He died on 17th November at the age of 87 and his funeral was at the Beccles Crematorium on 12th December.

He was father to Susie and Charlie and grandfather to Emily, Amy, Holly and Freya.

Dick, his brother Norman and his two sisters Rita and Ruby all went to Bergh Apton school. In the Second World War they were all old enough to delight in

getting to know many of the American airmen and ground crew who lived on the wartime airfield to the south of Seething, and to appreciate their gifts of chocolate, sweets and the like and the children's parties they held on the base.

Dick married Rene in Chedgrave in 1956 and, until Rene was put in the care of a nursing home not long ago, they lived all their married life in their home on Hall Road that they bought from the Beauchamp Estate early in their marriage.

He was a Postman, based at Loddon but, on his land behind their house, he also grew market garden produce all year round that he delivered to Jimmy Annis at Royston House on The Street to be sold on Norwich market.

Many of us here in Bergh Apton and further afield would still, until a only a few years ago, buy our fresh vegetables, fruit and eggs from the produce stall that Dick and Rene maintained at the front of their home.

At his funeral, Kevin Parfitt, speaking on behalf of Susie and Charlie, recalled that the garden was never far from his mind and that, even on family holidays at Hemsby, Dick would go home early in the morning to gather and take produce to Mr Annis and be back in holiday mode later in the day.

Susie and Charlie also recalled their father's bravery one day when they were on holiday in Wells-next-the-sea. The family was gathering cockles on the beach where it is well-known that the incoming tide rises very quickly, leaving small islands, separated by channels, that disappear as the tide continues to rise. Dick shepherded his family to safety in good time across the channels as the tide advanced. But he then saw that a young couple, not knowing of the danger, had become marooned on the wrong side of the channel. Without hesitation Dickie dived in and swam across the channel. He rescued the girl and successfully encouraged the boy to swim alongside him back across it.

A small crowd on the beach cheered when he brought them back to safely. Susie & Charlie thought their Dad was a hero but Rene was not amused!

Another memorable exploit was when Dick, cycling home from his duties as a Postman in Loddon on a freezing winter's day, found his children and their cousin Margaret (who married Chris Johnson and lives at Bussey Bridge) tentatively testing the ice on the Beech Farm pond to see if it would take their weight.

When they asked Dick if he thought it was safe, he replied "of course it is" and, to show them that it was, turned his bike round, went back up the hill a way and gathered speed to cycle back down, over the pond bank and onto the ice. He got as far as the middle before the ice gave way.

There he sat, still upright in the freezing water and the mud, waiting until the children managed to stop laughing and help him out!

In their later years, Dick cared for Rene when her health began to fail until she needed to move to a Nursing Home. He will be remembered as a kind-hearted man who would never say a bad word about anyone, loved the great outdoors, was not bothered by materials possessions, and got much pleasure from the simple things in life.

BELOW THE WINTER SKY

by Chris Roe

Below the grey, winter sky,
A covering of snow
Lay upon the distant hills.
In the valley
The familiar, but welcome sight
Of the grey stone cottage,
With smoke from the single chimney,
Gently drifting away
Upon the chilling winter breeze.

Journey's end closer now,
Footsteps quicken through the snow.
Along the narrow lane,
Leading to the path
And the solid timber door
At the front of the cottage.

Already in my mind,
Smells of the kitchen,
A glowing fire in the grate,
The warmth and comfort of home.
As I close the door,
Fresh snow covers my tracks
Along the lane,
As winter secures its hold
Upon the cottage in the valley.

Inside at last.
Expectations of journey's end,
Fulfilled.
As I rest by the fire
Of the cottage in the valley,
Below the grey, winter sky.



A DECORATIVE PAPER WORKSHOP

with
DI GRIFFITHS

on
SATURDAY 1st FEBRUARY
at **BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL**
Time: 1000 -1600: Cost: £15.00

Make your own wallpaper!

This workshop will explore several different low-tech ways to make patterned paper suitable for gift wrapping or book end paper or, indeed, wallpaper!

All the techniques can be used equally well on fabric and printed without a press.

Students will be shown how to prepare a repeat design from a small motif of their own and shown how to print a repeat pattern. As prints will be printed by hand without a press, any student wanting to plan pattern ideas in advance should be thinking of images not larger than about 10 cm square.

Many successful patterns can be done with very small repeats. Blocks are made from lino, vinyl, foam and even erasers and potatoes.

Students will also be shown the technique to produce paste paper patterns.

Materials, apart from fabrics, will be provided. Students should bring a craft knife, pencil and ruler. Anyone wishing to print on fabric - it needs to be a flat even weave - should bring it with them.

To reserve a place ring Pat Mlejnecky on **01508 480696** or email **p.mlej@btinternet.com**



**Bergh Apton Conservation
Trust
is running the
ANNUAL VILLAGE
LITTER PICK**

on:
Saturday 7th March 2020

**Meet at Bergh Apton Village Hall
at 1.30PM**

***Everyone is invited - come along
and help to tidy up our village!***

**For more information
call Bob Kerry on 01508 480661**

**Regular Cleaner required
in Bergh Apton**

**Call John
on 01508480777
or 07786572610**

**or email
johnc.burrage@gmail.com**



It can be a challenge to predict attendance at most funerals but in one instance there was no doubt - Bergh Apton church would be full for Roy Flowerdew's funeral on 23rd December.

Born in Repps on 7th November 1927, Roy attended the local primary school and was awarded a scholarship to The Norwich School. He opted to go, instead, to Paston Grammar School in North Walsham. Roy recalled his dislike of being a 'Train Boy', one of the many students travelling to school by train (on the M&GN line - long since gone) that was a dismal experience on miserable winter mornings.

At 18, Roy joined the Royal Navy as a Writer (the RN version of Clerk) and recounted having to deal with the idiosyncrasies of an ancient office typewriter. The duty he took most seriously, and made him very popular, was his responsibility for issuing the daily rum ration!

After his service in the Navy Roy went to Culham College in Oxford to study Theology and train as a teacher. His teaching career that followed was to span more than 40 years, several schools and hundreds of pupils - often several generations of the same family - and culminated in his appointment as the first Headmaster of Hoveton Middle School near Wroxham.

Long after retirement he was often greeted with an exchange that went, roughly, *"Hello - are you Mr Flowerdew? You probably don't remember, but you taught me!"* In many such cases Roy could recall not only the person concerned but siblings, parents and where they lived!

Though not a shy man Roy was a modest one. While he was happy to speak of the achievements of his wife Jean and his family he was not one to shout about his own. A good example, and was a surprise to most people attending Roy's funeral, was that he had been made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the New Year Honours List of 1972 for his work as the Secretary of the Blofield and Flegg Savings Committee. The award recognised his voluntary public service over many years in helping to establish and co-ordinate numerous local savings groups which then became part of the National Savings movement.

In those far-off days, when one needed a separate visa for each country, Roy travelled extensively throughout Europe. He would recount forays into Austria, visiting Dracula's tomb in Romania and being served with porridge and cream cheese for breakfast in Slovenia. Once, travelling in Russia with Jean, he came close to being arrested for taking photographs next to a military base. MI6 files relating to the incident apparently remain closed!

Roy and Jean settled in Bergh Apton in 1991 after they retired from their respective teaching careers. Having viewed the new house on Threadneedle St (that became Orchard Plat) they went to see the church and there spotted an invitation from the various organisations within the village to a "welcome evening", extended to all who had moved into the parish in the past few years. Roy said that clinched it for them both. They agreed that 'this is a community that works together; this is where we shall live'.

In their time in Bergh Apton Roy and Jean, a formidable and accomplished team, became integral members of this village and the wider community. Both benefited hugely from the Flowerdews' individual and joint endeavours

Roy served as Chair of the Fete, sat on many village committees and was a parish councillor. He was a founder-member of the Bergh Apton Conservation Trust for which he helped to draft the Trust Deed and he was a signatory of the initial Trust land purchase. He served as a Trustee for many years.

In the Millennium Pageant in 2000 his thespian skills were much in evidence. One of the characters he played with great effect, and with a broad Norfolk accent, was a 16th-century churchwarden plotting to prevent King Edward VI's Commissioners from confiscating the twin statues of the church's patron saints, Peter and Paul, by hiding them in the chimney of a nearby cottage.

Roy's greatest contribution to the wider local community was probably in his role as a Lay Reader. Known and loved in the eleven churches of the Bramerton Group, he led countless services that were all carefully prepared and included well-thought-out sermons in which he used anecdotes and humour to illustrate them and his acting skills to enliven them. Leo Smith remembers the many times Roy took the Christmas morning service in Yelverton and would share a poem in Norfolk dialect with the congregation.

As a member of the Parochial Church Council, including a stint as its Secretary, Roy's was a wise, constructive and supportive voice that brought his years of knowledge and experience to the matters in hand.

When thinking of Roy it's impossible not to mention the great contribution made by his wife Jean. She was a talented lace-maker who produced exquisite work and was a keen flower arranger who used her creative skills to make our church a welcoming place.

Music was a joy for her and she shared it with others by playing the piano in local nursing homes. Twice each month she was also organist at Bergh Apton church.

Jean inherited her love of music from her father, a violinist who played on passenger liners of the White Star Line. It was only because a friend, Jock Hume, took his place at short notice on the tragic maiden voyage of "Titanic" that Jean's father avoided the death that came to Jock and the whole orchestra when the ship sank. Had he been aboard that ship Jean would not have come into this world!

It was through Roy's generous donation in Jean's memory that the church was able to undertake the installation of under-pew heating in March 2019. Roy's only stipulation was that the organist's bench was to be included in the planned installation. For a number of reasons the whole church is not yet quite as cosy as we would like but Jean would be pleased that, thanks to Roy's bequest in her memory, things are quite toasty for our organists!

Two years after the devastating blow of Jean's death in May 2014 Roy moved to Filby, north of the River Yare, where he could be closer to the support and care of his children Ruth and David and their families.

It was a constant joy to him that his grand-daughter Eliza attended school just yards from his new home and would call in to see him several times a week.

Once settled Roy, using the farewell gift he received from the Thurton Benefice, planted his new garden with roses and did something else that he always did so well; he made friends, forged new relationships, became involved in the Church and, in his own words, 'kept an eye out for the older ones'!

Reunited with his beloved Jean, Roy now lies in Bergh Apton churchyard - amongst friends of a community he enjoyed so much and that, in return, greatly valued him.

CONNIE DUCKER RIP

Connie Ducker of Conrol on White Heath Road, wife of the late Rowley and mother to Margaret and Mervyn, died on 26th September 2019 at the age of 83 and was laid to rest in Bergh Apton churchyard. We will publish a fuller obituary for this lovely lady in the April issue of the Newsletter. We include her family in the condolences offered in the front page Editorial.

VILLAGE DIARY FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH 2020

FEBRUARY

- 1st 10.00-16.00 Decorative Paper Workshop at Village Hall (*see p.10*)
15th 10.00 BA Conservation Trust Workday. Meet at Church Field
15th 19.30 BA Local History Group Annual Supper at the Village Hall
18th 19.30 Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
19th 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Chat at the Village Hall
20th 10.00 BA Conservation Trust Workday. Meet at Church Field
25th 12.30 Tuesday Friends at the Parish Church

MARCH

- 7th 13.30 Village Litter Pick. Meet at Village Hall. (*see p.10*)
11th 19.30 B.A. Society. Talk at the Village Hall "History Beneath Your Feet" by Graeme Simmonds
15th 1030-1430 Workshop "Working with Natural Bees wax" at the Village Hall (*contact Avis Judd on 01508 493398 for information*)
18th 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Chat at the Village Hall
21st 10.00 BA Conservation Trust Workday. Meet at Church Field
24th 12.30 Tuesday Friends at the Parish Church
26th 10.00 BA Conservation Trust Workday. Meet at Church Field
28th 09.00 11 Says assembly at the Village Hall
28th 18.30 BA Local History Group Film Evening + Bring & Share supper (*see p.3*).
31st 19.00 for 19.30 Bergh Apton Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting at the Village Hall

THIS MONTH'S HANDY HINT from Little Owl

This may not be appropriate for many of you wine-loving Bergh Apton residents but some may find it useful. If you have left-over wine, pour it into ice cube trays. When they are frozen, tip the cubes into freezer bags and store them in the freezer. They can be used to add that extra 'zing' to casseroles and savoury pies.

Roberts & Son Printers

Litho & Digital Colour Printing
Printer Ink/Toner/Spares
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

Please let me have Articles and Contributions for the April/May 2020 issue on or by
10th March 2020
email to john.ling@btinternet.com

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Monday	1700 on	DOG TRAINING
every other Tuesday	1000-1300	PAINTING CLASS
1 st Tuesday	1330-1600	VILLAGE ARCHIVE
3 rd Wednesday	1000-1200	COFFEE n CHAT
Thursday	1930	SING, SING, SING
Friday	1000 - 1145	YOGA

USEFUL CONTACTS

Archery	Bob Kerry	01508 480661
BACAT workshops	Pat Mlejnecky	01508 480696
BA & District Society	Linton Johnson	01508 480629
Conservation Trust	Stephanie Crome	01508 480573
Family/Local History	John Ling	01508 480439
Painting Class	Barbara Fox	01508 550168
Singing (<i>La La's!</i>)	Karen Bonsall	07900 968739
Village Hall	Hilary Ling	01508 480439

A BIG THANK YOU

Bergh Apton Newsletter is published with 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 Trust
Chet & Waveney Valley Vineyard
Country Holiday Cottages Norfolk Ltd