

Bergh Apton Newsletter

Issue 168 Bi-Monthly June 2020

This time last year the Newsletter's diary foretold a busy Summer. The Conservation Trust was to celebrate its 25th anniversary, the Local History Group planned a walk around the ancient market town of Loddon and the two organisations looked forward to their joint Midsummer BBQ. Kip and Alison Bertram would again host the Horse Show and the Fete at The Manor, the Village Hall would be busy with events including Coffee n Chat and the church would host its Tuesday Friends lunches throughout the Summer. But this year the writing was on the wall when the Parish Council postponed the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for 31st March and we now know that all these other public events never happened. When I thought about the contents of this June issue of the Newsletter things looked pretty bleak! But contributors have come up trumps (as opposed to Trumps - please NOT!). I hope you'll find something of interest on every page. But the Village Diary on the back page is, sadly, another casualty of this Coronavirus Lockdown.

BEE HAPPY BEES SPREAD A LITTLE JOY

At the very beginning of this 'lock-down', as many of us wondered how it was all going to work out, a little gem of an idea appeared on our doormats. It came in the form of a small sparkly card from "Bee Happy Bees" left on the doorstep and decorated with a little yellow chicken and a bright gold umbrella - delightful reminders that Easter was just around the corner.

It must have heartened many people who were worried and whose lives were at risk in the Government's benchmarks of being over 70 years and with underlying health issues, or who would be facing an uncertain period of living alone. The thought that someone was thinking about them, and wanted to buck them up must have been comforting.

In this age of scams and tricks to fool us such acts of kindness can seem suspicious. Such fears, however, were quickly allayed with an assurance that this was a case of a young person living here in Bergh Apton wanting to bring a smile to peoples' worried lives.

Who, we wondered, was behind the "Bee Happy Bees" card, who asked how we were and hoped to stimulate us into thinking about other things - like our favourite films - giving us an email address to respond to with our thoughts.



It certainly worked for us. The brolly and the chicken still catch the sunlight as they sit on the kitchen window-sill.

A few weeks later a tree near the church, another at the village hall and one near the school at Alpington were decorated with the rainbow that is the now-

BURGEONING BERGH APTON CONSERVATON TRUST

from Professor Anthony Davy

For all our members, supporters and visitors, not least the many of you who have found solace in isolation while exercising and communing with nature on our reserve over the last few months, we have some brilliant news

The Trustees are delighted to announce that we are now in the process of acquiring an additional 12 acres of land that will more than double the area of our nature reserve, extending it with more marsh and wet woodland upstream along the Chet valley.

We will be purchasing 6 acres from our neighbour, Robert Waters, who at the same time will most generously make a charitable donation of a further 6 acres. In due course we plan to construct two footbridges across the River Chet, to connect the new land with the old on a circular walk. This will be our third major land acquisition since our founding in 1994 and is a wonderful follow-on to our Silver Jubilee last year. The Trust has been fortunate to be awarded a series of grants from various local organisations in order to do this and the final piece of the funding jigsaw dropped into place in early May: we thank Bergh Apton Village Hall, Bergh Apton Parish Council, South Norfolk District Council and the Geoffrey Watling Charity for their support.

Sadly, the planned programme of activities for the both the Trust and our Chet Valley B-Line project has been severely curtailed by the Covid-19 crisis. However, an expanded nature reserve will provide invaluable safe habitat for pollinators and will be a fine resource when we can resume activities. In the meantime, please carry on enjoying the existing nature reserve this summer, within Government guidelines of course.



(left) A path on Valley Marsh, part of the Trust's lands. (photo: A. J. Davy)

See also, on p.2, a dramatic wildlife moment captured by photographer Clive Britcher on Valley Marsh.

from Bob Kerry

In the April edition of the Newsletter I reported on this year's Litter Pick that Bergh Apton Conservation Trust ran on 7th March. This was the seventh year that BACT has run this litter pick that aims to cover all the roads, streets and lanes in the village.

The exception is Norwich Road (better known as the A146) of which much of the stretch between Prospect Place and Hellington Corner marks Bergh Apton's northern boundary.

In normal times, and especially on a Saturday afternoon, when we do the job, the weight of traffic on this road would make litter picking a suicidal task. So it gets missed out. But I have often thought that, if something dramatic happened to eliminate the traffic, we could at last litter pick along it.

And then someone in China ate a wild bat and was infected by a bat virus. And that eventually stopped most of the traffic on the A146. What strange times we live in!

By the end of March this year the traffic had dropped by a huge amount and vehicles were few and far between. That was my opportunity - as part of my daily exercise routine obviously - to litter pick this part of Bergh Apton's boundary. It had never been done before so there was a lot to be found and picked but it was good to get the job done.

Indeed, with so little traffic, I also managed to clear the whole way to Hellington Corner including a stretch of the road that lies within the parish of Hellington.

The rubbish included all the usual stuff thrown out of, or fallen off, vehicles: plastic and glass bottles, cans, paper and cardboard cartons, and a couple of number plates. There were also a few big items like metal sheets that I went back to collect later in my car.

The traffic on the A146, by the time we run next year's Litter Pick, will probably be back to its normal crazy level. But if the Chinese fail to curb their passion for eating wild animals and we fail to curb ours for international travel, Covid-19 or one of its mutations may still be with us . . . so we could find ourselves litter picking the A146 for a second year running!

And those vehicle number plates? If AO18 KKJ or AU19 ULL mean anything to you, give me a call - I've got them here ready for collection.

THANKS FROM CAROLINE THURTELL

Caroline, of Sunnyside, set out in May to raise money for Cruse, the bereavement care charity for which she is a support volunteer. She knows that Cruse - that helps those who grieve over the death of someone close to them - will be needed even more in these times and, through the Newsletter, would like to thanks all those who helped her raise £1,215 to help Cruse's cause.

How did she do it? Well, she dyed her hair the dramatic shade of pink you see in the photo (right)! If you agree this was a brave act worthy of support, you can add to Caroline's efforts via Facebook. Go online and search for *fundraising for cruse bereavement care by caroline thurtell* and follow the links to "donate".

LIFE ON BACT'S VALLEY MARSH CONSERVATION AREA



Seen on Valley Marsh - the metamorphosis that creates a dragonfly; having emerged from its ferocious underwater nymph phase, this insect has clung to a plant stem on one of the marsh ponds to expand and dry its wings. Now it looks about ready for take off. (Photo: Clive Britcher)

ELEVEN GOOD WALKS RE-PUBLISHED

Back in the early 1980s eleven walks in this part of Norfolk were published by Richard Crosskill of Bramerton in a small booklet entitled *Eleven Good Walks* of which two are on footpaths and bridleways in Bergh Apton.

Ruth Everett, the Pubisher of "Eleven Says" (the other local newsletter that, in normal times, you get with the Bergh Apton newsletter) came up with the idea of re-publishing them so that, in these abnormal times, we can choose one or more of them for our daily exercise walks. Eleven Says editor Angie Yeomans will (depending on space available) include up to four of them in the June edition. One of them - Walk 10 - takes you to parts of both Bergh Apton and Thurton.

Until things are more settled in the Coronavirus pandemic, Eleven Says is available online only, on village websites in this area including ours (berghapton.org.uk). Have a look and see if they take your fancy.

There's another walk on p.15 set entirely within the bounds of the parish of Bergh Apton, for you to try as a "taster".



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From Council Chairman David Skedge

I feel that living in Bergh Apton under the Coronavirus pandemic has been unreal. At times the A146, a half mile to our north, has been silent. Even more wild birds are visiting us.

The Parish Council has not been able to meet since 18th February. Fortunately both Barry Stone and John Fuller were able to attend, as there were major announcements from both. Councillors continue to keep in touch by email, and arrangements with the Clerk enable cheques to be signed by two councillors.

The Annual Parish Meeting had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 so I am writing this on behalf of the Parish Council to report on our activities since May 2019

No election then as only 5 people put forward nominations to serve for the 4 year term to 2023. Full details of how to contact the Clerk and Councillors are on the parish notice board and on the website.

I am very pleased that we now have a full council of seven and an excellent new clerk, Angela Tregear who lives at Bussey Bridge. In September, with Julie Gosling's co-operation, there was a seamless transition from Julie to Angela.

In October John Ling resigned, and we miss his energy and vision.

Barry Stone, our County Councillor, gave us some good news at our last meeting. In brief, there is progress on the long awaited new A146 roundabout at George Lane in Loddon but, in view of Covid 19, will it be ready in 2020? The proposed extension of the 50mph limit on the A146 at Hellington Corner should also be achieved soon, and Norfolk County Council have a target to be carbon neutral by 2030.

John Fuller, leader of South Norfolk Council, briefed us on the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) for which nine sites have been submitted by land owners or developers in Bergh Apton but no decisions have been made on any of them. Consultation on the proposals for the ninety-seven small villages in South Norfolk (Bergh Apton being one) should have taken place by 16th March but these villages were withdrawn from the process because more time was needed to identify the most suitable sites.

John has two main aims; to obtain sites for estate development which are capable of supporting at least 12 houses each, so that affordable housing can be achieved on each selected site.

His other aim is that each of the 97 villages will have 3 new houses which could be individual properties. GNLP runs up to 2038 so we are looking ahead. It is expected that South Norfolk's revised proposals will be available for consultation later this year.

If you read the Eastern Daily Press you will have noticed that two Bergh Apton people have been featured, larger than life, in recent articles exploring how businesses have adapted to life under Covid-19. Separately, James Debbage and John Hemmant were pictured; John sniffing a glass of his wine! Green Pastures is delivering food and plants from it's nursery

to many local people following the closure of its restaurant.

In early May South Norfolk Council confirmed they would match our offer of parish Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money to help Bergh Apton Conversation Trust purchase an extension to their land by the river Chet. This was very good news and each party will each contribute £5,900.

One of the pleasures of the council is spending our share of CIL money paid by developers. The playpark has benefitted enormously. Not only has the existing equipment been maintained to a high standard but we have been able to purchase new swings. Most recently a highly coloured climbing frame called Ben Nevis (below) was added!



Here is a note of some other Parish Council activities:-

Steve Whitby has recently taken over as Webmaster from Chris Mewton, our Webmaster for many years.

Our SAM2 speed monitor continues to operate when some other villages are having to close down because of Covid 19 distancing requirements. Mike Rimmer and Richard Phillips deserve our thanks.

Ian Ratcliffe and Steve Whitby undertook a comprehensive survey to check the condition of all village public footpaths and bridleways.

I end on a very sad note: Betty Wood and Michael Whiting, two stalwarts of Bergh Apton, have died recently. They will be sorely missed.

HEAPS OF BANGERS FOR THE NHS!

At the end of a long day under the stress of treating patients with Covid-19, an anaesthetist at Lewisham Hospital fantasised aloud about piling in to a plate of bangers.

His fellow anaesthetist Bryony Cornish overheard him and had a brainwave. She knew that her namesake Bryony Heap, whose father Clifford Lincoln MC is commemorated on Bergh Apton's War Memorial, is married to Martin Heap, one of UK's best sausage-makers who supplies Sainsbury's under their quality banner 'Taste the Difference'. She also remembered hearing that Martin's business is based in Greenwich - a stone's throw from Lewisham.

She contacted her parents Tony and Linda Davy at Flint Cottage on Gravel Pit Lane, who contacted Martin to ask if he could deliver bangers to the hospital.

2020 COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

by Christopher Meynell



What to do during Lockdown?

And another thought - who in future would have any idea of its rigours? The obvious answer was "let's see"!

A Special Lockdown Memories section on pages 7, 8, 9 & 10 show how Lockdown impacted on some members of Bergh Apton, a small, rural community. It was awful wasn't it!

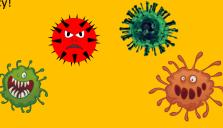
Actually for some it really was but we were fortunate, relatively.

With the pictures are brief (some briefer than others) answers to the question:

"At 5pm on 5th day of the 5th month, what were you seeing, feeling, thinking, touching, hearing, smelling and tasting?"

In the next edition there will be another selection with signs of growing desperation.

And even, amazingly, indication of that Lockdown Legacy - Lunacy!



BERGH APTON PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Celebrity chef turns 'school dinner lady' in lockdown

The EDP's cover-

age of the Coronavirus Crisis has been carrying news of people who are doing things that make life more

interesting in these curious times. Caroline Culot's article on 1st May featured Polly Guy, model, celebrity chef and mother, who was raised on Langley Road in Bergh Apton by her adoptive parents Derek and Anna Guy.

The focus of the article was her "Polly's Pantry" business that delivers her home-cooked food from her kitchen in Old Catton to her clients. Polly noted that, in these stressful times, people are asking for puddings rather than savoury dishes. She told Caroline Culot that "Since Covid-19 I have been cooking a lot of people's favourite comfort food including school dinner deserts".

Polly's career as a cook (she prefers the term to "chef") took off in 2011 when she won her edition of Channel 4's cooking competition "Come Dine with Me" and then in 2016 went on to win the "Champion of Champions" edition of the show in which when she beat sixty-four other winners of the show.

Polly's support for good causes is less well-known and includes a gift to the East Anglian Air Ambulance campaign of half her £1,000 prize for winning her 2011 Come Dine with Me competition and, in these lockdown times, she is supporting the children's online "Kiddy Cook" book raising money for the NHS Charities.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

with Gil Elmer

The whole world seems to be in a very sad state. I was just 9 years old when the 2nd World War started and we survived on Rations. We were very restricted as to what we could lawfully purchase but it never seemed to be as bad as what we have seen over recent months and I have been amazed at bulk buying that has been taking place for no apparent reason.

In wartime it was impossible to buy large quantities of produce. It was not available. But we lived in the country where it was quite easy to find good food. People reared their own poultry, grow it to a good meal size and then enjoy eating it.

Dad had made a home for our chickens At the top of our garden consisting of a large poultry shed and an area for the birds to enjoy themselves. We always had Cockerels that were prepared for Christmas so we had a freerange Christmas meal! At harvest time we would go into the corn fields when they were being cut and get plenty of rabbits that would make a lovely meal that I always enjoyed because of the way my Mum cooked them (I have to say my Mum was a great cook and always seemed to be able to make a meal from almost nothing).

The fact we lived in the country meant we were able to find plenty of good food including meat above ration levels. At that time I was living at home where there was quite a large garden in which we grew vegetables and I would help my Dad with it. It was nice to go out and find something fresh and tasty for a meal and it kept my mind off other things.

The war seemed to last a long time but when Victory arrived it was just a happy jolly time to be alive. We had struggled during the war but we could now go to bed without thought of danger.

When the war ended I was working at Ropers Garage at Brooke. From what I remember the next day was classed as a Bank Holiday but VE day meant nothing to Don Roper and, though the other employee was given the day off, I was told to go Into work.

Mr Roper never offered me a day off so, after a few weeks, I stayed at home on the Monday. On the Tuesday, when he asked me why I did not go in, I told him I had taken my VE Day holiday. He said, "You can take your belongings, go home, and don't come back." I took him at his word, cycled to Keelers pit at Poringland and saw Ted Keeler who gave me a job straight away. Best thing I have done!

I hope this finds you in very good health with some better times ahead.



LITTLE OWL'S HANDY PANDEMIC HINT

Plant pots are proving difficult to find. So utilise what you have at home. Washed tins and yogurt pots are great (but remember to make drainage holes in the base).

You can use toilet roll inner tubes to start off young seedlings; make four cuts in the bottom and fold the flaps in to form the base. Plant them straight into the ground and they'll biodegrade without harming the plants.

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF "THE HARE"

When looking at an aerial photo, how often have you wondered when it was taken?

There will always be seasonal clues to help. Sometimes a new house has been built (or an old one has gone) that will help. I remember one Google Earth series that we could date by the traces, in a field on Sunnyside, of mower marks cut to create a car park for a Wedding Reception. But even that could have been anything up to a month or more after the event.

Recently, though, Chris Johnson of Bussey Bridge spotted something on a Google Earth "flight" over Bergh Apton that tells us the very day it was taken.

He noticed a small bright white dot in the middle of the field just south of the point where Mill Loke comes out onto Threadneedle Street. He zoomed in and revealed the marquee put up to celebrate the memory of "The Hare", the village pub that stood on this very spot until the late 1700s. Alongside the marquee was Bob Debbage's tractor, parked there to provide power.

The only date this image could have been captured was on Saturday 23rd August 2019. It was the only day when both the marque (put up on 23rd and taken down on 24th) and the tractor (parked on the morning of 23rd and removed that evening), were there. We can even tell roughly the time it was taken as the sun's shadow shows it to be around midday.

This was a fun piece of detective work on our annual "for one night only" celebration of both the pub that used to stand in this field and our village predecessors who used to drink in it.



The Hare celebration in 2018. In the foreground (I-r) are Linda and Tony Davy, Gary Tuson, Chris Johnson, Anna Guy and Kevin Parfitt. The group to Chris Johnson's right is Gill Waters, John Whittow and June Boardman. Others in the background include Peter Lyle, Eelen Kennedy and Mike Rimmer.

CHRISTOPHER TENWINTER TRUST

from Carrie Kerry

The current troubling times we are living in due to the Covid-19 virus is perhaps an opportune moment to highlight a village charity, the Christopher Tenwinter Trust.

The Christopher Tenwinter Trust is a small parish charity arising from the will of Christopher Tenwinter dated 22nd June 1599, where the income from a parcel of land owned by him was left "for the use and behoof of the town of Burgh-Apton".

continued in next column

Over 420 years later the Charity continues today with a modest annual income from investments and rent of land owned by the Trust whose five Trustees meet annually to make donations for the benefit of individuals and associations in Bergh Apton.

If you know of anyone you feel could benefit from a little financial help, please do get in touch with the Chairman Revd. Chris Ellis, chris.ellis23@btinternet.com telephone 01508 484174 or myself, Carrie Kerry, Secretary/Treasurer, carriekerry@yahoo.co.uk

CHRISTIAN AID

from Shirley RImmer



In normal times, when this June edition of the Newsletter is delivered, I am counting up the generous Bergh Apton donations to the Christian Aid Week appeal before passing it on to the Charity.

This year Christian Aid, with great sadness, cancelled its door-to -door appeal to support the nation's 'Stay at Home' guidance. So you won't have had the opportunity to make a donation. And I missed the doorstep conversations that I've come to enjoy so much over the years,

As a result, Christian Aid's resources - like those of so many other charities - are going to be greatly reduced. But the need for its work in the coming year will be no less than before and the charity relies on continued financial help to carry out their valuable work.

The Threadneedle Street roadside plant sale in early May raised £60 and I am very grateful to those who supported that small but productive venture to keep funds coming in to help support the poorest, most vulnerable in the world.

If you would like to join in that support you can make a donation online at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/norwich-christianaid or by calling 020 7523 2492.

Once again, thank you.

HEAPS OF BANGERS FOR THE NHS continued from p.3

Within a short time-span of the call, Martin had collected a box -full of bangers and bacon-rolls from his 'Heap's Sausages' kitchen in Nevada Street (just north of Greenwich Royal Park) and delivered them to the hospital where he gave them to Bryony as a gift, to recognize the dedication of the NHS staff to all of us. And he has been keeping them supplied on the same basis ever since!

It's good that friendships forged in Bergh Apton can bring such generosity and such deserved bounty to our NHS heroes.



Bryony Comish (left) in full anti-Covid PPE and (below) her photo of her Lewisham anaesthetics colleagues unpacking Martin Heap's goodies.





familiar symbol of hope and of support for the NHS (see left) with a message from Bee Happy Bees and an invitation to add messages to it.

Happy and positive people behind such initiatives deserve recognition and I can reveal that Bee Happy Bees is Daisy Theobald of White Willows on The Street.

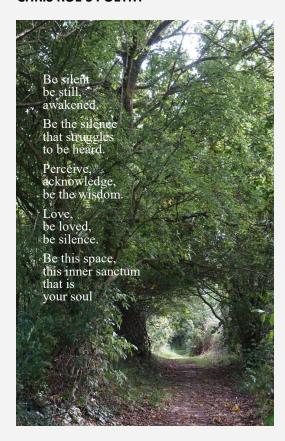
Daisy will be familiar to many of you involved with village life. She is one of the team that helps at the Christmas Lunch in the village hall and again, just under a month later, at the New Year's

Day Big Breakfast.

Thank you, Daisy, for spreading a little bit of joy in difficult times!

And that's not all. Have a look at page 11 for another illustration of Bee Happy Bees kindness.

CHRIS ROE'S POETRY



The poetry of Chris Roe of Church Road in Bergh Apton has featured in the Newsletter before and in the Bergh Apton residents' arts and crafts exhibitions that were a key element of many of the Sculpture Trails.

Here are two of his poems to dwell on awhile in these difficult times.

If you would like to learn more about his works you can contact Chris on his email address:

kcr1pj@gmail.com

Excitement postponed!

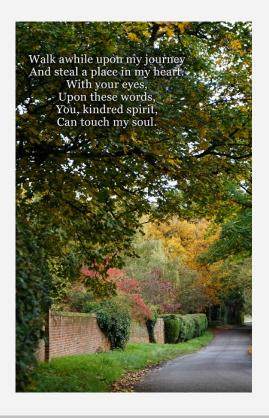
Because of Covid-19, BACAT's production of another **Special Event:**

One for the Rook

will not now take place in 2020.

Please watch this space for future date announcements and invitations to take part.





Sheridan and Rosie Winn



Rosie had just come back from a walk, refreshed and looking forward to her G&T. No high hopes for the briefing. Me - I had had the car running for 1.5 hours after the AA man jump-started it and turned it off just before 5pm. I was feeling a sense of ennui and frustration that I hadn't had my walk. Smelling the zing of lime in the G&T!

Annie Harris



We'll meet again...or I'll eat again! Thanks to these people today, - even if I am 'locked down, alone and vulnerable'. It's not too bad

Suzanne Whitby



I was standing in the warm sunshine looking around at our green surroundings. The trees are now in full leaf and the garden is filling with plants emerging from their winter rest. I was chatting to my son who I have spoken more to in lockdown than the rest of the year. He seemed relaxed and enjoying having time to cook good food and keep fit. In the background the sheep were calling as Steve poured out their feed. Birds flew overhead hoping to catch the last grains that drop on the ground. Living in a beautiful place, having a loving family and time to enjoy simple pleasures is the makeup of my life.

Himu Gupta



I was standing in our garden enjoying the beautiful sunshine and looking at spring flowers all around me. I could smell the flowers and also some birds chirping in the far corner of the garden. I was having an enjoyable quality time, even though we are completely locked down due to Covid-19.

Sue Price



Enjoying the sun, listening to the birds and looking forward to a cup of tea!

Gilly, Simon (Spike) and Charles Bell

'The Bells'. Note that Spike is taking social distancing to another level in that we had to drag him out of the house as he was very reluctant to have his picture taken! Feeling quite excited as we were looking forward to a 'takeaway' Fish and Chips from Railway Tavern (Poringland) quite a treat! Smell: Wisteria in full bloom, looking out over a beautiful part of the world, no planes in the sky, no traffic sound, just birds singing and the buzzards whistling.



Caroline Thurtell and family



Here is our photo from Sunnyside! In our house during lockdown is Kevin, Caroline, Robert & Sophie with our dog Luna! We stood in our garden as Kevin had just arrived home from work, Robert just finished work he is working remotely as he normally lives & works in London, Sophie had been studying all day as she is home from Sheffield University and I had been gardening. We could smell the bluebells, we could hear the cuckoo, we saw lots of pheasants and felt thankful to be together.

Liz Meynell



Thinking: What's worse than a giraffe with a sore neck? A centipede with verrucas!
Feeling: Very arty
Seeing: My Mocha Mug
Hearing: the centipede



Rachel Parfitt



Seeing: Behind the camera Touching: Dog leads and poo bags Feeling: A bit annoyed as it was hot and Aggie had rolled in some manure hence now on a lead.

Thinking: About her phone update and she was proud of her parents for enjoying 35 years of matrimonial harmony just yesterday. May the 4th be with you!!!!!

Hearing: Bird song, mainly larks ascending.

Steve Whitby



I've just emerged from the workshop, thick with dust and varnish fumes, and gone to check the sheep. It's bright, not warm, tranquil...and nearly time for a sit-down! Suzanne is nattering on the phone to family. I think we both miss friends and family - especially our two young granddaughters, one of which I've only seen so far in photographs.

Kevin Parfitt

1. In farm yard moving a heap of soil with digger & tractor.

what I smell: lilacs

- 2. Camera can't multitask!
- 3. Feeling: Oh it's 5 o'clock better take a photo.
- 4. Thinking: that's lovely blossom on the cratae gus monogyna.

Also if I stop looking around I could get this soil moved by supper time.

What is Daniel Craig doing in my camera?
5. Hearing: the sound of the tractor engine
[David Brown 885 1979 model]

Nicolette Richards



Listening to the Briefing on Radio 4's PM programme with a spot of knitting followed by further chapters of A House in the Country by Jocelyn Playfair. This book was written in 1944 and has some passages which are uncannily relevant to the situation we find ourselves in today. Home life chugging along in a restrained way as a war is being fought elsewhere.

Peter Lyle



what I see: -Herb Robert and Shining Cranesbill in cohorts (above)

what I hear: the ruffle of foliage what I feel: the textures of leaves what I taste: a certain earthiness



Christopher Meynell



Thinking: No lockdown virus amongst this lot

Feeling: Contentedly procreative
Seeing: A Silver birch seedling in my nursery
Hearing: A blackcap warbling in the bush
Smelling: honeysuckle in the sun
Touching: the earth

Jane and John Sayer



Here we are enjoying some sunshine in our lovely garden

Joy Munden



I am standing next to the rose called the British Legion rose to commemorate the ending of the First World War. Also, for the first time some forget-me-nots have grown there and all over the garden, which is quite significant in view of all the lives lost now and then. I am so grateful we are all well. Also, the birds were singing, and because of less traffic they can be heard more than usual. For now, it is a time when we are more appreciative of those we love, and also precious time spent together. Hopefully, we will rethink how we can change our lives, and appreciate the spring and the world we live in, for future generations.

Annie Whitehouse



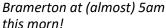
Five o'clock on the fifth day of the fifth month on a fine spring afternoon found me sitting on the settee.

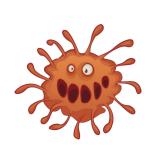
I enjoyed seeing some of the bits and pieces on the mantlepiece. This cluster reminded me of holidays in Malvern and Acre (Israel), of Mother Julian and an old friend who died recently.

The tiny cut glass dish was, 120 years ago, given as an engagement gift, the Lily of the Valley flowers came from a neighbour's garden, and the candle from Applebee at Bramerton. All lovely reminders of people and places.

Pennie Richards







Richard Cushing and Sandy Schroder

Feelings: Watching the 5pm government coronovirus briefing we felt sad, appalled and angry at the numbers of coronovirus deaths particularly in care homes and in the community but generally we both feel happy and contented.

Sound: Dominic Raab, 1st Secretary of State leading the coronovirus briefing on television plus the bliss of no traffic sounds due to lock down

Smell: Wisteria blossom outside the window

Taste: Nothing for that one!



Rebecca Hartley

I have no pic for 5pm but there is a coronavirus-related story behind that...

at 5pm I was driving back from the vets. Visiting the vet at this time is difficult. I had to wait ten mins in the car park while I repeatedly rang their number to let them know I was there. On attempt 43 (really!) I got through. The vet unlocked the surgery door and came out, all masked up and took my dog from me at arms' length. 15 mins later, the dog was returned to me in the car park after her examination and the vet updated me from a few metres away. I was going to stop on the way back to take a photo but remembered I'd left my phone in the boot with the dog because I'd accidentally touched it with my gloved hand after taking the dog's lead back from the vet, and was worried about the contamination risk!

Lizze Hartley

Meanwhile, back home in BA, Lizzie took the photo.



She was:

Feeling: happy and relaxed, having just finished a day of home schooling.

Hearing: the birds outside and enjoying the peace of the quiet countryside.

Smelling: hopefully nothing nasty in the sitting room! :-)

Touching: the laptop keyboard.

Anna Guy



Thrill of Quietness, without traffic, so that birdsong all around could be heard, scents of fresh cut grass and distant bonfire, thinking of village of course, and my family in which there's a newborn baby.

Hilary Ling and puppy Cannie (13 weeks)



Seeing: Thrilled with a Sainsburys delivery (hens' teeth) and to see their driver, Neil Smelling: Full blooming Rhododendrons Hearing: Nuthatch & Woodpecker drumming - no traffic or aircraft Feeling: Sense of Peace but concern for those in less idyllic circumstance

John Ling

Totally focussed on taking the photo, oblivious to all outside influences.



Sue and Chris Bewick

A quiet space with birdsong, absolutely no traffic sounds. In and around the village we saw occasional delivery vans and two people riding a bike, again calm and peaceful beautiful spring flowers in the hedgerows, cow parsley and bluebells.

Photo: our development of a vegetable

garden

Hear: Our little owl

Smell: roses, hawthorn (and good honest sweat from creating our veg patch!)

Feel: tranquility Taste: Gardeners' tea





Francis, Elsa, Anna, Kitty and Poppy Meynell (L-R in photo).

I'd just come out of the office, the home school was finishing for the day with drawing princesses, and we were all feeling hungry

MICHAEL WHITING

Michael Whiting, who has died aged 76. as a consequence of cancer, in the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital, was born at his grandparents' smallholding on the south side of Threadneedle Street. He grew up at the house now called Shoemaker's Cottage on the



opposite side of the road where his father Jack had set up as a builder on his return from wartime service with, we think, the Royal Norfolk Regiment.

Michael loved helping his Grandfather on his smallholding. Always interested in happenings on the land, he might have become a farmer had it not been for his father's wish that he join the family business.

He went to Alpington Primary School before going on to Loddon Secondary Modern that he left at the age of 15 to work for his father.

At school his great interest was sport in which he was a good goalkeeper and played for Yelverton Football Club. Later on he played hockey for Loddon Young Farmers and that was where he renewed his acquaintance with Carol Ellis who had attended the same Loddon School.

He and Carol married in 1967 and their son Jamie was born in 1971 while they were living in Old Hall Gardens in Brooke. They moved to Hedenham and then to Poringland before returning to Bergh Apton to settle at Holme Oak on The Street.

In these times Michael worked for his father until Jack died in 1993. Michael and his brothers Richard and Paul then carried on the family business in which Richard ran the blockworks on Church Road (Dove Lane) while Michael and Paul did the general building work. In the year 2000 Michael left the family business to set up his own separate building business in which his son Jamie was the key element as a multi-skilled tradesman.

Michael's wife Carol, who suffered from Multiple Sclerosis for many years and was cared for in the Cheshire Home at East Carleton, died in 2000. Michael married Monica Dennis in March 2007 and they became a familiar and popular couple at social events in and around Bergh Apton including the monthly "Coffee 'n' Catchup" mornings in the village hall.

Michael's funeral was on Tuesday 12th May at the Waveney Memorial Park & Crematorium at Ellough near Beccles

A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE FOR BERGH APTON

Melinda Myhill of Tenwinter's Pightle is trying to drag Bergh Apton into the 21st Century. She has set up **Bergh Apton Community Notice Board** on Facebook.

This is very much to be welcomed. But it does need the support all you Facebook fans out there (I must admit I'm not one of them) so that the Noticeboard grows to become the go-to place to exchange immediate news and views on life in the village. It's something that media like this two-monthly newsletter cannot do.

We'll give it a boost in future editions of the Newsletter but get cracking and please give it the support it deserves.

BETTY WOOD



Betty Wood, who died on 5th April in Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital, was a victim of the Coronavirus pandemic that left her many friends in Bergh Apton shocked and saddened not only by her death and its effect on her two sons Paul and Mark and their families, but on her husband David for whom she has acted as Carer following an aneurism in May 2013 that left him with severe physical challenges. Fol-

lowing Betty's death David is now a resident at St Edmund's Home in Attleborough.

Betty was born in Bunwell in 1944, one of the eight children of the head Cowman for Eric Mackintosh of Brooke House. Though baptised Rosemary Evelyn, family memory tells us that it was Eric Mackintosh who first called her Betty - after his favourite cow in the herd, and the name stuck. She met David Wood in the old Red Lion pub on the border with Thurton. They married in 1964 and she gave birth to sons Paul and Mark at their first home, the Roundhouse on Welbeck Road in Brooke. The family moved to one of the semi-detached Rose Cottages on White Heath Road in Bergh Apton where she and David lived until they moved to No 5, Church Road, 19 years ago,.

Betty worked for Jill and Derek Harvey in the fruit and vegetable shop at Street Farm and at the Harvey's Chedgrave shop. When that closed she worked in the fruit and vegetable shop at Green Pastures on Hellington Corner before retiring to look after David.

Betty was also one of the army of fruit-pickers that once figured so prominently in the life of Bergh Apton (as it did in every village where market gardening was a major employer). One of my early memories of Betty, in 1998, was when we turned out very early one July morning on the Harvey's Street Farm land to help pick strawberries that Jill and Derek donated to the Fete. Betty showed us how a skilled professional picker did the work instead of our rather feeble efforts!

Betty's funeral was on 27th April in Bergh Apton churchyard attended, in the current 'lockdown' conditions only by members of her immediate family.

BEE HAPPY BEES REFRESH MICHAEL HUBBARD'S SUNDIAL

The sundial the late Michael Hubbard set in the lawn at the village hall needs tending to keep the dial clear of grass that, as it is cut, spreads and hides the numbers and the stance. Bee Happy Bees, aka Daisy Theobald, volunteered to do the job this Spring and here's the result of skilled use of a lawn-edger. Thank you Daisy, great job. Better than I could have done it. Quicker too!!!!!



VE DAY CELEBRATIONS POSTPONED

In the last edition I wrote of our plans to celebrate VE Day on 8th May. Those plans, like so much more in these Coronovirus times, were stillborn. But we hope to resuscitate them, perhaps at the time of Remembrance in November.

I've also been thinking about the word 'celebrate'. 'Mark' is a much better one bearing in mind the huge losses - civilian and military - on both sides fighting in Europe.

Moreover, the war in the Far East was still going. Clearing the Japanese island fortresses of Mindanao and Okinawa were to cost the US some 20,000 lives lost. The Japanese would lose 140,000 military and 150,000 civilians.

One estimate of US losses in their inevitable attack on the Japanese islands was 193,000. Those losses were avoided by the Japanese surrender after the A-bomb was dropped on Hiroshima (6th June) and Nagasaki (9th June). But they resulted in the loss of anywhere between 130,000 and 223,000 Japanese lives through blast and radiation. So there was little to celebrate there.

It is, however, understandable that Britain celebrated on May 8th because it ended 'our' war. But on our war memorial are the names of fourteen young men whose eleven families would have been mourning their loss as others celebrated.

We hope, possibly at Remembrance time in November, we will be able to pay our proper respects to them.

NEWS FROM THE CHET & WAVENEY VALLEY VINEYARDS from Bridget Hemmant

These are challenging times. The vineyards and the winery are closed to visitors. We have had to cancel all tours and tastings and we cannot be sure when all these things will return. The food and drink festivals we would attend have been cancelled and we shall particularly miss that real highlight in the Hemmant household, the Royal Norfolk Show.



This all means that we must rely entirely on our online and phone sales that we are encouraging by delivering all orders over 6 bottles (or 2 or more sparkling wines) free of charge.

With our wine sales we are supporting East Anglian Children's Hospices (EACH) and, further afield, Hospitality Action, Horatio's Garden in addition to the Marine reserves who are supporting the NHS (John's son Christian is one of them and is helping to administer Covid-19 tests for the public in drive-through testing stations).

Ruby learning pruning skills from her father

John has been working hard on the vineyard whose vines are now pruned and tied down ready for this season of growth and fruiting. A big concern, as it is in all vineyards, is late frosts in May which can destroy the





Buds at all stages can be badly affected by the frosts that occur even in May

buds and severely affect the crop yields. To try and protect vines through the colder nights some vineyards burn fires and some (the larger ones) even have large generator-powered fans that prevent frost forming. Others, relying on the latent heat of condensation to protect the vine buds, irrigate through the night.

At Chet Vineyard, with our minds on our stewardship of the land, we use sustainable methods wherever we can but this does mean that nature will take its course and

some of our young Chardonnay

and Pinot Noir vines have already been affected by the frosts of early May but we hope they will recover.

Rabbits and deer are other vineyard pests. Some vineyards have extensive rabbit-proof or (taller) deer -proof fencing. Their drawback is that they can unintentionally trap non-invasive wildlife inside the vineyard. We, on the other hand, have our own very effective and - according to our daughter Ruby - 'totally adorable' animal-deterrent in the form of our spaniel Rosie (seen above, left, sharing an iced lolly).

John has won yet another award for his Skylark 2018 (blush sparkling). This time it is the Wine Trades own Sommelier wine awards. It was closely-followed by a feature in the EDP which you may have seen. Back to work with a bump, his next task is to bottle and label the 2019 vintage ready for release in June.

Thanks to everyone who has shown interest in us and follow us on Instagram and Facebook. As the season progresses, we'll post updates that give a snapshot of what we are up to in the vineyards and in the winery.







Left: Ruby and Rosie in Iollipop heaven. Right: one of the vineyard's wildlife visitors unlikely to be trapped by the fencing some vineyards erect to ward of rabbits and deer. Top: the new vineyard, planted to the north and east of the winery, is developing well.

AND IS THERE HONEY STILL FOR TEA?*

by Christopher Meynell

What a sign of life! In all this curious period, the bell of the Church Clock sounding out across the woods and fields is a sign that the world is not entirely mad.

There is a reality of continuity, a reality that has been heard for many, many years. We are still here - even if you can't see us. And the bell is the evidence.

It is all thanks to Richard Cushing who, come shine, come snow, come virus, climbs the ladders to wind the ancient clock.



The huge clock mechanism that Richard tends. It was installed in the church in the 1830s and has ticked away faithfully ever since - except for a few times when it needed a little (or a lot!) of TLC.

So a big cheer, a big handclap and a song or three to Richard for his dedication, his perseverance and his legs. Thank you, Richard.

* This is the last line in Rupert Brooke's poem 'The Old Vicarage, Granchester' that he wrote in Berlin in 1912, of which the final stanza is:

"Say, is there Beauty yet to find?
And Certainty? and Quiet kind?
Deep meadows yet, for to forget
The lies, and truths, and pain? ... oh! yet
Stands the Church clock at ten to three?
And is there honey still for tea?

A NEW COOKBOOK WITH LOCAL INGREDIENTS

To mitigate the shortfall in its income this year, Christian Aid (CA) has just published a series of regional Cookbooks - 'regional' in this context meaning the CA branches that have produced the cookbooks, rather than the origin of the recipes themselves).

Shirley Rimmer extracted their favourite recipes from some of her friends in and around Bergh Apton that have made it into a Norwich version of the publication.

You can get it and at the same time donate to Christian Aid by going to:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/paul-scarff

BERGH APTON ON VE DAY IN PICTURES

Here are fifteen photographs that a volunteer cyclist took as she pedalled round her exercise route through the village on VE Day. She saw the Union flag displayed at quite a few houses along her route. Can you identify the houses? Email your answers to john.ling@btinternet.com by 10th July. A very modest prize will be awarded in the next edition. I'm not revealing the photographer's identity until next time, in case you're tempted to bribe her!



BERGH APTON'S WEBSITE HELPS FAMILY RESEARCHERS

From recent activity on Bergh Apton's website (berghapton.org.uk) it seems that more and more of us are delving into the history of our families. The information available on websites like Ancestry and Findmypast now encourages us to look beyond the simple linear search (grandparents, great grandparents etc) and encourages us to extend our search sideways, taking in such remote relations as "2nd cousins once removed twice over" (I know - I've got them!).

Over the years the website has had quite a few family history enquiries and we do try to respond as quickly and as helpfully as we can. As examples, here are two, from people with interesting and obliquely-connected stories.

Les Whitehouse was looking for information on Engineer John Dudley North who had joined Boulton and Paul aircraft company in Norwich in 1917 as its head of research. Paul McRory was looking for information on his great aunt Ethelwyn Hindle who had been born in Chicago into what seems to have been a rather racy English middle class family but went on to do rather well for herself by marrying into the British aristocracy.

The two enquiries hit the website in early April, within a few days of each other. What's interesting about them is that John North and Ethelwyn Hindle, entirely unrelated people from different backgrounds had, at different times, occupied the same house, known in those days as "The Cottage". It was a litotes name for the large and attractive thatched house now known as "Bergh Apton House", owned by Tim and Miranda Stephens. It had been part of the considerable lands in Bergh Apton owned by the Brooke House estate of the Ketts followed by their relations the Manners-Suttons.



'The Cottage', a lithograph in the sale catalogue when the Brooke House Estate went to auction n 1874

Les Whitehouse, investigating John Dudley North the Engineer, had found aircraft-related patents registered by North on 1920 and 1921 in which he gave his address as "The Cottage, Bergh Apton in the county of Norfolk". His tenancy of what was in those days part of the Brooke House Estate could not have been long because he moved into 'The Close' in Norwich following his July 1922 marriage, where he was within a few minutes of Boulton & Paul's works at the aerodrome on Mousehold.

We don't know when Ethelwyn Hindle lived at 'The Cottage' but circumstances on the Brooke

House Estate around the time of North's tenancy could indicate that it could have been soon after that.

Ethelwyn married Charles Graham Manners-Sutton in 1903. After the 1st World War she and her now-retired Army husband, a Captain in the Royal Engineers, became poultry farmers on a modest-sized farm they rented in Essex.

But in October 1918 her husband's elder brother, the bachelor 5th Viscount Canterbury, died. Charles found himself unexpectedly in possession of the title 6th Viscount and the considerable lands of the Brooke House Estate in Norfolk that included Brooke House, a vast palladian-style pile of a mansion that, according to the 1911 Census, had at least 38 rooms.

Because there are no records of the Brooke House Estate we simply have no idea of its health as a business but the costs of running the estate and its huge house must have been eye-wateringly high. The new Viscount decided to sell and much of it, including the



(left) The old Palladian-style Brooke House, demolished . . .

. . . to make way for (right) the Mackintosh family's house, now a nursing home.

main house, were sold at auction in 1919. It was sometime thereafter, and for an unknown period, that the Canterburys moved to Bergh Apton.

It's very satisfying that, through modern technology and communications achieved by our village website, and with these two genealogy enquiries, we have been able to add quite a bit more knowledge about people and places in the village

THE EDITOR'S SPIKE!

I am very pleased, and I hope you will be too, at the amount and variety of news and items of interest that people have sent in for this June/July edition of the Newsletter.

Given the lack of activities on which to report I had expected to provide you with a slimmed-down 8-page version but the value of including the 'Lockdown Special' has added another four pages!

But there have been casualties! Several regular items have ended up on the spike the Editor uses for rejected material.

Elements of the Village Sign is one. Another is our walk through the village at the time of the 1911 Census. At the rate *that's* going (we're only halfway round) they will have released the 1921 Census before we're finished!

CHURCH NEWS - A NEW TREASURER FOR THE PCC

Claire Metcalf, late Bergh Apton but now resident in Ashby St Mary, is keeping her links with Bergh Apton by succeeding Theresa Parfitt as honorary Treasurer of the PCC (Parochial Church Council), the body responsible for the finances, care and maintenance affairs of the parish church*.

Claire, with her partner Neil Headon and their children Otis and Monty, lived at Pennyhill on Sunnyside until last year. Their daughter Etolie is buried in our churchyard having died when still a baby as a result of cancer in October 2012.

Theresa Parfitt served as Treasurer for many years and was doing the job when the CofE's required new and arcane elements to be incorporated into what had, at Parish level, been a relatively simple accounting process. In doing Theresa cemented the admiration of her PCC colleagues for her capabilities (and their gratitude for having shielded them from its complexities).

* One of a PCCs ancient and "poisoned chalice" duties is to extract the costs of chancel repair from local inhabitants who, by an old but still active law related to their ownership of property in the parish, are responsible for them. Bergh Apton is, fortunately free from such perils!

ELEVEN GOOD WALKS WALK 1. IN BERGH APTON (3½ miles)

START: BERGH APTON CHURCH NR15 1BX.

Park in Church Field, immediately to the East of the church. *Having closed the field gate*, turn right and walk east towards Loddon.

Pass Gravel Pit Lane on your right, White Heath Road on your left and Sunnyside (at the red telephone box, now a library) on your right.

Opposite Holly Lodge Barn, take the Bridleway (which means that you can also ride or lead a horse along it if you're so disposed!) on your left. After 150 yards it curves round to the left.

Here the official bridleway becomes indistinct so, unless you can follow it, keep to the field edge on your right. Soon after the western limit of the Chet Valley vineyard (on your left) the track swings right and passes through a hedge into a green loke.

Cross over White Heath Road onto the footpath immediately opposite. Go slightly uphill past a small copse on your left to reach a 'T' junction. Turn left. At this point, the tower of Bergh Apton Church will be way over to your left.

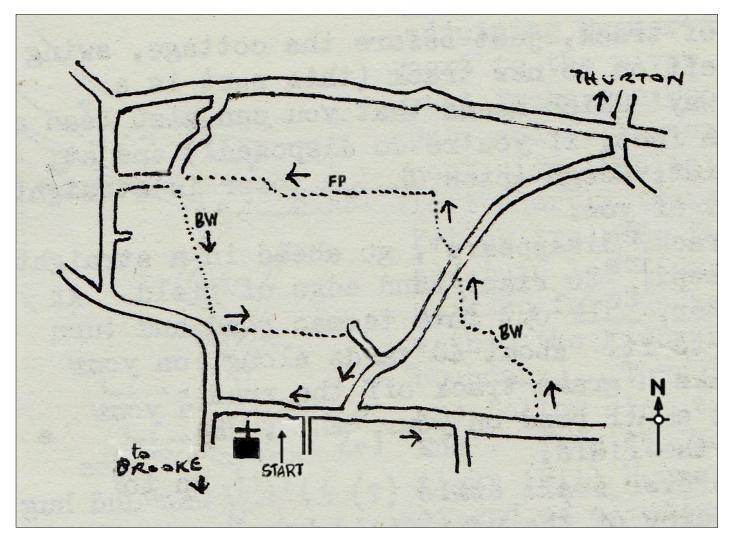
This is Longlands Lane - the putative Roman road from *Venta Icenorum* (Caistor St Edmund) to the river Chet at Loddon (or, perhaps, to the Yare at Hardley Cross) and thence to *Gariononum*, the Roman fortress at Burgh Castle).

At end of this broad track, just before you reach Dodger's Lane at a small cottage, turn left onto a bridleway. Bergh Apton Church tower is now straight ahead of you.

Your route passes through a hedgerow at a gate and then runs parallel to the wooden railed fence and private driveway (on your right) to reach Church Road. Turn left and then, after about 40 yards and at a deep pond, take the footpath off to your left.

Pass another deep pond on your right and go through a hedge (there may be a stile here). Now hug the hedgerow on your right, keeping to the headland. At the far end of the field you reach a gravel track. Turn right and you will get to White Heath Road, opposite a newly-thatched cottage.

Turn right and, at the junction with School Road, turn right again. That brings you back to Church Filed on your left.



VILLAGE DIARY FOR JUNE & JULY 2020

Suspended
Suspended
better times!

A VIRTUAL 'SONGS OF PRAISE'

We don't know when we'll again be able to sing in our parish church. But when that happens, there's nothing quite like a good old "Songs of Praise" session to lift the spirits!

So in these 'Lockdown Days' would you like to while away a little time in thinking what, to raise the roof, you'd like to hear being sung in church at full volume?

Then, when we finally get together, we can do just that with a good medley chosen from what YOU tell us you'd like to sing. So send me two choices:

- (a) a Christmas Carol, and
- (b) a Hymn or something Spiritual that we can all sing.

And tell me who you are as there's so much pleasure in everyone singing just for you, knowing who you are.

We'll compile a list of the 10 most popular in each category and publish them in the August Newsletter as a 'Virtual Songs of Praise' programme.

Then, when this difficult time is done, we'll hope to turn it into a real sing-song (maybe with a band?) to cel-

Let me have your choices by mail, email, whatsapp or SMS by 1st July to John Ling at:

> Watermeadows, Bergh Apton NR15 1DF Landline 01508 480439 Mobile 07900 55 1819 Email john.ling@btinternet.com

Please let me have articles and contributions for the June/July 2020 issue on or by Friday 10th July 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	Lynton Johnson	01508 480629
Church: Rector	Chris Ellis	01508 484174
Church: Ch'warden	Shirley Rimmer	01508 480576
Conservation Trust	Stephanie Crome	01508 480573
Family/Local History	John Ling	01508 480439
Painting Class	Barbara Fox	01508 550168
Singing (La La's!)	Karen Bonsall	07900 968739
Village Hall	Hilary Ling	01508 480439

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Bergh Apton PCC

Bergh Apton Village Hall,

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For their invaluable generosity.