



Bergh Apton Newsletter

Issue 169
Bi-Monthly
August 2020

'Lockdown' is easing off and it has taken us into a more risky era where, judging from pictures taken in some re-opened pubs, sensible 'social distancing' decreases in direct ratio to the intake of alcohol. And, even here in Bussey Bridge, I can hear the escalating hum of increasing traffic on the A146. In Bergh Apton, as we make progress back to normality, the need to remain alert has delivered both good and bad news. The good news is that there WILL be a Horse and Dog Show at The Manor and there WILL be a Churches Trust Bike Ride (*details of both on p.2*) and the Village Hall is open again. The first of these is a great chance to give your dog a bit of fun. The second is a great opportunity for all you lockdown bikers (honed by your lockdown exercise!) to ride Norfolk's lanes and raise funds for a good cause. The bad news is that this year's Christmas Lunch and the New Year Breakfast of 2021 will not take place. These are wise decisions because both events are ideal indoor spawning grounds for Corvid-19. But we shall greatly miss these two super seasonal opportunities to greet and eat with friends and neighbours.

THE VILLAGE HALL - BACK IN BUSINESS!!

After more than three-and-a-half months of shut-down as part of the Government's precautions to control Covid-19, Bergh Apton's village hall is open again!

The hall, built in 1953 on a field donated to the village by the late Thomas Denny-Cooke of Bergh Apton Manor, and upgraded three times since then, has been the centre of village activities since then. This long shut-down has been quite a challenge for the Trustees to keep it in good shape ready to resume its activities. But the wait is over.

People and organisations hiring the hall will need to comply with precautions to keep themselves and other users safe but it's good to know that the hall is back in business.

COVID-19 DEFERS KIP'S UEA HONOUR

When I learned, earlier this year, that the University of East Anglia had announced its intention to award an honorary Doctorate to Kip Bertram, I made a note in the diary to write about his achievement when the ceremonial award was made so the Newsletter could publish the details and a photo of Kip in all his finery.

Covid-19 has frustrated this event as it has so much of our lives this year and the ceremony has been deferred until a date, yet to be set, some time next year.

So the opportunity of greeting Dr Christopher Bertram of Bergh Apton Manor, recognised by the University for his contribution to life in East Anglia, is yet to come ... but congratulations, Kip, for the work that has led to this honour. We'll report on the ceremony in due course.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PARFITT FAMILY

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact it will continue to have on us all for sometime yet, we have decided that it would not be wise to hold the annual Christmas Lunch 2020 nor the New Year breakfast 2021.

Our hope is that we will be able to return in 2021/22.

HELPING TO KEEP OUR PARISH CHURCH GOING

You may already know that, along with every other church in the land, Bergh Apton's parish church will struggle to keep its head above water this year.

There are two events this Summer that are aimed at helping it to meet its commitments.



One is on Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August, in the surroundings of Kip and Alison Bertram's parklands at Bergh Apton Manor where you can watch

(or participate in!) the Horse Show that goes on all day. Then, in the afternoon, you can give your dog some fun in the Dog Show events.



The other, on Saturday 12th September, will give you a really enjoyable day riding the lanes of Norfolk, calling at some of its lovely country churches and their churchyards. It's a great day out.



Dust off the bike (even better all the family bikes!), choose a route - anywhere on the map - that takes you past any number of churches, and invite your friends and colleagues to sponsor you to meet your target. Then collect a stamp from each church to show your sponsors how you did.

Half the money you raise goes to the Norfolk Churches Trust to help them maintain the ancient church buildings they look after. Half will help to meet the costs of running our own parish church of St Peter & St Paul, Bergh Apton.

**See more about both events
on p.2 overleaf.**

BERGH APTON HORSE SHOW and FUN DOG SHOW

**Bank Holiday Monday
31st August
on the East Park at
BERGH APTON Manor**
by kind permission of Kip and Alison Bertram

Horse Show Programme
& Entry details - please contact
The Show Secretary, Katie Waterfield
Phone: 07961 553 317
e-mail: katiebrown007@hotmail.co.uk
Events begin at 8.30 am

Dog Show events
be there with your dog (or dogs!)
for Fun Events that begin at 2.00 pm

Raising funds for Bergh Apton Parish Church

Fun and Games on the A146 (2020 Litter Pick report - Part 3) *from Bob Kerry*

In the April & June Newsletters I reported on this year's Litter Pick run by Bergh Apton Conservation Trust. The first pick, on 7th March, covered most of the village and the second, later that month, (and thanks to the traffic being much reduced by the coronavirus lock-down) covered the A146.

There was still some traffic however, so I could not safely do the whole stretch between Prospect Place and Hellington Corner to the standard we normally achieve . . . but it was better than nothing.

Then, on Friday 8th May, the water main burst near Prospect Place and the road was shut for a week to allow for repairs, during which a very large hole had to be dug right on the Bergh Apton Parish boundary near the lay-by that usually has a burger van in it.



With (almost) no traffic at all on the road this was a chance too good to miss! So, armed with my trusty hand cart loaded with large buckets, I took the opportunity to litter pick all along both sides of the

A146, all the way from Hellington Corner to Prospect Place. When I had finished the A146 must have been the cleanest and tidiest road in the area (and that is a sentence I never thought I would write!) for a few days at least.

Despite signs on the road from Norwich to Hellington Corner to the effect that the road was closed for this work, many vehicles went on straight past Hellington

Corner to the lay-by . . . where they were forced to make a u-turn.

Clearly some drivers don't read road-signs (or just don't believe them) and the resulting chaos caused much fun and games at Hellington Corner as vehicles stopped all over the place while their drivers consulted their confused satnavs and debated what to do.



Wisely, some drivers of huge articulated lorries returned towards Norwich but others tried to negotiate either the road north through Hellington and Ashby or south down Mill Road and through Bergh Apton. When they met similar traffic coming the other way chaos ensued and, if you were on this route at the time, I am sure many of you reading this will remember it .

As I write this report at the end of May the road has re-opened and the level of traffic is, inevitably, creeping back up to its old levels and I hope this saga marks the end of the 2020 litter-picking season and that there is no "Part 4". That's because, whatever else may happen (will the virus and water main be followed by a third event?) the undergrowth is now too thick to allow us to do another litter pick.

So I am quietly confident we won't be out there again until 2021.



The Annual Churches Trust Bike Ride is ON!

Have a great day on your bike
on **SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER**
to help raise funds for our Parish Church.

Call Pat Waters on **01508 558283** who will tell you about the event and will provide Sponsorship forms.

If you can't ride but you want to help, you can sponsor Mike and Shirley Rimmer on their ride. Call them on **015087 480576** for more details.

Find more about the overall event on
www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

from our Parish Clerk Angela Tregear

The Parish Council made a major technological leap forward on the 9th June when we successfully held our first 'Virtual' Parish Council Meeting via Zoom! We were joined by Councillor John Fuller who was very impressed as we were the first of his parishes to attempt video conferencing.

Fortunately, everyone's Broadband connection held out for the entire meeting and we managed to conduct all the usual council business.

John Fuller gave a detailed update on South Norfolk's sterling response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In a 7 days-a-week operation to help vulnerable people in the community they received more than 15,000 calls for help. To do all this work, and still ensuring that essential services such as rubbish collection were maintained, the Council re-deployed one hundred and fifty members of staff from leisure centres that were closed by the pandemic.

With the closure of these leisure centres SNC has lost a large amount of their income but, despite this, it is launching a programme of investment in market towns to get the economy moving again. This will include help for small businesses that have missed out on national funding.

Thankfully, there is a very low rate of infection in Norfolk which will allow any future local outbreaks to be more easily contained.

Following the government announcement allowing playgrounds to re-open from 4th July we have re-opened the Bergh Apton playpark. We do ask that everyone uses a hand-sanitisers as necessary and remains at least one metre away from anyone who is not part of their household. This will help to ensure the safety of all users.

We have recently had some repair work done on the playpark and the annual ROSPA inspection is due any day now.

We are very much looking forward to the arrival of the outdoor table tennis table that will be installed as soon as the large container next to the playpark is removed. The Village Hall committee is currently working on this and, if necessary, the removal of a nearby tree stump.

Speeding remains an issue in the village even with reduced traffic during lockdown. We were shocked last month when a speed of 75mph was recorded (on 19th June) in Mill Road. We are waiting to hear from County Councillor Barry Stone if there is a basic data requirement to trigger a police speed check.

On a more positive note the percentage of people exceeding the 30mph speed limit has fallen to 9% - although this is still 9% too many! We are grateful to Mike Rimmer and his team of volunteers who have kept the SAM2 speed awareness monitor going throughout lockdown.

During lockdown I completed the year-end accounts and have had the accounts audited by our Internal Auditor. Thankfully, everything is in order and the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) certificate of exemption, annual governance statement and accounting statements were approved at our virtual meeting and have been signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

All the accounts documentation required by the Transparency Code is published on Bergh Apton's web-

site. It includes the 'Notice of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights' stating that, until 7th August 2020 and at reasonable notice, the 2019-20 accounts may be inspected by any member of the public.

Our next (virtual) Parish Council meeting is on 8th September 2020. If you want to join this, or any future virtual meeting, please email me and I will send you a link. All are welcome! I usually send out the link a few days before each meeting.

Angela Tregear

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Bergh

Apton Parish Council

clerk@berghapton.org.uk

Tel: 01508 484133

BERGH APTON ARCHERS ARE BACK!

from Bob Kerry

For many years now, just after Easter, Bergh Apton Archers have met on an evening to practice this ancient art.

However, with the Covid-19 "Lock-down" this year we were in a quandary as to whether to meet this year and if so, when and how.

After much thought we decided that the meadow at The Manor where we shoot, with the kind permission of Kip and Allison Bertram, is large enough for just four of us to shoot and that, getting our own targets and stands out, we can comply with all the social distancing guidance.

So, Bergh Apton Archer's are now meeting on Tuesday afternoons from 3.15pm.

If you travel along Threadneedle Street around this



Bergh Apton Archers in action. (l-r) Dylan Read, Bob Kerry, Clive Britcher & John White.

time you should be able to see us; do stop and (from a safe distance of course) say hello.

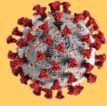
With space for only four archers and with no lending of personal equipment to others allowed by covid-19 precautions, some of our regular attenders from last year are unable to join us this year. We are, however reviewing the situation as guidelines develop. If and when they change and as soon as it seems safe for others to join us, maybe our numbers will increase before the season ends in September.

Notes on the Bergh Apton Archers:

Bob Kerry, who lives on Hellington Corner, and John White, Alison Bertram's father, are both familiar figures in the life of Bergh Apton. Clive Britcher lives in Hempsall. He has the interesting hobbies of keeping birds of prey and engraving glass. He is also a fletcher (he makes arrows). Dylan Read lives in Alington and works at the Norfolk Record Office in Norwich. He not only uses longbows, he makes 'em too.

COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

by Christopher Meynell



Lockdown; doesn't the word conjure up very mixed feelings! To many it presents difficulties, uncertainty and practical problems. For others it was an opportunity for a change of life's pace, to view the world in a relaxed way, to focus on things that many of us had been losing sight of it. For them it was, perhaps, welcomed.

So Lockdown means one thing to you and another to me. Has the experience been good for you? Or has it been not so good? Is your view of the world, your neighbour, and your life any different now?



Some have been looking closely at the natural world, others at their hat racks and some in or at their garden sheds. Some are clearly just enjoying the freedom of Lockdown.

As I suggested in the June edition, a degree of lunacy might be creeping in for some of us!

This second group of pictures rather confirms our descent down the slippery pole of sanity. But perhaps this applies just to those who are on the edge already - speaking personally, of course!

Anyhow, the narratives and photos in these next few columns are recorded here for posterity, for when the next generation asks the question, "What did you do in Lockdown?" Bonkers ain't it! Thank you to all those who took part - and exposed yourselves, as it were.



Rosie Winn

Thinking: This is going to be a delicious lunch!

Feeling: Relaxed and happily cooking away

Seeing: Delicious vegetables changing colour as they cook

Hearing: sizzling and frying and the hum of the oven

Smelling: A warming array of food aromas

Touching: The camera and a frying pan of leeks

Kevin Parfitt

KP going to work



Michael Willcox

Gill and I in lockdown on my 75th birthday. (my headdress is definitely not my normal attire)!

Sheri Winn

Enjoying the fresh air on the BACT marsh. Feeling relaxed. Smelling blossom.



Christopher & Liz Meynell

Spent our day trying to coax a urine sample from 'Hey Arnold' with a coconut ladle. He had just had an op that's why he's wearing a lampshade - nothing to do with his favourite opiate!! We succeeded!!!

Coconut ladle our best utensil for soup or mulled wine!



Charles Bell

Charles is making use of his time - busy dismantling an old shed! (see another story on p.11)

Peter Lyle

Seeing: A pranked lawn

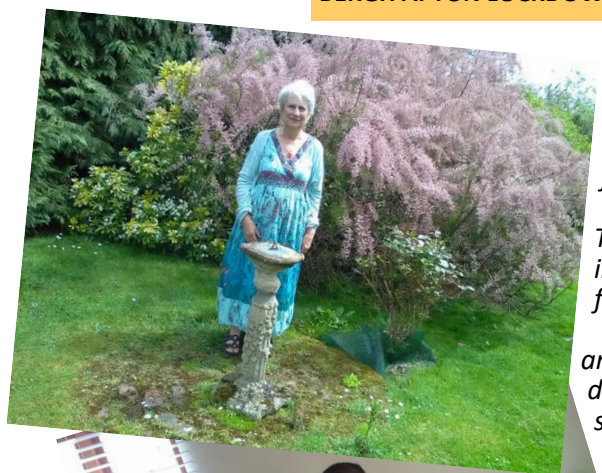
Smelling: Tarragon

Hearing: High winds

Feeling: Cool grass

Tasting: Pork





Joy Munden

Here is the second photo taken in our garden near the sundial. Time seems frozen as we've been in lockdown for 7 weeks? Things are slowly changing but we are missing our family and grandchildren. When schools re-open I am worried about how my daughter, who is a primary school teacher, will cope. But we are grateful we are all well. We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when, some sunny day.

Suzanne Whitby

Here is a photo of me cleaning the inside of our caravan. We have just had a couple of days staying in it by our pond instead of going away. It is very peaceful with birds singing busy making a nest and Jack our dog is sleeping enjoying the sunshine.

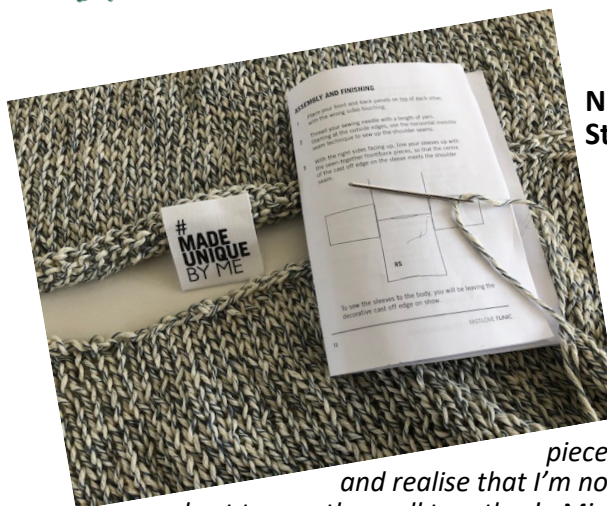


Himu Gupta

I'm sitting in the dining room of Miller's Cottage. We are still locked down, but some modest changes initiated by the UK Government in order to make life slightly easier for people. We can now go out a bit more, although we have had long walks in the country without meeting a soul. It is a very small concession but gives me a sense of optimism.

I do feel more positive about the future. "The world will bloom again". I was trying out a face mask for going out to shops and a lot more interesting walks in the unusual British sunshine

Nicolette and Stuart Richards

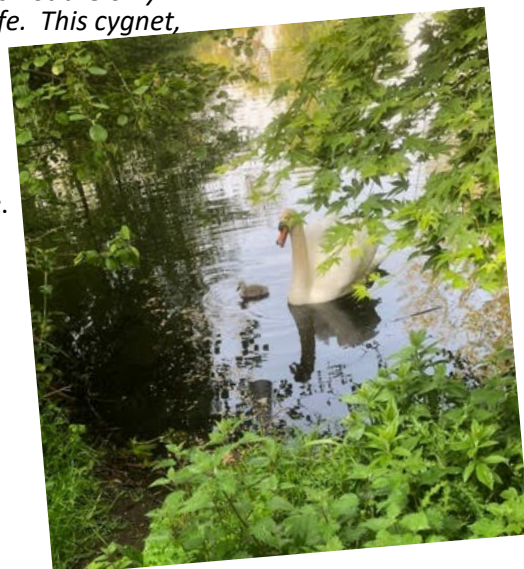


World at One on the Radio, Stuart at work still selling his water saving products whilst I attempt to assemble the

pieces of my jumper and realise that I'm not too sure how best to sew them all together! Missing my yoga class friends some of whom are fanatical knitters and would normally help me out!

Derek Secker

Corvid-19 is not the only threat to life. This cygnet, seen with its mother on my lake in the Chet Valley, did not survive.



Chris & Sue Bewick

Here are our photos today at 1pm. We are growing some beans and courgette plants indoors that we hope to transplant outside later this week once the winds have died down. This photo demonstrates that Chris and I are keeping our garden weed-free!



Steve Whitby

Well, I'm afraid I wasn't doing anything much, nor was it my Birthday. I was moving sheep onto our "hill" for some fresh grass. I think I was thinking about getting lunch!

Gillian Bell

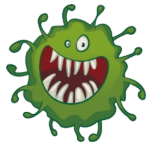
Nothing changes for our canine companions here in the Bell household.



The Parfitt Family

Renovating the Goose pond [now clay-lined to replace a leaky liner]:

- Johnny delivering clay soil
- Theresa & Rachel comparing photos
- Rachel filling the pond.



Hilary & John Ling

Hilary Ling and Cannie at Chapelfield vet at Long Stratton for her (the dog's!) second inoculation jab. John took the photo.
Seeing: the rear car park at the Vet
Hearing: voices as one of the Vets talks to another pet owner through the car window about her bulldog's problems.
Smelling: Disinfectant!
Feeling: Looking forward to walks with Cannie now that her puppy-version of social distancing has come to an end.

Caroline Thurtell

Our dining room has become an office; Sophie studying away, I seem to be on the phone a lot checking on family & friends who live alone; and Robert has joined us from his make-shift office in another room (No, he hasn't really turned to drink!!)



Rebecca Hartley

Lizzie and I are both hard at work having just returned to our 'desk' after lunch. For the photo Lizzie decided that Hetty, our German Spitz, could help her with her schoolwork. I was feeling a bit hassled as it was a busy day at work and it was hard juggling that with teaching responsibilities. We could hear the roar of diverted traffic as it speed past on the lane outside due to the closure of the A146. And we were worrying about Lizzie's dad who is in hospital at the moment when, with the coronavirus situation, visiting is difficult/not desirable.



IT'S NEARLY HARVEST TIME IN THE CHET VALLEY VINEYARDS

news from Bridget Hemmant

John and I want to thank everyone who has supported us through the lockdown period by buying our wines and sending us messages of encouragement.



We were delighted, now that the rules allow, to receive visitors at our new Winery during English Wine Week (from 20th to 28th June), a nationwide celebration of English Wine instigated by WineGB, the professional body that represents UK vineyards. Here is John (left) welcoming visitors to the Winery. We have also

done two things to encourage you to visit our vineyards: We have set out (socially distanced and wipe-clean) tables where you can bring your picnic, your family and your well-behaved dogs and picnic amongst the vines, enjoying the views across to the surrounding fields; and we have published a self-guided tour of the vineyards so you can see what's happening and how the vineyards work.



We do ask that you book ahead for both these things. Ring John on 01508 333002 to arrange a time with him so that we know who is on the vineyards and you know what we need you to do to keep safe.

We have re-started our Summer tours and tastings programme on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 3 pm to 5 pm. We do need people to book in advance for these and we record contact details for every visitor for 'track and trace' purposes. If people book for these tours and subsequently show Covid-19 symptoms, they will need to stay away and follow the government advice to get tested and to self-isolate.

We do not plan, for the time being, to organise other and larger public events. But the cellar door is open from 9.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday and selected Saturdays in season. Ring John (01508 333002) to make sure that he's there and can welcome you.

The vineyards have survived the frosts, but not entirely unscathed, and the vines are doing well. John and Graeme have been busy tending, 'tucking in' and managing the leaf canopy (the leaves have to be stripped by hand so it's a labour intensive process!) to maximise the sunshine getting through to the ripening grapes.



During August and September the grapes undergo a process known as *véraison* (French for 'the onset of ripening').



For red grapes this brings a dramatic change in colour, increased levels of sugar and a gradual reduction in acidity. Then, depending on the grape variety and weather conditions, it takes anywhere between 30 and 70 days for the grapes to ripen, during

which we use nets and scarers (right) to keep birds from pecking the grapes!

During this time John (below right) monitors sugar and acidity levels closely with a refractometer to accurately predict the best time to harvest each grape variety.

That's the time that we need volunteers to help with 'The Vendange' (the French word for the grape harvest) that happens around the last two weeks of September and the first week or two of October.

Would you like to help with this?

We'll be delighted to welcome individuals and whole families to pick grapes, chat together and make new friendships, all in a green landscape that makes social-distancing so very simple.

It's a real family day out (happy dogs are welcomed too) during which we provide snacks during the day.

Depending on the guidance at the time about large gatherings, we may not

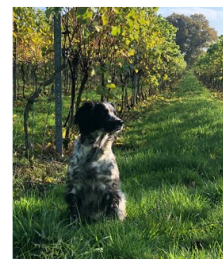


be able to put on a large harvest supper this year but we will have to keep you posted nearer to the time.

So, if you are interested in getting involved, note this period (mid-Sept to mid-Oct) in your diary. I will post more precise updates on our social media:

- Instagram (@ukwinemakerwife and @chetvineyard),
- Facebook (Chet and Waveney Valley Vineyard) and
- our website www.chetvineyard.co.uk

I will send email updates to our website subscribers and we'll look forward to seeing you soon!



THE VILLAGE HALL CONTAINER - GONE!



We have finally said 'goodbye' to the de-commissioned reefer (refrigerated container) that was installed in the village hall grounds as a temporary store for equipment during the hall renovation project. Many thanks to Paul Hemmant of Poplar Farm in Sisland and to Adrian Lord who removed the container and clear the way for the new outdoor table tennis table (see 'Parish Council News' on p.3).

THE 1911 CENSUS—PART 5

Hellington Corner to Dew or Dye Corner

In the April 2020 edition of the Newsletter we followed the 1911 Census Enumerator as he walked (or, being a farmer with horses, did he use a pony and trap?) from Prospect Place towards Norwich. His first stop was the cluster of buildings at Hellington Corner around 'The Bell', the alehouse (its licence was restricted to the sale of beers and ales) owned by Norwich brewers Stewarts & Patterson.

This time we'll go with him down what we now call Mill Road that was, in 1911, known as Yelverton Road. This variation in road names is an important feature of all the Census returns from 1841 to 1911 because it tells us, every ten years, how road names change. Threadneedle Street has, for example, been recorded over that seventy year span as The Street and The Principal Street as well as Threadneedle Street. In another example, Dodger's Lane was known in 1911 as Westrup's Lane.

But let's get back to the job in hand and set off down the road that, whatever its name at any given point in time, has been the boundary between Bergh Apton and neighbouring Alington since ancient times.

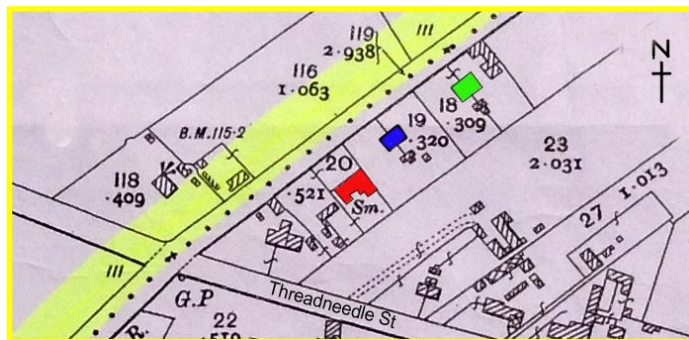
The Census records two dwellings on the Bergh Apton side of the road, both clearly marked on the village Tithe Map of 1841 and early Ordnance Survey maps. One, now called Miller's Cottage, remains but the other has gone (*see map below*). Miller's Cottage was occupied by the family of 41 year-old wheelwright/carpenter Arthur Vincent who later moved to Threadneedle Street to live at what is now Eelen Kennedy's Laurel House (of which more next time).



The second house was occupied by 25 year-old jobbing gardener George Carver with his wife Lillie and their 1 year-old daughter Muriel. George's father Edward Carver lived near the Bell Inn on Hellington corner and farmed the fields on both sides of the road here¹.

Further on down the road was the dwelling attached to Bergh Apton's post-mill that was long gone (it had been demolished before the time of the 1884 Ordnance survey). Now called Mill Farm, it was unoccupied at the time of the Census².

We come now to a point where the Census does not marry up with what is shown on the 1907 Ordnance Survey map for this part of Bergh Apton. The latter shows two pairs of cottages³ one now called Rose Haven & Blackbird's Nest and the other Melrose Cottage and West Five.⁴ The next and penultimate dwelling is at the old village forge - now converted to a house and author Margaret Chappell's home until shortly before she died in 2019. The last house was where Conifer Cottage is now (that may be too modern to have been there in 1911).



The junction of Mill Rd & Threadneedle St in 1907 with Bergh Apton's border with Alington shown in yellow. The Smithy is marked in red, Melrose Cottage/West Five in blue and Rose Haven/Blackbird's Nest in green.

That makes six dwellings but the Census (that required even unoccupied houses to be listed) records only four! An explanation may emerge for this conundrum but, for the moment, I can't explain it.

One of the residents was Robert Dunt who makes things a little easier because he was the village blacksmith. So we can place him and his wife Helen at the Forge where they lived with their 15 year-old son (whose occupation was defined as 'Blacksmith's Striker').



This is Robert Dunt's forge, photographed some time in the early 1930s when Arthur Smith (with his hand on the horse) had succeeded Dunt as the village blacksmith.

The other Census names were Farrow and Martin, listed as living north (towards Hellington Corner) of the forge. So these two families must have lived in two of the four dwellings in the cottages marked in blue and green on the map (above): nearest to Hellington Corner was Frederick Farrow, a market garden labourer, and his wife Patience. The other was George Martin, a 58 year-old County Council Roadman (the fourth we have passed on our journey so far) who lived with Susannah, his wife of 36 years, and 27 year-old Percy Harry Martin, one of their six children.

That, frustratingly, is all I can tell you about this little group of houses where I can't reconcile the OS map and the Census. If you know of anything to help resolve the puzzle, do please call me!

Until next time I'll end here at the meeting of Mill Road and Threadneedle Street. Some of you may have heard that this junction was called "Do or Die Corner" and wondered if it has anything to do with last-ditch stands or derring-do.

No, it is because families by the name of Dew and Dye, all forbears of Bob Debbage of Garden Farm, lived at one time or another in many of the houses clustered

around this corner. I shall try and tempt Bob to tell us all about them in a future Newsletter!

Notes:

- 1 *George did not inherit his father Edward Carver's business. It passed to his younger brother Charlie. That may be why George left Bergh Apton to become a pork butcher in Claxton. He did come back to Miller's Cottage to live with his daughter Muriel and son-in-law Fred Brewington (who had succeeded Bob Debbage's father Sam Debbage as Charlie Carver's foreman).*
- 2 *The last newspaper record of the mill itself is when it was offered for sale at the Royal Hotel in Norwich on 28th March 1974 (see page 11).*
- 3 *At first glance these two pairs of cottages look identical. But the chimney stacks are different. Those on Rose Haven*



and Blackbird's Nest (above left) are doubles but those on Melrose Cottage and West Five are singles. The bricked-in window on the first floor of each pair is probably a decorative feature (rather than a result of the window tax that had been lifted in 1851).

- 4 *Bells Cottage, the third house in what is now a terrace, was added by local builder Jack Whiting in the early 1990s.*

HAIRDRESSER HEATHER LEWIN CALLS IT A DAY

the present-day owner of West Five, one of the Mill Road cottages in the article above, is Heather Lewin so this seems as good a point as any to carry the news of Heather's retirement from her hairdressing business.

The decision was triggered by the enforced temporary closure of her salon at West Five as a result of the coronavirus lockdown that began in March, and brings to an end her fifty-one years as hairdresser to her many clients in this area of Norfolk.

Heather's apprenticeship, with Cynthia Gooch at her salon opposite the Angel in Loddon, began when she was just short of her 15th birthday. She recalls that the salon shared the premises with Mr Harvey the clockmaker and that backed onto a yard from which milk was delivered.

Nearby was the shop of Kenny Burrows, the irrepressible men's hairdresser who taught her those skills to add to her repertoire.

Once qualified, Heather worked in the salon in the row of shops in Chedgrave. Having moved to another in Great Yarmouth she returned to Chedgrave when they asked her to come back to them. When its owner (another Mr Harvey) died she had the opportunity to buy the business but decided that the time was not yet right for her to branch out on her own. She did, however, eventually set up her own salon in Rockland St Mary where she lived at the time with her husband Richard and her children.

After running the salon in Rockland for 37 years Heather planned to move her business in her house in Mill Road but everything was put on hold with the sadness and upheaval that followed the death of her hus-



Heather in her West Five garden with her black Labrador Jasper

band Richard in December 2007. But she eventually made the move in July 2014 and has never looked back.

The move, a logical step in business terms, also saved Heather the challenge of crossing and re-crossing the A146 at Hellington Corner that has seen huge increase in traffic since the early days when she made the 3-mile-each-way journey from home to the sa-

lon on foot or on her bike. It is a daily nightmare crossing she has happily turned her back on.

While Heather will, without doubt, enjoy her retirement she will surely miss the regular visits of her clients of whom many are both client and friend.

DOT SEELY OF VERANDA COTTAGES

Earlier this year Dot Seely, a much-respected village resident for 68 years, left Bergh Apton to live with her son David in Norton Subcourse. She and her late husband Kenny came to live at Veranda Cottages - 'tied houses' for Washingford House farm, where Kenny had come to work as Horseman for Billy Panks.

In the last few years Dot has found it increasingly a challenge to live on her own so, earlier this year, she made the move to live with David. The plan is that she will stay there while the family finds a place for her to live where she has full-time support.

In early July I went to talk to Dot (we were suitably socially-distanced!) about her time in Bergh Apton. We spent a good two hours reminiscing on life and its changes in the sixty-eight years she has lived here.

Dot's childhood home was in Mettingham near Bungay. She was 18 years old when she married Kenny in 1950 and they went to Weston (near Beccles) where Kenny worked for a farmer by the name of Claxton. The move to Bergh Apton came about two years later when one of Kenny's family, related by marriage to Billy Panks, recommending young Kenny as a good horseman.

Dot and Kenny's children David (in 1952), Christine (in 1954) and Lenny (in 1957) were all born here and Dot worked for market gardeners including Mr Watkinson in Ashby, Cyril Dye on Mill Road, Jack Ellis at Pond Farm on Dodger's Lane and Jimmy Annis at Royston House, whose son Peter and his wife Poppy formed a close and long-lasting friendship with Dot and Kenny.

Dot and Kenny were warm-hearted hosts when anyone called to see them at Veranda Cottages and they helped many people whenever a job needed to be done, including Dot's dedication to the football team whose football strips appeared on her washing line every weekend in the football season.

Kenny, too, was a familiar sight in and around the village in his blue tractor. Having worked at Washingford House farm first for Billy Panks then Mike Harris and finally for Mike's son Christopher, he retired in 1997, shortly before Christopher himself retired and sold the farmland.

... continued on p.11

BERGH APTON IN PICTURES ON VE DAY

Did you manage to name some (or even all?) of the houses decked out to celebrate VE Day, on 8th June that we showed you on p.13 of the June issue?

Here are the answers:

1. Hillside Farm, Welbeck Road
2. Town Farm, Church Road
3. White Willows, The Street
4. Valley Farm, Welbeck Road
5. Loke House, Threadneedle Street
6. 2, Church Road
7. The letterbox on Threadneedle Street
8. Thimble Cottage, Mill Road entrance
9. The Blackbird's Nest, Mill Road
10. York House, Threadneedle Street
11. Melrose Cottage, Mill Road
12. No 2, Church Meadow Lane
13. Silver Hose, Threadneedle Street
14. Heath House, Cooke's Road
15. Brambly Hedges, Cooke's Road

My thanks to Shirley Rimmer who took the photos early on the morning of VE Day as she cycled Bergh Apton's lanes on her exercise round.



BERGH APTON'S HEDGE SURVEY (NOW IN ITS 22nd YEAR!)

From Bob Kerry

It is an amazing that 22 years have passed since, in 1998, that Bergh Apton Conservation Trust decided to conduct a survey of all the hedgerows in the village.

Since then we have spent two evenings or afternoons every year, weather permitting, on the project. We survey a hedge in 30 metre sections to record the shrubs

and tree species present. We note its height and condition, whether it runs by a field or road, if there is a bank or a ditch and any unusual or interesting features including ancient trees. As if that is not enough, we also record the presence of climbing plants and any notable ground flora.

All this is entered on "Norfolk Hedge & Boundary Survey" sheets that are then cross-referenced to detailed large-scale maps and saved in Bergh Apton's village archive. That means that, say in a hundred years' time, anyone can compare a section of hedge at that time with the same section when we did our survey.

Much of our survey work is conducted from roads and public footpaths but, if there is no public access to an area, I ask permission of the landowners to do the work.

Thus the survey has taken us to parts of the village rarely visited and that was certainly true this year when, on Wednesday 17th June, we surveyed along the Bergh Apton boundary with Brooke, Kirstead and Seething. There is no public access to this land from the Bergh Apton side but, luckily for us, we could do the survey from a public footpath that runs from Brooke to Seething.

With the help of a total of 34 volunteers over the years, we have surveyed 28,500 metres (over 17.7 miles!) of hedge. We have found both superb wildlife hedges (over 10 feet tall, wide and overgrown with many species) and terrible hedges (cut short, narrow and practically destroyed by a flail every year) and everything in between. Sadly, some we have surveyed have subsequently been destroyed by new housebuilding.

What will happen to all this data? Some has already been used for a dissertation and, in 2012, we gave a copy of the work so far to the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service. The rest will be passed to them when we have finished. Hopefully they will all be digitised one day (any volunteers?).

After 22 years and almost 18 miles you may think that, surely, there cannot be many more hedges left to survey. Many years ago, BACT Chairman Tony Davy asked me how long we had left and I told him "about 5 years".

Every year he asks me the same question and every year I give the same answer! However, having reviewed what we have done so far, and what's left to do, I think maybe another three years will do it. That would make the survey a quarter-century project. But please don't hold me to that!

If you would like to help with the hedge survey next year, or to digitise the records for us, or to ask for any other details, do give me a call on **480661**.



(l-r) Annette Ford,
Jacquie Ratcliffe
and Rodney Aldis
observing strict social
distancing
during the hedge
survey on
17th June

A GOOD WALK IN BERGH APTON



There's not enough space in this edition to include any the 'Eleven Walks' first published in 1980, of which we included one last time.

But there's a really good Bergh Apton walk across Scop Hill and along Longlands Lane in the August edition of 'Village People' for South Norfolk, delivered to you free every two months). Have a look at pages 14 & 15. for this walk of 3.4 miles (5.3 km).

Kenny was also a keen supporter of the Fete at which, until he gave up the task in 2005, he ran the "Bowling for a Pig" stall with Peter Annis. It was a job they had done together ever since the era when the prize for bowling the pig was exactly that - a live pig!



Dot's husband Kenny in 1959, competing in a ploughing match in Alington with Blossom and Smokey (photo from p.63 on the Book of Bergh Apton).

Dot was a great supporter of Bergh Apton village hall that she came to know early in her life in Bergh Apton when Mrs Denny-Cooke asked her to clean the hall. That was before the installation of the parquet flooring and Dot recalls the challenge of cleaning a traditional planked floor, that was all the Trustees could afford when the hall was first opened in June 1953.

Kenny, too, helped with things that those of us who use the hall today never need to do - tasks that included carrying water to the hall from the Veranda Cottage well in the early days when the hall was not connected to the water main.

Given their long-time support for their village hall it will come as no surprise that Dot and Kenny celebrated all their major wedding anniversaries there and that, following Kenny's death in November 2007, Dot donated more than £750, being half the collection raised at Kenny's funeral in Bergh Apton's parish church, to the village hall.



Dot Seely and her daughter Christine (right) at Veranda Cottage in January 2008, presenting to Maggie Smith (Chairman of the village hall Trustees) the cheque for Dot's donation in memory of her husband Kenny.

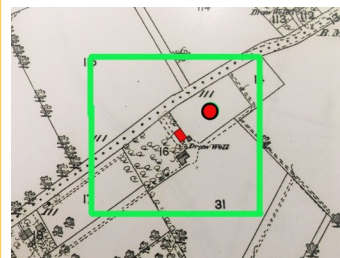
Dot's sixty-eight years of residence in Bergh Apton has seen huge changes in the life of the village from being a community of people working on the land to the way we are today, most of us office-base and sedentary or retired.

Wherever she goes now, when Dot's future home plans have been settled, we hope she will be happy and will continue to look back on her life amongst us as a happy one.

BERGH APTON WINDMILL

When I wrote the article on the 1911 Census for Mill Road (see pp 8 & 9) I noted that Bergh Apton's post-mill was no longer there when the Ordnance Survey of 1884 (based on a survey in 1881) was published.

Since I wrote that I came across two auction sale notices that suggest its decline and fall happened in the 1870s.



The miller's house (red rectangle) and approximate site of the mill (red circle) on Mill Road

The first auction on 28th August 1871 was at the King's Head in Brooke on the instructions of the mills' Mortgagee. The miller at the time was John Drake (presumably the Mortgagor) who had succeeded Ebenezer Giles. Only three years later the mill was again

put up for auction, on 28th March 1874 at the Royal Hotel in Norwich. The advert includes the words "*The [land] is well adapted for building purposes having a considerable frontage to the High Road & immediate possession can be had*".

Did this second auction mark its demise as a working mill? Standing empty with no miller in possession, was it offered mainly as a building plot or for other uses?

This does seem very likely bearing in mind that, only five years later, when the 1881 Ordnance Survey was carried out, it had gone.

... and all that well situated POST WINDMILL driving two pairs of French Stones with new cast iron wind shaft, 2 springs & 2 common sails. Also an excellent Brick & Tiled Dwelling House with convenient offices & outbuildings & 3a.2r.16p. of excellent LAND at BERGH APTON.

The above is well adapted for building purposes having a considerable frontage to the High Road & immediate possession can be had.

CHARLES BELL'S OLD SHED

In the article on Lockdown (pages 4-6) there is a photo of my neighbour Charles Bell demolishing his old shed. Our friend and former Bussey Bridge neighbour of the 1980s, Emma Steggles, recently sent me some photos of me and her then husband James putting up a new shed in the garden of the cottage they had just bought.

It's the same shed as Charles has just demolished!

Funny old world isn't it?



WHAT'S GOING ON IN BERGH APTON?

Sometimes I get so much news of what's happened and what's going to happen in the village that deciding what goes in and what will miss out of any edition of the Bergh Apton Newsletter can be a challenge.

But this is your Newsletter so please do send me details of anything that you know about - past or future - that would make an interesting or informative item. Contact details in the panel top right on this page

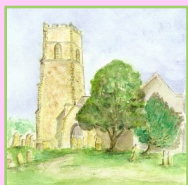
VILLAGE DIARY August

- 15th 10.00 am on: BA Conservation Trust workday.
Meet at the Church Field
- 31st Bergh Apton Horse Show (see p.2)
8.00 am: Horse events begin
2.00 pm: Fun Dog Competition begins

September

- 9th 7.30 pm Bergh Apton & District Society at the
Village Hall: talk by Miss Whiplash
- 12th Churches Trust Bike Ride (see p.2)
- 19th 10.00 am on: BA Conservation Trust workday
Meet at the Church Field

CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE



In this post-lockdown time when social-distancing remains a key defence, you will be welcome at the Sunday service for all in the Benefice, at 10 o'clock in the following churches:

- 2nd Aug: Morning Prayer at Thurton
- 9th Aug: Holy Communion at Yelverton
- 16th Aug: Morning Prayer at Ashby St Mary
- 23rd Aug: Holy Communion at Yelverton
- 30th Aug: Morning Prayer at Bergh Apton
- 6th Sept: Holy Communion at Yelverton
- 13th Sept: Morning Prayer at Framingham Pigot
- 20th Sept: Holy Communion at Yelverton
- 27th Sept: Morning Prayer at Thurton

The illustration is a watercolour of Bergh Apton church by Don Coombes of Brooke©

Please let me have articles and contributions for the Oct/Nov 2020 issue on or by
Thursday 10th Sept 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 (<i>La La's!</i>)	Karen Bonsall	07900 968739
Village Hall	Hilary Ling	01508 480439

A BIG THANK YOU!

Our financial backers make it possible to deliver this newsletter to every household in the village without charge. My thanks to the following sponsors for their invaluable generosity:

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