



The Berghaptoner

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The South Norfolk Council decisions on future housing sites in small villages (*see this page*) will inevitably change them, but will it be for good or ill or, more likely, a bit of both? Decisions for Bergh Apton allow development only of the old Blockworks. That must surely be welcomed for it will change what has become a bit of a sad eyesore. This sole permission will be a disappointment to other owners whose land has not been accepted, including the ones who destroyed the former woodland next to the village hall on Cooke's Road. One must observe, in that particular case, that it's an ill wind that blows nobody any good. Another element of village life that is to come to an end (*see p. 2*) is the Parfitt family's heart-warming hospitality at the Christmas Lunch and New Year Breakfast. For more than twenty years these events have been occasions for good food, joy and laughter *par excellence*. But life moves on. Even the ever-youthful KP must eventually begin to bow to *anno domini* and it is entirely right that these super events give way to the changing family and work commitments of both the elder and younger Parfitts. So, thank you Parfitts-all. The good times you and your great team of helpers have given us are a permanent entry in the annals of Bergh Apton's great happenings. But here's a question: "**Will another energetic team take over?**". Will you? We hope for a positive answer.

A PROGRAMME FOR FUTURE HOUSING IN BERGH APTON (VCHAP)

On 7th June South Norfolk Council (SNC) published its decisions on sites in small villages throughout South Norfolk that were submitted by landowners, or their agents, as candidates for future housing developments in the years up to 2038. The information is on website www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/vchap.

In Bergh Apton the only site approved, out of ten submitted, was the former Blockworks on Church Road and its adjacent garden ground (reviewed as a single unit) with a potential for 25 houses. The other nine sites were rejected having not met one or more of the several criteria used to measure suitability.

SNC has created a 'Virtual Exhibition' on the website (more about this process below) and we, the public, are invited to comment (with a closing date of 5.00pm on Monday 2nd August) on these decisions.

SNC's project, known as VCHAP (Village Cluster Housing Allocation Plan) aims to allocate fairly a total of 1,200 new dwellings amongst 115 small villages in South Norfolk, assessed as 48 'Clusters' focussed on a village school.

Bergh Apton is grouped with Alpington and Yelverton, clustered around Alpington and Bergh Apton primary school.

This exercise is a strand of the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP), a joint strategy of South Norfolk, Broadland and Norwich District Councils to develop a single coherent plan for housing needed within the three Council areas for the period up to the year 2038.

Initially these small villages were assessed on the same basis as large South Norfolk settlements like Wymondham, Diss and Long Stratton. SNC, however, recognising that their size, characteristics and needs are very different, decided to assess them with different criteria. That is why VCHAP was created as a sub-division of GNLP to assess settlements like Bergh Apton.

The information on SNC's new website (*see Para opposite for the link*) is the result of this as-

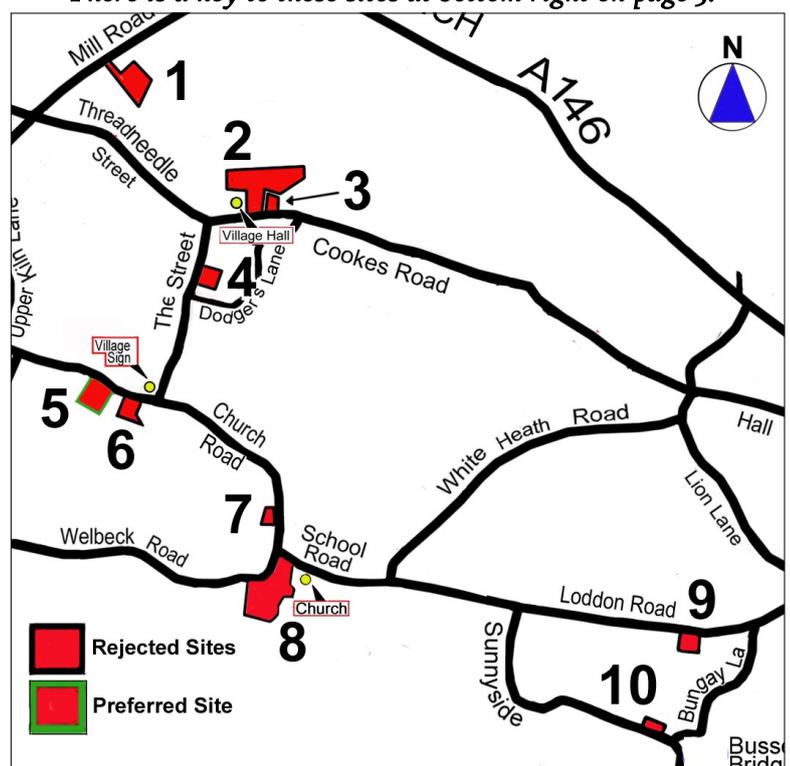
essment. It includes:

- an overview by John Fuller, leader of the current Conservatives administration, and Bergh Apton's District Councillor
- An assessment of each site and reasons for decision.
- Maps of the location of each site (*see the Key on p.3*).
- A questionnaire.

The latter, with the heading 'Have Your Say' invites your response - by close of play on Monday 2nd August - to a number of specific questions about the sites and SNC's decisions on them. Responses to this questionnaire will be taken into account in the final VCHAP report. If you have faith in the principle that the public can influence the shape of the future, your own responses to this questionnaire just might make a difference.

The results, assuming that there are no further changes following this process, may well determine Bergh Apton's housing developments over the next twenty years.

There is a key to these sites at bottom right on page 3.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From Parish Clerk Angie Tregear

We were delighted to be able to hold our first physical meeting for 18 months in the village hall on the 22nd June! We were particularly pleased to be joined by our new Norfolk County Councillor, Kay Mason Billig. Kay, a very experienced Councillor at both District and County level, said that she would do her best to attend our meetings and provide us with updates and support on relevant issues such as measures to address speeding in the village.

Councillor vacancy

Following the resignation of Joe Horton due to a house move, there is now a vacancy for a new Parish Councillor. The 'Casual Vacancy' notices were displayed on the parish noticeboard, website and SNC website as required, but as no electors called for an election, the Council is now free to co-opt a new councillor onto the Parish Council. Thank you very much to Joe for his contributions!

Possible DMMO application

The Clerk had no further responses to the article in the last newsletter regarding the possible DMMO application. Because there is not enough support for the idea, and because there was also some opposition, Councillors decided to not pursue it any further at this time.

Wheelie bin stickers

Thank you to all who have already displayed traffic calming stickers on your wheelie bins. The Council has agreed to purchase more 'Please Slow Down in our Village' stickers to be available upon request. We hope that this serves as a reminder to motorists to drive carefully through the village.

If you do have stickers on your bins, we would encourage you to leave them out as long as possible on bin day to maximise the impact!

RoSPA playpark inspection

The playpark has recently had its annual RoSPA Playsafety inspection. The report recommended that the overflowing pencil-shaped bins be removed. This has now been done and we would kindly ask all playpark users to either use the wheelie bins in front of the village hall or take their rubbish home with them.

Thank you!

Angela Tregear – Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to Bergh Apton Parish Council

Email: clerk@berghapton.org.uk

Tel: 07429 233109



It looks just like Eric Morecambe (left) in this photo of her partner Lyndon Tunmore taken by Julia Gooch of Hellington Corner on their ride around Britain last year. In Part 3 of Julia's story (pp 6 & 7) you can catch up with some of their adventures on the way from Kent to the Scottish Border .

A MESSAGE FROM THE PARFITT FAMILY

The Parfitt family (old and young) are retiring from the Christmas Lunch and the New Year's Breakfast.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in holding these events over the past 20 years and to all who have attended.

We plan to give any equipment that we have collected over the years, and that would be useful for future events, to the village hall.

The fund-raising monies held from our last breakfast will be given and split between the church and the village hall.

NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST CYCLE RIDE SATURDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2021



Despite its name, that suggests we should get on our bikes, this annual fundraising event to protect Norfolk's ancient churches is now as popular with walkers and motorists as it is with cyclists and, last year, raised over £173,000 to

help with the challenge..

It's an opportunity, once a year in (with luck warm) Summer weather, to explore the Norfolk countryside and, at the same time, to help preserve Norfolk's ancient churches for future generations to enjoy.

Bergh Apton parish church is joining in the day on Saturday 11th September when visitors can call in, get their donation schedules stamped to prove they've been here and then travel on to their next target.

This year, with the Cycle Ride falling on a day when the church itself is the venue for performances of "One for the Rook" (see p.4), the churchyard looks set to be alive with activity.

To cope with that, visitors on The Cycle Ride will be greeted at a marquee near the churchyard's main gate where they can register their visit, have a break, take refreshments provided by the church, and then go on their journey heading, perhaps, North to Thurton, East to Sisland, South to Seething or West to Brooke. Each a unique example of our rich architectural heritage.

If you would like to have a day in the country doing this you can register online at:

<https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride-walk/>
If you can't do the ride, but would like to support the project, you can make a donation on that website.

There is also an opportunity, for any part of that day you can manage, to help at the parish church as part of the 'Welcome' team run by Pat Waters, Secretary of the PCC. If you can help, please call Pat on:

07899 638994

BERGH APTON SOCIETY SUPPER AT GREEN PASTURES



For the first time since Lockdown brought Bergh Apton's social life to a juddering halt in February 2020, Lynton Johnson welcomed members of the Bergh Apton Society to a Society supper at Green Pastures on 25th June.

The number of members present was limited by both the social distancing regulations and an understandable hesitancy on the part of many of its members to stick their heads above the Covid-19 parapet just yet a while. But the eighteen people who were there enjoyed each others' company and the chance to catch up on what they have been doing in the fifteen months since many of them had met.

Amongst them (sitting together at the table in the left background in this photograph of the assembled company) were four members of Lynton's support team; Shelagh and Terry Yallop, Jenny Daniells and Ann Woods. The fifth member of the team, Ray Wharton, was present but is not in the photo.

Thanks to the catering team at Green Pastures the supper was a great success and it gave Lynton the opportunity to map out some of his ideas for events organised by the Society for the remainder of 2021 that are:

Quiz Night
at Aldis Farm shop Café, Framingham Pigot
7.00 pm on 6th August. £14.00 per person.

A Night at the Dogs with Dinner
22nd September at Gt Yarmouth Stadium
(details TBA)

Visit to Winston Churchill's home
Chartwell
5th October (details TBA)

Visit to St Ives Monday Market
and the 20 pence Garden and Food Hall
at Wilburton (near Ely)
18th October (further details TBA)

Cromer 'End of the Pier' Christmas Show
with dinner beforehand at Tides, on the pier.
3rd December (further details TBA)

And evening entertainments at Bergh Apton Village Hall - dates and details to be published when Speakers have been confirmed.

VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK REPAIR

It was a busy couple of days at the Village Hall on 21st and 22nd June when work was carried out to replace the original cover of the septic tank - located in the car park - with a new 'bespoke' reinforced concrete cover.

The work, required after a heavy commercial vehicle broke through the old cover in January this year, was carried out by Auger, a specialised drainage and water contractor working on behalf of the Hall's insurers, Ansvar.

These three photos illustrate the scene over the two days during which (1) the two-stage septic tank was revealed after the damaged cover was removed and (2) the new cover arrived from its suppliers based near Ely on a lorry (left) to be lifted off and positioned by the large JCB tele-handler (in the background).

What will be visible when the work is done is the rectangular access point (3) under the temporary shelter of a traffic cone while its concrete embedment sets.

All that remains to be done once the new cover has been in place and any settlement addressed, is to consolidate the gravel that covers it so that the whole area is returned to the state it was prior to the incident.



KEY TO VCHAP SITES (see front page)

MAP No	VCHAP Reference	LOCATION
1	SN4030	Mill Farm, Mill Rd
2	SN2117	North side, Cooke's Rd
3	SN0122	North side, Cooke's Rd
4	SN0533	Dodgers Lane at The Street
5	SN0412	Blockworks, Church Rd
6	SN0203	Church Rd
7	SN2015	Town Farm, Church Rd
8	SN0210	Church Wood, Welbeck Rd
9	SN2023	Bergh Apton House, Loddon Rd
10	SN2022	The Dell, Bussey Bridge

BERGH APTON ARTS
Presents



A TRAIL LIKE NONE OTHER
8-12 & 22-26 SEPTEMBER

Tickets
<https://bacat2021.wixsite.com/bacat>

Information
01508 480696

It is all coming together and gathering pace. Do book early as tickets for our events sell faster than hot cakes!

Treats are in store for those who quietly walk the o4tR' trail.

Visitors will need to bring a smart phone but we are aware that not everyone has one of these and we shall do our best to see that those without are not left out.

To keep 'Corvid' at bay, booking is at 20-minute intervals in groups of 6. So you can join a random group, or form a group of your own when booking tickets.

We still need help for some things so, if you are interested in joining in, please contact c.m.meynell@gmail.com about:

- joining a Land Art Workshop with Liz McGowan (on 28th August)
- helping with Reception during the Trail (dates above)
- creative programme folding & the like (dates to be announced)
- donations of unwanted and spare wool, yarn etc (there are boxes at Giants Wood, Cookes Rd, Bergh Apton and at Surlingham Church).

All sorts of happenings have already happened. Writings, created during workshops led by Hugh Lupton the well-known story-teller & writer, have been recorded by a group that met at Bergh Apton Church (as you'll see from the photographs above right) on a beautiful afternoon in May.



CD covers have been painted, printed and collaged. The CDs they will hold have been created in the village. They will, without a doubt, become collector's items. They will be for sale and include:

- music composed for us by Mary Lovett,
- recorded readings and even the voice of the River Chet, accompanied by two singers!
- 'The Happy Couple' (David Ross and Judith Goodman) have composed music for focal points on the Trail and have added beautiful films for a video we hope to use, probably in the Church.

Visitors' wits can be honed on the Trail too. There is a cunning puzzle and those who solve it might even receive a reward.

Pippa, Pennie & Sheridan have created a willow ring to sit atop a "Riddle Pole" from where riddles (written by Hugh's workshops group) will hang and further tax visitors' brains.



The group also has prepared a set of postcards with writings and illustrations to be presented to the trail's travellers.

A labyrinth has been built - no easy task; signs have been made and painted to mark the twelve 'stop, look and listen' halts; QR codes have been created to access readings & music. There are no idle hands for those involved!

The trail is contemplative, quiet and can be walked as a meditation. So treats are in store (but don't forget to book).

Pat Mlejnecky
Peter Lyle,
Christopher Meynell

CURATE CATE TURNER PRESIDES AT HER FIRST COMMUNION



Cate Turner, our Curate in the Thurton Benefice, was ordained into the Priesthood by Graham, Bishop of Norwich, on Saturday 26th June and led her first Communion at 4.00 pm on Sunday 27th June at Bergh Apton.

A large (by Covid-19 standards!) congregation from the five Parishes in the Thurton Benefice gathered there to mark this milestone in Cate's ministry and presented her with a silver traveling communion set to take with her on her life as a priest.

After the service Cate, her husband Ian and their sons Josh and Jordan joined Revd Chris and Melanie



Ellis and those present for a buffet in the churchyard. There is a full account of the day in the August edition of 'Eleven Says' that comes to you with this edition of 'The Berghaptoner'.

HORSE AND DOG SHOW WAS SUCCESS

The East Park at the Manor was once again the setting for the annual Bergh Apton Horse and Fun Dog Show on Sunday 18th July.



Taking place on the last day of Covid-19 Lockdown regulations the combined shows needed to comply with Lockdown laws but such are the conditions and the separation between people at such events that, with good management and sanitising precautions in place, they met all the requirements of both the law and of common sense.



A young competitor, her pony and her Mum take what little cover this lone tree offered against the sun

The weather was so hot that humans, horses and dogs all sought shade whenever they could. Entries in both Shows were less than had been anticipated, mainly because many owners decided that the conditions were too challenging for them and their animals.

Those that did attend, nevertheless, had a good day. Comments of people as they left, and on the event's Facebook page, suggest that the great majority of

those who attended were delighted with their day in the superb surroundings of the Manor's grounds.

The Parochial Church Council under whose aegis the show is run (to raise invaluable funds for the church) were also really pleased with the day and express their gratitude both to the Show Secretary Katie Waterfield and her Judges and Ring Stewards who help her to make the whole thing run like clockwork.

Thanks, too, to Pip Warde who provided the PA system to brief the competitors and the WT sets that enabled the show team to keep in touch with each other.

The PCC is grateful to Kip and Alison Bertram who, ever since the 1990s, have happily given them freedom to use the Manor's grounds (and their immaculate private Loos in the stable yard!) and have joined us as spectators whenever they are at home. Thanks, too, to the Bertrams' estate team of Peter Cook and Matt Barratt who prepared the Dog Show ring and the spectator parking area on Monty's Meadow.

Among the afternoon spectators were Ian Moir and Julie Clifford who have moved to Bergh Apton recently from Hopton, near Yarmouth, to live at Helington Corner. Julie very wisely brought her own sunshade in the form of a very natty umbrella. *(with apologies for the steamed-up image - one victim of the roasting temperatures of the day).*



HISTORY GROUP WALK

The Chairman of the Bergh Apton Local History Group (BALHG) Linda Davy and village historian Lorie Lain-Rogers led a group of BALHG members and their friends on a history walk around the village on 26th June.

The tour covered only part of the village so as not to tax time (not too much territory is covered when the route must allow for stops to talk about places, houses & happenings and excitements of times past).

Our photo shows the party making its way along the top footpath through Scop Hill that leads to the parish church. Scop Hill, now a mature wildlife haven sitting atop a former landfill site (*on which a network of pipes collects and disposes of methane gas still rising from the buried materials*) is where an impressive Anglo-Saxon cemetery and a Roman Villa were found during gravel extraction in the 1970s.



In the foreground (l-r) are Lorie L-R, Linda Davy (part-hidden), June Boardman, Ruth Harris, Peter & Barbara Boardman (also part-hidden) and Shirley Rimmer. In the background are Milton Harris, Tony Davy and Anna Guy

NEWS FROM CHET VALLEY VINEYARD



Wednesday 9th June saw a 'first' for John Hemmant's Chet Valley Vineyard. Graham, Bishop of Norwich, came to bless John's vines as they were beginning to show early signs of setting the fruit that will develop into grapes.

The photo (taken, I think, in the newest part of the vineyard near the Winery, with the treeline that borders the bridleway Wrong Lane in the background) is of (l-r) John Hemmant, Bishop Graham, John's grandson Freddy and photographer Gail D'Almaine, with others obscured in the background.

WE WILL RIDE 5,000 MILES

By Julia Gooch

In this, Julia's third and penultimate episode, she continues her recollections of her and her partner Lyndon Tunmore's 2020 challenge - to cycle right around the coast of Great Britain's mainland. This time they go from Rochester in Kent to Greta Green on the border between England and Scotland. It is a brave and remarkable feat in which Julia and Lyndon raise significant funds for their chosen Charities, the Priscilla Bacon Hospice and Pancreatic Cancer UK.

Our apologies, at the outset, to Lyndon. Throughout Part 2 (in the June edition), by a quirk of my rogue spell-checker, I amended his name to 'Lydon'. Good name, maybe, but not right!

It's summer. The weather is being kind, and we are getting used to our new routine.

Our sturdy panniers hold each carefully chosen item in its place. There isn't much we don't need, nor do we need much that we don't have. We find this self-sufficient and simple existence pleasing.



We love our little tent. So easy to pitch and pack away and our Trangia camping stove is a very effective compact bit of kit that makes our creamy and delicious morning porridge.

There is a lot to be said for this lifestyle; freedom, fresh air, taking each day as it comes and seeing our landscape close at hand and at our own pace. We

love the feeling that we are getting to know our homeland intimately. We rest when we are tired, eat when we are hungry and choose the flattest and quietest route. Still hugging the coast, always heading clockwise.

There are times when our charity challenge feels like a holiday and, taking time out of our lives to do this journey, we feel slightly guilty. But the physical exertion is a massive drain on our bodies. And the mental strain of the unknown, the size of the task, the commitment we have made, the emotional roller-coaster of highs and lows, is all exhausting.

We have set ourselves a target that, in these early stages of our journey, is definitely not plain sailing, or cycling! Campsites where we can stay are not so plentiful as we had anticipated and the shared washroom facilities on so many of them make it nigh on impossible to comply with the social distancing rules of Covid regulations. So we are spending more on B&B accommodation than we budgeted for. But I am very grateful for the comfort of a real bed!

Once we are past Dover the ups and downs of the South coast pass behind us as we go through Rye, Bexhill, Brighton, Chichester, Portsmouth, Gosport and Southampton, thence on the ferry to Hythe. From there to Lyminster and on through the beautiful New Forest to Hordle where we stay in Joe and Hannah's Air BnB accommodation. From there to Poole in Dorset and on to Weymouth where we have our first stay with friends with whom we take a rest day and are well looked after.

The long climb out of Weymouth is daunting but I

manage it. Then we press on into Devon via Uplyme and Otterton to Dawlish where we stay with my Aunt Val and her husband Bob.

It's hard to leave their warmth and care, but there's a job to do, and we get back in the saddle.

We post updates on our Facebook page as often as we can, sharing tales of our adventures and of the people we have met. We post photos and announcements on the total of donations to our two charities, Priscilla Bacon Hospice and Pancreatic Cancer UK. It gives us a boost to see the total growing, and we are deeply moved when we hear from people we meet on the road about their loss of loved ones to Cancer. We attract interest, in our charity cycle shirts, and every day brings life-enhancing encounters with strangers.

We ride through Devon where our daily average of about thirty miles is indicative of the climbs we encounter. Then, via the ferry from Plymouth to Cremyll, we enter Cornwall where the brutal hills continue, with ascents and descents of twenty percent (a rise or fall of 1 metres every five metres) are common. With little time to adjust between them, it's an art we have still to master!

I tire of trudging uphill, pushing my heavy-laden bike, unable to keep my balance at my slow speed. But I am also terrified of the evil descents in which my brakes don't slow me down to a comfortable speed. We are getting through brake pads at a rate of knots!

Our first accident occurs shortly after leaving Kestle Farm Camp site on 1st August. As I pedal up yet another hill my chain snaps, unseating me and landing me in the verge of nettles... with the bike on top of me!

Lyndon, slightly ahead, doesn't realise what has happened so I reach for my phone and call him - 'I'm ok, but, I'm off, and I can't get up!' He rides back to me, lifts the bike off of me, and helps me up.

I'm not hurt but we don't have a new chain so we are stuck. I call on a breakdown service that I had organised before we left home to deal with such eventualities. It worked! I and my bike are carried (it's odd being in a vehicle again on the way there with the world speeding by!) to a cycle shop in Falmouth that repairs the bike and gives it a clean bill of health.

I feel a little guilty, while I'm being driven and the new is being chain fitted, that Lyndon is left on his own to ride the distance to Falmouth. By the time he arrives my bike is ready and so, reunited, we ride on together to The Old Inn at Mullion

There we treat ourselves to a rather pricey room for the night and, the following day, ride the short distance to Lizard Point - a significant landmark on our journey.

On 3rd August we reach Land's End. It is 31 days into our ride and we have ridden 860.72 miles since we left home. We have raised 50% of our £5,000 goal.



Lizard Point, where we have only 35 miles to go before we get to our most westerly journey point, Land's End.

It is an emotional moment. We think of loved ones; Lyndon remembers his daughter Holly for whom his grief has powered him thus far. I think of the people I have met and the stories they have shared, of loved ones lost, of my family, and of my own struggle to make it to this point.

I am thrilled to have made it this far and I'm not quitting now. We feel rejuvenated and positive and pedal on together. The next few days take us along the North coast of Cornwall and back into Devon where, at a campsite in Combe Martin, we spend a memorable night under the stars. Then over the Quantock Hills into Bridgwater where we meet Brian and Lucy in their shop 'The Bicycle Workshop'. They help us on our way with some repairs and coffee, and they won't accept any payment!

We cross the Severn Bridge into Wales on August 14th. In Cardiff we are joined by Lyndon's Karate mate Roy who rides with us. It's so nice to have company!

On our way to Rhossilli an encounter with a pothole causes damage to both our bikes, requiring a second breakdown callout.

Parts are in short supply and we are lucky to find Amanda and Andrew at 'On Yer Bike' in Llanelli. Andrew fits a new wheel to Lyndon's bike and Amanda finds us a campsite. They won't accept payment, asking us to put the cost into our donations. We are humbled by the generosity we encounter.



Julia and Lyndon's visit to this beautiful beach at Rossilli must have made up for much of the pain of that pothole they encountered on the way there.

The weather becomes wetter. Then Storm Ellen brings 70mph winds and heavy rain to Wales so, to avoid its worst winds, we are forced to go straight from Saundersfoot across to St Ishmaels, near St David's Head.

From there we head via Fishguard to Cardigan and, on Day 52, August 24th, we ride from Cardigan to Lampeter. It is only 37.4 miles but there are 3,372 ft of climbing!

It's also an eventful day in which we ride through heavy rain then sunshine and watch dolphins at New Quay.

Finding no accommodation on the coast we head inland to Lampeter but, on the way there, another mechanical failure means that we walk the last 2 miles or so, only to find the hotel has double-booked. They have sourced a local B&B for us and, when they hear of our day, they store our bikes for us and the manager, James, helps us find a bike shop for repairs. I really should write a book!

Eventually we are back on our way with my bike sporting a new 'Free Hub'. We have enjoyed our break in Lampeter.

On Tuesday 1st September we leave Wales and enter The Wirral where we find much flatter riding, warm

sun, light winds and nice riding on the National Cycle Network Route 5.

We are stronger and fitter now, the steep learning curve is paying benefits. We make our way up the West coast, across the Mersey to Liverpool then through Preston in Lancashire where I have a nasty encounter with rail tracks that leave me with a few cuts and bruises. But I'm able to keep riding. Onward to Blackpool, Morecambe, and into Cumbria. A return to hills!

We are met with kindness and given free accommodation by Ann, a fellow touring cyclist, and from Emi and Dan in their beautiful B&B in Millom. From here we ride to St Bees, a pretty village, surrounded by hills and the coast, and then to Silloth, via Hadrian's Cleaveway.

These are a good few days that take us into Scotland at Gretna on the 10th September. It is Day 69 of our monumental adventure! We have completed 2,000 miles, and have raised over £3,000 in donations for Priscilla Bacon Hospice and Pancreatic Cancer UK.



Autumn is on its way and there's a nip in the early morning air. Scotland, with its beautiful rugged coastline, awaits!

MORE NORFOLK NAMES

I called in to see Peter Annis in early July for a mardle and to see if he could give me any tips on how - when it comes - to get to my nineties still with the work ethic, memory and zest for life that Peter has.

While I was with him he gave me a list he had jotted down having read the article (on page 8) in the June edition about Norfolk names for birds and animals. Peter's list includes:

Spink: Chaffinch
 Draw water: Goldfinch
 French sparrow: Hawfinch
 Hay jack: Whitethroat
 Fulfa: Fieldfare
 Dunnock: Hedge sparrow*
 Butcherbird: Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
 Pick Cheese: Bluetit
 Penny Wagtail: Pied wagtail
 Peewit: Plover
 Marebish: Thrush

** I learned only recently that this dull little birds that mooches around in hedgerows is not a Passerines (sparrow) but is an Accentor. So actually it's the term 'hedge sparrow' that's the nickname . . . not t'other way round!!*

The heron is another bird on Peter's nickname list - as 'Harnser' (that I see I misspelt in the June edition as 'hanser'). It probably derives from the old bird name 'heronshaw' that Shakespeare must surely have intended Hamlet to use it when, to assure Rosencrantz that he is not mad, he says; "I am but mad north-north-west. When the wind is southerly, I know a hawk from a handsaw". Handsaw doesn't make sense here, but 'Heronshaw' most certainly does. A printer's typesetting error in the bard's First Folio that has stayed with us to confuse?

A JUNGLE JOURNEY

by Christopher Meynell

This is another in my occasional articles recounting my few years as a youth, in the Army. If I am allowed the space by the Editor at large, I may pen a follow-up.

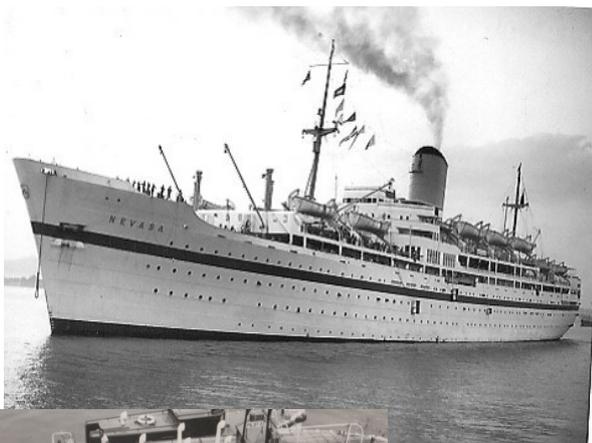
Silence. Not a sound. Then it started again. Surround-sound, suddenly submerging us all in susurrations and sibilance.

Every so often a wave of chattering birds, fluttering from tree to tree searching for breakfast; several varieties occupying different layers up into the canopy. Each variety in pursuit of differently tasting insects occupying each layer.

What was I doing? Where was I? And why?

I have previously written about one aspect of my time on that turbulent isle – Kypros or Kibris or Cyprus. A couple of years earlier I had been a member of a select group of Green Jackets transported to the all-enveloping blanket of damp heat first in Singapore and then Penang in Malaya (as it then was).

We were an advance party whose remit was to be trained at the British army's Jungle Warfare School in Johore in preparation for training the full Regiment, the 1st Green Jackets (until recently the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and now the Rifles) when they arrived. And this they did after a month-long voyage aboard HMT (Her Majesty's Troopship) Nevasa - one of the last ever troopship movements.



The Gurkha band played as HMT Nevasa stole into Georgetown Docks with the orange sun rising behind the Mainland hills of Perak.

The General ran up the gangplank (not off it) and so did I.

The Colonel was welcomed by a Sikh with ceremonial 'lei' and did the same to his son, a recent recruit to the Regiment.



Actually, there were soldiers from all over England, from Malta, from Ireland, from Samoa, from Cyprus and from the West Indies. Many had arrived with their families (see right).



Those on the Nevasa had had the luxury of acclimatising to the heat gradually as they travelled eastwards via Suez. Our group needed ten days in Singapore before we were deemed fit to tackle the jungle.

Within just over a year the Regiment was to put these rigorous training exercises into devastating effect. They were called at virtually no notice (actually 12 hours on a Sunday) with no prior warning to quell an uprising against the government of Brunei and then, more seriously, to deal with *Konfrontasi* - the Indonesian incursion into Borneo.

So, although neither of these 'actions' had been considered as a likely focus for our training, they presented opportunities to practice what we had learnt - **but without me!**

Spencer Chapman* wrote of his dangerous and challenging experiences infiltrating behind Japanese lines in war-torn and captured Malaya. He titled his book "The Jungle is Neutral". We soon found out the reality of his description. My colleagues were a delightful, disparate group. One was a keen lepidopterist and one later joined the SAS, 'allegedly' fighting in Vietnam. One had his hearing blasted by mortar-fire and was invalided out of the Army, later to be godfather to our eldest. And then there was me.

Other than for our leader, Mark, the conditions of this part of the world were an eye-opener. For me it was entrancing and beautiful but the appeal of the jungle was regularly balanced by its attempts to attack, delay and disrupt anything we were trying to achieve.

Nature was on my side much of the time - until it was on someone else's - and then it seemed far from neutral.

A colleague, Edward Jones (later Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies) wrote in 1962, "We on the spot realise the savage truth, but our time will have been wasted if we cannot convince those at home of the swamps in which we have wallowed, of the disease-bearing insects that have feasted on our flesh, of the leeches that have fattened themselves on our precious blood, of the wild and vicious animals that have dogged our tracks and of the water we have drunk, brown and foul from the wallowing of wild pig but pure and refreshing to our parched throats....."

In an early letter home I wrote; "The first impressions of Singapore were of heat, sound and smell. The heat enveloped everything, a blanket from which there was no escape; driving through villages, constant clashing of cymbals, music from radios, music quite alien to my English ears; and stinking open sewers. Their piercing stench every now and again was broken by a waft of the most delicate, sweet, all pervading perfume. Frangipani."

* Capt. Freddie Spencer Chapman, DSO & Bar, Polar Medal, Gill Memorial Medal, Mungo Park Medal, and the Lawrence of Arabia Memorial Medal. An extraordinary British Army officer in WW2, famous for his exploits behind enemy lines in Japanese-occupied Malaya.

What memories these smells carry. And when I returned to Malaysia in 1973 I found them to be real treasures, however over-powering.

Selarang was our home for ten days, a beautifully designed, colonial style barracks next door to the infamous Changi Prison past whose forbidding walls and sentry towers we constantly drove.

It was to here, after the British surrender of Singapore on 15 February 1942, the Japanese ordered Allied POWs to march into internment. As British-built Changi Prison was already crowded with POWs and civilians, Selarang Barracks was used as a holding area for Australian and British. It was originally built to house 800 [but] nearly 17,000 men were crammed in. (Wikipedia).

A place with a history. Some years later, Liz & I had the delight and honour to stay with a survivor of POW life in Changi - Dr David Tweedie whose son I had known at school.

The gallant doctor had persuaded his Japanese captors that his crates of Scotch were, indubitably, for medicinal purposes.

He had many patients!

Editor's Footnote re HMT NEVASA

When Christopher recalls in his article that his voyage out to Malaya on board HMT Nevasa was one of the last movements of British troops by sea he is quite right. That was in April 1962 and the ship ended her troopship days only six months later. That was the result of a Ministry of Defence decision to carry out all future movement by air, made possible by a sea-change in the British Army brought about when it became a nimble and numerically much-smaller professional Army following the end of National Service in early 1962.*

In December that year Nevasa arrived in Falmouth to be laid up and, later, to be converted to the role of Educational Cruise ship**.

Christopher's voyage was a seminal event because it was the first time a wholly-professional British Army unit (i.e. without National Servicemen) had been posted overseas since 1939.

In her new role as a cruise ship Nevasa sailed until early 1975 when, following huge increases in fuel prices as a result of the 1973 oil crisis, she became uneconomic to run and was sailed to Taiwan to be scrapped.

From Christopher's photograph (opposite on p.8) when she was in her troopship prime, she looks rather grand to old soldiers like me who served in West Germany and Berlin in the 1950s.

We had to cross the North Sea in the horrible bowels of creaking military ferries like SS 'Vienna' that shuttled Army and RAF personnel between Harwich and the Hook of Holland in the heyday of National Service.

Nevasa was very different. Named after a town (now a city) in India, she and her near-sister ship 'Oxfordshire' were built to carry troops in relative comfort to all corners of the Globe at speeds up to 17 knots.

Built on the Clyde and launched in 1955, her specification included, for the first time on a Troopship*** the fitting of anti-roll stabilisers to calm the ship's movement in bad weather. Another welcomed innovation for the 'Other Ranks' soldiers aboard was that she had bunks instead of hammocks!

Funded by significant grants from the British government (to meet their military requirements) Nevasa was built and operated by the British India Steamship Navigation Company. She had a near-sister ship, HMT Oxfordshire built in 1957, operated by the Bibby Line.

On her maiden voyage in 1956 Nevasa carried British forces from UK to Famagusta in Cyprus in preparation for the ill-fated Suez Canal campaign. From then until October 1962, when she carried her last soldiers home from abroad, she performed similar duties worldwide.

There's a story about another, now famous, troopship on page 11

* *Except in a few cases. A man's service could be extended as a result, in the main, of a period (or even periods) of imprisonment whose time served didn't count towards National Service. The very last servicemen in this category left in May 1963.*

** *Nevasa operated in this role in tandem with SS Uganda, another BI Line ship (converted from her original role as a cruise liner) that was later to become famous as a British Forces hospital ship during the 1982 Falklands Islands campaign.*

*** *It was also the only time. They were the last troopships to be built.*

COFFE 'n' CATCHUP CATCHES UP!

The last time the village hall was allowed to play host to those who like to talk about news and events over a cup of coffee and a cake was way back in February 2020, before the Covid-19 disrupted our lives.

So, with the lifting of all lockdown regulations on 19th July, and with 18 months of incident and developments to catch up on, there was a real buzz in the air when some 20 people sat down (or stood up while making coffee and doing the washing up) to meet and, as they say, do exactly what it says on the tin—to drink coffee and catch up.

It was also an opportunity to say 'Happy Birthday' to Eelen Kennedy (another one in her tenth decade) and to celebrate with a cake baked for the occasion by Gill Waters.



It was also another opportunity for Ann Woods and Lynton Johnson of the Bergh Apton Society to talk more about his plans for outings, events and talks in what remains of 2021. Much is already planned (see more on p.3)

Mick Hardesty RIP

We were shocked and saddened to learn, as The Berghaptoner was about to go to the printers, of the death on Friday 16th July of Mick Hardesty of Lower Sallows on Church Road. Mick was a much-respected builder whose work and skills were recognised in 2006 by the Federation of Master Builders when he won their Eastern Region award for the best restoration project, the conversion for residential purposes of Woodton's former "Tumbledown Dick" pub. We hope to publish something more about his life and achievements in a future edition of The Berghaptoner. In the meantime we ask his wife Linda and his daughters Mary and Eli to accept our most profound message of sadness at Mick's death.

THE WINDRUSH CONNECTION

It has nothing to do with Bergh Apton or Christopher Meynell's Malayan adventure (see pp 8 & 9) but, in doing some desk research on Christopher's ship *Nevasa*, I chanced on a connection between *Nevasa* and another British ship whose arrival in Britain on Monday 21st June 1948 was to become a milestone in the annals of Britain's multi-cultural development.

It was on that day that a then-unremarkable ship, *Empire Windrush*, docked in Tilbury. She, like *Nevasa*, was a troopship - one of the 1,300 in the UK fleet of that time. Sailing from Australia she had called in to Kingston Jamaica to pick up and bring home UK soldiers stationed in the Caribbean.

In Kingston her Berthing Officer, having many empty bunks in the ORs (Other Ranks) quarters, let it be known that a passage to 'The Motherland' could be secured for the modest fare of £46.

At that time Parliament was debating a British Nationality Bill that, if passed into Law as an Act, would give all British subjects UK citizenship, including those in the Colonies (including the Caribbean). In anticipation of the Act being in place by the time they arrived (in fact it came into effect on 1st January 1949) some 500 enterprising men of African origin bought tickets.

That arrival in Tilbury, *Empire Windrush's* moment of everlasting fame (right), came when she was nearly twenty years old.

Launched in 1930 in Hamburg as the cruise ship *Monte Rosa*, she became a troopship for the German *Kriegsmarine* in WW2. In 1945 she was taken by the British as a Prize-of-War and re-named *Empire Windrush* (after a small tributary of the river Thames).



She thus became part of the 1,300-strong British fleet that had served the Nations troops transport needs all over the world but that, with the advent of military air transport as the *modus operandi* in the early 1960s, entirely disappeared within twenty years.

The end came for *Empire Windrush* in 1954 when

she was heading for UK from the Far East carrying soldiers including many injured in the Korean War.

She caught fire in the Mediterranean and was abandoned with the loss of four members of the crew trapped in the engine room, but with all other souls on board - and the ship's cat - rescued and taken to Algiers on the North African coast.

On 30th March, with the fire still going and with serious structural damage, she sank while under tow to Gibraltar, she sank in 2,600 metres of water.

**A Heads-Up
for your diary**

- - -

**A Coffee Morning
at Washingford House
Cooke's Road
Bergh Apton
NR15 1AA
01508 550924
parisback14@gmail.com**

**Tuesday 12th October, 2021
10.00am to 1.00pm**

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The Matthew Project and The Brooke**

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Offers of cakes & tombola and raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated



Paris Back and Liz Lester

BERGH APTON'S VILLAGE HALL - HOME FOR ICENI UK SCIENTIFIC STUDY GROUP

Did you know that Bergh Apton is the venue for a scientific study group affiliated to the Natural History Museum that has members all over England AND in USA, recognised by the National Lottery by a grant to engage us all in our natural surroundings?

They are The Icen Microscopy Study Group, that meets in Bergh Apton's village hall on the first Saturday in each month. Intrigued by what they do I went along at the beginning of July to meet Gordon Brown and Peter Sunderland to find out what they do.

When I arrived I found a scene of intense concentration. Some people sat at tables looking into microscopes. Others stood in a huddle wearing white lab coats, discussing and practising the subject of this month's key session - a technique for dyeing and mounting specimen slides.



Gordon Brown of the Icen MSG, with a super-high resolution microscope and video imaging array set up in BA village hall

Being a bit of a science numpty that's a challenge for me because of the scale and the complexity of the studies they undertake.

One (but entirely unscientific) thing I can tell you is that they are a very hospitable lot. I was warmly greeted, had a cup of coffee in my hand within a few minutes of arrival, found everyone ready to talk about their work and the farewells were as warm as was the welcome.

While I drank my coffee the Group's vice-Chairman Peter Sunderland told me of their work with the Natural History Museum to promote the use of microscopes by non-scientific people to study nature and their surroundings. Icen has been recognised for this work by Quekett's Microscopical Club (named after Victorian microscopist, Professor John Quekett) - the leading international organisation for both amateur and professional light microscopists. The National Lottery had also provided the Group with a grant for its work using microscopes to engage people in their surroundings and it has had a grant from the Scottish Beekeepers' Association for its work as bee farmers.

This latter recognition goes right back to Icen's origins as a group who first met in 2008 on a bee keeping course at Easton College. Alington-based Peter Sunderland, keen microscopist as well as apiarist, was one of them.

In a challenging time for all bee-keepers, who faced such damaging issues as *Varroa* (a major contributor to the demise of bee colonies throughout the world), Peter convinced the others that they could do much good as a team if they combined their knowledge of bee keeping with skills in microscopy to improve the health of both their own hives and of other bee keepers.

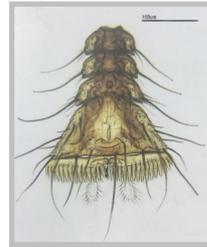
They learned to mount their own slides so that they could look at bees and their pests in minute detail, and to record them as pin-sharp digital photographs enlarged to many thousands of times magnification.

The composition and interests of the Group has moved on since those early days focussed on bee keep-

ing. It now covers all aspects of microscopy including geology.

The spread of Icen's membership is as impressive as its work, with its people coming to Bergh Apton from London, Lincolnshire and Buckinghamshire. Its most distant member is a Professor from New York who keeps in touch via the Internet but comes over once a year - right here in this small Norfolk village.

You can see what they do on the Group's website www.icenimg.co.uk and you can read the details of their work in papers they publish on the website to share their knowledge with everyone else.



One of Peter's slides of the foot of the tiny *Braula Coeca*, enlarged here **400 times**.

Their papers are published in print too. One by Peter Sunderland is in the March 2021 edition of the prestigious international-circulation journal 'The Beekeepers Quarterly'. It concerns a tiny and relatively harmless beehive inhabitant, an insect called *Braula coeca* (see left) that that can be confused with the mite *Varroa*, that equally tiny but destructive beast I wrote of earlier. The ability to distinguish between the two - simple under the microscope - is a vital one for bee keepers like Peter.

Having met members of the Icen Group and read some of their work I can understand how their activities can grab the imagination of 'ordinary' people. Amongst them are the sixty two, including 12 children, who came to the village hall for Icen's 'Taster Day' in the Summer of 2019.



At the Icen Group's Taster Day at the village hall in 2019, Peter Sunderland guides a visitor in the use of one of the Group's microscopes while others eagerly await their turn.

Gordon Brown, Peter's co-host for my visit, told me that they would love people local to Bergh Apton to come along and see what they do. You can find out more about membership on their website and go along to one or two of their meetings before deciding to join.

One of the children of that Taster Day did that and has continued his interest ever since, encouraged by the loan of Group microscopes and being taught how to use them to best advantage.

In 2016 the Group joined forces with the village hall trustees to install WiFi at the village hall (a radio link via the InTouch Systems mast on tower of our parish church) and share the costs on a 50:50 basis. It is a joint venture with major benefits for both parties that allows the Icen Group members to link up with each other and to access the Internet's knowledge-bank - an important tool in the work they do during their monthly sessions.

A NEW DOG POO BIN AT THE VILAGE HALL



The Parish Council has provided this new Dog Poo bin at the Village Hall, scheduled to be emptied once a week, with the cost included in Bergh Apton's annual Precept. Maybe it will nudge those vexatious dog-walkers who drop their dogs' poo bags any old where - including on village footpaths and the grassrd areas in the village hall's grounds.

THE SPIKE

There is not enough space this time for those two historical regulars - the village sign and the 1911 Census. But if you follow them, do not despair - I hope there will be room for a bit more about both in the October edition!

THE VILLAGE DIARY

AUGUST

- 6th 19.00 BA Society Quiz night at Aldis Farm Shop
- 13th 18.30 BALHG's The Hare at Royston House*
- 18th 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Chat at the Village Hall
- 21st 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
- 26th 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field

SEPTEMBER

- 8th 19.30 BA Society Cheese & Wine at Village Hall
- 11th All day Norfolk Churches Cycle Ride Drive & Walk
- 15th 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Chat at Village Hall
- 18th 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
- 21st 19.30 BACT AGM at Village Hall
- 22nd TBA BA Society Gt Yarmouth greyhounds with dinner
- 23rd 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
- 25th 09.00 11 Says assembly at Village Hall

* *The Hare is organised by Bergh Apton Local History Group for its members and their guests. It is not a public event.*

Note also:

8-12 Sept & 22-26 September
 'One for the Rook' at the Parish Church
 (see p.4 for details - advance bookings only)

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REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Monday	1700 on	DOG TRAINING
Monday	0930 - 1015	PILATES
1 st Tuesday	1330-1600	VILLAGE ARCHIVE
Tuesday	1930	SING, SING, SING
3 rd Wednesday	1000-1200	COFFEE n CHAT
Thursday	0930 - 1015	PILATES
Friday	0930 & 1115	YOGA

USEFUL CONTACTS

Archery	Bob Kerry	01508 558674
BACAT workshops	Pat Mlejnecky	01508 480696
BA Society	Lynton Johnson	01508 480629
Church: Rector	Chris Ellis	01508 484174
Church: Warden	Shirley Rimmer	01508 480576
Conservation Trust	Tony Davy	01508 558453
Dog Training	Tina Devlin	07810 158799
Family/Local History	John Ling	01508 480439
Pilates	Emma Stevens	moveswithemma.com
Singing (<i>La La's!</i>)	Karen Bonsell	07900 968739
Village Hall	Hilary Ling	01508 480439
Yoga	Richard Williams	07954 142337

OUR SPONSORS

My thanks to those whose invaluable and continuing generosity makes it possible for this newsletter to keep going:

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Articles for the October/September issue are hugely welcomed. Please email anything to john.ling@btinternet.com on or before 10th SEPTEMBER 2021