

The Berghaptoner

Issue 176
Bi-Monthly
October 2021

It was quite like old times! People from Bergh Apton and nearby villages answered the call to paint, draw, write and/or do anything else to bring to life 'One for the Rook', another Bergh Apton Arts (BACAT) innovation. 'One for the Rook' (the name is part of a seasonal sowing rhyme) comes from the same stable as the Bergh Apton Sculpture Trails of 1997, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008 and 2011 that, in turn, begat three masterful theatrical happenings (in 2014, 2015 and 2017) for which our parish church became a place of mystery and imagination. Congratulations to the three people who conceived and developed the idea and to all who helped bring it to life. There's more about 'The Rook' on p.4. I do wish, as the current editor of this newsletter, that I had the stamina to emulate the same twenty-five year long dedication to the task as has Bergh Apton Arts. Sadly, I don't. I shall take off the green visor (donned two years ago when Milton Harris called it a day) with the December issue so that will be my last hurrah. I've put a call for a successor on p.12. Is there someone out there who has been champing at the bit in the wings, who can make a better fist of it than have I (not that difficult!). I hope so, for this may be a very modest village clarion, but it helps to keep us all in touch with what has happened and what is yet to come.

COUNTRYSIDE AWARD FOR THE CHET VALLEY BEE-LINE PROJECT



The Chet Valley B-Line project was one of the twenty-seven county organisations nominated for recognition by CPRE Norfolk* at its awards ceremony on 16th September at East Dereham.

So it was something of a surprise (but a pleasant one!) for Bergh Apton Conservation Trust's Chairman Prof. Tony Davy and Honorary Secretary Rodney Aldis who attended as representatives of the Chet Valley B-Line partnership, to find themselves called to the platform to receive the major award of the event as Country Champions.



(l-r) Rodney Aldis and Tony Davy with the vellum and plaque of the CPRE Country Champions Award

The award is for the work of the partnership led by BA Conservation Trust that created and now fosters the Chet Valley B-Line, a the 17 km-long habitat for pollinators centred on the River Chet, from its source near Poringland to the river Yare at Hardley. Partners with Conservation Trust

in the B-Line project include the South Yare Wildlife Group and Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

Joint winners of this award with the B-Line partnership was the Felbeck Trust, for its work to improve the habitat of the West Beckham Old Allotments for wildlife.

Bees were the focus of yet another category of the CPRE awards; Coltishall Primary School on the Junior Country Champions award for its 'Save the Bees' project to enhance its school grounds as a wildlife habitat.

* formerly the Campaign for the protection of Rural England



QUIZ 'n' CHILLI NIGHT ON 30th OCTOBER AT THE VILLAGE HALL

This is, to be frank, an **outright plea** for your support for the annual Bergh Apton Quiz on 30th October at the village hall.

Several of the teams that normally turn up to compete for the (admittedly very modest) winner's prize in past years can't be with us this year.

So we are, quite blatantly, appealing for your help by making up a team (six to eight people is ideal) to be there, on the night the clocks go back.

John Ling is the Quizmaster. So you can be sure that the questions will not be straightforward. But they will be interesting and they have all been given a previous outing in the Saturday Pub Quiz of a well-known national newspaper . . . **so there are NO TRICK QUESTIONS!!**

This is a fun evening with a fair-minded (even soft-hearted!) Quizmaster who will always listen to pleas when a team thinks its answer, though not the same one that he has, deserves consideration.

The bonus, for your **£8.50 per head**, is a delicious supper of Chilli Baked Potato (with a non-spicy and a vegetarian option).

The surplus from this event supports our Parish Church. Contrary to most assumptions, it gets absolutely **NO FINANCIAL HELP** from the coffers of either the Church of England or the Church Commissioners.

Covid has put a huge strain on Bergh Apton's parochial church council to keep our own church going. This is an opportunity to help them.

There's a cut-out Quiz team registration form

on p.3 inside. Have a go . . . you'll help a good cause and, between you and you team, you will probably know most of the answers.

GOOD LUCK!!



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

from Parish Clerk Angie Tregear

New Parish Noticeboard

A smart, new parish noticeboard has been installed on Church Road to replace the old, well-worn one that had stood there for almost 30 years!

The new one is made of extremely hardwearing, man-made timber, meaning that it not only looks good, but will also last indefinitely! There is plenty of room for Parish Council notices and there is a third bay on the right-hand side for parishioners to use to advertise local events and services. It is accessible by turning two small turn-buckles.

Many thanks to the 'Practical Parfitts' for installing the noticeboard for us!

Community Speedwatch Update

Bergh Apton's Community Speedwatch co-ordinator Sheridan Winn and another volunteer have met the police and agreed two sites for the watch.

One is on Threadneedle St and the other on Mill Road. The police advised that it is not possible to have one on Church Meadow Lane (our other 30 mph restricted road) because there is not sufficient road length to put in place the required warning signs.

It is a requirement, as a condition of permission to operate, that a speedwatch is carried out at least once a week. To fulfil this requirement we may be seeking additional volunteers at some stage. In the meantime, training starts soon for the current team that hopes to get going in late October.

A big thank you to Sheri and our volunteers for giving up their time to help make the village a safer place, especially in light of the latest SAM2 figures (see below) that tell us of a new maximum speed of 80 mph being recorded on Threadneedle Street!

The Play Park

The Parish Council Play Area Working Party members are addressing a number of recommendations made as a result of the annual RoSPA Play safety inspection. The playhouse/shelter is quite wobbly and will be closed off until it can be repaired or removed.

Bark levels in the play area will be topped up soon, and the overflowing wastebins have been removed.

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

Email: clerk@berghapton.org.uk

Tel: 07429 233109

**BERGH APTON SAM2
SPEED SENSOR READINGS
on Threadneedle Street
for two months from 21st August**

**9,760 vehicles
passed the monitor of which:**

**7,412 (72%)
were within the limit
BUT**

**2,348 (28%)
exceeded it**

**80 mph!!!
was the worst excess
(on 28 August)**

A LETTER TO THE PARFITT FAMILY

from Gill Waters at Royston House, The Sreet.

I write on behalf of everyone in Bergh Apton who has benefited from the wonderful annual Christmas lunches served at the village hall for the past twenty years.

We all owe a big vote of thanks to Kevin Parfitt and his family who have organised these events so efficiently, and to their amazing team of helpers, young and old, who carried out so many tasks including - to name but a few - decorating and preparing the hall, shopping, cooking, serving, waiting and entertaining us.

As if that was not enough, on New Year's Day another Parfitt team of volunteers served up a wonderful breakfast to all and sundry.

We all owe the Parfitt family a huge thank you for terminating all these memorable occasions for the benefit of the village.

BERGH APTON SHOEBOX SERVICE

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

there is a very special service
at Bergh Apton Church

on Sunday 21st November at 11 am

when we gather
Christmas Present Shoeboxes
to send them to children
in deprived, war-torn or poverty-stricken
lands

Will you help? Here's what to do:

- **PICK UP A LEAFLET AT GREEN PASTURES**
(all the instructions are in the leaflet)
- Cover a shoe box in pretty paper
- Fill the box with small presents
- Stick the 'Boy' or 'Girl' sticker on the box
- Pop £5 in the envelope (to cover transport and admin)

Please deliver boxes before
20th November

to Hilary Ling at Watermeadows
Sunnyside, Bergh Apton

or ring Hilary on 480439
for collection

or bring to church on 21st November

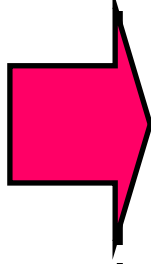
THE RETURN of Bergh Apton's QUIZ N' CHILLI NIGHT

**SATURDAY
30th OCTOBER**

**Bergh Apton
Village Hall**

7.00pm

**£8.50 per
player**



TEAM SHEET

Cut out and send

to John Ling at
Watermeadows, Bergh Apton, NORWICH NR15 1DF

or email details to john.ling@btinternet.com

TEAM NAME:

Team Contact

Phone No

Number of players in your team

Spicy Chilli suppers

Non-spicy suppers

Vegetarian suppers

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR BERGH APTON SOCIETY

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
contact Lynton Johnson on 01508 480629**

**5th October : Visit to Winston Churchill's
home at Chartwell**

**18th October : Visit to St Ives Monday Market
and the 20 pence Garden and Food Hall
at Wilburton (Ely)**

**3rd December : Cromer 'End of the Pier' Christ
mas Show with dinner beforehand at Tides,
on the pier.**

**SEE DETAILS OF SOCIETY EVENINGS
AT BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL IN
THE DIARY ON THE BACK PAGE.**

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP FILM NIGHT

For its annual 'Film Night' Bergh Apton Local History Group (BALHG), the chairman Linda Davy - with the permission of the owners! - rummages in the film archives of the Centre for East Anglian Studies, or in any accessible film archive, for a film (or perhaps films) that portray life, places, activities and/or significant events in past-times of our County.

This year's Film Night is on Wednesday 20th October in the village hall starting at 7.30 pm.

As this newsletter goes to press it's too early to report on Linda's foraging for an interesting topic but, to judge from previous times that have covered the Great North Sea Floods of 1953 and a showing of the full-length feature film



'Akenfield' (left), something interesting and even historic will emerge.

With anti-Covid precautions still with us, there is no pre-film supper this year. But you are encouraged to bring drinks and nibbles (but maybe avoid the full tub of popcorn please!!) to accompany your watching the film.



This Bergh Apton Arts event was billed as ‘A Trail like No Other’. From the many comments made either in conversation with its team or recorded in the ‘Comments Please’ book by people who attended, it certainly lived up to this promise.

Whether ‘Trail’ is an accurate description if the event is a matter of debate. Even those intimately involved in its conception, its birth and its brief but beautiful life take part in that.

It’s because its spirit, a little like quicksilver - is difficult to grasp but glistens with life. One of its progenitors, asked to define it in a single word, observed that, perhaps the word has not yet been coined!

In summary, Travellers on the Trail were greeted by Non, a 14th Century tiller-of-the-soil in the tiny hamlet that was Bergh Apton. Having greeted them, and spoken to them of the life of his times, gave them a nosegay of protective herbs before, having opened a magic portal in the churchyard wall for them, sent them on their way.

They first meet Non in the church porch where Griff had carved his likeness in the hood mould of the church’s south door, along with those of his friends Neb, a shepherd and Luck, a blacksmith.

What Non didn’t tell them (perhaps he didn’t know) was why their faces are now so deformed.

Perhaps it was erosion caused by wind, rain, snow and sunshine in the centuries before the porch was built. Or was it by defacement in the time of the spoliation of King Edward VI? Or, a century later, by the hand of a rogue Cromwellian trooper whose ideological senses were vexed by these symbols of a belief different to his? And does it now matter?

Having left Non to ruminate upon these things, the Travellers embarked, nosegay in hand, on a one-and-a-half mile trail through the Conservation Trust lands and adjacent private lands where (aided by the modern magic of the internet and QR codes) they came upon things they could watch, listened to sometimes challenged, that alerted one or all of their senses of sight, hearing, touch and smell.

Their journey through open land, past streams, ponds and woods, ended in the church - an oasis in which they might find peace and where the sound of prose, poetry and music ended their journey.

Then they re-entered the world they had left when they first met Non who, in the porch, had told them of the life he and his friends had lived so long ago. It was a time when peasant knowledge of the world’s creatures and its plants was far, far greater than ours today.

It was, indeed, and as you might surmise from this attempt to distil its magic in words, **A TRAIL LIKE NONE OTHER**. Some pictures (see p.9) tell the story in a different and a better way.

BERGH APTON CONSERVATION TRUST’S ANNUAL VILLAGE LITTER PICK

from Bob Kerry

The annual Litter Pick run by Bergh Apton Conservation Trust normally takes place in March. This year, on account of Covid regulations, it was not until September that South Norfolk Council deemed it safe for us to do the annual village clean up. So, for the eighth year in a row, BACT members met for the Litter Pick on Sunday 19th September.

The weather was good - not too hot, not too cold, not too windy and no rain.

In previous years the event has started at the Village Hall but, as there was a wedding reception there this year, we met at Church Field, by Bergh Apton Church.

Some of our usual litter-pick stalwarts were away but eight volunteers (and a dog) turned up so we split into four



The litter-pick crew gets ready to go a-hunting. Bob Kerry’s photo shows (l-r) Rodney Aldis, Milton Harris, Michael Moore, Heather Lewin, John Ling, Hilary Ling with her black Lab Cannie (who looks a bit coy about being in shot!) and Annette Ford.

teams, each taking on a different part of the village road network. In about 3 hours, we had picked up all the litter we could see (it was much more of a challenge this year with the September roadside vegetation being so much higher than in March)

We all noted, notwithstanding that challenge, that there was a marked reduction in the roadside litter, perhaps because of the reduction in traffic caused by Covid.

We filled four large sacks of general rubbish, three of cans and plastic bottles, and one of glass bottles, about half of the total volume of some previous years.

There was only one large item - an old aluminium step-ladder dumped on Cooke’s Road. No televisions, no garden furniture and no domestic appliances.

I cannot claim that litter picking is enjoyable but it is fulfilling, in that we are achieving something worthwhile to make our village a nicer place in which to live.

A bonus of having to start from Church Field proved fortuitous as it caused me to review the routes the teams usually follow. They proved more logical as circular routes than when starting from the Village Hall so, assuming we do a Litter Pick in the Spring, I think we may start from Church Field again.

As always, my thanks go to South Norfolk Council for providing the equipment, bags and hi-viz jackets, together with a small donation for our efforts. My special thanks go to the BACT members who turned out to do the Litter Pick. We could not have done it without them.

TWO BERGH APTON SUNDAY WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

Saturday is often thought of as the day for weddings but for two Bergh Apton brides this summer, Sunday was their special day and, for both, there were strong Scottish connections.

KATRINA ELLIS & JULIEN BORGHINO

Julien proposed to Katrina on 12th September 2019 and the wedding was set for 12th September 2020. So, when Covid came along to frustrate their wedding plans, was a romantic decision to delay the nuptials until a year-to-the-day, that fell on a Sunday.

Apart from the difference of a year on the calendar, all else was as they had planned the day. Their wedding at Framingham Pigot was presided over by Katrina's father Chris, Bergh Apton's Rector, and the Reception followed at Bergh Apton village Hall.

You may ask what the Scots connection is between this very English bride and her French bridegroom? Well, they are to make their home near Edinburgh (where they met when Katrina was at its University) and many of their wedding guests were Scots friends who brought the sight of the kilt and the cheerful sounds of a ceilidh band to Bergh Apton's village hall at their Reception.



**Thanks to Andy Davison Photography for permission to reproduce his photographs above*

LUCY COLLINS & CAMERON CRAIG

Lucy Collins married Cameron Craig at Kimberley Hall near Wymondham on 1st August. Lucy avoided all the stress of the road journey from her home in Mill Loke off Threadneedle Street to the wedding venue by the simple solution, and through the kindness of Kip and Alison Bertram, of a helicopter flight with Michell's helicopter-pilot cousin from the ha-ha lawn of Bergh Apton Manor.



Taking the ride with Lucy were her mother Michelle, her brother Matthew and her father, Gary.

When the bridegroom's surname is Craig, and their wedding - delayed a year by Covid - no longer being 'Mission Impossible', it was too good an opportunity for Lucy to

ignore the idea of extending the 007 theme of the day right to the end by means of a final and fantastic fireworks display - for which the accompanying music was from James Bond movie sound-tracks.

It was seven minutes of stunning sight and sound. You can judge for yourself if you watch the display via this Youtube link below (but all one line with no breaks). I think you'll agree, if you do see it, that it was worth checking out.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=rZYSZaOofg&feature=youtu.be>

NEWS FROM CHET VALLEY VINEYARD



Veraison - when the red grapes begin to take on their colour - has arrived! Soon it will be time for La Vendange (confusingly sometimes also called La Vendage!) - the grape harvest.

The harvest is a really sociable and friendly event so, if you'd like to join in, you can get details and dates from John and Bridget Hemmant by landline on **01508 333002**, mobile **07716 875235** or by email on: info@chetvineyard.co.uk

BERGH APTON SOCIETY GOING TO THE DOGS (No, not as bad or mad as it sounds!)

For the BA Society's visit to Great Yarmouth stadium to go greyhound racing on 21st September Lynton Johnson had organised dinner in the best area of the Stadium's Raceview Restaurant from which to watch the dogs go around the track in a 12-race programme.

Some of us tend to lose our shirts due to the uncertainty of racing (actually most if us bet very modestly) and others will come away with winnings from this regular and popular event on the Society's calendar. But what is certain is that dinner will be delicious and that we'll catch up on all the gossip on the coach there and back and during the brief lulls between races.

Ray Wharton presented the winner's prize to the owner of the dog that won Race 5, sponsored by the Society, and is seen here at the ceremony by Hilary Ling and Lynton Johnson (far left) and Anne Woods (far right, next to Ray).



WE WILL RIDE 5,000 MILES

The Final Leg - Scotland to Gorleston.

By Julia Gooch

In the August edition we left Julia and Lyndon on their bike ride to raise funds for the Priscilla Bacon Hospice and Pancreatic Cancer UK as they headed north across the border between England and Scotland. In this fourth and last episode they travel right around Scotland and then head home to Norfolk. It is an epic tale in the true sense of the word.

We wake in our 'reasonably priced' hotel in the small town of Annan, not far from where we entered Scotland at Gretna. It is Friday 11th September, the seventieth day of our cycle ride around the coastline of Britain.



The weather is unfriendly; the wind and rain are in our faces on a grey morning that makes the vastness of Scotland and its rugged coastline seem daunting.

Moreover, we feel pressured by the march of the seasons and the shortening of the daylight hours. We manage only a few miles in the day

before stopping in Dumfries but looking forward to the next night in Kircudbright, where we are guests of Malcolm, a Warmshowers host¹, in his small flat where he cooks supper for us and we sleep on his living room floor. We are humbled by his kindness and take on board his advice, as a knowledgeable cycle tourer, on our route.

Heartened by a good porridge breakfast we leave early the next morning with a long day ahead of us. The weather is cloudy and the strong wind is warm as we head for Stranraer along NCN route 73² following the coast through Wigtown, stunning Auchenmalg and Luce Bay. The evening light is beautiful as we ride into Stranraer at 8pm having covered a massive 73 miles and climbed over 3,000ft!

We arrive in the company of Michael, a friendly local cyclist whom we met while he was out for a spin and who takes us right to our guest house door. Only later do we realise that we know nothing about him and have no means of thanking him for his company and guidance.

The next morning, and with slightly stiff legs, we head for Girvan, another 35 miles under our belts. As the sun is setting, and with its vast sandy beach looking beautiful in the evening light, we arrive in Ayr where, at our super B&B, we meet our host Jan and her bouncy young retriever Harris. We are hugely entertained by Harris who, having nicked Lyn's jersey from the back of his bike, charges round the garden with it, totally ignoring Jan's yells to 'Heel!' We're still laughing about it as we climb into the big comfy bed in which we are soon deeply asleep.

Next day we cycle to Ardrossan and take the ferry across the Isle of Arran where, unable to find anywhere to stay, we pitch out first 'wild-camp' not far from the ferry terminal. The night passes without event, and we wake early to watch the sun rise across the sea. Having crossed Arran we take another ferry to Claonraig where we meet a group of LEJOGers³ riding with support vehicles carrying their luggage and with comfortable accommodation booked in advance. We share the road with them for a while but then, not weighed down with heavy panniers like us, they ride out of sight.

Passing through Tarbert we stop at the Argyll Backpackers Hostel in Inverneil where we have the place to ourselves. Next morning a thick mist that hangs over Loch Fyne soon clears to reveal a cloudless blue sky under which we ride a few blissfully-flat and beautiful

miles west along the Crinan Canal and, eventually, into Oban. Over the next few days we head up the West coast, crossing to the Islands of Mull and Skye, before facing one of our biggest challenges, *Bealach Na Ba*⁴, a fearsome pass, generally impassable during the winter months, that runs over 10 miles from the north end of Loch Kishorn to Applecross.

I've been nervous about this throughout the whole trip and, as we approach it, we see the sheer enormity of the climb.

The road is narrow, in some parts only single carriageway with passing places, and the surface is in poor condition. Happily, for us, it is almost benign on this sunny and mild September day with light winds.

Lyndon manages it well and I do my best. But an early encounter with a car driver who doesn't pull into the passing place ruins my chances of riding the whole way to the summit. Once off I struggle to find the confidence and momentum to get back on. But I do and, mostly on the bike, make it to the summit.



Lyndon finds the climb exhilarating and we celebrate before heading down the long descent into Applecross and our

Lyndon is a very small figure on the climb up long and awesome Bealach Na Ba

hostel for the next two nights. We've climbed 3,753 feet in 38 miles, at speeds from 4mph going up to 27mph coming down! From Applecross we ride right up the west coast, including a visit to Ardnamurchan (the most westerly point on the British mainland) and hit the north coast at Durness from where we had hoped to ride to Cape Wrath, the mainland's most north-westerly point. But the ferry across the Kyle of Durness - the only way to the Cape - has closed for the winter months and the ferryman has retired to the pub. So we headed east towards John o' Groats in scenery a little less mountainous and in cooler weather that suggests a change from shorts to long tights is imminent.

We reach John o' Groats, the mainland's most north easterly point, on October 5th, Day Ninety-four, and spend time taking the obligatory photos before heading south to Wick with the easterly wind now in our left ears!

We've turned the corner and are on our way home, which brings mixed feelings. Donations have been



Julia and Lyndon take a selfie at Ardnamurchan (Gaelic for 'the headland of the great seas') and pose for a memento of their arrival at John o' Groats.

steadily coming in and we have raised £4,000.

From Wick we ride the busy A9 - such a change from the quiet roads and considerate drivers of our time in Scotland. We spend some time (socially distanced, of course) with Lyndon's family in Fochabers, in Aberdeenshire. Then, with Banff, Peterhead and Aberdeen, Montrose and Dundee behind us, we cross the river Tay via the road bridge, riding the cycle lane on the

centre-line of the bridge, between the two lanes of traffic. A friend joins us to guide us through Edinburgh towards Dunbar where we spend our last night in Scotland.

We're back in England, and we feel sad to leave Scotland. The weather is colder and the miles are taking their toll. We have a rest day in Whitley Bay then, refreshed, cross the river Tees into Middlesbrough via the Barrage Bridge. We spend a night in Redcar with the nights drawing in as the end of British Summer Time approaches.



Fiddler's Green, The Fishermen's Memorial in North Shields

Heading for Whitby the next day I have a puncture, and discover that we've lost our pump. We're stuck! By asking people in a cafe and trying the local garage, we try to obtain a replacement, but with no luck. So Lyndon rides the big hills to Whitby alone, and I'm in a taxi again, watching the world go by!

Reunited we pick up a new pump, eat delicious fish and chips by the harbour, and enjoy a stroll around the town.

We leave Yorkshire behind and cross the Humber bridge on which a fierce wind with dangerous gusts threaten to blow us off course. But we survive, and watch the sun set over the river Humber from a lovely place we find to stay in a nature reserve. Its peace is shattered when we turn on the TV in our room to hear Boris drop his bombshell of another Lockdown beginning on the 4th of November . . . in just 4 days time!

We are in turmoil. The end is so near now but will this development allow us to finish the journey?

The questions bring with them another issue - a strange reluctance to think about returning to the normality of our pre-endeavour lives. We've lived wild and free but have had moments of minor celebrity. We've been in the lap of luxury one night and on a deflated airbed the next. We've eaten well, drunk a bit and seen so many beautiful vistas, sunsets and sunrises. We've shared highs and lows and have survived them all. We have ridden up hills that made me cry but we are stronger, fitter and more resilient than we were.

There is something pure and elemental about both our endeavours and how we have felt when we are approached by strangers who recognise the logos of our Charities that we wear. So many of them need to talk about their own loss, their loved ones and their grief. Is it any surprise that we don't want this adventure to end?

After the initial panic of the Lockdown announcement, we calm down and decide to press on to try and get home in time by shaving some miles off here and there. We up our efforts in the flat Lincolnshire landscape despite the wind that seems determined to make our progress difficult. We manage an impressive 62 miles and reach Mablethorpe in the early evening.

Day 122, November 2nd is memorable for the misery of the busy A52 and A17 roads on which we are sucked into the draft of passing articulated lorries. We dismount and, for 20 minutes and with no pavement or safe area, push our bikes along the edge of road until we see a junction where we can leave this nightmare behind.

We ride the last 2 hours from Boston to Whaplode in the dark and our concerned hosts call us to check that we are OK.

November 3rd, our time is almost up! We head for the sanctuary of my parents' home near Fakenham, crossing the river Great Ouse to King's Lynn via the ferry. We are in Norfolk - on home turf at last!

It's an emotional meeting for Mum and I for we are very close and she is relieved to see her eldest daughter alive and well. We spend a valuable evening together and wonder how our journey will end.

There's a real possibility that, on the following night, the first of the 2nd Lockdown - with just 40 miles to go to our Gorleston finish line - we will have to camp out on a Norfolk beach! But a very kind lady, who must remain anonymous, comes to our rescue and we spend that night warm and cosy.

It's our final day. In glorious November sunshine we ride along the coast road towards the finish. We take it at a leisurely pace, stopping at Happisburgh lighthouse for an interview with Anglia TV and to say 'hello' to Hugo, our one-man Priscilla Bacon support team. He and the TV crew are there again to greet us and film our arrival at Jay Jay's Beach Café on the Gorleston beach promenade where Jay, thrilled to see us return, hands out hot drinks and snacks. It's all rather a lot to take in.

I was content for my journey to end there so I, with my bike and our panniers, hitched a ride home in a car while Lyndon, in the company of a good cycling friend of ours, rode the extra 20 miles back to Hellington Corner and home.

We are both immensely proud of having completing our mission despite all the uncertainty at the situation we faced when we set out on 4th July. By the skin of our teeth, we have done it!

Along the way we have met kindness and humanity, love, generosity and compassion. We are proud of what we've done to highlight the work of both Priscilla Bacon Hospice and Pancreatic Cancer UK. And we are thrilled to have raised over £7,700 for these incredible charities.

(right)
A
tired but
happy
ending at
Jay Jay's
Café

©
Priscilla
Bacon
Hospice



Will we do anything like this again? I think we just might! Lyndon favours cycling the world, but I'm not setting my sights THAT high. Not just yet, anyway!

Notes

1. Warmshowers.org is a network of sympathetic (and mostly keen cycling) people who offer touring cyclists free-but-simple accommodation along their route.
2. NRN is the National Cycle Network - a UK wide schedule of signed paths and routes suitable for cycling.
3. LEGOG: The challenge of riding from Land's End to John o' Groats - 603 miles as the crow flies but 836 by road!
4. Gaelic for 'The Pass of the Cattle'

A RECORD OF JULIA AND LYNDON'S ACHIEVEMENT

* Sponsorship money raised: over £7,700

* Miles covered in training: 1,500

* Miles covered in the Ride: 4,000

* Days on the Ride: 125 (over 4 months!)

* Rest days included in that time: 12

(See p.10 for an additional note on fundraising for the new Priscilla Bacon Hospice in Norwich)

THE 1911 CENSUS - PART 8

Cooke's Road, Dodger's Lane & parts of The Street

In issue 175, of June 2021, we had got as far as Veranda Cottage, the rather handsomely-proportioned white house that stands near the village hall, a little back to the north of the junction between The Street. Cooke's Road and Threadneedle Street.

It is now two dwellings owned by the Christopher Harris Trust that, when Christopher farmed at Washingford House until the late 1990s, were 'tied cottages' occupied by his employees (and cousins) Monty Seeley and Kenny Seely and their wives Evelyn and Dot.

Back in 1911 (and up until some time in the late 1930s) it was one dwelling, occupied by the Alexander family whose breadwinner Robert gave his employment as 'Threshing Engine Driver'. That seems a peculiarly specific job description, particularly in the Census month of April when threshing (mechanical winnowing) is a process of the autumn harvest.

A few years later, after his son Walter had been killed in 1916 in the Battle of the Somme, fighting with the Newfoundland Regiment, Robert stated that his employment (at that time living in Brooke in the pay of Lord Canterbury) was as 'engineman' - an early description for a tractor driver. So the likelihood is that, being both of those things and probably more, according to the season, he wrote on the Census form what first came to his mind!



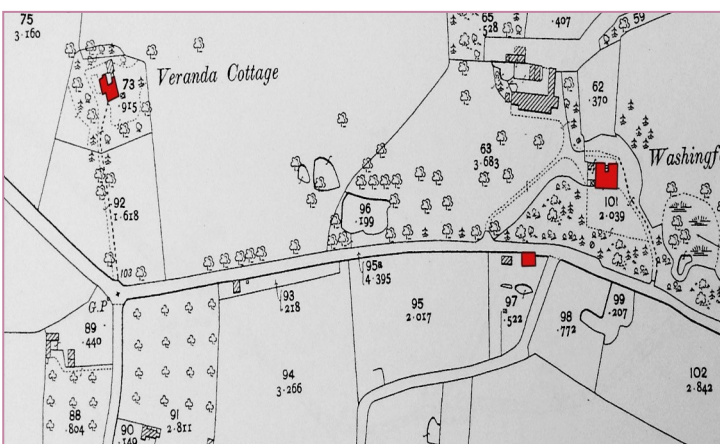
Annie and Eva Alexander (and an immensely tall ladder!) outside Veranda Cottage in 1911

Robert and Annie Alexander's daughter Eva, aged 16, was living with them. They also had boarders in the form of William Weddup, the retired village postman and Edith Wilson, aged 31, with her 3-month old son Arthur. Edith is recorded as 'married' but her husband is not there so he is either away long term (at

sea maybe?) or elsewhere possibly just for the night of the Census. We have no way of knowing.

The Alexanders had twin sons, Walter and Harry who, by the time of the Census, were aged 19 and away from home. Walter emigrated to Newfoundland in 1910 or 1911 and Harry, serving in the Royal Navy, jumped ship in St Johns in November 1911 to join his twin (in Boswarlos - on the island's remote west coast (as far away from the inevitable manhunt as possible!)).

It's time to move on from Veranda Cottage (on the left hand side of this map) and turn east, past the field where the village hall now stands and, on the other side of



the road, the building now a dwelling called Glebe Cottage. That was originally the village Reading Room (a common feature of rural communities of those times where villagers could go to read the local newspaper, magazines and whatever books were kept there (the Sailors' Reading Room in Southwold is a survivor of its type) often provided by a local worthy or parson to distract men from drinking in pubs of which there were three 'locals' that served Bergh Apton working men in those days; the Bell at Hellington Corner, the George & Dragon in Thurton and the Red Lion on Loddon Road (right, circa 1911) - also in the parish of Thurton but so much part of Bergh Apton



that is was known as 'The B'raption Lion' or (even more succinctly) 'The Burra Lion'.

We know that, in the time of the Reverend Raikes, a fine footballer and cricketer, the Reading Room was used as a changing room for both football and cricket teams that played on the field now occupied by the village hall. But was it used thus earlier, in 1911? The intriguing possibility is that it was not.

The clue is in the identity of the dwelling recorded in the Census as No 1, Cooke's Road, a four-roomed house occupied by thirty-seven year-old spinster Emily Steer, a nurse and midwife employed by 'The Nursing Committee'.

That information leads us directly to Fanny, the widow of our Rector William Ford Thursby. On his death in 1893 (he is buried in our churchyard) Fanny donated £2,500, as a memorial to her husband, to provide the services of a Parish Nurse for Bergh Apton.

What better place for the nurse to be accommodated than a building that was part of the Rector's Glebe (lands owned by the Rector during his incumbency) particularly when the Rector concerned was Fanny's late husband's nephew, Harvey Gustavus Thursby!

In one final and cementing bit of proof, the Parochial Council Minute Book, at several times, records Miss Steer as the nurse employed in that role by the Fanny Thursby Trust.

As they say of a successful mathematical calculation, QED (quod erat demonstrandum)!

Travelling on east towards Thurton from the Reading Room there were only three more dwellings on Cooke's Road. One of them was Washingford House that, in the 1911 Census, was recorded as having thirteen rooms (not including bathrooms).

This was the house of an ancient Manor owned by the Cooke family for generations that, on the death of Thomas Cooke in 1882, passed into the ownership of the Dennys of Bergh Apton Manor through the marriage of Thomas Cooke's sister Frances to Richard Denny.

The tenant farmer of the estate in 1911 was fifty-nine year old Matthew Harrison and his wife Elizabeth (a year older than her husband) together with their thirty-five year old spinster daughter Martha

**CELEBRATION OF ST MARTIN
AT CHET VALLEY VINEYARD - 7th NOV**

Winemaker John Hemmant is to revive the celebration of the feast day of St Martin that he inaugurated in 2018 when 60-odd people gathered on Dodger's Lane and walked the footpath and bridleway route to Chet Valley Vineyard where they marked the life of the Saint with food and wine.

This year the event is on **Sunday 7th November**. It will start at 3 o'clock at Church Farm with an historic overview by Kevin Parfitt before heading off to the vineyard.

More information, including ticket details etc, will be published on the Chet Valley website (<https://chetvineyard.co.uk/>) or contact via:

Email: info@chetvineyard.co.uk

Landline: [01508 333002](tel:01508333002)



IN PICTURES



It's not a simple thing to describe 'One for The Rook' so here, as a preliminary to explanation, are a few images of what happened. I have asked Christopher Meynell, Pat Mlejnecky and Peter Lyle, who were the partnership that conceived and developed the project, to write something about how it was done for the December edition (when Pat M will also reveal, for the still-puzzled, the answer to the riddle).

I know they will acknowledge the input from storyteller Hugh Lupton, musician Mary Lovatt and theatre magician Charlotte Arculus. I am also sure that they will refer to the work of the local team that helped turn fantasy into 'a Trail like no other'. It was a horde whom Pat Mlejnecky summarised as "*writers extraordinaire, painters & decorators, master of the rookery, lanterners, master of the maps, river singer, labyrinth maker, voices, well-comers, portal keepers and round robins*". It was their skills, artistic endeavours and sheer enthusiasm that brought ideas to practical fruition.

I shall depart with a quote (one of many) recorded in the Log by one of the visitors who had returned tired but exhilarated by her Bergh Apton experience: 'You've once again managed to lift people out of the ordinary and into some magic.'

BERGH APTON ARCHERS

from Bob Kerry

By the time you read this the 2021 archery season will have finished but, as I write this in mid-September, we hope to have a week or two left before bad weather and poor light curtail our activities.

We enjoyed another good year's shooting on Monty's Meadow at The Manor with the kind permission of Kip & Allison Bertram. Big thanks also go to Kip's groundmen Pete Cook and Matt Barratt who keep the grass on the field cut wonderfully short for us (short grass is very useful for looking for arrows that sometimes inexplicably miss the target!).

We usually start shooting after Easter but, due to concerns over Covid, we had a slightly later start this year. But social distancing is easy on the archery field.

Our numbers soon rose to around 10 each week but in the last months injuries and holidays meant you would normally find anywhere between 4 and 8 of us on the field at The Manor on a Tuesday afternoon from 3.30 'til after 6.



Bergh Apton archers honing their skills on 21st September, one of the last shooting days of 2021. (l-r) Rodney Aldis, Ken Potter, Richard Nash & Chris Nash.

As ever, we lost a few days to inclement weather but thankfully not too many. As in previous years we shot all types of bows from the traditional longbow to the modern recurve and compound.

If you would like to join us this year I am afraid you are to late. But we will be shooting again next year (hopefully, from soon after Easter) so why not give it a go.

We are a very diverse group with just about every type of white, middle-aged man represented so if you do not fall into this category, you'd be especially welcome!

It's great fun, great exercise and we share much great banter. And we can always make sure we have spare bows & arrows for anyone who turns up.

You can contact Bob Kerry on 01508 558674

THE 1911 CENSUS - TIME IS TICKING!

With The Street, Church Road and Welbeck Rd still to do, I'm running out of time to get to the end of this review of the village as it was in 1911. I hope to get there in the next (December) edition, just before the National Archives releases the details of how we looked in 1921!

... continued from p.8

and a Scottish general servant, twenty year-old Mary Stowall from Edinburgh.

There are no details (there are for some farms) of the acreage of land Harrison worked. The only other thing we know about him is that, at the time of the 1910 Census, he was farming at Brandon Parva in Norfolk, where his family still farms) and that his son Mark - eighteen years old in 1910, is now himself a tenant farmer, only a mile away from his father at Bergh Apton Hall on Gravel Pit Lane!

We have come almost to the limit of Bergh Apton's houses on the east side of the village, before the road heads off towards Thurton, passing the site of some ancient tumuli that gave this road its earlier name Hoo Gate 'the road that leads to the hoo' (as in the famous burial mounds at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk).

That leaves just two cottages to talk about before we head off down towards Pond Farm on what is now Dodger's Lane but, in those days, was known as Weddup's Lane.

Only one of them remains, called Howgate, reflecting the old road name. Considerably enlarged in the interim, it is the home of Richard Cushing and Sandy Schroder, and the location of our late-lamented Post Office that closed at the end of 2012. If I understand the 1911 Census correctly, this cottage was the home of farm horseman William Gooch, his wife Eliza, their son John and four daughters, one of whom had the unusual name of Blytha.

The Gooch parents were both thirty-nine years old, John was twelve and the daughters were nine, five, two and one-month. Like so many families of the time, they had to fit, somehow, into a cottage that had only four rooms, two of which would have been the kitchen and living room, leaving only two rooms to share as bedrooms. A tight squeeze that was not at all uncommon.

The other cottage has gone, having been demolished in the 1960s. The space it occupied is now part of Richard and Sandy's garden, but the roadside wall is still there, clearly a house wall, rather than a garden wall.

Its occupants were farm yardman (later a shepherd) William Shingles, his wife Hannah, two sons, two daughters and a nephew, Sidney Richard Kedge who was sixteen years old at the time and known in the family as 'Dickie'.

There are descendants of this family living north of the river Yare who still talk about Dickie who was raised as part of Hannah's family after his mother, Hannah's sister Harriet, died when he was just six months old.

How tragic that he was to die on the Somme in 1916, within days of his neighbour Walter Alexander, to leave Hannah (pictured here with William in old age) to mourn the boy who, effectively, became her third son.



The front wall of the Shingles' cottage in the foreground, with Howgate Cottage beyond



DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR HARVEST FESTIVAL



Please come along to Bergh Apton church
on
SATURDAY 9th OCTOBER
to help decorate the church with flowers
& harvest produce for HARVEST FESTIVAL
at 9.30 am on **Sunday 10th October**

We will be there from 9.30am to midday
(or just come for a cup of coffee
to see how we are getting on)

CARRIE HOLL'S CHRISTMAS CARD SALE FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN



Carrie Holl has asked me to tell you that she is unable to have her hugely-popular October sale of cards in aid of Save the Children at Hillside Farm on Welbeck Road.

So that we may still be able to support this important Charity, she will have cards on sale at **Bergh Apton village hall during COFFEE N CHAT in October and November.**

The dates (3rd Wednesday of the month) are **20th October and 17th November.** Do come along, have a cup of coffee and chat to those who are there, and buy your Christmas cards from Carrie.

THE VILLAGE SIGN: THE ROMANS

I always fancy that the Legionnaires who stand on the high ground at the centre of the Beorgh Apetoune side (from 1st to 11th Centuries) of the village sign are looking down their Roman noses rather haughtily on the Icení tribesmen on the far left of the tableau.

I know not why that might be. Though they did eventually overcome the Icení, it was not before Queen Boadicea (or as many modern historians now call her, Boudicca), roused them and her allies to give the Romans a right good kicking by sacking Camulodunum (Colchester) and Londinium (London) before succumbing to a superior Roman force on an as-yet-unidentified battlefield in the Midlands.

They are on our village sign because of an oral tradition of an incident known as 'The Battle of Whiteheath' between the Romans and Icení somewhere in the south-eastern part of the village. Most likely - if it happened at all - it was a skirmish or a brawl. But it was a major element of the Bergh Apton Millennium Pageant (performed not too far away from the site).

Unlike the battle that ended Boudicca's AD 60/61 rampage in the Midlands, we don't know who (if anyone) won this one. If this period of our history interests you there is much more about it in Chapter III (Roman to Pagan Times) in Geoffrey Kelly's 'Book of Bergh Apton' of which BA Local History Group has copies available for sale.



A COFFEE MORNING

at
Washingford House
Cooke's Road
Bergh Apton

Tuesday 12th October
10.00am to 1.00pm

In aid of
The Matthew Project
and The Brooke
kindly sponsored by **FW Properties**

Jewelry, Pottery, Cards, Bags and accessories, Handmade Soaps, Bath Oils, skin care products, lamps. Cake and Tombola stall

Entry £2.50
to include coffee and biscuits

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

Paris Back and Liz Lester
01508 550924
parisback14@gmail.com

A CALL FOR A NEW EDITOR

Is there someone (or several!) out there who is ready to take over the publication of this two-monthly village newsletter?

It was, initially, a simple paste-up of text written or typed and submitted by contributors but, over time, it has evolved so that I keep my ear to the ground to learn what has happened and is about to happen, and then write about it. But that's just one way. There are many others!

Give me a call (01508 480439) and I can tell you more.

THE VILLAGE DIARY

OCTOBER

- 6th 19.00 for 19.30 BA Local History Group AGM at the Village Hall
- 9th 09.30-12.00 Decorate the church for Harvest Festival
- 10th 09.30 Harvest Festival at the Parish Church
- 12th 10.00-13.00 Coffee Morning at Washingford House
- 13th 19.30 B.A. Society at the Village Hall. Talk by Sarah Cannell on the Waveney Valley Art Trail
- 16th 10.00 BA Conservation Trust workday. Meet at Church Field
- 20th 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Chat at the the Village Hall
- 20th 19.30 BA Local History Group Film evening at the Village Hall
- 21st 10.00 BA Conservation Trust workday. Meet at Church Field
- 24th TBA BA Conservation Trust Fungus Foray. *Provisional - check with Rodney Aldis (01508 491722)*
- 30th 19.00 Quiz n Chilli at the the Village Hall (Eyes down at 19.30)

NOVEMBER

- 3rd 19.30 Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
- 7th 15.00 St Martin's Day celebrations at Chet Vineyard. Meet at Church Farm on Dodger's Lane (see p.9)
- 10th 19.30 BA Society at the Village Hall. Talk by Terry Reeve on 'the Great Fire of Bungay'
- 14th 10.30 Remembrance Day Service at the Parish Church followed by soup at the Village Hall
- 17th 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Chat at the Village Hall
- 20th 10.00 BA Conservation Trust workday. Meet at Church Field
- 21st 11.00 Shoebox Service at the Parish Church
- 25th 10.00 BA Conservation Trust workday. Meet at Church Field
- 27th 09.00 Eleven Says Assembly at the Village Hall

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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	THE LA LA's SING
3 rd Wednesday	1000-1200	COFFEE n CHAT
Thursday	0930 - 1015	PILATES
Friday	0930 & 1115	YOGA
1 st Saturday	0930 - 1115	MICROSCOPY GRP

USEFUL CONTACTS

Archery	Bob Kerry	01508 558674
BACAT workshops	Lynton Johnson	01508 480629
	Pat Mlejnecky	01508 480696
BA Society		
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
Microscopy Group	Peter Sunderland	01508 xxxxxx
Pilates	Emma Stevens	moveswithemma.com
Singing (<i>The 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:

- Bergh Apton Community Arts Trust
- Bergh Apton Conservation Trust
- Bergh Apton Society
- Bergh Apton Local History Group
- Bergh Apton Parish Council
- Bergh Apton PCC
- Bergh Apton Village Hall
- Bertram Charitable Trust
- Country Holiday Cottages Norfolk Ltd

Your articles as contributions for the December/January issue are encouraged.

Please email anything to john.ling@btinternet.com

on or before 10th NOVEMBER 2021