



The Berghaptoner

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This is my last hurrah as an editor, and I thought I would observe what a difference there is in our lives following the end of the second lockdown. Until then - and certainly amongst people in my age group - there was a real danger, if we were infected by Covid-19, of dying. The rapid development of effective vaccines was an extraordinary triumph of science. It has allowed us to meet again, albeit cautiously, and to enjoy each other's company. It has kick-started the social glue of this village in the form of events including the monthly Coffee n Chat in the village hall and meetings of groups such as the Bergh Apton Society, and church services have resumed. Events like 'One for the Rook' have brought people from near and far to delight in their exploration of Bergh Apton's landscape and the creative minds of its people. In such things something of the tenor of the life we knew has returned. We have much to be thankful for. Life in other respects, however, is changing. Science tells us that we must change if life as we know it is to continue. But the debate and the wrangling at the recent COP26 meeting in Glasgow tell us that politics and the priorities of Nations will not make that an easy task. We mere mortals can contribute with little things in how we live and what we do. Otherwise we must watch from the side-lines and trust that the world's leaders will do the big things.

THE SEARCH FOR AN EDITOR GOES ON



We are still engaged in a search for someone to assume the role of editor of Bergh Apton's newsletter.

Famous British national newspaper editors including William Rees-Mogg, Andrew Neil and Piers Morgan (to name but three giants of recent times) may have gained fame and huge financial reward for their efforts . . . but there's nothing like that here. The only reward I can remember (apart from the occasional misplaced but much-treasured appreciation by a lone reader) was a small bar of chocolate.

But, as my predecessors Lorie Lain-Rogers, Sally Leigh and Milton Harris will agree, and that would surely have been confirmed by the newsletter's founder and first editor, the late Eileen Lain-Rogers, there is a great satisfaction in getting the news and events of Bergh Apton out onto the streets every two months.

This is my last fling as editor and the first edition under the guiding hand of a new editor will, I hope, be the one due out at the beginning of February 2022. Failing that, this newsletter will be no more.

If that is something that appeals to you, give me a call (01508 480439) and I will tell you more about it.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

In this happy time, at the end of this challenging year, we look set fair to share the festive season with our families and our friends.

When you come to plan what you will do over this Christmas-tide, have a look at the schedule (on p.8) of the services in our parish church. There is a quite a lot going on and there will surely be something there, for both young and old, to give you a sense of joy and togetherness with those around you this year.



ONE FOR THE ROOK REVIEWED



The journey is over that, for a variety of reasons including Covid, took over two years to bring 'One for the Rook' to life.

This imaginative and hugely-well received arts project, focussed on our church and the beautiful countryside on the banks of the river Chet, ran for two weeks in September - too late - for the October edition of the Berghaptoner - for anything more than a brief summary and a few photographs.

So, to do it justice, and at various points in this edition, you will find three articles, each contributed by one of The Rook's key progenitors, to tell us more about this most recent project of Bergh Apton Arts that was totally home-grown, with contributions from artists, writers, musicians and players, and with a team of volunteer stewards from Bergh Apton and our neighbouring communities that ran it on the days that it was open to the public.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Grant for an Outdoor Gym

Our big news this month is that we were successful in our application for a grant of £6,725 from the Awards for All Lottery Fund to purchase and instal outdoor gym equipment in the grounds of the village hall. We have already received the grant and the project is proceeding.

We hope that this will prove a great asset for the whole community by giving people the opportunity to exercise for free in the fresh air. That is particularly important given the high levels of Covid-19 still circulating. We hope that, along with the existing children’s playpark and table tennis table, this equipment will help to make the village hall even more of a social attraction for everyone including the vulnerable and elderly, and that it will have a positive impact on the physical and mental health of all our residents.

We await the decision of the Village Hall trustees on the location of the equipment before ordering it, and hope to have it installed by the spring.

Community Speedwatch Update

Councillor Sheri Winn, who has agreed to head the Speedwatch project, reported at our recent meeting that seven speedwatch volunteers have filled in yet more forms and watched a training video.

Having completed their 1 1/2 hours road training on 9th November they are confident that they are ready to begin speed checks.

They have committed to at least an hour a week during daylight hours to carry out the speed checks, in teams of two volunteers, one of whom operates the speed gun and the other records vehicle registrations of those exceeding the limit. The figures (hopefully few in number!) are then sent within 48 hours to the Police who will contact anyone who was speeding.

Thank you once again to Sheri and the volunteers for giving up their time to help make the village a safer place. More volunteers are always welcome! Please contact the Clerk if you want to help.

Speed Camera readings

Speed readings recorded on Mill Road from 11th October to 9th November are shown on p.5, with a comparison included to the previous (August/September) data.

They show an increase of 20% in passing traffic but a heartening 16% improvement in the behaviour of drivers.

Let us hope, especially now that our Community Speedwatch operation is up and running, that the trend continues.

The Play Park

All the recommendations made in the annual RoSPA ‘Playsafety’ inspection have been addressed. Bark has been redistributed around the play area to provide an even and safe surface and the structure of the play-house/shelter has been repaired so that it is no longer wobbly.

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BERGH APTON SOCIETY VISITS CHARTWELL

from Milton Harris

It was a very early start! The coach, a very large shiny new one, left Castle Meadow at 7.30 a.m.

After stopping for a “Welcome Break” en route we arrived at Chartwell with plenty of time to explore the house and its grounds and to work up an appetite for a tasty National Trust lunch.

The house, formerly the family home of Winston Churchill (below, in his office there) is set in wonderful country near Westerham in Kent with panoramic views across The Downs, a hilly estate that made it



an ideal place to exercise the legs and lungs after the long bus ride.

I learnt a lot about the great man whose grand state funeral I vaguely remember on television. I knew a little about his contribution to our success in the war, but there was so much more to him. There was much of his art work around - he even had a brick-built man shed at the bottom of the garden for his studio. He must also have been a workaholic (how many people need a bed in their office?!).



The great man as Chartwell wall builder (© Getty Images)

We learnt that there has always been a ginger cat at Chartwell. It appeared in several of his paintings and was lurking there (still the same one?) during our visit.

Thanks to Lynton for arranging such an interesting visit and hope he will be able to organise more in the future.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS ON BERGH APTON SOCIETY CALENDAR

3rd December: Cromer ‘End of the Pier’ Christmas Show with dinner beforehand on the pier at Tides restaurant.

17th December: Christmas Dinner in The Gardener’s Kitchen at Green Pastures.

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

REMEMBRANCE

For the Remembrance Day service last year, as a result of the second Lockdown declared only a few days beforehand, only fifteen people were there, standing in a wide circle around the war memorial to keep them at least two metres apart as required by the lockdown regulations. It was a strange experience, very moving in a particular way, but a far cry from past years when as many as one hundred and fifty-odd people attended.

This year, though understandable concern about large gatherings limited the numbers attending (perhaps sixty in all), it did feel like we were getting back to our former sense of being a family gathered around the memorial to stand in silence, to lay wreaths, to plant a poppy cross for each man as his name was called from the Roll of Honour, and to listen to those stirring words 'They shall grow not old as we, who are left, grow old . . .'

There was a quiet satisfaction when, as Bob Ker-ry's bugle call 'Last Post' sounded its final long note, it was echoed by the final strike of the church clock to mark the eleven hour that begins two minutes of silence. Perfectly synchronised. Perhaps by pure serendipity, but never before achieved to such perfection.

One of those attending with her daughter Debbie was Brenda Horsely whose uncles, submariner brothers Eric and Maurice Barnes had both died in 1940, Eric when his submarine HMS Phoenix was sunk in the Mediterranean and Maurice, having escaped from POW camp in Poland, being shot by Russian soldiers as he crossed the border.

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LANCE SERGEANT ANDREW McKIRDY?

Andrew McKirdy is a great nephew of Henry Hood who was killed fighting with the Essex Regiment in Italy in 1944, and remembered on Bergh Apton's war memorial.



Andrew with Jan in 2018, on his promotion to Corporal.

Back in 2016, as a recently-enlisted Guardsman in the Scots Guards, Andrew, with his mother Jan and his fiancé Amanda, came to lay a wreath on behalf of Bergh Apton for the men, including his great uncle, who died in the Second World War.

When she was with us on Remembrance Sunday, Jan brought us up to date on his career.

He and Amanda, now married, have two children, Rosie-May and Alfie, and

Andrew wears the two stripes of a Corporal.

We had hopes that he might be with us again for Remembrance this year but he is in the middle of a three-month course at Warminster, full-focussed on the process of qualifying for promotion to Lance Sergeant and, with it, the addition of a third stripe on his uniform.

As a child, Brenda remembers both uncles and had dearly wished to be here to mark the 80th anniversary of their death. But Covid intervened. This year she finally had her wish when she laid her own wreath on the memorial, beside one from the Submarine Association, laid by former submariner John Taylor.



A PANDEMIC PLAQUE FOR NORFOLK'S VILLAGES

When Lady Philippa Dannatt, the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk*, heard numerous inspirational stories of how people in Norfolk villages had come together to support people in their villages this time of Covid, she thought that every community in the County deserved a record of its spirit and resilience.

She wrote to every parish council to sound out support for the idea, emphasising that the councils were conduits for the community as a whole, and for the



many people in their midst who, often unsung, carried out many acts of kindness and support for fellow parishioners.

Delighted by the positive response, including that of Bergh Apton's councillors, she commissioned a plaque (left) to be designed by a recent graduate from Norwich University of the Arts and with its in-

scription created by a team at the National Centre for Writing, based in Dragon Hall on King Street in Norwich. Six local funders, including Kip and Alison Bertram, have met the plaque's production costs.

On a date yet to be decided, and probably in the village hall, Bergh Apton's council and representatives of the village community will be presented with the plaque by Paris Back of Washingford House who is one of Lady Dannatt's Deputy Lords-Lieutenant, acting on her behalf.

*the Lord-Lieutenant (*there is one in every county*) is the Queen's personal representative in the County, appointed personally by Her Majesty. Lady Dannatt's duties in Norfolk, as defined by Wikipedia, are 'to uphold the dignity of the Crown and, in so doing [. . .] to promote a spirit of co-operation and good atmosphere through the time given to voluntary and benevolent organisations and through the interest she takes in the business and social life of the County'. It is now an entirely-ceremonial role, a far cry from its origins in medieval times when the LL, if called upon by the Monarch to fight for his or her cause, was required to raise, train and command in battle troops from the County.

ONE FOR THE ROOK - A REVIEW

From Pat Mlejnecky, Peter Lyle, Steve Mitchell and Christopher Meynell



Aeons (actually, several aeons) ago, an idea was dropped into a celestial pond and caused ripples, ever-widening, ever-imaginative.

That idea, triffid-like, spawned yet more ideas to be thrown up, snatched from the water, expanded upon and used to spark the imagination of many.

The idea originated with Robert Macfarlane, the celebrated Cambridge author of matters of wilderness who noted that the most recent children's OE Dictionary had left out so many words for the natural world. He determined to do something about it.

That something was a truly beautiful book, 'Lost Words' on which he collaborated with illustrator Jackie Morris. Soon, they followed it with 'Lost Spells'. Such was the quality of the books that The Norfolk Naturalists Trust donated a copy of 'Lost Words' to many primary schools, including our own.

Interesting, you may well think. But what has it to do with us?

In 2018, what evolved from 'Lost Words' was 'One for the Rook' (the first line of an ancient farming doggerel "One for the rook, one for the crow, one to rot and one to grow"). That was when Bergh Apton Arts began to plan a new 'showing' to follow 'The Mystery of the Rood' (2013), 'Midwinter Dreaming' (2015) and 'A Songline for Doggerland' (2017).

Things were going well. The core professional creative team was enthusiastic. Routes were planned, permissions were granted, timings were worked out, script were written.

BUT then Covid blew in from the east. None of these plans would be allowed to work! So, once again, out came the drawing boards.

Many supporters volunteered to take part in the resulting reocreation. Others were invited and more were cajoled into it. They wrote, they painted lanterns, and they composed music. They sang, they recited and they sculpted. In such ways sixty people from Bergh Apton and beyond gave of themselves and of their time.

Thus One for the Rook was built; and five hundred and thirty people walked its journey armed with an idiosyncratic programme designed by Di Byford and produced by Kaarin Wall.

Inaugurated by a lantern-lit procession around the Churchyard on the eve of its first day, and buoyed up by visitors who spread the word, numbers on the trail (that wasn't a trail) swelled. By the end of the final weekend, many faces had glowed from their exertions. It was, truly, a Field of Dreams!

One for the Rook would not have been possible without the generous financial support of the Fanny Thursby Trust, Geoffrey Watling Charity, Kip & Alison Bertram Charitable Trust, Town Close Estate Charity.

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Christopher, Peter and Pat Under the Rooks' Flypast at the Church Field gate



Liz McGowan's Workshop Tribe



Anna Guy, Rosie Winn and Peter Lyle welcome Mary Lovett & Dan Nyman at the check-in marquee



Rook Runes, guarded by Hey Arnold, ready to be sent out to their locations on the Trail



A Trail Traveller in the Porch Theatre listens to Non, the Teller of Ancient Tales



The Rook Parliament assembles



Ben Turner offers a protective nosegay to Trail Travellers



A dragonfly visitor on the Trail

Peter Lyle and a butterfly



Travellers set out through the churchyard on their way to discover the secrets of the Trail



The riverside Labyrinth



The draw for the winners of the Trail Puzzle



. . . continued from p.4

On the trail itself Travellers, with the kind permission of their owners, marched across the lands of Bergh Apton PCC, Bergh Apton Conservation Trust, Andy Carr, Suzanne & Chris Mewton, Anna & Francis Meynell and Christopher & Liz Meynell.

There were setbacks along the way caused by Covid and an absence of hoped-for grants from the Arts Council and others. Nevertheless, with better receipts than budgeted, and by severely constrained our costs, we did better financially than we had anticipated.

Those who came wrote responses to what they had just experienced that try to explain the phenomenon of "the Trail that wasn't a Trail", so much better than we can.

On the left is a selection of "Tales of the Trail", just some of the many hundreds of comments in the Visitors' Book, written by those who were inspired by what they found when they went in search for the secrets of 'One for the Rook'.

They indicate that, from every angle and perspective, it was a success.

Thank you to everyone who made it both possible and memorable.



Sunday evening, 26th September. It's all over. Rook & KP relax and ponder life after the Trail

"TALES OF THE TRAIL"

from some of those who travelled it

"Inspirational & imaginative/creative trail. Best I've undertaken. Very well done."

"Another Bergh Apton TRIUMPH."

"The sculptures look fabulous! Well done!! Also loved the labyrinth and the church."

"More inventiveness from the most creative parish in Norfolk. Thank you."

"Very ingenious production of species in nature, artistry in objects & words."

"We thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and the intellectual challenge, the interactive weaving & spinning the web, creating the mosaic at the end."

"I loved the trail - so beautiful, appropriate to the times in so many ways."

"We've been delighted and impressed with each of your Bergh Apton extravaganzas - each so original and creative. Hefty pat on the back!"

"What wonderful woodland - after trials and tribulations of modern life it was lovely to slow right down and be with nature and sounds."

"We loved the wonderful way we were taken through the beautiful environments. The readings made us pause for thought and contemplate the relevance to our lives. An excellent way to appreciate everything around us and in our lives."

"Loved the spider's web, cloud watching - the mirrors, the labyrinth & the natural dyes. Wonderful - loved the QR codes."

"Wonderful trail, enjoyed the sculptures, reading in Norfolk accent out in nature, brings them alive! Kids loved weaving the web. wonderful, unique, thank you."

"Absolutely beautiful with wonderful poems, amazing music and of course the glorious countryside, the singing of the birds and the gentle sounds of the river."

"I am just back in the church from walking the labyrinth. I was enchanted. The singing from the river, nobody about so I joined with singing too and with the river. I loved the circle of logs to sit and read about the Minotaur and then took a stone to the centre." (by Ed: the centre of the labyrinth)

"A magical, sacred, sunlit, shady, many armed, deep, prickly, cloudless, creature laden, song filled poetic mosaic of wonder."

"BRAVO!! Balm to the soul."

"The everydayness, the ordinariness of nature, its scruffy complexity, how precious your trail has made it - the loss we mourn - reflected in all our lives."

And, finally,

"Lovely use of the space and what it offers.

We were wondering about the significance of the upside-down wheelbarrows. So many of them! Ingenious & inviting installations!"

BERGH APTON SAM₂
SPEED SENSOR READINGS
on Mill Road
from 11th October to 7th November

12,212 vehicles
passed the monitor of which:

10,746 (88%)
were within the limit
compared to 7,412 (72%) in August

1,466 (12%)
exceeded the limit
compared to 2,348 (28%) in August



SANYU BABIES HOME, KAMPALA

From Christopher and Liz Meynell



Many of you are aware of the relationship that has been developed between Bergh Apton and Sanyu over the last twenty years or so. Others may not, so this is a quick introduction in case you are thinking of supporting a new cause this Christmas.

Sanyu was founded by an English missionary a hundred years ago when she realised that, of

the large number of babies abandoned on the streets of the capital, Kampala, many did not survive.

The home still receives babies on an almost daily basis. They are delivered by the police and others having been abandoned by market stalls, on street corners and even dumped in cess-pits. They are given names, fed and watered and educated for the next 4 or 5 years, after which they are fostered, adopted or, in some cases, returned to their families.

There was a lovely moment when, during one of the Bergh Apton Sculpture Trails, a family arrived at the church where they saw photographs of Sanyu, one of the Trail's beneficiaries. By an extraordinary coincidence, the family's two children had been adopted from Sanyu and were now living in Harleston. How amazing is that?

The home survives with the help of donations from within Uganda and from abroad and with the assistance of volunteers who stay and help by working and caring for the some-40-50 resident babies.



We in Bergh Apton and our surrounding parishes have been keen supporters. We have funded a new vehicle, a new water system and new rooves. We now fund the residencies of two nurses and regular weekly visits by the Home's doctor.

Having said 'we' it must be said that by far the biggest donors are Ruth & John Everett of Applebee in Rockland who have been selling plants in their Honey Shop in aid of Sanyu ever since they visited Sanyu. Somehow they raise as much as £2,000 a year – quite magnificent.

So if you can't manage a direct payment, please buy some plants from the Everetts. It all goes to help with Sanyu's medical bills!

The home is determined to become self-sufficient but for the time being, they need us.

Our monthly remittances that go direct to the home need private donations too and so we are appealing to your generosity this Christmas. Just to give you some idea, the sort of costs they face are:

Weekly nurses' salary: £50

A new mosquito net: £5

Truck Servicing: £35

So, please, do help us to help the babies at Sanyu this Christmas.

Here are four ways you can do that:

- you can write a cheque in favour of 'Bergh Apton PCC' (and, if you pay UK tax and complete a Gift Aid declaration*, you can increase your gift by 25%)
- you can make a BACS donation*
- you can make a cheque in favour of 'Sanyu Babies Home'
- or, if it suits you, you might think about setting up a standing order to either Bergh Apton PCC or Sanyu Babies Home.

Whatever you feel you would like to do please send donations to Liz Meynell (address below) or call her to ask for more information.

We receive a quarterly newsletter from the home and would be delighted to add your name to those to whom we forward it. It is full of pictures, notes about the babies and their carers and events at the home – including, recently, how they have survived Covid by rigorous lockdown.

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* We can send you this Gift Aid declaration, and give you details of BACS payment information.



AUDREY CHAPMAN

Ray Wharton and Lynton Johnson have sent me a letter reporting the death of Audrey Chapman in hospital on Friday 15th October, at the grand age of 86.

Audrey was a teacher who began her career in the east end of London. She came to Thurton from Hoveton and taught at Thurton's Primary School until her retirement.

Audrey may have been a resident of our neighbouring community of Thurton but she had a long and happy association with Bergh Apton through her work with the Thurton and Bergh Apton Players whose musical extravaganzas (*that, as Ray promised, were 'bigger, better and more spectacular' with every season!*) are a treasured Bergh Apton village hall memory.

Audrey was a founder member of the Players, taking on the responsibility for publicity and bookings. Her voice could also (but only occasionally!) be heard in the wings as Prompt.

She was a member of Thurton Parish Council, of the Women's Institute (WI), and of the congregation at the parish church of St Ethelbert. She loved gardening and her knowledge and hard work were two of the key influences that created the beautiful garden - regularly opened to the public - at High House where she lived with Ray and Lynton for many years before, recently, they all moved to The Street in Thurton.

Ray and Lynton's notes on Audrey's life conclude with the words "*Audrey loved gardening, crosswords and sudoku. She was a very kind lady who had time for everyone*". We can all agree to that.

SARAH BUSH

Sarah Bush, who came home to England from France only in recent years to live at the old Post Office on the Street in Thurton was, like Audrey Chapman, a resident of Thurton who supported many activities in Bergh Apton including its Book Club and Local History Group (*in this photo of the 2020 Annual Supper Sarah is fifth from left in the front row*).

Sarah died as a result of pancreatic cancer in Norfolk & Norwich hospital, aged 69, on 15th October after a very short illness that has left her sister Debbie and her many friends in the social, literary and musical life of this area shocked and saddened.

Sarah was also a key member of the team that compiled Thurton's parish newsletter "The Thunderer" and those Bergh Apton residents who read it will be sad to learn this news.



VENDANGE!

A dry and sunny late October this year provided what may well be John Hemmant's best harvest on his Chet Valley Vineyard. If not for the yield then certainly for the pickers. The warmth of the sun and the quality of the grapes (called 'berries' in the terminology of the wine-maker) made for an easy and pleasant task. The pleasure of snipping a big bunch of firm grapes from the vine to feel it fall into your hand, so you can just drop it into the box on the ground, is a sensation only happy pickers (*below, at lunch*) will truly understand. Here are a few photos of the harvest.



PORINGLAND SINGERS: SEARCHING FOR A NEW MUSICAL DIRECTOR

The Poringland Singers, who have sung in Bergh Apton's church many times, and some of whose members are the musical backbone of our annual carol-singing around the village, are looking for a new **Music Director** to lead them into the new year.

The choir (*below, in concert at Bergh Apton church in 2017*) has members who live in Bergh Apton and is a



mixed community choir consisting of four vocal parts; soprano, alto, tenor and bass, whose members enjoy both the singing and the social elements of belonging to the choir.

Its repertoire is mixed, incorporating classical, modern and musical theatre. It usually meets on a Tuesday 7.30pm to 9.00pm in Poringland.

Trevor Beckford, who told me about the vacancy, said that they have a dedicated accompanist and therefore need only your expertise and infectious enthusiasm!

If you are interested, and would like to discuss the opportunity further, please do not hesitate to contact Trevor, either on his mobile (**07834 141199**) or by email: familypeckle@hotmail.co.uk.

ROS NEWMAN, ARTIST (1939-2021)

from Christopher Meynell



Ros Newman, who died at home in Norwich in October this year, was a sculptor in welded steel who was a major exhibitor at every one of six Bergh Apton Sculpture Trails.

She was a great supporter of what we were trying to achieve and loved exhibiting in the village.

For the first trail, "Something Rich and Strange" in 1997 the logo was Ros's stunning head, fashioned in her instantly-recognisable individual style.

What's more, the piece was purchased by someone in the village and resides, taking pride of place, in a private house here. I am aware, too, of several others in the village who succumbed to Ros's artistry.

Ros, who trained at the Hammersmith College of Art, moved to Norwich in 1979 and soon after started teaching evening art classes at Wensum Lodge where she met her husband Chris, who predeceased her.

A prolific artist, she always worked ceaselessly on her art both from her studio in Norfolk and during her time overseas in Tobago and Taiwan.

In 2001 the Norwich Contemporary Art Society raised funds to erect Ros' Flight of Birds sculpture at the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital - a dramatic sculpture featuring flights of stainless steel birds that was exhibited here in Bergh Apton during our 2005 Trail (see below).

Ros' last exhibition, her 2019 'Woman of Steel' retrospective in the Fairhurst Gallery in Norwich, was a complete sell out that showcased her lifetime work as a sculptor. Her beautiful creations hold so much of who she was.

The exhibition followed here decision to close her studio in 2018 when her welding equipment went to another 'woman of steel', sculptor Rachel Long (another Bergh Apton



Sculpture Trail stalwart).

Before finding her *metier* when she attended Hammersmith College of Art Ros began her studies at Chelsea Art School when she was 16 but she left to teach woodwork at a progressive school before her time at Hammersmith College.

To find out more about her, a selection of her works, and something of her remarkable artistic family, go to <https://gallery.fairhurstgallery.co.uk/exhibitions/previous-exhibitions/ros-newman>



Crib Service at Bergh Apton Church



Christmas Eve at 4 o'clock

Come and take part in the retelling of the wonderful Christmas Story for Children of All Ages From toddlers to great(!) grandparents



CHRISTMAS IN OUR PARISH CHURCH

Traditional Carol Service - 6 pm on Sunday 19th Dec

Crib Service - 4 pm on Christmas Eve

Christmas Communion - 9.30 am on Christmas Day

THE CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS

You and your visitors this Christmastide will be warmly welcomed at all of our services (see above for times).

Our candlelit church will be decorated throughout, and beautifully endowed with a superb Christmas tree, this year a gift from Richard Crome of Threadneedle Street.

Covid has not gone away, and caution is still a wise thing so the wearing of face masks is still encouraged in the church (save those under 12 years) so you might want to come prepared, with your own mask.

If you can't come to a service, could you think about being kind and generous *in absentia*? Our church is funded wholly by us (not by the Diocese or the Church Commissioners!) and is greatly in need of support.

You can give using this QR Code. Capturing it on your smartphone will lead you to the website where you can make a donation. If you can't get the QR code, you can always access the website on your phone or laptop at <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/4be73950-7709-42a5-ac06-24156953aa56>



We will be hugely grateful for any gift you can make.

MARIA PHILLIPS JOINS THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN!

On 14th November this year, when Maria Phillips attained the age of ninety years, she joined the existing 'Magnificent Seven' of Peter Annis, Jean Coles*, Barbara Farrow, George Harvey, Eelen Kennedy, Annetta Lord, and John Whittow who have already hit that impressive milestone.

Maria, who has lived at 'Fieldside' on Threadneedle Street on her own since John died in 2014, is now supported by a great team of carers. She was joined on the day by her son Michael, her daughter Sarah and their families, and received friends who called in during the day to wish her well.

** Jean lives in Holverston where her home Orchard Farm is close to our parish boundary. We think of Jean, a keen supporter of Bergh Apton events, as part of our community.*



Maria, behind some of her many birthday cards, with her family on her 90th birthday. 1-r: grandchildren Jan and Ella, daughter Sarah and son Michael. Maria's son Richard and Michael's son Sam were unable to be there.

ST MARTIN'S CLOAK

This as the scene on Sunday 7th November when Kevin Parfitt, whose family has farmed at Church Farm on



Dodger's Lane for over a century, began the second annual celebration of St Martin with a short history of the farm and its yard with

a wall that incorporate stone from the old church of St Martin, whose ancient foundations still lie beneath a nearby field. Thirty-odd people attended the event, the idea of John Hemmant of Chet Valley vineyard, a walk via footpaths from Church Farm to Chet Valley vineyard to celebrate St Martin of Tours, the patron saint of wine-makers. The walk ended with a short religious service at the vineyard lead by Rev Chris Ellis and our curate Cate Turner, to recognise St Martin's famed kindness to a beggar, and concluded with hot wine and hot dogs consumed around a bonfire, accompanied by a spectacular fireworks display.



IMAGINATION AT WORK BEFORE 'ONE FOR THE ROOK'

from Peter Lyle

We originally proposed to present the poems written for the trail using only a QR code (*a machine-readable image that gives access to a website*) that plays them on a mobile phone. That was before we realised that there could be gremlins at work using this technology in an area with known weakness in radio and signal reception. We decided to have written versions of the poems displayed alongside the QR codes.

I am a great believer in repurposing things so, rather than just printing the poems and putting them on boards, I had a rummage in my garden sheds. What emerged were decaying timbers, old logs, discarded items of farm machinery and old saws.

Just the sorts of things that would work well being written on and that would provide some visual interest at the 'Stop, Look and Listen' points along the Trail.

The task of painting the words on them really took me into the poems and made me realise how well written they were with their rhythms, word-play and vivid images.

We located a poem about stoats by Christopher Meynell at the "Deep Time" site (on the Conservation Trust lands) where the bracken seemed, to me, to be an ideal backdrop for a troupe of prancing stoats.

And so it proved. Just days before One for the Rook was due to open, I set about painting a pack of eight stoats on some black foam-board that was left over from making the Trail's family of rooks.



The prediction of signal problems turned out to be right and some of the QR codes did not work for some people whose network coverage did not reach the depths of the Chet valley.

So the printed texts were important and the way they were displayed, I think, enhanced the Trail.

CHRISTMAS BINGO AT BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL POSTPONED

Continued concern caused by the current high risk of Covid infection in densely-packed social situations, the village hall committee has decided that it must postpone Bergh Apton Village Hall's Christmas Bingo, that was scheduled for 10th December.

A 'New Year Bingo' date will be announced as soon as possible

THE 1911 CENSUS - PART 9

This is the last opportunity I have in my time as Newsletter editor to do another (the ninth) episode of a journey around Bergh Apton in the footsteps of Edmund Leeder (of Valley Farm on Welbeck Road), the enumerator for the 1911 Census of this village.

Episode 1 was in the August 2018 issue of the newsletter and, in the eight parts since then, we followed Leeder on his anti-clockwise route that started at Bergh Apton schoolhouse. From there we went to Sunnyside and beyond, then up White Heath Road to Beech Farm near Thurton church and on to Prospect Place on the Norwich Road. Then to Hellington Corner, down Mill Road, along The Street and, in the October 2020 edition, ended at Washingford House, the north-eastern limit of the main populated part of this parish.

I have only a single column in this newsletter to cover Dodger's Lane, The Street, Church Road, Welbeck Road and Kiln Grove (the latter being a tiny settlement that disappeared during or just after WW2). That's a big ask and, with the complexities of the task at this point, I don't think I'll even make it as far as Church Road!

But let's see how far we can get. Then, in a future editor's time - or as a separate pamphlet, perhaps sponsored by the Local History Group - I'll finish the job.

Before we set off again I have a confession; at the outset I proposed to follow Edmund Leeder as he discharged his duties. Since Bergh Apton Manor, however, I have failed in that because, from that point on and whatever the reason, he just didn't follow a logical progression. He dotted about a bit between the north end of The Street and the point at which The Street meets Church Road. He even retraced his steps up Threadneedle St to do houses he had missed.

So I've taken a different path to cover every road, but not necessarily in the right order (a bit like Eric Morecambe in that famous sketch with André Previn in the Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show of 1971!). It will all get back on track when (if ever we get there at this rate!) we get to Church Road.

So, let's set off now from Cooke's Road down the tiny byroad that serves Pond Farm and Church Farm to end at its junction with The Street. Now called Dodger's Lane (after Arthur 'Dodger' Smith of Pond Farm), it was called Weddup Lane in 1911 - a name most closely associated at that time with William Weddup the former postmaster, by then retired and living with the Alexander family at Veranda Cottage as a boarder (he died 5 years later).

The first dwelling listed on the Weddup Lane Census was Pond Farm where William Wright, an 84 year-old farmer, lived with his wife Deborah and two bachelor sons George (57) and Arthur (49). Both sons were listed as 'worker on farm'. Their father died in September 1916 but the elder son George looks not to have inherited because it was the younger one, Arthur (he of the nickname 'Dodger'), who ran the farm in later years.

Ah . . . I've run out of space. It is time to take my leave and to continue another time, and perhaps in another medium.

This journey still has miles to go and important houses to cover including The Rectory, Street Farms (two of them!), Town Farm and the two farms along the Welbeck valley .

So, as Arnie Schwarzenegger said; 'I'll be back!!'

PULLING THE WOOL

from Pat Mlejnecky



The puzzle on the 'One for the Rook' trail* was really so straightforward but it was deliberately described as 'cunning' and 'full of 'trickery' to give an impression of difficulty and the need for deep thinking.

It amused me that, in the daily comments about the Trail, one said that even two graduates could not solve it.

But mere intellectual ability was not needed. When you see the answers below you will see how very obvious most of them were (although there were a couple that need a devious mind and one that enjoys playing about with words like that of the puzzle maker!).

All smoke and mirrors, the wool pulled over your eyes!

The challenge: "Here is a puzzle full of trickery for you to solve! Collect the clues (there is one at each site) as carefully as a blackbird collects twigs for her nest. Read each clue with eyes as sharp as those of a hunting hawk. Now, with fox-sharp wits, solve the clues. Each represents a letter and there are two words to find. Here are clues to help you. They have no feathers, fins or fur and neither have they paws or claws. In common with bats and ghosts they shun the sun. They are of royal blood."

1. It is always in time : **E**
2. Next comes one thousand : **M** (Roman numeral for one thousand).
3. A pear has one but an apple has two : **P**
4. It begins every ending : **E**
5. A house has none and yet there is one in every room : **R**
6. All rooks have two of these : **O**
7. It can be seen in every road and street : **R**
8. Someone has to have this : **M**
9. The fourth in a team of five : **O** (of the 5 vowels)
10. It begins and ends your every thought : **T**
11. This is in every breath you take : **H**
12. Always in sight if not in mind : **S**

The solution: **EMPEROR MOTHS**

* Due to pressure on space not all of the description was printed in the programme.

Some wrong answers are so imaginative and probably arrived at by readers of fantasy. All lovely, and thanks to those who wrote them: A Time of Hope, Flittermouse, Whooper Swans, Crowned Eagles, Avocet, Hawkwindrule, Knight's Raven, Warrior Queen and Emperor Hawke.



The clue at Berkana (Stop No 6), where travellers on the trail were invited to weave spiders' webs



LAUGH, DESPITE THIS COVID YEAR

This time last year, as renewed Covid lockdown wrecked all our plans for Christmas, I found a list of ten 'points to ponder' on the internet that made me chuckle in that ironic way that we are in danger of losing as 'woke' philosophy attempts to dispel irony.

I had planned to share them with you in the December 2020 issue but didn't have room for them. This year I do and they may still amuse because memories of the challenging times of total lockdown are probably still fresh in your memory:

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought in 2020 was a year-planner.
2. Distance rule: Before Covid it was 'Stay away from negative people' In 2020 it became 'Stay away from positive people'.
3. How attitudes have changed; if old folks now try sneaking out of the house, their kids yell at them to stay indoors.
4. This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was clear that she thought her cat understood her. When I got home I told my dog. We had a good laugh about it
5. If slopping around the house in a shell suit makes you think all is good, every few days try your jeans on - just to make sure they still fit.
6. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet? Or do we just keep on washing our hands?
7. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot barge pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
8. I need to practice social-distancingfrom the refrigerator.
9. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip out to the bins.
10. Never in a million years did I think that no one would blink an eye if I went into a bank with a mask on and ask for money.



A MESSAGE FROM PARIS BACK AND LIZ LESTER about the Coffee Morning on Tuesday 12th October at Washingford House

We would like to thank all who supported our Coffee Morning.

All of you who attended the event to buy, donate, run stalls, give your time on the day and to contribute towards the Tombola and Raffle.

and you who made delicious cakes and biscuits.

You raised

£3,821.25

for

The Matthew Project and The Brooke.

THANK YOU!! 😊

With thanks to Sarah King of the Matthew Project for these

glimpses of the coffee Morning



DAVID LESTER (1936-2021) - A NOTABLE BERGH APTON RESIDENT



David Lester, who died in October at the age of 85, was the younger of the two sons of Henry and Edith Lester, born in 1936 in their thatched cottage Holly Hill on Sunnyside (just visible in the background of this photo of young David). He was a grandson of significant Bergh Apton resident John Lester who was Churchwarden of our parish church for more than twenty five years and, for far longer, the trusted Steward of Lord Canterbury of Brooke House, much of whose considerable lands including Sunnyside and Bussey Bridge ran along the southern border of Bergh Apton.

David and his wife Morena married in 1958 and had three children, Simon, Elizabeth (Liz) and David who were all born in their home on the north side of the main road at Hellington Corner where the family (except young David who now lives in Rockland St Mary) still reside.

David spent his working life with Norfolk County Council's Roads Department for whom one of his key winter tasks as a driver, when needed either day or night, was to grit the county's roads in winter time. David's real love - more a passion than a pastime - that included his garden at Hellington Corner - was of all things in nature from Norfolk's birds and animals to its big skies and wide landscape of trees and open fields.



Come and join us to sing carols around the village (well, some of it!) on the evening of **MONDAY 20th December**. That's the evening after the Carol Service so you'll have a chance to practice!!

Come to the Village Hall at 6.15. We'll set off - on foot - at 6.30. We'll have carol sheets with us, but bring a torch, a lantern or a smartphone to light the way.

DO JOIN US - IT'S PART OF CHRISTMAS!

[You can phone 07972 764745 for more details](tel:07972764745)

THE VILLAGE DIARY

DECEMBER

- 3rd 16.30 Meet at the VH for BA Society visit to Cromer End of the Pier Show
- 8th 10.00-16.00 Christmas Wreath Workshop at the Village Hall
- 15th 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Chat at the Village Hall
- 17th 19.30 B.A. Society Christmas dinner at Green Pastures
- 18th 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
- 18th 09.30-12 Decorating the Church for Christmas
- 19th 18.00 Carol Service at the Parish Church
- 20th 18.15 Carols round the village (*see above for details*)
- 24th 16.00 Crib Service at the Parish Church
- 25th 09.30 Holy Communion Service at the Parish Church

JANUARY

- 12th 19.30 BA Society talk by Mary Fewster on Norwich Goldsmiths, at the Village Hall
- 14th TBA Presentation of the Lord Lieutenant's plaque at the Village Hall (*see p.3*)
- 15th 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
- 19th 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Chat at the Village Hall
- 19th 19.30 Parish Council meet at the the Village Hall
- 20th 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
- 29th 09.00 Eleven Says assembly at the Village Hall

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	Pat Mlejnecky	01508 480696
BA Society	Lynton Johnson	01508 480629
Church: Rector	Rev'd 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 493398
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
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WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.