



# The Mini-Berghaptoner

Issue 179  
Bi-Monthly  
April 2022

As you are reading this edition of the Newsletter that interesting combination - the end of the Tax Year and April Fool's Day - both so often playing equal tricks on the unwary, will be upon us. Did you notice that I played my own April Fool's trick on you all, far too early, when I gave the February edition the number 1778 rather than 178? A daft trick, especially when I'm not sure that anyone, not even me, noticed! As I write Spring is suddenly come! The magnolia tree outside our old front door is about to come into flower, Hilary has done the first cut of our sward (it can't claim to be a lawn) and the sun is warm on our faces. So beware, Covid! You may still be rife but we are learning to live with you, and the new Season will give us a boost that, we hope, will make you less disruptive to our lives. You may not yet be gone and you may never be. But your power over us is waning.

## THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE AN EXTRAORDINARY RECORD OF SERVICE!

Whether one believes in the benefits of a constitutional Monarch or those of an elected Head of State (but please not a British version of Donald Trump!) all will surely admire the stamina and dedication that Elizabeth has brought to her role as our Queen since she succeeded her father on 6th February 1952 - a record seventy years.

We in Bergh Apton, as will the people of every city, town and village in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, will be able to celebrate the occasion during the first weekend of June this year, a public holiday that will run from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June.

It is too early, as I write this in late February, to give any details of what is planned in the village. But its essence is that there will be a great celebration on **Saturday 4th June in the park at Bergh Apton Manor** to which all who live in Bergh Apton are invited.



The plan to do this on the Saturday of the Jubilee weekend gives us all the opportunity, perhaps as families of groups of friends, to 'do our own thing' for another celebration on the Sunday.

The village event is supported by Bergh Apton Parish Council - who have applied for funding to meet some of its costs - and is being put together by a team that includes Alison Bertram, Caroline Thurtell, Carrie Holl and Paris Back - all experienced event organisers. It promises to deliver a great day that may well start with a mass picnic in a marquee in the park and roll on into the evening with entertainment.

But it is, as I write earlier, too soon to do anything more than flag up the date and the bare bones of what is planned for the day.

But the team will keep us all in the picture in due course by means of posters, social media and other means so that we all know about, and can join in, the

## KEEP FIT (OR GET INTO SHAPE) WITH THE NEW OUTDOOR GYM AT THE VILLAGE HALL.



Just in time for Spring, and to get you into shape for the Summer's T-shirts and shorts, these four elements of fitness training have joined the outdoor table tennis table (just visible on the right) and the children's play area on the green behind the village hall.

Like the table tennis and play area units, and with the ready agreement of the landowners (the Village Hall Trustees) these units have been installed by our Parish Council using funds made available from the Construction Infrastructure Levy (CIL) paid to South Norfolk Council by the developers of new houses in the village.

So the machines are good examples of how positive action on the part of Bergh Apton's councillors and the ready co-operation of the Village Hall's owners can deliver benefits to all of us. Knowing that they have contributed to the project, it may even assuage some of the financial pain suffered by CIL contributors.

The machines are simple to use and each one benefits the body's fitness in different ways so get down there and give them a try.

## OTHER PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - SPEEDING

In recent weeks and, no doubt, under the triple influence of the SAM2 speed sensors, our team of Community Speedwatchers and the rising price of fuel, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of vehicles travelling through our village's restriction zones within the speed limit of 30 mph.

The roll and the work of the Speedwatchers is the subject in the Parish Clerk's report in the Newsletter on December last year (Issue No 177).

**THE DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - SATURDAY 4 JUNE**

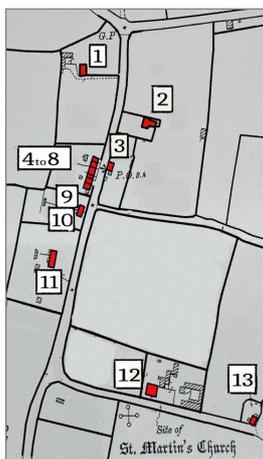
## THE 1911 CENSUS - PART ELEVEN

In the previous edition we looked at two of the houses at the north end of The Street, Royston House and the old Post Office that were occupied, respectively, by Peter Annis's family and the Macphersons. With a sense of relief I then ran out of space.

I write the word 'relief' because I was then - and still am - uncertain as to who lived where on The Street as it headed south. That's because, as I have grumbled about before, Edmund Leeder the census enumerator (as he did on Sunnyside, covered in Issue 158 on August 2018) may not have recorded houses in strict sequence. Just to add confusion he may even have popped into his list a few houses from other roads.

So what I'll do here is to note the families on Leeder's list in his sequence and tell you what we know of them and where they lived. It's a poor job compared to other roads that will, I know, disappoint some of today's residents who have been looking forward patiently to learning about those who lived in their houses over a hundred years ago.

Another issue on the map (*below*) is the terrace of cottages I have marked 4-8. On the 1907 map it looks to be five (or even six) dwellings but I am sure that it was, as it is today, only four.



The first of them on the enumerator's list, now Rose Tree Cottage, was the home of 32 year-old chauffeur Albert Hipperson, his wife Emma and their three children. It is tempting to think that he drove for a single family (maybe the Denny-Cookes?) but maybe not because the term applied also to drivers of hackney cabs (taxis) and for private hire.

Next door, in today's Tantalon, were Berkshire-born Joe and Clara Read who, from the fact that their daughter Elsie was born in Bergh Apton ten years earlier, may have lived here for some time.

Next on the list are the Macphersons at the old Post Office so it looks as if Leeder popped across the road when he got to the post office door (that you can still see, opposite Tantalon, in the wall's brickwork).

Next is 59 year-old Charles Mayhew who is, without doubt, out of sequence on the list because we know that he and his wife Rachel lived at St Martin's Acre (now White Willows). Here they are, standing outside the front door of the house.

Mayhew was a man of note in Bergh Apton, being one of the eight residents elected by a Parish Meeting on 4th December 1894 (*Book of BA p. 104*) as our first Parish Councillors, another of whom was our Census Enumerator Edmund Leeder. He was also a bellringer, a person who in those days had a considerable standing in the community.



Next on the list is carpenter George Wright and his wife Elizabeth. From her census description as 'Shopkeeper, working from home' (my underline) we can identify her as a fore-runner of the schoolmaster's wife Mrs Williams and her successor Grace Cushing who, as Grace Lester, ran the shop at what is now Verocain, the third cottage in the terrace (pictured here in 1937 and today).



We don't know when this shop first opened its doors and if, indeed, its service was unbroke (Kelly's Directory of 1922 doesn't mention it) but Mrs Wright was running it ten years earlier at the time of the 1901 census so she is, so far anyway, the earliest recorded owner we know of.

The shop closed its doors here in 1948 when Grace bought a wooden hut, a former Barclays Bank agency on the Forncett Sale Ground near Long Stratton, and moved her business into it on the land now occupied by Orchard House, immediately south of Royston House. The hut, by the way, moved again in 1954 and until that closed on 31st December 2012, was in service as part of Richard and Barry Cushing's Post Office and shop on Cooke's Road.

Moving on, the last cottage in the terrace, if my understanding of the Enumerator's list is right, was the home of childless couple 33 year old George Meek and his wife Elizabeth. George was a Butler and his employment (unlike his Chauffeur neighbour Hipperson's possible status as a 'freelance' driver) must surely have been in one of the 'big houses' in Bergh Apton. But which?!

Now I come to a really puzzling and as yet unresolved part of this 1911 Census assessment. It concerns the pair of semi-detached cottages - Nos 9 & 10 on the map (left) - now owned by Stanley and Ann Woods and whoever bought the late Ena Smith's 'Endene' and has left it unoc-

89		Whall	1	1	2
90	→	L. Wall	1	4	6
91	→	John Stone	1	5	3
92		Stone	1	2	3

cupied and looking neglected.

There are indeed two entries in the Census where these dwellings would be recorded but the names on the Enumerator's list are unexpected. They are Leonard Wall (spelt as 'Whall') and John Stone and their families.

So what, you may ask, is the problem? Well, it's this; the Walls and the Stones certainly did live next door to each other in a pair of semi-detached cottages. But that was half-a-mile away in Mill Loke, off Threadneedle Street in Lenwallen (a contraction of 'Leonard Wall') and Cosy Nook. They were there in 1914 when Clement Wall gave it as his home address on joining the Army early in the First World War.

Is it possible that the families were living side-by-side in The Street in 1911? and then moved together to Mill Loke? Or did Edmund Leeder record them in the wrong location? It's something for which, as they say, he has form. But if it was not them on The Street, then who was it? Hmm . . . more work to do here! Next time, the Misses Mayes, Church Farm and the Rectory.



Bergh Apton's parish church, as a contribution to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, will host a series of events and concerts for which you will find a complete schedule on posters and in other media published by the church in coming days. Here are three in the coming weeks:

for details on Tickets & Info go to  
<http://berghapton.org.uk/events/>  
 or call 01508 558440

*ticket availability is limited so early booking is recommended.*

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 10.30am-4pm:  
 Antiques 'Roadshow' valuation day**

Keys of Aylsham, Norfolk's premier fine art and general auctioneers will help you discover the value of your prized antiques. Max. 3 advance-booked items per person. Depending on numbers, more items may be accepted on the day.)

Book a **FREE** entry for an hourly slot (eg 11-12). Or turn up and wait. Charge of £3 per item payable on arrival.

**Also a second-hand book sale.**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm -  
 Rosewood, East Anglian acoustic folk trio**

Suffolk-based Rosewood play at major folk festivals, clubs and arts centres. Their songs and instrumentals range from traditional to contemporary and include their own compositions. They play a wide range of instruments including the bandoneon, bagpipes and bouzouki.

**Tickets: £10. Refreshments available.**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 6.45pm -  
 'Tistou' of the Green Thumbs,  
 Ashley Ramsden, storyteller**

Speaking to the concerns of COP26 and in tune with the themes of HM The Queen's Jubilee, 'Tistou' is a story central to our hopes for the future of the Earth.

Master storyteller Ramsden will inspire both adults and children. Funny, touching and full of colourful characters, it inspires action in a time we need it most.

**Tickets: Adults £14, children aged 8-15, £7. (Suitable for children over 8). Refreshments**

**SHINING A LIGHT FOR UKRAINE**

The thoughts and prayers of millions of people in the world, including in Russia, are for the plight of Ukraine in Putin's attack on his neighbouring independent state and its people. Candles are being lit in

the windows of homes in Bergh Apton as a silent token of support for them. Here are just four of the many.



**IN MEMORIAM**

It is a sad duty to record the death, in Belchamp St Paul in Suffolk, of Alan Weddup from a historic Bergh Apton family whose wife Vera was Vera Dye of another key village family. Alan was only a month short of his goth birthday.

Two other recent deaths in the village are those of Ian Davey of Shoemaker's Cottage on Threadneedle Street and Catherine Hill of No 9, Sunnyside. We send condolences to Vera, Debbie and Jonathan and to all their families.

**BERGH APTON ARTS**

**MARK MY WORDS!**

A PRINT MAKING WORKSHOP

led by  
**DI GRIFFITHS**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April  
 1000-1600

at  
 Bergh Apton Village Hall

**COST: £15.00 (Materials included)**

**WITH THE USUAL ELEGANT ELEVENSES  
 AND LOVELY LUNCHESES!**

This is a drypoint print workshop with a professional artist. Those interested need to commit to the whole session.

To reserve a place contact Pat Mlejnecky  
 01508 480696  
[p.mlej@btinternet.com](mailto:p.mlej@btinternet.com)

**NEWS FROM WELBECK MARSH**

When I called at Gravel Pit Farm on the river Chet the other day I was met by the sound of sawing and hammering coming from Steve Whitby's workshop. Looking in I found him busy building sections of the oak bridge that will, perhaps this Spring, be thrown across the river from Valley Marsh to link it to Welbeck Marsh, the Trust's most recent addition to its flora and forna reserve.

In his February update for the Trust's membership its chairman, Professor Tony Davy, wrote about controlled grazing as one possible means of managing the Trust's marshlands. It is an exciting prospect already tried with considerable success on other Norfolk wildlife reserves and might see a livestock herd once again established as permanent Bergh Apton inhabitants.

## BA LOCAL HISTORY CHURCH VISIT

Lorie Lain Rogers, flying solo as presenter after Linda Davy and John Ling had to withdraw at short notice, led members and friends of Bergh Apton Local History Group on a 'behind the scenes' tour of our parish church on Sunday 13th March.

Lorie's tour and talk began with pre-Norman Conquest times when it was the church of Bergh prior to its amalgamation in the 1280s with the neighbouring parish named something similar to Apetune.

She spoke of the collapse in the 1700s of the east wall and its rebuild by our longest-serving Rector Robert Connold who is buried in his restored chancel. She covered the great 1830s changes (not always approved by purists!) made by Rector Pelham who would go on to become Bishop of Norwich, and whose request to be buried in a small country churchyard might come as a surprise to many an urban dweller in Norwich.

Pelham's was one of the interesting gravestones and tombs Lorie included in her tour of the outside. She also covered the unusual shape of the roofline created by the removal of the original thatched roof, the mystery of the clock that moved from the east to the north face of the tower and an ancient way of telling the time by the sun.

It was, all round, a very good afternoon.

## VILLAGE DIARY

\* Events, unless noted otherwise below, are in the Village Hall

\* There is more information on events marked \* on p.3

### APRIL

9<sup>th</sup> 19.00 for 19.30 Quiz n Chilli challenge (booked out)

13<sup>th</sup> 19.30 BA Society talk by Terry Holloway;  
"Chocks Away"

14<sup>th</sup> 19.00 BA Village Hall Trustees meeting

16<sup>th</sup> 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field

16<sup>th</sup> 10.00-16.00 BACAT Workshop 'Mark my Words!' with Di Griffiths\*

20<sup>th</sup> 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Chat

20<sup>th</sup> 19.30 BA Local History Group AGM. Speaker Mike Pinner on 'work at Venta Icenorum'

21<sup>st</sup> 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field

22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30-16.00 Antiques 'Roadshow' at the Church\*

27<sup>th</sup> 19.30 Parish Council meeting

30<sup>th</sup> 19.00 Rosewood, East Anglian acoustic folk trio in concert at the Church\*

### MAY

4<sup>th</sup> 19.30 Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> 19.30 BA Society talk by Jan Edwards  
'The Victorians'

13<sup>th</sup> 19.30 BALHG Annual supper

18<sup>th</sup> 10.00-12.00 Coffee n Chat

18<sup>th</sup> 19.00 for 19.30 Village Hall AGM

20<sup>th</sup> 18.45 'Tistou' of the Green Thumbs by storyteller Ashley Ramsden at the church\*

21<sup>st</sup> 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field

26<sup>th</sup> 10.00 BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field

28<sup>th</sup> 09.00 Eleven Says assembly

If you have an idea for a short article in the next (June 2022) issue of the Berghaptoner, do get in touch with me before 10<sup>th</sup> May  
contacts: 01508 480439 email : john.ling@btinternet.com

## 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

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Monday	09.30 - 10.15	PILATES
Monday	17.00 on	DOG TRAINING
Tuesday	19.30	THE LA LA's SING
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	10.00-12.00	COFFEE n CHAT
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	14.00-16.00	VILLAGE ARCHIVE
Thursday	09.30 - 10.15	PILATES
Friday	09.30 & 11.15	YOGA
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	09.00 - 17.00	MICROSCOPY GRP

## THANK YOU SPONSORS!

My thanks to our sponsors whose invaluable and continuing generosity allows this newsletter to keep going:

Bergh Apton Community Arts Trust  
Bergh Apton Conservation Trust  
Bergh Apton Society  
Bergh Apton Local History Group  
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Bergh Apton Parochial Church Council  
Bergh Apton Village Hall Trust  
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