



Bergh Apton Broadcast

Issue 188 Oct/Nov 2023

Can we already be on the October edition? The first year of my Editorship has flown past and I'm ready for year number two...although I



have some catching up to do with our previous Editor (John Ling). I have to say, there is nothing like getting involved to help you feel like you are a part of something and I would urge you to come along and join in if you are currently nervously watching from the side-lines wondering if you should...it's the best way to get to know people, and everyone is very friendly!

This edition is packed with activities and events in the lead-up to Christmas (sorry, I said it already!). The Bergh Apton Festival has had a wide variety of visitors with a packed programme of events over the summer culminating in 'Endings

& Beginnings of Gardens and Houses' at the church on 7th October.

Two special services will be taking place at St Peter and St Paul with 'Songs of Praise' on 22nd October and a Salvation Army Christmas appeal service on 19th November (replacing the shoebox appeal). Please do come along, any donations will be very much appreciated and make a big difference to those who are already finding things difficult, and for whom Christmas is an even more stressful time.

There will be time for the usual reflection at our Remembrance Day service which will take place at the church at 10.30am on 12th November, followed by opportunity to talk over homemade soup at the village hall.

Bergh Apton Arts (BAA), formerly known as BACAT, are busy being creative in

preparation for their new event early next year, so look out for the workshops to get involved or contact them via bergaptonarts.org.

A great way of getting to know people is at one of our charity events, so try to pop along to Paris Beck's Coffee Morning on 11th October, with the opportunity to get a few early gifts, or get some friends and family together for the Quiz n Chilli (with jacket potato too so I understand - perfect autumnal fayre!) which takes place on 28th October.

Finally, I would like to thank a few new contributors who have sent things in this month...it's always lovely to get others' involved and keep the newsletter fresh!

Enjoy the Autumn walks and the time for reflection.

Jenny Lovatt

Exhibition News

Back in editions 182 and 186 I brought you details of Rosie Winn's art and so I thought you might like to know that I have been exhibiting my work locally also. As a member of the Norwich 20 Group, I have been involved with their most recent exhibition 'In Plain Sight' at the beautiful St Nicholas' church on the hill in Salthouse, although the crystal clear light it is famed for was challenged a number of times by imposing thunder clouds and heavy showers! It's the first time in ten years the group has returned there, following another of their shows earlier in the year at The Yare Gallery in Great Yarmouth. The summer show was held once more at The Undercroft in Norwich, a secret exhibition space under the war memorial in the city. Perhaps you may have visited?

I am now looking forward to taking one of my paintings, 'Catch The Breeze' to The Cromer Artspace (West Promenade), having successfully passed the jury selection for their 'Colour' exhibition. It will be on display from 30/9 - 18/10, 11-4 daily so if you fancy a trip to the coast, perhaps you might like to take a look?

For art fans, another new exhibition, 'Emerge' will be taking place at The Undercroft 22nd-26th November, bringing the opportunity to discover artists at the start of their careers. It is hoping to provide a more relaxed and engaging display of work, without the formalities of a traditional gallery...so another one to look out for.

For more information, you can contact me on jenniferlovattstudio@gmail.com or obtain further details at www.jenniferlovattstudio.com. If you have any exhibitions or displays of your own coming up, please do let me know.



Jenny Lovatt

Please send contributions to: berghaptoneditor@gmail.com by 10th November.

BERGH APTON'S Best Nature Photograph

THIRD Call to all photographers.

There's still time to take a wonderful pic.

Your best, most intriguing or wonderful pic...DO join in and enter:

'The Green Pastures Nature Photography Competition of the Year'

Photographs of anything of the **NATURAL WORLD**.

Green Pastures has generously offered a prize for the best nature photograph taken at any time during the next 12 months.

Entries will be judged anonymously by a carefully selected panel and will be published in the newsletter and exhibited in the village.

Open to any **'Bergh Apton Broadcast'** reader.

Those interested please contact:

Christopher Meynell on c.m.meynell@gmail.com for further information and criteria.



COFFEE MORNING

at Washingford House
Cooles Road, Bergh Apton, NR15 1AA

Wednesday October 11th

10.00am to 1.00pm

Kindly Sponsored by
Johnson Holmes & Co Accountants
and Barrier Animal Health

In aid of The Brooke &
East Anglian Air Ambulance
With a donation to our church



Book Bugs and Dragon Tails,
Jewellery, Pottery, Cards,
Bags, Christmas Gifts, Stationery, Handmade
Soaps, Bath Oils.

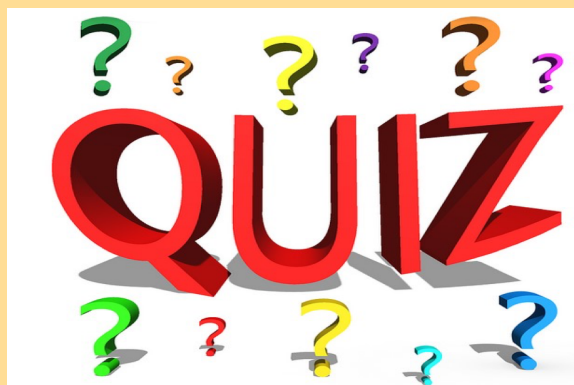
Cake and Tombola stall

Entry £2.50 to include coffee and biscuits

Offers of cakes/tombola/raffle prizes greatly appreciated

Paris Back and Liz Lester

07900 683 617 / parisback14@gmail.com



QUIZ & CHILLI

Veggie/gluten-free etc options
available

SATURDAY 28th OCTOBER

7 for 7.30pm start

BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL

£8.50 / player

Get together your team and
contact Milton Harris

on 01508 550473

for more details and to book in

What a coincidence?!

by Christopher Johnson

We've all said that at one time or another, myself probably more than others. During our research of the men on the village War Memorial over many years now, John Ling and I have had some pretty amazing and quite spooky coincidences to say the least but, here are two more, this time concerning my father George (Johno) Johnson and the families of two other people who live in the village.



Sergeant Major George
"Johno" Johnson

Talking with my new neighbour, Graham Hunt, he spoke of his great uncle Bernard Woolmer being taken a prisoner of war when he was captured by the Japanese at the Fall of Singapore in 1942. Graham initially thought that because Bernard came from Leicestershire that he served in the Leicestershire Regiment but upon further investigation he found that it was in fact the Royal Norfolk Regiment, specifically the 6th Battalion, and had enlisted in 1939. This was also my father's regiment who by 1939 found himself as a Corporal and training instructor at the Regimental Depot of the Norfolk's at Britannia Barracks, Norwich. A pre-war regular soldier, Johno had already spent the past eleven years abroad serving with the 1st Battalion in China and India and was an experienced soldier and this experience was now put to good use training new recruits, one of whom would have been Bernard!

In 1941 Johno was posted from the Depot to join the 6th Battalion as a Sergeant where he now served with Bernard as the battalion moved around the UK on coastal protection duties and guarding Liverpool docks. In 1942 the 4th, 5th, and 6th Battalions of the Royal Norfolk's, part of the ill-fated 18th Division from East Anglia, were sent to the Far East in the forlorn hope to stop the Japanese invasion of Malaya. Luckily for Johno he was not part of this move as a few weeks previously he was hospitalised and medically downgraded, possibly due to his successful army boxing career causing damage to his hearing. However, this was not the lucky escape as it had seemed for Johno at the time and was a case of jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire!

By 1943 the war was not going well for the British in the Far East as the Japanese had by then over-run Malaya and Burma and had their eyes set on India and it was here that Johno now found himself again. Posted away from the Regiment to one of the Reinforcement Camps as a Company Sergeant Major, Johno continued his work training men in jungle warfare before being sent to their frontline fighting units. In April

1944 Johno and his normally non-combatant unit found themselves in the thickest of the fighting at Lion Box

Kanglatongbi as the Japanese began their "March on Delhi". After several weeks under siege Johno was flown out and continued working in the reinforcement system until 1945 when the need arose to overhaul its entire structure and locations. It was then that a certain Major G Kennedy had a hand in the fate of Johno, and another coincidence came about!

My friend and fellow Bergh Aptoner, Mrs Eelen Kennedy of Threadneedle Street told me a few years ago that her late husband, Graham, served in India during the war and was something to do with the posting of men.

Apparently, his duties hung heavy upon him, being fully aware that his decisions could send a man to his death. He had been in the Black Watch until his commission into the Rajputana Rifles of the Indian Army and was posted as Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General with Movement Control at General Headquarters India.



Major Graham Kennedy (as a
Captain) possibly in Bangalore

Imagine then my surprise while reading through top secret documentation (of the time) from the National Archive that Major G Kennedy was mentioned amongst other high-ranking officers as being at a conference held to decide the future make-up of the reinforcement structure, specifically my father's unit! The outcome was that Johno was promoted as Regimental Sergeant Major of No.2 Forward Army Reinforcement Holding Unit and, along with about three thousand reinforcements, would be part of the invasion force to retake Malaya from the Japanese. With the dropping of the atomic bombs the war finally came to an end before the invasion took place and Johno found himself in Bangalore where instead of sending men to fight he would be part of the system to repatriate them instead. Hundreds of these men awaiting their repatriation would have been former prisoners of war from the Norfolk's and in a letter home written at this time Johno stated, "I'm expecting to see a lot of the Boys come my way in the next few days. I know hundreds of them from the 4th, 5th and 6th Battalions. They came to me from the fields and factories. I was their "father" in their recruit stage. From the start of coming out here I've had many trying times and missed "playing the harp" many a time. My one thought has been for the Boys in Singapore."

One of those "Boys" going home after three and a half tortuous years was Bernard Woolmer. I wonder if they did meet each other, or would this be too much of a coincidence?!

A MEMORABLE THANKSGIVING *by John Ling*

When Felicity Bertram and Russell be Beer married in December 2021 it was in a time of Covid when no more than 15 people could gather in the church together. Thus the ceremony in Bergh Apton church was a rather muted affair.

It was very different this year when, on 15th July at a Service of Thanksgiving for their marriage, Fliss and Russ stood together again in the same place. This time, with their family and friends there to witness their happiness in such numbers, the church was at its physical capacity.

This would have been a memorable occasion for any number of reasons but no one expected one of them to be the total loss of power right at the beginning of the service as the congregation lustily sang 'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer'. As suddenly the lights went out, the church's PA system and the organ fell silent. Happily undaunted and in great voice, and unfazed by the loss, the congregation continued to the end of the hymn.

A quick assessment showed that this was an area power outage and that there would be no quick fix. So the service proceeded just as it would have done in the many hundreds of years before power came to the church. Curate Cate Turner, conducting the ceremony, spoke a little louder as did the bride and groom in their responses. The congregation, the organ now silent, sang hymns with even greater gusto.

The loss of organ accompaniment was resolved just in time for the final hymn, 'Jerusalem', as the old hand pump - unused since the early 1960s when powered bellows were installed - was brought back into service. Organist Antony Jarrold sprang into action as John Ling grasped the handle and pumped away to produce such considerable amounts of air this full-blooded hymn needs, that his 84-year-old reserves of energy were used to their limit.

Little understanding what would be asked of him - but a good fifty years younger than John, best man James Thompson manfully leapt into the fray for the ensuing Recessional music of Widor's Organ Toccata No 5 (that needs even more air than does Jerusalem).

Somewhere there now exists a video of James, dressed in full morning dress including tail-coat and waistcoat, in action. The Toccata coming to its end and his duties done, the look of relief on his face is memorable!

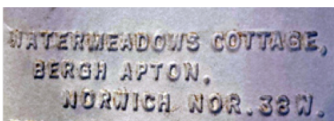
As the bride and groom processed back down the aisle to the applause of their family and friends (and as organ pumpers John and James recovered from their efforts) the lights came on, to tell us that the power supply had been restored.

Does it not feel like serendipity that this power-less hour came when it did? For the bride and groom, and for all those that were with them on this day, it would make their Thanksgiving a very special memory.

THE NORWICH POSTCODES TRIAL *by John Ling*

Rummaging in my workshop recently to find something (wishful thinking in its present state!) I found this small metal die-stamp that produces an address on a sheet of paper used for that rarity of today - a handwritten letter.

Using it on a piece of scrap paper (*see image on left*) I noticed the postcode; NOR 38W. Quite different to today's NR15 1DF. That brought from my memory that, in 1959, Norwich had hit the national headlines when selected as the city to trial a novel idea - a nationwide postcode to help GPO (General Post Office) staff to sort letters and parcels at a faster pace than the traditional hand-sorting that, except in some major cities, had been used since the days of the penny black.



The trial led to the decision (using the more sophisticated 6-digit code still in use today) to adopt postcodes throughout the United Kingdom. The first place to use them was Croydon in 1966 and the last was Norwich when, in 1974, our current codes replaced those of the 1959 trial.

So, I wondered coming closer to home, when was this 'Watermeadows Cottage' die-stamp commissioned, and for whom? Another rummage, in documents related to the house, unearthed the answer.

It could not have been before the Norwich postcode trial began in 1959 when the owner was The Hon. Alison Dowding (recently-divorced wife of Derek Dowding, the son of Hugh Dowding, the wartime Head of Fighter Command). Nor could it have been after June 1972 when its owner Alison Hartnell-Beavis, in a legal document, recorded it as 'Watermeadows'. These two owners were one and the same - Alison Dowding having married David Hartnell-Beavis in 1964.

So now, as I sit in rooms where Alison must have written her letters, I can almost hear that crisp little 'click' as she began each missive by impressing her address on the sheet of paper with this die-stamp.

How far around the world, I wonder, did the furthest letter travel. And, might it - in some long-forgotten file or dusty drawer, still exist?

Historic footnote: We know, from an application Alison Dowding made for a grant to improve its facilities soon after she bought the house in December 1957, that it was 'The Red Cottage'. That was a descriptive name that, probably, it had been called since being built in the 1840s to house an employee on the Kett family's Brooke

THE VILLAGE SIGN – HOME AGAIN

In the Broadcast's August edition there was just time, after the work was done, to include a couple of photos that showed how the village sign's images had been improved by signwriter Mike Amiss of Great Melton who restored the sign for the Parish Council, with the cost being met from our Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds.



A few days later, on 26th July, Parish Council chairman and all-round handyman Steve Whitby and John Ling put the sign back up on its oak post at the junction of The Street and Church Road.

From this photo of Steve (looking mighty pleased with the result) it may look to have been a job requiring a bit of heavy lifting. Not so much as you'd think . . . the lightweight aluminium alloy metal used to cast the sign made the task a lot easier than it looks!

A HIDDEN GEM

During the re-installation work this shiny little 3 cm-high pebble was discovered, sitting on the top of the sign's oak post.

Given the height of the post (Steve is about 6 ft) whoever hid it must have been quite tall (or, maybe, carried a ladder?).



LUCAS CODLING CLEANS UP THE VILLAGE HALL

Hilary Ling, Bergh Apton village hall's Secretary, picked up a recorded message on her phone in mid-July offering to pressure wash all the paving around the village hall that, after the several years since they were last cleaned up by Martin Scales of Hellington Corner, were beginning to look in need of a face-lift.

The call was from Lucas Codling who, based on Poringland, runs his own specialised cleaning company.

He told Hilary that he brings his own children to play on the Parish Council's playpark in the grounds of the village hall and had noticed the need. Moreover, he told her, he would do the work free of charge as a contribution towards the upkeep of the hall and its curtilage.

That generous offer was gratefully accepted and Lucas did the work a few days later with immaculate results. If you think that Lucas's name is familiar, you're right. You may well have seen his vehicle parked in the driveway of Orchard Plat on Bergh Apton's Threadneedle Street, his parental home where he grew up.

Thanks Lucas . . . *pro bono* offers such as yours that support local activities is of great value, not just for its financial benefits but because it demonstrates how much people appreciate what's available to everyone in places like Bergh Apton.

Lucas has a website <https://codlingexteriors.co.uk/> and is on 01508 740040.



Members of Bergh Apton Arts (BAA) at a recent workshop in the village hall, creating Forfar the Dragon in preparation for 'Unlock Unearth' in Jan/Feb 24.



For more information, please take a look at www.berghaptonarts.org

OBITUARY - BAR STEPHENS

1923-2023 (words by John Ling)



Barbara Joyce Stephens, always known as Bar, died on 29th May 2023 on the cusp of her 100th birthday that would have fallen on 7th

December this year. She, with her late husband, the N&N Surgeon John Stephens and with children Muff, Pippa and Tim, had come to Bergh Apton in 1958 to live at Bergh Apton House on Loddon Road where, when the route of the Bergh Apton Sculpture Trails included the hamlet of Bussey Bridge, they were generous hosts to the huge numbers of people who came to their garden and parklands. The congregation in the parish church for her funeral on 4th July, that came from all over the world and took up almost all of the available seating, was treated to the most excellent account of Bar's life by her son Tim and I am grateful to him for his allowing me to use his text as the basis for this obituary.

Perhaps, to many in the congregation, the greatest revelation in Tim's description of Bar's talents was her skill as an artist. It was amply demonstrated, locally, in the time when Bar was a member of the parish church team of flower arrangers, and her participation in Miss Colman's inaugural team that created our candle-lit Carol Service.

But its greatest flowering was with the paintbrush and palette. She created such works as the still-life watercolour (below) included in her funeral service sheet and, on that evidence, it was no surprise to learn that her work was accepted by the Royal Academy for its Summer Exhibition and that, following



a successful show of her works in Norwich, she was invited to take her exhibition to a gallery in Paris. Sadly, her failing eyesight through macular degeneration brought such opportunities for recognition to end. Bar explained the decision not to go to Paris by saying *"It's rather a long way to go and I'm not sure how to get there!"*

This explanation, coming from someone who had lived in Gibraltar and in immediate post-war Berlin, whose great-grandfather was the first Bishop of Lahore, and whose father had been a Surgeon in Shanghai and Hong Kong before becoming Honorary Surgeon to General Wavell the Viceroy of India, was a classic example of her famously dry sense of humour.

Life for Bar began in Blackheath where she was born the second daughter of Colonel Geoffrey Moulson of the Royal Army Medical Corps and his wife Eileen. When Geoffrey was posted to Shanghai in 1931, and because of the great distance involved and difficulty of travel in those times, Bar and her elder sister Rosemary stayed in England to be educated in Eastbourne. During school holidays - as Tim put it with our modern perspective on that colonial era - they were *"shunted from one family acquaintance to another"*.

Bar left school in 1939, aged 16 and, when war broke out, joined the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) with whom she served first on the Isle of Wight and then as part of the crew of an ack-ack gun on Clapham Common that, she proudly claimed, shot down the highest flying "bird" or V2 bomb of the war.

It was probably this wartime experience and her parental military background that, in later life, was the driving force behind her interest and participation in Bergh Apton's annual Remembrance Day service.

At the end of the war (it is unclear if on the basis of her artistic talent or the result of random military fate) Bar was posted to Berlin to join a dynamic team responsible for repatriating works of art stolen by the Nazis. As Tim told the congregation at her funeral, Bar never revealed much

about her time there but one cannot but help envisaging scenes from the 2014 film *"The Monuments Men"*.

She could be, as Tim described it, stubborn with a will of iron. To illustrate this trait he recalled the time when Bar was sailing in the Inner Hebrides with John on holiday when the weather began to deteriorate. Having earlier received news of the arrival of their first grandchild, Benjie Dudgeon, her family instincts told her that the child was more important than the voyage. As the wind and sea rose, Bar waved to attract the attention of a passing inter-island ferry whose Captain, thinking that they were in trouble, came alongside whereupon she leapt aboard and asked to be taken to land. There she caught the next train back home, a journey of just under 500 miles, to see her grandson. Bar's rather wicked but delicious sense of humour included intentional malapropisms that could put errors in mobile phone predictive spelling in the shade. In one quite recent discussion about the proclivities of a well-known personality, as to if he was monogamous, she observed with a twinkle in her eye; *"highly unlikely, he is completely monotonous."*

Finding a home for Bar (described by her son as *'this 5 ft 2-inch Titan'*) as macular degeneration and dementia made life more challenging, was happily resolved when she moved to Cavell Court in Cringleford where she was living at the time of her death and whose staff Tim described as 'as second-to-none'.

I can do no better to conclude than with Tim's final words that sum up his mother to a 'T'.

"Mum's life was a life well lived, that fell just short of 100. She had a huge artistic talent that could have progressed further but was curtailed by the failing of her sight; she was understated, funny, difficult at times, but greatly loved. She had an indomitable spirit; a lesson we will learn is to have the courage and belief of our own convictions and the strength to see them through and above all, to have a sense of humour, which she did to the end".

OBITUARY - JOY LESTER (November 1935-June 2023)

(words by John Ling)



Joy Lester who died on 25th June, just short of her 88th birthday, was the elder of the two children of Lily Scarles (née Wall) and her first husband Charles Gooch who died in 1942 as a result of a tragic accident in which he, having left its cab, was attempting to stop his runaway lorry from risking a serious accident.

Lily and her second husband Charles Scarles raised Joy and her brother Eric in their home in Mill Loke off Threadneedle St in Bergh Apton as equally-beloved siblings with their daughters Olive and Anna. That loving upbringing must have been an important influence in creating the gentle 20-year-old girl who married John Lester, a man of equal temperament, in Bergh Apton's parish church in 1955. This photo is of the happy couple on their wedding day on 16th September 1955.



The marriage produced sons John and Michael and daughter Louise who were raised in the small bungalow on Mill Road at Hellington Corner where John and Joy lived and where John worked for market gardener Charlie Carver and then by Charlie's son Colin, from 1947 until his retirement in 1997.

John and Joy left Bergh Apton on 2006 to live on Tower Road in Bungay where John died in December 2016 and where Joy, by now a great-grandmother several times over, continued to live until her own death.



Joy, at a little less than one year old, pictured here (in the white box) sitting on the lap of her mother Lily at a Mothers' Union gathering in the garden of Bergh Apton Manor in the Summer of 1936 (from a photo in the Bergh Apton archives).

Healing

Chris Roe

Rest with me

In this moment,

As a leaf

Floats gently down stream ,

Among diamonds of sunlight

Returning to the sky.

Stay in these moments,

As the morning mist

Floats above the surface

Of the lush, green meadows,

On the far side of the stream.

Stay and listen

To the morning song,

Bringing music

To the silence,

A prelude gifted

To the rising sun.

Walk with me

On my journey,

We will talk

Of forgiveness

And peace.



Photo: J Lovatt



'Save the Children' Christmas cards will be available at the
Oct/Nov Community Cafe meetings at Bergh Apton village hall
Contact: Carrie Coll 01508 550260 for further details.

Following the success of the Pot of Gold Shanty Crew in May, the **Bergh Apton Festival 2023** saw two more productions this summer.



The evening of 12th August was wonderfully fine and warm. The Norwich Harmony ladies a cappella chorus took advantage of the balmy air to warm up in the churchyard, giving audience members an extra treat as they arrived for the performance. Once inside we were regaled with a wide variety of songs old and new, ranging from the 1940 classic *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* through Cyndi Lauper's *True Colours* and Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* (yes, it can be done a cappella – and brilliantly!) to *This is me* from the 'Greatest Showman', with lots more in between.

There were poems, stories and plenty of laughter and fun as the audience was led in a spot of four-part harmony. In all, it was a great evening's entertainment.

Another lovely late summer's evening on 2nd September saw an almost full house ready to appreciate '*An Evening with Louis de Bernières*'. They weren't disappointed.



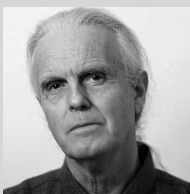
Louis' fame as the author of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* rather overshadows his many other works and varied talents and, if you only met Captain Corelli in the film, you only learnt part of his story – and that of his mandolin!

Louis has written numerous other books and short stories. In addition, he's a poet, a witty raconteur, a songwriter and a musician. One of his poems, a wry backward look at his hippy days had us all chuckling; another, skilfully drawn from short entries in his grandmother's diaries, movingly depicted an Edwardian childhood and adoration of her father.

His anecdotes and poems, interspersed with some of his songs – and accompanied variously by guitar and mandolin - combined to provide a varied, entertaining and thoughtful occasion.

Saturday 7th October sees the final Festival 2023 event, '*Endings & Beginnings of Gardens & Houses*', featuring Xa Tollemache and Hopwood DePree, but that's not the last performance in the church this year. Hugh Lupton will be with us on Friday 10th November, presenting *Crying Like A Fire In The Sun*.

BERGH APTON ARTS
'CRYING LIKE A FIRE IN THE SUN'
10th November 2023
7pm Bergh Apton Church



Hugh Lupton, Master Storyteller, writer and poet is known nationally and internationally. He has been weaving his webs of words to lift us into some magic for nearly forty years.

In '*Crying Like A Fire In The Sun*' he brings us tales from the Apocrypha and the Old Testament, books silted in stories of miracles and mysteries, tales from a distant

world. Like all tales they grow in the telling!

He will tell of Demons, Dragons and Dreams, Angels and Animals, Love and Loss and the Voice from the Heart of the Whirlwind.

Knitted in with these wonders will be music and words of Bob Dylan.

This event is for adults only. Tickets £12.

<https://www.berghaptonarts.org/crying-like-a-fire-in-the-sun-2023> or on 01508 558440

BERGH APTON ARTS

UNLOCK UNEARTH
WITH
HUGH LUPTON
IN
BERGH APTON CHURCH

28-29 JANUARY & 3-4 FEBRUARY

TIME : 7.30pm

TICKETS : £10.00

(on sale from 1 October)

<https://berghapton.org.uk/home/arts>
or

01508558440

The land of the real can also be the land of the unreal, the world that is, the world that was, the world that might be, come and find out.

'FRESHERS' FAIR'

A thriving village hosts clubs and societies for all. Fancy joining one or two? This edition, Linda Davy tells us more on BALHG..and what they get up to...

Introducing Bergh Apton Local History Group

Bergh Apton Local History Group formally came into being in 2000 with the writing and production of the Bergh Apton Millennium Pageant, celebrating the varied and colourful history of the village. From these roots developed a group that encompasses all aspects of local history. We are broadly divided into four areas of activity: research, archives, social events and information.

We use the Norfolk Record Office extensively to track down people and events that feature in our village history. We have been able to fund the restoration of local documents, such as our tithe map (a manuscript from 1839 that names and categorises every plot of land in the parish) to enable public access to these fragile original records. We have also commissioned 'The Book of Bergh Apton', a published local history of the village; copies are still available!

We are in the process of sorting, cataloguing and recording our village archives, which are housed at the Village Hall. We have a group, who meet regularly on the third Tuesday of the month from two until four p.m., working on this project. Our ultimate goal is to enter all our records on the National Community Archives website to enable public access from all over the world. You are very welcome to call in and meet us there.

Our social events include an annual historical re-enactment of 'The Hare' (our only public house, which



closed in the 18 century, photo left), a film evening featuring archive films (the next one is on 18 October showing the aforementioned pageant), talks focusing on local subjects and, one of the highlights of the year, our annual dinner. We base the menu and the theme of the evening around something that happened on the actual date of the dinner. These topics have included

an eclectic mix that ranged over the introduction of the Penny Black stamp, the Pilgrim's Progress, the sale of the first Teddy Bear, and the first steam locomotive to run on rails (see photo right).



Many visitors come to the village seeking information about their ancestors. A huge amount of work has been done on tracing the history of the men on our war memorial and several names have been added following this research. Trips have been made to war graves all over the world and crosses laid on the graves of our village soldiers.

We would love to see you at any of our activities. Many of you, I know, are newcomers with little historical connection with the village, but uncovering the rich vein of our past may help you to feel at home here and create your own contribution to our history.

Linda Davy, Chairman (01508 558453)

St Peter and St Paul, Bergh Apton



There are two special services coming up in Bergh Apton church.

The first will be on **Sunday 22nd October at 6pm - Songs of Praise** - with poems, readings and hymns with the theme, 'Seasons of Thankfulness.

The second will be on **Sunday 17th November at 11 am**. A family-friendly service to support the *Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal*. This is instead of our usual Shoebox Service.

If you'd like to support the Appeal, you can *bring along your donations of new, unwrapped toys or gifts, for children aged 0 – 16*, where they will feature as part of the service.

Afterwards, the Bergh Apton team will arrange for them to be taken to the Salvation Army Norwich depot where the gifts will be wrapped before distribution to those in need.

There's more information about the Present Appeal (which replaces their previous 'Tins and Toys Appeal') on the Salvation Army website.

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/christmas-present-appeal>

You can also find their suggestions for possible gifts for children/young people:

The website particularly says, "We believe every child deserves a new gift at Christmas, so we are unable to take used or second hand items for the Christmas Present Appeal."

Here's their list for those who don't 'do internet stuff'!

- 0-3 years: dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, CDs of suitable music and nursery rhymes, puzzles
- 3-5: dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, DVDs and CDs (music and nursery rhymes), colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles
- 5-9: educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), CDs & family friendly DVDs, books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords
- 9-12: games and toys, stationery, DVDs, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats
- 13-16: books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers.

There will also be an opportunity at the service to make monetary donations to the Appeal.

Norwich Foodbank

A lot of people seem already to know that Bergh Apton church and other Thurton Benefice churches have drop-boxes where you can leave donations to the Norwich foodbank, part of the Trussell Trust Group.

Your generosity has allowed us to convey nearly 1200 kilogrammes of food, toiletries and essentials to the Norwich Foodbank since August 2020, and since the church drop-off boxes were set up, you've totalled nearly 3400 kilogrammes. That's amazing!

Anyone's circumstances can change. Losing your job, needing to care for a sick family member, breaking up with your partner - these are things that can happen to any of us. With Universal Credit increasingly unable to provide enough to cover the cost of life's essentials; food, household bills or travel costs, more people than ever are being driven to food banks.

They will provide food

parcels for families and individuals and for those who have no access to cooking facilities.

You can pick up copies of a shopping list in the church, to keep with you when you're shopping. It includes:

Tea
Instant mash
Rice pudding
Custard
Biscuit bars
Jam
Peanut butter
Long-life milk
Tinned meat
Tinned fruit
Tinned tomatoes
Pasta sauce
Sponge puddings
Soup
Chocolate
Crisps
Biscuits

In addition to providing the vital food parcels, the Trussell Trust is campaigning for the Government to introduce an Essentials Guarantee so that Universal Credit can actually protect people from going without the essentials.

You can help
[https://
action.trusselltrust.org/](https://action.trusselltrust.org/)
nearly-3-million-
emergency-food-
parcels-guarantee-our-
essentials

Getting to know you... The Editor sits in on a conversation between Suzanne Whitby of the Bergh Apton Local History Group and Peter Annis of The Street, Bergh Apton as they prepared for a talk on the history of Bergh Apton school.

The original Church school (opposite the church) was founded in 1839 and was fee paying with two teaching staff, one of whom was the Head Teacher. The Church paid the fee for those most needy but most had to pay their own fees. Education was initially up to age 10 and was extended to age 14 but children could leave early if they had work or were needed on farms etc. Children had to pass their grades each year to move up. It became free in 1912 and eventually closed in 1981.

JL/SW: Tell me about the start of your life in Bergh Apton?

PA: I was born in 1927; my family originally lived in Royston House (across the road) and farmed the surrounding land. There were six small holdings, rented out from Norfolk County Council including the one farmed by Bob Debbage (father of James Debbage of Green Pastures). When I married in 1957, my wife and I moved into the home I live in now on The Street.

JL/SW: And what do you remember about going to school in Bergh Apton?

PA: I don't have too many memories of school, to be honest as I wasn't actually that keen. I started in 1932 and left at age 14 with hopes of becoming a mechanic but my father told me I needed to help on the farm.

JL/SW: So if you liked mechanics, did you have a motorbike or car?

PA: My father wasn't keen on the motorbike idea...but I do remember my first car; a grey split-screen Morris Minor, OMG374, which I later sold to my brother-in-law...I wonder what became of it?

JL/SW: So, returning to school, do you remember anything about your early schooling?

PA: We sat in rows, two desks together facing the front and copied from the blackboard onto slates using chalk. For games, we went down the hill to the area where the Recycling Site is now .. once a year we would go to Kirby Bedon to compete in games competitions. We would also dance around the maypole...but often got it all wrong!

JL/SW: And were you there all day..did you take lunch or was there a kitchen?

cont/d P11



BRAMERTON GROUP

In 2022/23 you have donated a total of 251 kg

Since you started giving, you have donated a total of just over 3394 kg
Based on the average weight of the food boxes we supply, this would be
enough food to feed just over 377 local people who are in crisis, for 3
days.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

www.norwich.foodbank.org.uk email admin@norwich.foodbank.org.uk tel 01603 251733
Gift Aid No. XT22368 Reg. Ltd Co. No. 7051996 Reg Charity No 1143528 Reg. in England & Wales

Patrons The Right Revd Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich, Susan Hill and Della Smith CBE.

I was in Ukraine - I saw my house and cried...

I was in Ukraine - I hugged my parents and grandmother...

I was in Ukraine - I saw destroyed houses and lives...

I was in Ukraine - I felt despair, pain and rage...

I was in Ukraine - I saw my friends and hugged them tightly...

I was in Ukraine - I listened to siren and explosions...

I was in Ukraine - I saw hope and faith in victory...

I was in Ukraine - I believe that we are able to defeat the russia and
corruption...

I was in Ukraine - and someday I will return again...

Aleksandra Zinovieva

PA: The school day was 9-3.45pm, but the clock never seemed to move! We took our own lunch at that time but I remember, where the Hemmants live, they used to have an old billy goat and he would get out and come and eat our lunches ..we would try and catch him but he always ran too fast!

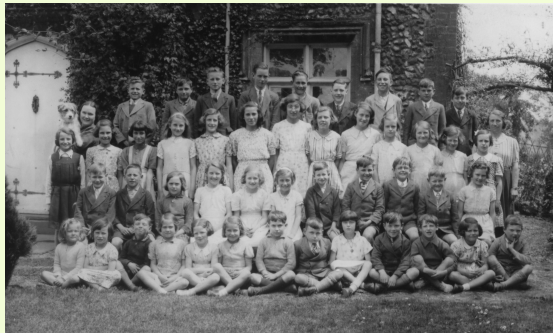
JL/SW: Are there any little tales of being at school...things that stood out?

PA: I remember cycling over to Kirstead school on a Tuesday afternoon to do woodwork with a very mean teacher called Billy Bush. We used to get paid 1d a mile (7d for the total journey)...if you didn't have a bike you couldn't go! I also remember the boys with their catapults trying to shoot stones at the ceramic insulators on the telegraph pole. In the lunchtimes, we snuck out and the boys used to walk along the top of the church walls...fortunately the Head Teacher never saw us or we would have been in trouble.

During the war we had evacuees at the school, they were taught in a class on their own near the front door of the school (there were usually two classes in school - one for the younger children, one for the older). Around twenty were sent up from Gravesend with their own master, but they didn't stay with us for long as we had as much bombing around here as they had come from. Three of the girls stayed at The Rectory and some others came from Valley Farm on their roller skates!

JL/SW: And do you remember your teachers?

PA: Mrs Williams was the headteacher when I was there and being Welsh, made us all learn the Welsh national anthem! The other teacher was Miss Hepburn, she taught me when I was younger.



Peter (4th in back row from left - 1941)

JL/SW: And do you remember how the school was heated, lit and how you got water?

PA: We had a Tortoise stove to heat the school, later on there was a big open fire (when Kevin Parfitt attended). Earlier on 'Tilly' lamps were used for lighting (which the children lit) but we had electricity by the time I was there. There was no running water at the time and the children had to crank up the water, one was taken off and the other pail was sent down so we had water on hand for drinking.

JL/SW: So when you finished school, what happened..with it being wartime..did you go into the army or work?

PA: We were exempt if we had to help on the farm so I didn't go into the army, I was in the fire service and met at Holly Lodge for meetings to practice fighting fires to combat the fire bombs. We started with stirrup pumps and moved onto a two man one (like a seesaw). As the fire service got bigger, we had to go to Loddon where the men stayed over but I was too young so I didn't get involved in that. Instead I was given a flat barrow and told to go collect the dead bodies, but luckily I didn't find any!

A brief snippet of Peter's memories..many thanks to Peter for his time, his daughter and Kevin Parfitt for setting up the meeting, and to Suzanne for sharing the event.

COOK'S CORNER

This month Gill Waters shares a family recipe with a family story...
(recipes are quoted as given so may not always be metric!)

"When the Second World War started in 1939 my aunt, who had never worked, opened a cafe and homemade cake shop in London called "The Gingerbread House". She created many recipes and I have a copy of her book which is used by all the family. Her cooking became well known and was a bonus for those helping with the war effort.

The following recipe from her collection is a great favourite at "Coffee and Chat" held every third Wednesday at the village hall. I am therefore sharing it with all home cooks."

Almond Slice



Set the oven to 180 degrees. Line a 12 inch by 7 inch tin with shortcrust pastry and spread with raspberry jam.

Put 8 ounces granulated sugar, 3 ounces ground almonds and 3 egg whites in a saucepan. Heat until it will spread easily and pour onto pastry. Sprinkle with 4 ounces flaked almonds and cook for 30 to 40 minutes. Cut into slices when cold and store in a tin. It freezes well so this is how I store it.

Coming Up In The Diary

Dec 2023

6th 10-4pm	Christmas Wreath Workshop (BAVH)
6th 7pm	Parish Council Meeting @BAVH
8th 7 for 7.30pm	Christmas Bingo @BAVH
15th 9.30am	Decorate church for Christmas

With thanks...

This newsletter cannot be produced without the generosity of our sponsors who have pledged support at this time for the print costs for the next 12 months.

Our thanks go to:

Fanny Thursby Trust, Bergh Apton Arts, Bergh Apton Conservation Trust, Bergh Apton Society, Bergh Apton Local History Group, Bergh Apton Parish Council, Bergh Apton Parochial Church Council, Bergh Apton Village Hall Trust, Bertram Charitable Trust, Country Holiday Cottages Norfolk Ltd, and the Christopher Tenwinter Trust.

Useful Contacts

BAA (art workshops)

Pat Mlejnecky 01508 480696

BA Conservation Trust

Tony Davy 01508 558453

Ballet

Aleksandra Zinovieva
07493073114

BA Local History Trust

Linda Davy 01508 558453

BA Society

Lynton Johnson 01508 480629

Church: Rector

Reverend Chris Ellis 01508
484174

Church: Warden

Shirley Rimmer 01508 480576

Dog Training

Tina Devlin 07810 158799

Family/Local History research

John Ling 01508 480439

Microscopy Group

Peter Sunderland 01508 493398

Pilates classes

moveswithemma.com

Singing (The La La's)

Karen Bonsell 07583968739

Village Hall Bookings

Hilary Ling 01508 480439

Yoga classes

Gemma Bains 07979 723914

Regular Events at The Village Hall

Monday	5pm on	Dog Training
Tuesday	9.30am & 10.30	Pilates
Tuesday	7pm	The La La's sing
2nd Wednesday	7.30pm	B.A. Society
3rd Wednesday	10-12pm	Coffee n Catch Up
3rd Wednesday	2-4 pm	Village Archive
Thursday	3-5pm	Ballet class
Friday	9.30am & 11.15	Yoga
1st Saturday	9-5pm	Microscopy Group
Saturday	9-12pm	Ballet class (not on 1st Saturday of the month)

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Do you know we have a Facebook Page?

'Bergh Apton Community Noticeboard'

and a website

<https://berghapton.org.uk/>

Community Information

A new, updated 'Your guide to care and support for adults' has been published by Care Choices in association with Norfolk County Council. It gives readers crucial information on how to access, and pay for, care and support services throughout Norfolk.

If you're growing concerned about your care options, or just want some more information on what your choices may be, this guide can help. With information to help you understand your options, where to go for advice and how the paying for care system works, the guide can support you to make informed decisions.

The new edition of your guide to care and support for adults and accompanying website gives information on all aspects of arranging care and support in Norfolk. It includes information about how to stay

independent for as long as possible, the different care and support options available and what to look for when choosing a care provider if you need one.

It also offers guidance on important issues such as paying for care and what financial assistance may be available from the local authority. There are comprehensive listings of all registered care services throughout Norfolk, plus checklists to help you ask the right questions when thinking about your choices.

For a free copy of the Norfolk – your guide to care and support for adults, contact information@norfolk.gov.uk or call 0344 800 8020. The Guide will be available throughout Norfolk from outlets including hospitals, GP surgeries, libraries, Healthwatch and Alzheimer's Society. It can be downloaded from www.carechoices.co.uk and is also available in spoken word.

Village Diary

Oct 2023

4th 5pm	BA Soc. - Gt Yarmouth greyhound racing Meet BAVH.
7th 7pm	BA Festival event - Church
11th 10am	Coffee Morning - Washingford House
11th 7.30pm	BA Soc. talk - Peter Goodrum 250 years of Jarrolds (BAVH)
12th 7pm	Village Hall Mgmnt. committee
18th 10-12pm	Coffee n Chat (BAVH)
18th 2-4pm	BALHG Archiving - BAVH
18th 7.30pm	BALHG film evening - BAVH
21st 10-4pm	Bergh Apton Arts workshop
21st 10.30am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field.
22nd 1.30pm	BACT Fungus Foray. Meet Church Field.
22nd 6pm	Songs of Praise at the Church
26th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field.
28th 7 for 7.30pm	Quiz n Chilli (BAVH)

Nov 2023

8th 7.30pm	BA Soc. - Mary Fewster 'Christmas Past' (BAVH)
10th 7pm	Crying Like A Fire in the Sun BAA event @ The Church
12th 10.30am	Remembrance Day service @ church followed by soup @BAVH
15th 10-12pm	Coffee n Catch Up - BAVH
15th 2-4pm	BALHG Archiving - BAVH
16th tba	BA Soc. - Trip to Thursford
18th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field.
19th 11am	Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal service @ church
19th 2pm	BALHG history walk around Norwich
23rd 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field.
25th 9am	11 Says Assembly - BAVH
29th 7pm	Village Hall Mgmnt meeting