



Bergh Apton Broadcast

Issue 192 Jun/July 2024



Welcome to the summer edition of the 'Bergh Apton Broadcast'. I hope by the time you read this, we shall be enjoying some sunshine after the long cold spell which kept my seeds from germinating and left all of us gardeners desperately hoping for warmth to get tubs and baskets underway.

If, like me, you woke to find that 90% of the UK had witnessed the skies light up with the sighting of the aurora borealis, but missed it as your bed was calling, you will be pleased to see that one villager managed to capture it for us in these stunning photos (below)! We always welcome photos into the newsletter so if you manage to catch something that you think shows off Bergh Apton, then do e-mail me .

The news this edition seems to be split quite evenly between looking back and looking forwards. We have lots of good news to celebrate on page 2 - do take a look and if you have your own good news to share; weddings, anniversaries, new births, new neighbours or your own special achievements...then please do let me know.

The summer gives us more incentive to venture out and so I do hope you will be able to join us at a selection of events coming up soon. Talking of photos, we have the long-awaited result of the 'Green Pastures Nature Photography Competition' on 13th June at the village hall, the Bergh Apton Annual Fete at The Manor on 13th July and a calendar of events for The Bergh Apton Festival 2024 at the church (P4). All of these really need your support to be successful, so please do come along and be part of our community.

A special welcome to any new residents who may be coming along for the first time - if you don't know anyone, and I'm there, please come and say hi!

John and Hilary Ling always contribute to the magazine, and have been involved in numerous events and committees since they came to the village back in 1997 - I am sure they are familiar faces to many of you. I thought it was about time that John was interviewed for the 'Getting to Know You' feature (Hilary nominated him to go first), to fill in those gaps of information you didn't know so I hope you will enjoy reading my interview...a shortened version of course!

I hope many of you have enjoyed getting to know a few of the villagers, however you're all very shy when it comes to appearing. Without some more nominations soon, I will be running out of names I know I can approach...so it may be time to nominate someone. Please get in contact with suggestions of who you would like to see interviewed, and contact details if possible.

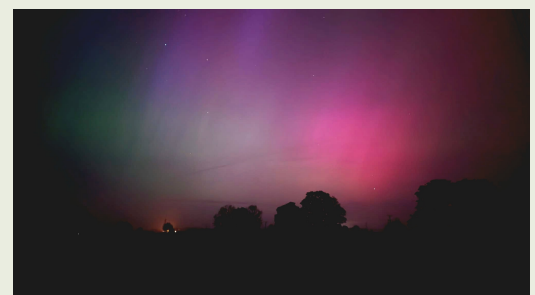
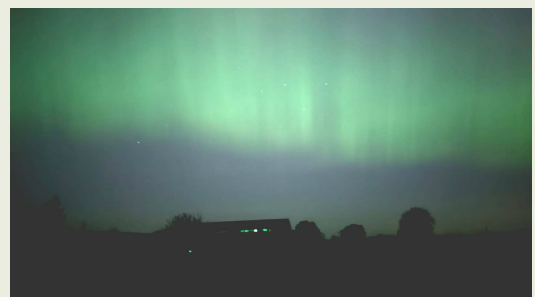
If you have any contributions, articles or comments for Issue 193 (Aug/Sept), please send to the Editor: berghaptoneditor@gmail.com by 10th July.

In the meantime, I wish you a bright and sunny summer and I look forward to seeing you at the Fete when I shall be making my annual appearance dressed as a pirate for 'Bowlin' for Booty'!

Best wishes,

Jenny Lovatt (Editor)

Did any of you see the Aurora skies over Bergh Apton? Unfortunately I was asleep, so thanks go to Ashley Telfer who captured it for us, and his partner Sophie who sent them on to me.



The Reverend Chris Ellis shares with us some good news...



Melanie and I recently joined the hallowed ranks of grandparents in the parish, with the birth of our first grandson, Albert, a few weeks ago. Melanie was able to meet him after only a few days when she travelled up to Scotland

by train, but I had to wait until the end of the Easter weekend before I could head north. There is little to compare with that first moment a fragile new life is placed into your arms, and you feel the overwhelming emotions of love for this new addition to the family. It was a wonderful reminder of the moments we held our two children for the first time. As a priest, I am privileged to have held literally hundreds of babies at the moment of their baptism and I am well aware of the great trust the parents are placing physically in me and spiritually in God. It will be a very special moment when I hold Albert for his baptism later this year.

Having a daughter in Scotland and a son in London means we do not get to meet up as much as we would like, and it is a sadness for us that we will not be present in Albert's life as much as we would like as he grows up. But having had that initial moment of meeting and holding him when he was only a few weeks old means that we have made a connection that cannot be broken; it is simply the connection of love that binds us to him

and him to us. The exact same connection, the invisible bond, that maintains our loving relationship with our children and our wider family and friends, regardless of how often we get to meet with them.

When I conduct a baptism service I usually explain to those gathered that baptism is simply about saying 'yes' to God's love; a love that he offers freely to all of us. By choosing to have their child baptised, parents have made the decision that they want their child to grow in the knowledge of that love and it is incumbent upon them and their chosen godparents to show that love through their own example and teaching.

God shows his love for us through a family relationship - through his Son. At his own baptism by John in the River Jordan, Jesus heard his Father affirm his love for him: 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' (Matthew 3:13-17). Whenever I conduct a baptism, I imagine God speaking those words to the baby in my arms or to the older child or adult beside me at the font. It is never too late to say 'yes' to God's love and I am convinced that every time we do, God experiences the same joy and flood of emotion that we do when we first hold our precious child (or grandchild!). If you would like a conversation about a baptism for your own child or for yourself, please do speak to me at any time.

With every blessing,

Fr Chris.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Many of you will know that Bergh Apton Parish Council has been working with Thurton and Ashby PCs trying to improve road safety on and around the A146.

Earlier this year we ran a petition to Norfolk County Council (signed by over 500 people) asking that they consider a package of changes aimed at improving safety along the road between Thurton and Hellington Corner. The full details and
2 response from

NCC can be found on the homepage of berghapton.org.uk.

In essence NCC refutes the need for further speed limits (although the long-awaited 50mph at Hellington Corner is going ahead) but has offered help with the other four areas that we have raised. The joint councils are taking this forward with NCC Highways and engaging our County Councillor Kay Mason-Billig to help. Most of these items will require us to raise local funds, so this is likely to be a long process.

The joint Parish Councils have also asked Highways to publish a plan for diversions in the event of unexpected A146 closures (when the lanes in our Parishes become almost impassible with gridlocked traffic), we did receive a response but we didn't feel it really addressed the issues and are in the process of replying asking that more consideration is given.

We will keep you updated.

Steve Whitby

Chair - Bergh Apton Parish Council

Wishing good luck...



...to villagers Cara Knox and her fiancé Alex who will be getting married on Saturday 13th July this year. You may notice this is the same date as the Bergh Apton Fete, and so consequently Cara will be unable to sing at our event this year but we will be thinking of them and hope they have a fine and wonderful wedding day.

And a Welcome...

...to new arrivals in Threadneedle Street

Fran & Bradley from Claxton, with children, Amber, Molly and Florence PLUS even newer arrival, Mabel, who put in her first appearance on 19th March.

With dog, Willow, also being a girl, maybe Bradley will be needing a Man-Cave!

BUSY BERGH APTON

by Gill Waters

*Bergh Apton is a village with many things to do,
No need to sit alone at home, try out something new.*

*Most things take place at Bergh Apton village hall,
This newsletter will give you details of all.*

*Monday it's Dog Training so bring your lovely pet,
No matter what the weather does, it can be fine or wet.*

*Tuesday it's Pilates to keep you fit and able,
Movements that you do will render you more stable.*

*Tuesday is also when the La La's come to sing,
It's amazing what joy singing can bring.*

*Second Wednesday Bergh Apton Society meet together.
They hear a talk and then discuss trips for better weather.*

*Every third Wednesday its Coffee 'n chat,
All home cooking and a bargain at that.
Later on the Archive group research the village past
Recording information so the history will last.*

*Thursday it's Ballet and Sasha helps all
With her tuition, pupils light up the hall.*

*Friday it's Yoga to help you keep fit
Sometimes you lie and sometimes you sit.*

*First Saturday it's the Microscopy group
You'll be amazed what you can see through the loupe.*

*The remaining Saturdays it's Ballet once more
And all ballerinas take to the floor.*

Soon it will be Monday again

The bookings continue come sunshine or rain.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

I thought it might be useful to publish the dates of the forthcoming Bergh Apton Parish Council Meetings so that people can attend should they wish.

29th May 2024

31st July 2024

25th September 2024

7pm at Bergh Apton Village Hall

Any enquiries: clerk@berghapton.org.uk



Please join us at
**BERGH APTON
FETE**
on
**Saturday
13th July 2pm**
at The Manor

by kind permission of Kip and Alison Bertram

**A traditional English village fête
Live music - strawberry & cream teas -
Pimms - cakes - flower arrangements -
perfumery - white elephant - bowling for a
hamper - smash the crockery - toys -
children's games and a whole lot more**

A wonderful afternoon in a beautiful garden

Free admission and free car park



BERGH APTON'S FIRST NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

THURSDAY 13th JUNE 7.15 FOR 7.30

AT BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL

**WINNER WILL BE DECLARED
VIEW THE AMAZING PHOTOGRAPHS & CELEBRATE CREATIVITY
EVERYONE FROM BERGHAPTON welcome**

Please join us on the 13th June (7.15pm) to view the entries, meet with other villagers over a glass of wine and hear the announcement of the winner and presentation of the prize!

Raffle in aid of The Sanyu Babies Home, Kampala, Uganda
Looking forward to seeing you on 13th June
Christopher Meynell c.m.meynell@gmail.com

BERGH APTON FESTIVAL ~ 2024

News

Fine City Chorus has been described as 'Norfolk's premier male Barbershop Chorus' – they certainly lived up to that reputation at their concert in the church on 27th April, the first event in this year's festival. It was a fine, if chilly, evening but the guys soon had us all warmed up. Twenty one chaps, under the musical direction of Carol Logan, really filled the church with the most wonderful harmonies. They were supported by 'Splash!' a ladies' quartet, who provided some extra glamour, and a different sound. The high spots for me were: 'Make you feel my love', made famous by Adele but written by Bob Dylan (who knew?! – I didn't!), the rousing chorus of 'Do you hear the people sing' from Les Misérables, and, for an encore, 'Sweet Caroline'.



But their offering was so wide and varied, there was something for everyone. There are a couple of videos on the Bergh Apton Church Facebook page and, if you enjoy those, you'll be able to hear them at Brooke Church on 20th July at 7pm.

Coming up

Saturday 29th June 7pm

A Talk by Julian Barnwell - "Our Journey to Finding the Gloucester"

The search for, and discovery of The Gloucester - 'Norfolk's Mary Rose' ...how two diving Norfolk brothers, Julian & Lincoln Barnwell discovered the wreck of a 17th Century warship which had carried the future King of England.

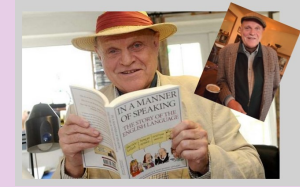
A royal ship carrying James Stuart, future King James II, ran aground on a sandbank off the Norfolk coast on May 6, 1682, with great loss of life. For 325 years, Gloucester's exact whereabouts was a mystery – until 2007, when it was discovered by Norfolk divers, brothers Julian and Lincoln Barnwell and their friend, retired ex-Royal Navy submariner and diver James Little. Their search took 4 years, and only after another 5 years was it certain that it was the Gloucester. Kept secret for a further 15 years to preserve the site from looting, the discovery of the Gloucester, and the wealth of artifacts recovered, were the subject of a major exhibition in Norwich Castle Museum in 2023, which attracted over 70,000 visitors.

Come along to Bergh Apton Church to hear the story first-hand from Julian.

Tickets £12

Saturday 3rd August 7pm

Charlie Haylock, one of East Anglia's leading entertainers and author of several books, takes "An Eccentric Look at East Anglia"



A witty and unique insight into rural East Anglia – its dialect, humour and general

'goings on'. Charlie is not only a hugely entertaining speaker, but also a mine of information about the history of the English language, and how so many regional dialects developed in this small group of islands. Interspersed amid the laughter are countless nuggets of information gleaned over years of study. His talks make for a fascinating listen. He is a leading authority on East Anglian dialect, and famously coached Ralph Fiennes and the cast of the Netflix film, 'The Dig' in the Suffolk dialect. In 2023, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Suffolk.

If you enjoyed Charlie's talk in 2022 about 'The Dig' you won't want to miss this.

Tickets £12

BERGH APTON FESTIVAL ~ 2024

Saturday 29th June, 7pm
Bergh Apton Church
NR15 1BX



A Talk - by Julian Barnwell

The Search for, and Discovery of,

The Gloucester - 'Norfolk's Mary Rose'

Wrecked off the Norfolk coast in 1682 with the future King James II on board

Undiscovered for 325 years; found after a 4-year search by divers, Julian & Lincoln Barnwell

Subject of a major exhibition in Norwich Castle Museum in 2023

Booking essential

Tickets £12 from 01508 558440

Or

berghapton.org.uk/bergh-apton-festival-2024



I would be honoured if you could join me when I exhibit my paintings throughout June at The Bell Gallery, Earsham Street, Bungay.

The exhibition runs from 4th - 29th June, Tuesday to Saturday 10 - 4.30pm.

If you are able to come along to the Preview Evening, then I would love to see you from 5pm - 8pm on Thursday 6th June. There will be opportunity to meet all the artists exhibiting throughout June, including my Bramerton based friend Sarah Long who will be showing her seascape inspired paintings.

Jackie Bell, who runs the gallery has been warm, friendly and supportive and I would wholly recommend a visit. She has built a wonderful community-based business, working creatively with artists and local businesses to make The Bell Gallery a creative hub. You can follow us both on Instagram: @thebellgallery / @jenniferlovattstudio or at www.jenniferlovattstudio.com



THE BATTLE OF KANGLATONGBI – REMEMBERED EIGHTY YEARS ON



There was a distinct Bergh Apton input to a ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum near Burton-on-Trent on 7th April. On this bright but very windy day more than one hundred people, both military and civilian and from many parts of the world, stood in silence at the Burma Star Memorial to remember the soldiers, British and Indian, who had fought the Japanese on the Plain of Imphal in eastern India in 1944 of whom one hundred and five died in the fighting. They fought at a place called ‘Lion Box Kanglatongbi’ and under constant Japanese attack, to secure the move to a safer place of a vast dump of arms, ammunition, vehicles and food built up to support a forthcoming Allied campaign to drive the Japanese out of Burma. In a curious game of battle chess the Japanese had, at the same time, planned to capture the dump and use its contents to support their own assault on India.

There is no doubt about the outcome. Despite two weeks of Japanese attacks, the task of extracting the vital elements of the dump was achieved on 7th April 1944, 80 years ago to the day. As a consequence the Japanese attack on India failed, driven back from Kohima by a stubborn British defence and a lack of the

ammunition and food denied them when they failed to capture it at Kanglatongbi.

How, you may be wondering, was Bergh Apton involved in this event in Staffordshire. It was because one of the men who survived the Battle of Kanglatongbi and returned home to Norwich at the end of war was CSM(WO2) George Johnson of 2nd Battalion the Royal Norfolk Regiment who was there training Indian troops in the art of jungle warfare before they went to the front line to fight the Japanese.

George Johnson’s son Chris, now of Jays Cottage at Bussey Bridge, has spent more than twenty-five years researching his father’s war. He has published a book on the battle and has built a network of contacts amongst the children and grandchildren of other men who fought alongside his father at Kanglatongbi.

Many of Chris’s contacts, collectively known as ‘The Lion Cubs of Kanglatongbi’, were at the Burma Star Memorial on this day. Three of them made major contributions with poetry readings and one of them, Joan Bolton-Frost, read moving extracts from her father, written to her mother before the battle.

Supporting Chris and his Lion Cubs was Rev Dr Andrew Sangster, the Norwich-based theologian, historian and author who led the remembrance service and delivered a thoughtful Address that focussed the assembled minds on the rash carelessness of war.

Andrew was joined by Bugler Bob Kerry, Piper John Innes and event coordinator John Ling, all familiar figures at Bergh Apton’s Remembrance Service, who reprised their rôles for this occasion.

There, too, was Indian archaeologist Rajeshwor Numnan (*right, in this photo*) who is Chris Johnson’s friend and battlefield research colleague, come all the way from the city of Imphal to take part.

For the first time ever outside India, Rajeshwor and Lance Corporal Sanjog Gurung of the Queen’s Gurkha Signals (*left*) called the Roll of the seventy-five soldiers of the Indian Army who died in the battle.



The Roll of the thirty men of the British Army who died was called by Lion Cubs Frank Boyd and Richard Rawes whose father and grandfather respectively fought alongside the Indian Army soldiers.

The calling of these Rolls of Honour and the laying of family and Regimental wreaths were the focal points of a day that will live long in the memory of those who were there.

Moments at the National Memorial Arboretum captured by photographer Warren Woodcraft when leaders of Sikh and Muslim faiths, Standard bearers, members of the Lion Cub families and the Bergh Apton contingent contributed to the Memorial Service.



You can follow the service on: [tps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1nlwXuOAx4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1nlwXuOAx4)

COUNTRY MATTERS

by Pat Mlejnecky

What do the Owl and the Pussy Cat and King Richard III have in common? They used the quince for celebrations. The Owl and the Pussy Cat ate slices of this fruit with a *runcible spoon at their wedding and King Richard had 'quinces bake' at his coronation in 1483. The quinces had the core removed and the hollow was stuffed with sugar and ginger and then it was baked in a pastry case known as a coffin.

My quince tree is full of blossom, tightly furled buds have opened pale pink and delicate with ruffs of leaves. We bought the tree years ago so it is now an old rather sprawling tree, I only know of one other quince tree in this village. In autumn as the fruit ripens I shall gather a few, wipe off their ashy grey 'fur' and bring them in to delight with their subtle aromatic fragrance.

It is the most romantic of fruits, the trees grew wild and still grow in the foothills of the Caucasus Mountains. Centuries upon centuries ago the fruit was gathered and carried by caravans of camels along age old trade routes to Europe where they were known as Golden Apples. Some were carried along the Silk Road to China and were called the Golden Peaches of Samarkand. Over time as this fruit reached other countries and languages it became not an apple but a fruit in its own right and its own name, quince.

Like the fingers of a spread hand ancient trade routes spread from China to Africa and Europe and were known as the Silk Road. Along these routes were carried not only silk, spices, ivory, precious metals such as gold and silver, tea, skins, horses but also the exchange of ideas, cultures, religion and technology.

In the 900s Shafer ben Utman al-Mushafi wrote of the quince:

**It is yellow in colour, as if it wore a daffodil tunic, and it smells like musk, a penetrating smell.

When it stood fragrant on the bough and the leaves had woven for it a covering of brocade,

I gently put up my hand to pluck it and to set it like a censer in the middle of my room.

When quinces are cooked the flesh turns the deep rich red of amber and carnelians. This fruit can be baked, made into jams and jellies, cakes and tarts, chocolates and liqueurs, and fruit cheese known as membrillo. It transforms an everyday apple pie into a culinary delight. Preserved in honey and spiced with cardamom it can be added to tagines and stews.

If it were not for quince we could still be living in Paradise for scholars think the 'apple' offered to Eve in the Garden of Eden is more likely to have been a quince that led to the Fall and it is quinces rather than apples in the Song of Solomon. It

could even be said to have started a war! In Greek myths the Hesperides, the nymphs of the golden light of the setting sun, had a garden at the rim of the world, in it was a tree that bore golden apples and it was guarded by a dragon. One of these 'apples', now thought to be a quince, was inscribed with the words, 'For the most beautiful' and Paris, the son of the King of Troy, was asked to judge which of three goddesses deserved it. He chose Aphrodite who bribed him with the promise of the most beautiful woman in the world. This was Helen who was married to Menelaus, King of Sparta. Paris abducted her or they eloped, who knows? This was the start of the Trojan War, a ten year siege and the burning of Troy. Of Helen it is said 'the face that launched a thousand ships' as indeed it did.

The quince with its thousands of years of history and story is, not only the most romantic of fruits but will add character to your pies and puddings undreamt of in your cookery orisons.

*'runcible' was a word coined by Edward Lear for his nonsense poems. A runcible spoon has a bowl shape at one end but this is divided into prongs and one edge is sharpened. The love child of a spoon and a fork, I have three made by my husband, the idea of them took his fancy.

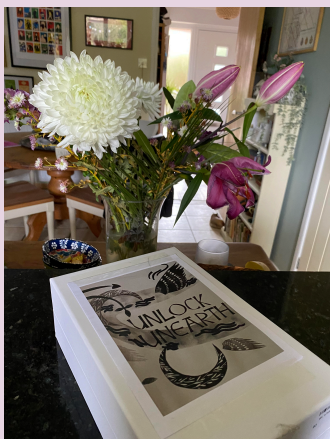
**These are just a few lines, there are several more. Shafer ben Utman al-Mushafi was vizier to Calif Al-Hakam of Cordoba, he died in 982.



Left: Quince blossom in April

Centre: Ripe Quince

Right: Lunch, bread made by Kevin and quince jelly by Kitty



The last newsletter brought details of 'Unlock Unearth' and photos of the event. Subsequent to this, two visitors sent pictures of the mementoes they were given at the event. I thought you might like to see them.

6

If you are the owner of a 'smartphone', ie. a mobile phone capable of traditional functionality plus computing capabilities, then you may be interested to try the 'Merlin' app that I recently discovered. Downloadable from Google Play or the Apple Store online, this **free** app. identifies birdsong from the 1200 species it has recorded. It will pick up a multitude of songs using the phone microphone and break them down into a list of identifiable birds, highlighting each one as the bird sings. In a ten minute walk around our woodland, I heard the following: *Chiffchaff, Wood-Pigeon, Blackbird, Wren, Blackcap, Jackdaw, Robin, Great Tit, Skylark, Goldcrest, Dunnock, Coal Tit, Carrion Crow and a Ring-necked Pheasant.*



A great app to share with children and help with those unusual birdsongs you don't recognise!

Bergh Apton Arts Journey unrolls

by Christopher Meynell

In the last edition I wrote about Bergh Apton Arts and its permanent legacy, visible around the village, testaments to its sculptural successes in the late nineties and early noughties. Following the focus on Sculpture Trails, furthering BAA's key aim of bringing the arts to our rural communities, BAA took another step, a step over a new cliff of risk, new ground again.

The 2011 Sculpture Trail 'The Journey' programme introduced the theme "The Journey reflects that taken by mediaeval pilgrims and the builders of churches, many travelling hundreds of miles to their destinations. This Trail celebrates the vision of our forebears creating architectural masterpieces of which Norfolk has so many. The Journey can be interpreted in many ways – spiritual, personal life or the creation of a work of art."

And the first tentative step over this new cliff were taken; a brief Mystery Play.

Hugh Lupton was commissioned to write

about Noah, the great flood and the family's Journey – 'A Mighty



Water'. It was performed on three days in the Church by Bergh Apton volunteers, some quite unexpected, over three weekends. It was a success – building on the ground-breaking and wonderful Millenium Pageant (2000).

Mark Cocker wrote about 'The Journey' in the Guardian: "This year they have bolted on to the main show an array of music, drama, performance and rural craft displays, such as hedge laying and wrought-iron work. In some ways these "extras" rival the central artistic event, but I was reassured to find a good selection of work by some of my favourite local sculptors, such as the brilliant scrap-iron birds and beasts of Harriet Mead, the wonderfully mobile steel creatures of Andy Jarrett, the more decorative ceramics of Georgina Warne, and the calligraphy of Gary Breeze. And all that fresh air somehow

liberates us from the usual wall-to-wall piety and deference that often cramp more formal art exhibitions. I loved the way the woman with the strong local accent and her Asda shopping bags felt entitled to argue how Chris Summerfield's *Fish on Wheels* (the emblem piece for the whole exhibition - see left) should have really been sited over water. Somehow Bergh Apton allows us all to feel that sculpture is important but also part of our everyday experience."

The map for BAA's new path was beginning to unfold and, ten years ago, in 2014 came a new and major cliff, a full-blown Mystery Play. Originally in mediaeval times, 'mystery' was not the modern meaning of something unexplained but was the expertise needed to carry out a trade; butcher, baker and candlestick maker; these were a man's mysteries. And each trade would put on an aspect of the "Mystery" Plays that took place at Corpus Christi, in Norwich and other major English cities. For BAA, 'The Legend of the Rood' was crafted magisterially by Hugh Lupton. It was a mammoth undertaking in every sense. Grants were obtained, including from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a number of charities. Helpers, performers, actors, musicians, were drawn from Bergh Apton and neighbouring villages and three area Church leaders, Anglican, Roman and Methodist took turns to 'play' God, swaying unsteadily atop a fruit-picking ladder to be nearer to heaven. The event even claimed a spot in Hansard



from a speech in the House of Lords – by the Bishop of Norwich. "Last Sunday I was in a small Norfolk village called Bergh Apton. It is a dispersed community. It has only about 300" inhabitants. Over the past three weekends more than 60 (actually 81) local people, including some from nearby settlements, formed the cast of a four-act modern mystery play, "The Legend of the

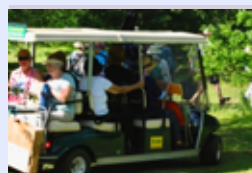
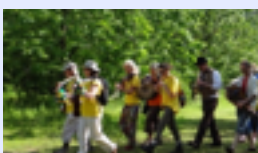
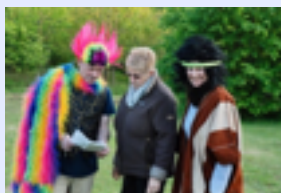
Rood". It was written by a Norfolk storyteller. It was full of humour and local references. It was the story of salvation with a contemporary twist. I was cast as God – typecast, I suppose. It was an extraordinary cultural event, set in and around the parish church, drawing the community together: creative, empowering, spiritual, human, educational and entertaining." ("actually over 400)

Professional directors, David Farmer and Mary Lovett were enrolled to help get the best out of the actors and singers and a few "even better" actors were 'volunteered to provide "Lift".

And even outside Patrons; the Bishop of Norwich, Susie Fowler-Watt (BBC) and Louis de Bernieres (novelist and musician) were enticed aboard. As the Legend was performed mainly outside, each scene taking place in a different location, the audience had to walk (quite a distance in the heat) to ensure they missed nothing. And we were so very lucky with the weather. Here is what Susie F-W, generously wrote:

"I just wanted to say 'a massive congratulations' to everyone involved in the Mystery Play cycle. What a fabulous event it was! Hugh Lupton's script was inspired: witty and modern, while maintaining the original story that is "as old as it's new, and as new as it's old". The settings were perfect – the Garden of Eden may have been a private Bergh Apton garden in reality, but it was as close to paradise as I could imagine, and the church was particularly well-cast as the Ark! It was lovely to see such a range of actors drawn from the local area – varying ages, with different levels of experience, but all giving up their time to be part of something special. I particularly enjoyed Alistair Swiffen and Eve Pandolfi as Adam and Eve, Phil McCallum as Norfolk-boy Noah, and the mosquito-swatting Pharaoh, Clive Stubbs. Special mention must also go to my fellow patron, Bishop Graham, who made a masterful God, in the performance I saw. The whole afternoon was completed by the wonderful music played throughout. I feel very honoured to have been a patron of such an exciting project, and am so glad it drew such good audiences. Please pass on my thanks to the entire team."

Next time, the map unrolls a few more yards and BAA's path goes further and beyond!



Pictures tell the story, so here is a selection of performers, musicians providing 'entr-actes', audiences and actors and the buggy to carry those unable to go the distance! Amongst others: Tim Stevens, Chris Mewton, Joy Munden, Kevin Parfitt, Jane Sayer, Liz Robinson, Anna Guy, Derek Blake, Phil McCallum, Peter Knight, Jenny Theobald.

THE CHURCH CANDELABRA - WHAT GOES WHERE?

by John Ling

I've been involved for some years now in the occasional TLC given to the brass candelabra that hangs at the Crossover in our parish church. It's an elegant thing, made of ten separate elements (see left) strung on a threaded steel shaft and secured by a rather fancy brass nut to create the 2 ft long (600 mm) assembly.

Elegant it may be, but one of its odd features is that no matter how tightly the brass nut is set the candelabra has a distinctly loose and wobbly feel to it. That has always intrigued me because it was made by braziers in an age when craftsmen were reputed to be attentive to the quality of their workmanship*.



So, with some time on my hands when I took it down recently for a bit of spit-and-polish, I took a closer look to see if it was maybe poor workmanship, or something else.

It was indeed just that - something else. At some time (or maybe many times!) in the last one hundred and eighty-five years it has

been taken apart and put back together . . . in the wrong order. Before anyone starts tutting at such a mistake I leap to the defence of the probably long-dead perpetrator or perpetrators because the

difference in the diameter of some of the parts is so small, and the consequence of the assembling them in the wrong order so minimal, that it might have gone unnoticed for another hundred years.

These two photos illustrate the point and reveal the similarity of this situation with that famous Morecambe and Wise sketch with André Previn. The photo on the left is of the



candelabra before I took it apart; it has all the right pieces, but not necessarily in the right order. The one on the right has all the right pieces and is in the order that recreates the original rigid structure.



Now it is so, I hope its makers may be looking down from that great braziers' workshop in the sky saying 'Ahhh, that's better'.

* The candelabra was installed as part of the big changes to both the building and its furnishings in 1838/9

APOLOGY

As some of you may have spotted last month, I inadvertently married the wrong person to John Hemmant. Of course, I should have referred to John and Bridget's new dog Maple at Chet Valley Vineyard ...and not John and Hilary's!

Apologies to both couples..I understand it caused some amusement.

Getting to know you...The Editor talks to John Ling pictured here with his Marmite which travelled with him on his world tour in 2019.



Ed: So, we normally start with the early years..are you a local boy?

JL: Yes, I was born in Lowestoft, and grew up with my elder sister in Burgh Castle; a wonderful carefree childhood living in a farmhouse and attending the village school. From 9-16 years old, I went to boarding school - Framlingham College in Suffolk, originally titled 'The Prince Albert Memorial School for the Sons of Farmers and Gentlemen', which I loved and where I made some life-long friends.

Ed: So, when you left school, did you know what you wanted to do?

JL: No, I didn't really have a plan, although my father did. As a bank manager, he encouraged me to join Lovell & Blake for an accountancy career, but within a few weeks I realised it wasn't for me...I was a square peg in a very round hole!

Ed: So, if that didn't work out, what did you do next?

JL: I had always loved the sea, so I applied for an apprenticeship with BP Tankers. All was going well until I failed the eyesight test, which was a terrible blow...so I decided to join the army instead and spent several years with the Royal Norfolk Regiment in Germany, including Berlin during the period when the Berlin wall came down. One of our duties was to guard Rudolf Hess (German politician and aide to Hitler), who by then was a very old man. We also shared barracks with the

Russian army, separated by a 7ft fence. They would line up against it to watch in awe at our military band on the parade square.

Ed: So what happened when you left the army?

JL: I joined the the management of Spicers paper merchants, which took me to Birmingham initially although I subsequently returned to Gorleston, working for a company making paper sacks. Sited on the seafront, I was near the sea again and became a member of the lifeboat crew. Callouts were less frequent than though as they generally involved commercial incidents when vessels ran aground or were in collision, rather leisure incidents now.

In 1965, the Gorleston company went into liquidation and I changed industry, working for Stewarts and Lloyds (later to become British Steel), which involved a move to London. I worked for the 'Tubes Division' responsible for sales to the oil industry all over the world in a fantastic small team managed by a retired fighter pilot - we worked very hard but had a lot of fun. When, in 1968, we won a major pipeline contract in Algeria, I became the Commercial Manager of this huge logistical operation. Knowing it was going to be a massive task, I requested assistance and luckily my Sales Manager suggested his new 'temp' secretary could help...and I walked Hilary!

Ed: So, did your first meeting go well?

JL: Well, I was so absorbed in the project that I hated interrupting the flow ...it was only when it reached mid-afternoon that Hilary asked "don't you eat?" So, I took her to a local pub in Marble Arch...and the rest is history!

Ed: So, what happened next?

JL: Well, the company decided they needed someone 'on the ground' so I was sent out to

Algeria with my schoolboy French to manage a challenging and complex project; working out the logistics of loading the steel at the port, taking it to the desert, creating dumps and distributing it to the contractor. Over a two year period, I was flying every 5 or 6 weeks to Oran or Algiers to ensure the project was proceeding smoothly...there was only one issue I remember with the language - I nearly missed my flight once as I missed them calling the destination with their regional accent and was the final passenger to board after numerous calls to locate their missing passenger.

Ed: So, had you left Hilary in London?

JL: Yes, Hilary used to stay at my flat in Little Venice whilst I was away and I would call her there (having had to book a telephone call two days in advance). Whilst I was away though Hilary had an emergency appendix operation so instead of speaking to Hilary, I had a call from my Manager instead explaining why she wasn't at the flat. To the amusement of the nurses, Hilary then got a hospital call in the ward from a mysterious man they thought was in Casablanca.

Ed: What happened after the Algeria project?

JL: I had developed a bit of a reputation as a 'fixer', so when the oil companies started to make their discoveries in the northern North Sea, I stepped into a new role to develop the project to supply the thousands of tons of steel pipe that would be needed to turn their discovery into a rapid production process. It was a hugely exciting project, and when a major press announcement was scheduled for the business opening in Aberdeen, I realised it had all been such a whirlwind that hadn't had opportunity to tell Hilary how things were evolving. We had no plans to settle down but I knew I needed to move to Aberdeen.

Ed: So what happened?

JL: I had half an hour before the press announcement so I took her to The Spaghetti House near Grosvenor Square for a very rapid explanation. It was packed and we had to share a table with two gentlemen who watched on in amusement as I made my explanations and found myself bumbling through a proposal. In the early 70s it was highly unusual to live together before marriage, so Hilary stayed in London July '72 (when the job started) to March '73 when we finally got married in London. We had a wonderful wedding and thanks to a family connection, had our reception in the historic and beautiful livery halls.

Ed: So you spent early married life in Aberdeen?

JL: Yes, we lived in a village outside Aberdeen in the first house we bought for £8352 (I was only earning £2000 and they wouldn't accept Hilary's salary for the mortgage). Hilary managed to get a role in Grampian Television as a Production Manager (where she stayed for 30 years), working in the gallery, dealing with contracts and administration and on location taking her to China, America and Europe. I spent three wonderful years on the initiation project - it seems funny to think of it now as at the time BP had a shop above a Chinese takeaway and Shell were working out of the old tram works.

Ed: So what happened at the end of the project?

JL: In early 1985 I was called back to London HQ for a new and pretty desk bound job. Hilary stayed behind to sell the house. But it became clear that I was again 'a square peg in a very round hole'. So I resigned and returned to Aberdeen and to Seaforth Maritime who operated offshore oil platform supply ships and other logistics sectors of the oil industry. In 1985 I came south to be a Seaforth presence in Great Yarmouth and that's what brought us to Bergh Apton. But in 1987 a collapse in world oil activity made the company abandon the project. We returned to Aberdeen, renting our beloved house out for ten years. Seaforth, sadly, didn't survive the collapse and I spent a short time selling my experience as a business consultant before another project came along that excited me.

Ed: Tell me more..

JL: As you know, sailing is a big passion of mine and when I heard The Cutty Sark Tall Ships race was coming to Aberdeen, and that they needed a Port Manager, I jumped at the chance. This race brought together 100 ships, 1000 crew and a million visitors over 4 days in 1991. I had 9 months to raise the funds, get the job done and get the crews in and out. It was my most exciting project of my career and one I'm proud of. It was a frantic 4 days but a great success.

Ed: So what happened next?

JL: Genoa were to host the 500th anniversary celebration of Columbus discovering America, but were not confident of delivery of their part in the race taking place from Genoa to Cadiz to the Americas. I was introduced to the Head of the Genoa Yacht Club and made 5 trips to provide mentorship during 1991/2. Just before the Aberdeen Tall Ships Race, I had also spoken with a man from Edinburgh looking to make a bid to host the tall ships

race themselves and needed advice. When they were successful, he returned to me offering me the Port Manager role, which I accepted. This time, things were complicated by a slightly hostile response by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh (equivalent to Lord Mayor), who was chair of the race. As a Scottish Nationalist, he was not welcoming to an Englishman, having been duped by Robert Maxwell over assistance with the Commonwealth Games (where huge losses occurred). Waters were calmed however, with a discussion that raised the commonality of a favourite author - Garrison Keillor...and after that the relationship improved!

Ed: And how did your career round off?

JL: Aberdeen made another bid to host in '97 and I reprised the role, but things were less enjoyable. There was more expectation the second time around and whilst satisfying, it was less fun. When Lerwick won it in '97, I knew it would be one role too much as travel to/from The Shetlands was likely to be problematic. Grampian TV was fading and it seemed to be the right time to 'return home' to Bergh Apton. I retired in 2000, Hilary a couple of years later.

Ed: So, if Bergh Apton is home, how did you find it?

JL: When we came to Norfolk in 1985 we looked for a location between Yarmouth and Norwich but also close to the airport for our regular trips abroad. Originally renting in Horning, we drafted a shortlist of locations in Loddon. In those days, without internet, we were supplied with a typed list and sent two properties in Bergh Apton, one of which was Mere Farm House, the other remained elusive as we tried to track it down with an Ordnance Survey map. We did however chance on a pretty cottage down a country lane, which we took to be an almshouse and loved it. It was only when we got the photos two days later, we found it to be the house we had chanced on, which had at that time no 'For Sale' sign...we took it to be serendipity!

Ed: You have been involved for many years with events in Bergh Apton, how did that come about?

JL: It started with the Sculpture Trails and the Fete, although that was a much smaller event then and was supported by many of the old farming community families. My involvement in the fete started with me helping Milton as I had a trailer so I could help move things! Hilary remembers volunteering to help pick the strawberries at Street Farm (for the teas) and was shocked to find the meet time was 6am and not 6pm!

Now it's more difficult for people to volunteer as they have less time because they need to work. We were lucky as we were the generation that had time, money and energy when we retired (often early). I helped with the newsletter for many years, and was Editor for around 5 of those but it has been good to pass it on. I enjoy the local history group (borne out of the Millenium Pageant) and often spend hours at my computer or looking through records.

Ed: So, what do you like to think your role has been?

JL: Both of us acknowledge we are not creatives, but like to help get things done so

we have been involved in lots of committees over the years. Bergh Apton isn't a village where things just happen magically. It takes a few people with ideas and enthusiasm, and they bring others along with that to create something special...and we have enjoyed being a part of that. When I was younger, I liked to do things my own way perhaps, but I go with the flow a bit more now. Although despite thinking I am still a young man, the reality comes when I have to cut the grass!

Ed: I know you have travelled a lot..

JL: Both Hilary and I have travelled a lot for work, visiting China and regular trips to the United States and Europe. For my 80th, we had a wonderful 'Phileas Fogg trip' around the world - the United States, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Singapore, Dubai and Myanmar (our highlight). We both tend to prefer to travel and experience, rather than 'holiday' and have had some fun adventures en route with hospitable locals who have looked after us. We travelled around the Caribbean for our 25th anniversary, an unusual trip on-board a 'banana boat' which involved a circuit around the islands distributing and collecting bananas over 6 weeks. We would still like to travel, although insurance makes it expensive now. India is still on the list!

Ed: And is there anything that may surprise us?

JL: We were keen country dancers in Scotland. When we came home we found that our energetic 'Aberdeenshire Reelers' style of dance was frowned on in polite Norwich Scottish Country Dance circles so we stopped, to spare them the pain.

Ed: Thanks so much for agreeing to our interview..any last comments?

JL: I have to say, I never had a plan, but I think I got away with it! As a young man, I was sheltered from uncertainty and that allows you to develop a mindset that 'it'll be ok' and that has been how I've lived. Hilary and I celebrate 52 years married next year and neither of us are thinking of watching daytime TV just yet.



John pictured with niece Mandy at a family celebration in 2012

Thanks so much for your time John (and Hilary) - it's lovely to hear your story. If you'd like to share yours, please contact Jenny on berghaptoneditor@gmail.com.

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, Bridget Hemmant Eye Surgery Ltd, Clair, Christopher Tenwinter Trust and Go Norfolk Cottages.

Useful Contacts

BAA (art workshops)

Pat Mlejnecky 01508 480696

BA Conservation Trust

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Ballet

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BA Local History Trust

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BA Society

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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

Parish Council

clerk@berghapton.org.uk

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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and a website

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

COOK'S CORNER

This month Gill Waters shares an historical recipe from Denmark, brought over by her Great Grandmother when she eloped to London with her fiancé in 1865!

Rodgrod med flode

Thickened red fruit juice with cream (serves 10)

(As all recipes published are family traditions, measurements are published as given)

14 ozs redcurrants

7 ozs raspberries

7 ozs blackcurrants

7 ozs cherries

1 lb sugar

3 ozs blanched flaked almonds.

1 3/4 ozs cornflour per quart of juice.

Method

Wash fruit and cook slowly with.

When tender pass through a sieve.

Measure juice then return to pan and

add sugar to taste. Thicken with

required amount of cornflour then

divide into small bowls. Decorate with

flaked almonds and a sprinkle of

sugar to prevent a skin forming. Serve

cold with cream and a shortbread

biscuit.

Village Diary

June

7th 10.30am	BALHG walk around Beccles
15th/16th All day	Bergh Apton Photo Exhibition
15th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
19th 10-12	Coffee 'n' Catch Up
19th 2-4pm	Archiving
19th 7pm	Village Hall Management Committee Meeting
20th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field.
22nd 6.30pm	BACT Summer BBQ at Flint Cottage
29th 7pm	Talk on The Gloucester at the church.

July

12th 5pm on	Collecting Fete goods at The Manor
13th 2pm	Bergh Apton Fete at The Manor
14th 10am	De-rig The Fete at The Manor
17th 10-12	Coffee 'n' Catch Up
17th 2-4pm	Archiving
20th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
25th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
27th 9am	11 Says assembly
31st 7pm	Parish Council Meeting

All events take place at the village hall unless otherwise stated.