



Bergh Apton Broadcast

Issue 200 Oct/Nov 2025



What a lovely autumn we are enjoying. I am sure you have all noticed the trees are laden with fruit and nuts which according to folklore predicts a hard winter - lets hope not! Before then, we have some autumn events to get in your diary; the Harvest Festival decoration is on 4th October (for the service on 5th), so do pop along to help - and enjoy a coffee and cake! If you like to challenge the 'old grey cells' before they go into winter

hibernation, then you can join us for Quiz 'n' Chilli at the Village Hall on 25th Oct. There are a few events at the church in October and November, so do take a look on P4 to ensure you don't miss anything.

I have introduced a book review this month on P11, so if you have one to contribute, or anything else for the next newsletter, please e-mail me at: berghaptoneditor@gmail.com by 10th November for the next edition please...and yes, it's the Christmas one!

Best wishes,

Jenny Lovatt

BERGH APTON REMEMBERS

VJ DAY

Did you notice the Union Flag flying on a new flagpole at the village hall during the week of 15th August? It marked the 80th anniversary of the Japanese capitulation on Wednesday 15th August in 1945 that brought an end to the Second World War.

Flying from a flagpole bought by Bergh Apton village hall for such occasions, it was donated by South Norfolk District Council for the event, raised each day of that week at 7.30 am by John Ling, and lowered at the end of each day at 6.00pm by Chris Johnson (to fulfil a military tradition by which no flag flies in night hours).

On VJ Day itself, in a concluding Remembrance of that peace that came eighty years ago, people from Bergh Apton and its surrounding parishes gathered in the churchyard for a service at the war memorial whose main aim as to remember Stephen Hallett, Eddie Starman and William James, the men who died in the Far East.



This short service, led by our Rector, Rev'd Chris Ellis, incorporated the traditions of Last Post, Calling the Roll, the Kohima Epitaph and the Salutation but we added a key

element - the Mounting of the Guard by the Tommy figures of the three men who died in the Far East. They joined those of their twelve comrades of the European, Middle East and African campaigns who were already on parade.

The task of bringing the Tommies on parade fell to brothers Mark and Simon Elliott, grandsons of William James; to Andy Chappell, the artist who created the Tommy of Eddie Starman; and to Hilary Ling who has been to the grave of Stephen Hallett in Myanmar (formerly Burma).



Included in the proceedings were two readings - an extract from King George VI's broadcast on VJ Day and the poem 'VJ Day Khanaburi' (a POW's remembrance of the end of his time as a prisoner in the camp at Kanchanaburi).

Our thanks to all those who attended and (in the order of their participation) to all those who played a part in this moving memorial to remember the men who never came

back:

- o Chris Johnson and John Ling: Planning and management.
- o Chris Ellis: for leading the service
- o John Innes, Steve Law and Robert Innes: Pipes and Drum
- o David Westgate and two other Royal British Legion Bearers.
- o Guy Warde-Aldam: Extract from King George VI's VJ Day broadcast
- o Bob Kerry: Bugler
- o Mark and Simon Elliott, Andy Chapell and Hilary Ling: Escorts to the Far East Tommies
- o Jo Diamond: Roll of Honour and the Salutation:
- o Kevin Parfitt: The Kohima Epitaph
- o Paris Back: Recitation of the poem 'VJ Day Kanaburi'
- o David Westgate, Rachel Loveland & Jonny Feaks: Standard Bearers

The service began with the Pipes and Drum playing in the British Legion standards to the sound of 'Celebratum' (a piece composed by Pipe-Major Stuart Liddell for

the 80th Anniversary of 1945) and ended with them piping the moving Lament 'Caidil mo Ghaoil' ('Sleep, Dearie, sleep') after which the Order 'Up Spirits' was given for all to share in a tot of rum - an old Royal Navy tradition to mark an important event - as indeed this service was.



John Ling

'RAMBLING RECTOR' with The Reverend Chris Ellis



On Sunday the 2nd November, which this year is observed as All Saints' Sunday, we have two very special services taking place, one in the morning at Bergh Apton Parish Church and one in the afternoon in our neighbouring parish of Yelverton to which all are warmly invited.

In the morning, we welcome Bishop Ian, Bishop of Thetford, to conduct a Confirmation Service. In the Church of England, as in all Christian denominations, we become members of the Christian Faith through baptism, which for most of us happens when we are infants and generally unaware of its significance. Confirmation is a rite whereby the grace of the Holy Spirit

'confirms' that baptism when we as individuals are old enough, usually mid-teens onwards, to understand the life-changing impact of becoming a follower of Christ. In the service, the confirmation candidates kneel before the Bishop who lays his hands upon them before anointing them with the holy oil of Chrism, a special oil used for confirmation, ordination and the consecration of churches and altars. Once confirmed, the individuals receive Holy Communion in the form of bread and wine for the first time. It is a very special life event and a joyful occasion for those being confirmed and their families. I am very happy to speak to any parishioner who is interested in finding out more about what confirmation involves.

In the afternoon, we have a very special service for 'All Souls'. Its observance dates to the 11th Century although it was dropped by the Church of England following the Reformation in the 16th Century. It is a general day of prayer and thanksgiving for the lives of our loved ones who are no longer with us, and we mark it in church with a simple, reflective service where we recall our loved ones by name and light individual candles in their memory. It saw a revival as a common practice in the Church of England to help people mourn the deaths of millions of

soldiers in the First World War. One tradition associated with All Souls' Day is for communities to gather in the local churchyard to clean the headstones, tidy the graves and adorn them with flowers. (The adjacent image shows a Christian woman in India decorating a grave for All Souls' Day.) Perhaps this is a custom we could adopt in Bergh Apton? We would certainly appreciate offers of help to maintain the churchyard all year round, not just in November!!

It is the modern practice of the Church to write to all families who have experienced a bereavement in the past year inviting them to attend the service to remember their loved ones and to offer comfort and support to one another. However, the invite is open to all who would like to attend to remember with love those we carry with us always in our hearts and minds.

Confirmation Service at the Church of St Peter & St Paul in Bergh Apton at 10am
All Souls' Day Service at The Church of St Mary in Yelverton at 4pm.

All parishioners in Bergh Apton are warmly invited to both services.

With every blessing,

Fr Chris.



Norfolk Constabulary
Community Safety
Building 7, OCC
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
Norfolk
NR18 0WW

Tel: 01953 424940 X89964
Email: samuel.burton@norfolk.police.uk
www.norfolk.police.uk
Non-Emergency Tel: 101

Subject: Operation Radium – Request for Support with Trigger Plan

I am writing to inform you about **Operation Radium**, a Norfolk Constabulary initiative focused on tackling **courier fraud** across the county. We are reaching out to key partner organisations like yours to request support in helping us raise awareness and protect vulnerable members of the community.

What is Operation Radium?

Operation Radium is Norfolk Police's response to the growing threat of **courier fraud** — a type of scam where criminals contact victims by phone, pretending to be from trusted organisations such as the police, government agencies, or banks. Victims are manipulated into withdrawing cash, purchasing high-value items, or sharing sensitive financial information, often under the false promise that the money or items will be returned.

These crimes are typically carried out by individuals known as "**victim communicators**", who may operate alone or as part of a wider group (sometimes referred to as a "boiler room"). In some cases, a courier is sent to collect the money or items — this courier may be knowingly involved or an unwitting participant.

What is the Trigger Plan?

We are developing a **trigger plan** to respond quickly when there is a spike in courier fraud incidents within a specific area over a short period. The aim is to:

- Alert local organisations and services to the increased risk.
- Share key messages with the public to prevent further victimisation.
- Encourage vigilance and reporting of suspicious activity.

When the trigger is activated, Norfolk Police will send out a message containing relevant information and advice. We are asking for your support in **distributing this message to your networks**, including staff, service users, and any other interested parties.

How You Can Help?

Your organisation plays a vital role in the community, and your support could make a real difference in preventing further harm. We would be grateful if you could:

- Agree to receive trigger alerts from us.
- Share these alerts promptly with your contacts.
- Let us know if you identify any related concerns or incidents.

If you are happy to be involved or would like more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Sergeant Sam Burton
Norfolk Constabulary – Community Safety

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

The enclosed letter from Norfolk Constabulary has been received by the Parish Council. It focuses on their response to courier fraud; where victims are contacted by phone by fraudsters pretending to be trusted organisations, persuading victims to withdraw cash, make high value transactions or reveal sensitive financial information.

If you have any further questions, or wish to be made aware of further developments, please contact the Parish council via clerk@berghapton.org.uk.

BALHG

Members of Bergh Apton's local history group and their friends spent another convivial evening in the garden of Royston House on 8th August to celebrate the memory of Bergh Apton's earliest known pub, 'The Hare'. The pub stood in Bob Debbage's field to the south of Threadneedle Street until the 1790's and then moved to Royston House before closing its doors for good a few years later.



QUIZ 'n' CHILLI

Bergh Apton's Brain of Britain

Saturday 25th October, 6.30 pm for a 7pm start

To join this friendly, good-humoured event, compile your team and book in with Milton - 01508 550473.



Let Milton know your team's meal preferences. Chilli options range from very mild (Bolognese) to moderately fearsome, and veggie/gluten-free will be catered for.

£9 per person

cash or cheques payable to Bergh Apton PCC preferred.

Ideal team size is however many can comfortably sit and eat at one table 7-8 but exceptions can be made.

Sunshine and showers in September - a rainbow over Thurton from Cookes Road



BERGH APTON & DISTRICT SOCIETY

Bergh Apton Village Hall, Cooke's Road, Bergh Apton NR15 1AA

WEDNESDAY 8 October 2025 7.30 pm



Before he retires from Public Speaking, **PETE GOODRUM** joins us again, this time to talk about **NORWICH in the 50's & 60's**. Come & view the City layout & be reminded of businesses operating in those days.



WEDNESDAY 12th November 2025 7.30 pm

CHRIS GARROD will be talking to us about the **DAD'S ARMY Museum** based in Thetford, dedicated to the TV programme which is still being rerun on our screens today.

As usual there will be our Raffle & tea/coffee & biscuits & the opportunity to sign up for our Christmas dinner & other events still to take place.

We look forward to seeing visitors, old & new.

Harvest Festival

Bergh Apton Church

**Sunday 5th October
10:00 am**

**Decorate the Church
for Harvest
Saturday
4th October
9.30**





News and Updates from Bergh Apton Church

FETE RESULTS

Thanks to glorious weather and a wonderful turnout, we raised a record £4720 at the Bergh Apton Fete in July, beating last year's figure by £2200 and the next best year by £1000! The monies will be shared between the church and village hall to continue supporting the community.

Thank you to everyone involved - see you in 2026!



Charlie Haylock presents a talk
'History of Spoken English'
Saturday 18th October, 7pm
BERGH APTON CHURCH, NR15 1BX



If a history of our spoken language doesn't sound like your idea of a fun night out, best think again!

Charlie is a brilliant speaker, yarn spinner, entertainer and a fount of information on a multitude of subjects.

He brings this subject alive in a combination of his own rakish wit and an encyclopaedic knowledge of the roots and development of our native tongue.

We'll hear how our language was born, and how each group of invaders and settlers of our islands enriched it, growing the vast vocabulary that is the English language.

A master of dialects, Charlie takes us through a whistle-stop demonstration of the regional accents of Britain, and how they came into being, subtly revealing how dialect affects facial expressions. There will be an interval with refreshments, and a Q&A session at the end.

This is Charlie's third appearance in Bergh Apton Church. Sadly (for us), he retires at the end of 2025, so it would be a pity to miss this chance to see him!

Advance booking is required for this very popular event
Tickets £12. For enquiries/to book, call **01508 480576**
(do leave a message)

Or Email bachurchwarden@outlook.com
<https://berghapton.org.uk/bergh-apton-festival-2025/>

**Be a Star
and donate
a gift**



Last year, The Salvation Army in the UK distributed over 84,000 gifts. In Norwich alone over 850 gift bags were distributed. This year, they're expecting the number of families requesting help to rise as a result of the ongoing cost of living crisis.

As in previous years, they'll be running a Christmas Present Appeal, collecting donated (new) presents until mid-December. Each gift bag given out contains five gifts. One larger present, two smaller presents, a book and colouring or quiz books and stocking fillers.

**There will be a special child-centred Family Service at
BERGH APTON CHURCH**

**on
Sunday 16th November at 11 am**

to support this year's

Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal

You can 'Be a Star' by donating and helping to spread the joy of Christmas to families whose children would otherwise not receive a gift.

Bring along your donations of **new, unwrapped** toys or gifts, for children and Young People aged 0 – 16

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.

Here are a few gift ideas

- 0-3 years: dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, puzzles
- 3-5: dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles
- 5-9: educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords
- 9-12: games and toys, stationery, 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.

Nearly-new toys in good condition can also be donated for sale in Salvation Army shops to raise funds for their valuable work

Friday 21st November 7pm
A concert by Norwegian choir



Lardal Kantori

After a break of several years, it was lovely to hear again the wonderful harmonies of our Norwegian friends last November.

We're delighted to welcome them back this year. They perform regularly around southern Norway and will bring a selection of songs and carols in Norwegian and English to herald the Advent season.

**Tickets £12 from 01508 480576 / email
bachurchwarden@outlook.com**

or book online via the Eventbrite link on the website berghapton.org.uk/bergh-apton-festival-20245

This will be a popular event, so we do ask for advance booking

Please come along to Bergh Apton church on
SATURDAY 4th OCTOBER
to help decorate the church with flowers & harvest produce.



We will be there from 9.30am to midday— or just come for cake and a cup of coffee

Christine Ebbens RIP(1952-2025)

The news of Christine's death came too late to include a tribute to her in the August edition of the Broadcast without imposing on her grieving family for information. So this is an opportunity, albeit a little late, to record the life of someone familiar to many through her regular walks in the village on the roads and lanes of Bergh Apton that make up 'The Triangle'.

Christine was a Norwich girl born in April 1952, one of three children of Margaret and John Hoy who came from a close-knit wider family that were frequent callers to the Hoy's' home.

On leaving school she joined Norwich Union's printing department where she met Trevor Ebbans, an Actuary with NU clearly smitten from afar by Christine. By mistake and on the internal phone system to the print department, Trevor made his first overtures to another Christine in the same department. Happily, as in all good Shakespeare romance plays, the confusion was resolved and they married in Norwich a year later, on 19th January 1974. They spent the next 51 years together, raising their three children – Stephen, Andrew and Julia - in their home on the corner of Threadneedle Street and

Church Meadow Lane. Christine loved travelling whether by train, bike or foot. Her ten years of continental train tours with Trevor covered most of Europe including German cities where Andrew lived at the time. For many years and into her 60s she was a keen cyclist who enjoyed the lanes of her native Norfolk, and she was a walker whose travels were not restricted to 'The Triangle' but included most of the Lake District and Peak District tops and the complete South Downs Way.

The highlight for her this year was the marriage of her and Trevor's daughter Julia to Nik at Godwick Hall near King's Lynn. Despite her health difficulties Christine had a hand in all the arrangements, had a wonderful time on the day itself, and loved working on her album of the wedding that she completed on a few days before she died.

At her funeral Rev'd Chris Ellis spoke of how Christine noticed the beauty of life and how it uplifted her and those around her. I and many others will miss her cheery wave on her walks as we passed and I shall recall the times when I stopped for a brief chat or a longer muddle. That was always such a pleasure for she was a quiet and interesting talker and a good listener.

John Ling

Weddings in Bergh Apton



We have been blessed with so much lovely weather this year, the sun shone again for the wedding of Josh Beale and Caitlin Avery on 23rd August.

Josh, a Primary school teacher, is from Mundham. Caitlin (Marketing & Communications Manager at Active Norfolk) grew up in Bergh Apton (October Cottage, Threadneedle Street). Their son, Robin, was born earlier this year and they live in Martham.

It was a classical country wedding with close family and friends. Some guests arrived on our tractor and trailer and the Bride and Groom left the church by tractor.

Their two children Isaac and Ruby were ring bearer and flower girl.



Caitlin's parents, Kerry and Garry Avery were married 42 years ago in Bergh Apton church and, as Caitlin says, "it was so important for Josh and I to have a wedding that felt truly unique and personal to us. From making our wedding rings, home-grown wedding flowers in handmade macramé jars to decorate the church, a cornet solo performed by Josh's dad. And, of course, having our reception in Josh's family home (which was picture perfect) - every detail was so special - including Chris's wonderful service. I had so many compliments about how lovely it was."

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Jamie Kerry and Frances Dunham married at Bergh Apton church on the 9th August 2025, on a beautiful sunny day.

The Kerry's have been farming in Bergh Apton since Jamie's Grandfather Albert came home from the 2nd world war and purchased Bussey Bridge farm in 1946 where Jamie, Frances and family now live.

Jamie's parents Tony and Kate were also married at Bergh Apton church on 24th August 1991.



If you know of any celebrations taking place in Bergh Apton, please do let us know at [berghaptoneditor@gmail.com](mailto:berghaptoneditor@gmail.com).

## COOK'S CORNER

This month, a seasonal recipe - an apple traybake that can be eaten on its own or as a pudding, served with clotted cream, ice cream or custard.

### Ingredients:

- \* 2 large cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced
- \* 1 tbsp lemon juice
- \* 175g unsalted butter
- \* 175g caster sugar
- \* 3 eggs, beaten
- \* 225g self-raising flour
- \* 1tsp baking powder
- \* 1 tsp cinnamon
- \* 2 tbsp milk
- \* icing sugar to dust

**Oven:** Preheat to 180 degrees c (160 fan)

**Tin:** 20 x 30 cm traybake tin lined with parchment - allow excess overhang to remove from tin



### Method:

1. Toss the prepared apples in lemon juice
2. Cream the butter with the sugar until light and fluffy. Slowly add the eggs, adding a tablespoon of flour if necessary to avoid curdling. Sift in the self-raising flour, the baking powder and cinnamon and gently fold to combine. Stir in the milk to loosen the batter until it is thick but spreadable.
3. Spread half in the base of the lined tin and layer half of the sliced apples evenly across the surface. Dollop on the remaining batter and gently spread with a spoon or spatula.
4. Add a second layer of apples, slightly pressing into the batter. 5. Put into a pre-heated oven for 40-45 mins (check at 40min) until golden and an inserted skewer comes out clean.
5. Allow to cool for 10 mins in the tin then lift out using the parchment paper overhanging the sides of the tin and leave to cool on a wire rack.
6. Dust with icing sugar (You can also add sultanas or walnuts).

## BERGH APTON ARTS



On Saturday 19 July the last of the workshops leading to 'LUTESTRING' was held. It was lino cuts and prints of moths and was a successful and happy day. Annette Rolston, a professional printer was the tutor. Here are some comments:

My first visit to Bergh Apton's Village Hall, a brilliant venue for a workshop. I thoroughly enjoyed myself immersed in a creative activity. Annette was very patient and generous with her time and the materials she brought with her to ensure we had an enjoyable experience. A lovely way to spend a Saturday.

I have not been to a workshop for some time. It was lovely to meet with familiar faces and meet new people. Annette was an interesting artist and was great with the group. She assisted everyone with their different needs and creating a lovely calm atmosphere. A very enjoyable day.

Everyone responded to Annette and produced some wonderful work.



Happenings to look forward to; two workshops and a storytelling:

### A CLAY DAY & A RAKU FIRING

These two workshops will be held at BAVH on Saturday 11 October and Saturday 15 October 1000 - 1600ish! Cost £40. Those interested must commit to both. To see if a place is available please email [p.mlej@btinternet.com](mailto:p.mlej@btinternet.com).

The tutor is Georgina Warne who is a professional sculptor and shows in the Jonathan Cooper Gallery in London and has shown in New York. She has taken workshops with us in the past.

Georgina is an experienced workshop leader specialising in ceramics and printmaking. She has run many workshops in schools and with community groups and with the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts and the National Trust.

Raku firing originated in sixteenth century Japan, it is alchemy, Wabi-sabi and magical!

### METAMORPHOSES

Early next year, a storytelling evening with Hugh Lupton of Greek myths of transformation.





## LUTESTRING

Twilight and ‘the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed’\* and by candlelight, music and moths a magic was made.

BAA gives humble and hearty thanks to all who helped in all sorts of ways to create the magic of ‘Lutestring’.

The Plume Moth, Ringed China, Burnished Brass and many other moths came to the event but, sadly, no Lutestring moth.

Photos of ‘Lutestring’ can be seen on BAA’s website:

<https://www.berghaptonarts.org/lutestring-2025>

Each of the wily clues on the woodland trail represented a letter which spelled the name of a moth, the LEOPARD MOTH. The four with fox sharp wits who worked this out were: Kev & Kaarin, Lorie Lain-Rogers, Georgina Warne and Jane Wallace. As a prize each will receive a copy of ‘Lutestring’ A Suite of Folk Tunes Inspired by British Moths’ by Adam Clark & Nic Zuppari.

‘Bergh Apton Arts have done it again, using imagination to create magic. Their latest offering, ‘Lutestring’ is truly bijou, thirty guests arriving via a quizzing wood at a bullock shed turned temple, where we listened to two accomplished musicians singing and talking about moths. Does that sound strange? Of course it was, it was just what BAA always delivers, something interesting, provocative and magical.’

‘Thank you and your team for a magical evening. The weather was on our side, a lovely walk, a puzzle, beautiful music and the moths. How lucky we are.’

Thank you for a wonderful event. It was delightful and enjoyable. Thanks to you all for making it happen and everyone else at BAA, the workshopppers and all the boots on the ground handling all the practicalities on both evenings. A real piece of soul food.’

‘The entire concept was just perfect, beautiful music, art and nature in such a special location and the stars of the show, the moths!’

‘We had an amazing time. The walk along the trail with moths was fantastic and full of curiosity. The highlight of the evening was the music from Adam and Nic, I felt truly uplifted and enchanted, it was wonderful.’

‘Always expect the unexpected, this was an evening of sights and sounds dedicated to that sometimes elusive creature the Moth with a background of flames from the fire dancing in the moonlight.’



‘.....we absolutely loved taking part and look forward to the next BAA event with great anticipation.’

‘ ..... the lanterns, the riddles, the masks and the setting of the Temple and the procession route came together in a beautiful way.’

\*from a prayer by John Henry Newman



## COUNTRY MATTERS

\*'.....Old Big-bum'

\*\*Garr, the hare, he who dances beneath the Wolf Moon, the Seed Moon and the Honey Moon. The one who hears the wind's voice and keeps the clock of the year turning from the green days of Spring to the ghost flowers of winter. He knows the Lord and Lady of the Greenwood. Garr has a story for you.

Melangell was the daughter of an Irish King who had chosen a nobleman of the Court to be her husband. She refused this and fled to north Wales and found refuge in the Berwyn Mountains in Wales. This happened in about the year 600 AD but the story lives on. She lived quietly, a hermit's life, the birds fed from her hand and the fox who hunts by moonlight, the badger from his ancestral home and mouse, vole and tunnelling mole had no fear of her. One day in the Spring of the year, Brychwel, Prince of Powys, had ridden out to hunt. The hounds put up a hare and gave tongue and the cries from the huntsmen, 'Hoi, hoi,' echoed from hill to hill. In full cry they upon a dell surrounded by a thicket of oak, ash and thorn and sitting there was a woman in quiet thought and prayer. From under the hem of her gown just the nose and paws of the hare could be seen. The hounds, urged on but would not approach; one of the huntsmen put his horn to his lips but no sound it gave. Melangell, angry and startled at the noise and the threat to the hare demanded that Brychwel and the hunt left her and the hare in peace. He was so touched by the sight of this quiet woman and the sheltering hare that he gave the land to her and built a sanctuary to be a 'perpetual asylum, refuge and defence.' Brychwel also gave promise that no hares would be hunted in this valley between the mountains. The sanctuary became a place of pilgrimage and the hares that live there are known as Melangell's little lambs.

This story is carved on a screen in the church. There has been a Christian church here since the seventh century. It is remote and its greatest treasure is the shrine to Melangell, it is a place of pilgrimage.

Once we had a dog, a 'rescue' dog from London. We thought her the best dog in the whole world and were devoted to her and she to us. She was jolly, kind and did not hunt or harry and was very quick and perceptive.

At the time we had a cat called Mary and so we called her, Martha, what else? One of our walks was the long footpath-cum-bridleway across the fields. Late summer and an early evening and Martha and I were walking this pathway. We never had to put Martha on a lead, she lead the way always just a couple of yards ahead and often looking back to see we were obediently following.

Quite some way along the path she stopped, looked back at me and sat down staring at something. I looked and there was a hare crouching low.

On Grandmother's footsteps I crept nearer, inch by inch and holding my breath and knelt down beside the hare. The setting sun shone in his eyes and he became a creature of another world. With one finger I stroked him once, twice and a third time and then he



was away speeding across the field. Martha and I looked at one another, no need for words and we both knew that if we were offered all the riches of the Lord of Tartary they would not equal the hare and us.

We took this photo in Austria a long time ago. It shows the window of a tiny wayside chapel and took our interest because of the symbol of the Triple Hare. It is ancient and mysterious

and found all over the world and used in many cultures and religions. In England, particularly in the West Country in the area of Dartmoor, it can be seen among the roof bosses in churches. It is known there as the Tinnners' Rabbits because it was the emblem of tin mining industry in that area.

Quite recently published was a book, 'Raising Hare' by Chloe Dalton, do beg, borrow or buy and read. Hares have no close season and if a doe with leverets is shot then the leverets die and the writer has started a petition to give these magical and mysterious animals protection. The book finishes, 'I tell myself not to count the years ahead in which she might never again come, but rather cherish the days she has given me of her own free will, when she lowered her species' instinctive guard against humans and shared the beauty and mystery of her presence in silent and graceful companionship.'

\* A poem, 'The names of the hare' dates from the 1200s, there are 63 lines and 77 names for a hare given and few of them complimentary! The title of this article comes from this poem.

\*\* An old Gaelic dialect word meaning 'hare'

Pat Mlejnecky

### Ten years at Gravel Pit Farm

In 2015 Steve and Suzanne, on returning from their holiday, saw a 'farm for sale' sign in the village and decided to take a look. The land was overgrown and the house in very poor repair. However the prospect of restoring the farm was a challenge they relished. After a telephone auction followed by sealed bids they managed to be the successful bidders. The sale was expected to go through in six weeks, so they raided every bank account, mortgaged their existing home and borrowed the last £10,000 from family to raise the cash required. On October 30th they became the proud owners.

The farm is timber farmed of Tudor origins with a brick skin. Owned by the Cooke family for several centuries, and then sold to the Canterbury estate. It had been a tenanted small farm with additional rented

woodland. In 1946 it was sold to Eddie Upton a local farm manager and considerable work was undertaken to modernise it.



He was joined by Gracie a local woman who developed the smallholding and ran a dog and cat boarding kennels. Following Gracie's death the farm became available for sale. Gracie had lived there into her 90s

and in her final years it became very neglected and in poor repair.

Steve and Suzanne continued to live in their old house in the village but set about making the farm house habitable, employing Kenny Seeley and Mick Hardesty, local builders for the renovation. The roof had been renovated in the 1950s and after a large crack had been stitched in the bedroom and a bit of under pinning the structure was considered to be sound. The walls had been boarded in hardboard and when removed revealed the oak frame. The 1950s fireplace was removed to expose a wide inglenook fireplace with numerous small ovens and a separate bread oven.

Some of the walls had never been plastered. Slowly an ancient house with a long history and character was revealed.



### Ten years at Gravel Pit Farm continued

Outside, as the seasons moved on, Gracie's love of flowers emerged as each month new plants began to flower. After the removal of many fallen trees and nettles it was possible to explore the land and begin to consider the opportunities of having so much land. Steve and Suzanne already kept chickens but were keen to keep livestock and in 2016 their first five ewes arrived along with two goats. It had been hoped the goats would help clear the land and provide milk. However they escaped to areas where they were not welcome and damaged the old fencing. Milking goats while working fulltime was challenging and didn't last long.

After six months the old house in the village was sold and Steve and Suzanne with their daughter Rosa moved in. A new road sign was purchased and erected at the top of Gravel Pit Lane. It was hoped life would become easier living on one site.

Each evening after work and weekends were spent decorating and clearing the land.

By the following year Steve and Suzanne had rediscovered Gracie's vegetable garden, put up a polytunnel and planted an orchard. Some of the fields were fenced and with the help of the livestock some of the land was more manageable. A large pond had been discovered and dug out and the ditches cleared to drain the land.



Steve had created a woodworking workshop in the dog kennels and made the barns sound for storage. However it was decided that while working fulltime they would not be able to renovate the house and manage the land. A big decision was made to give up work and after being a couple for thirty three years to get married. Both were good decisions.

Steve and Suzanne attended training courses in animal husbandry and land management and took up active roles in running Norfolk Smallholders Training Group, learning from other smallholders' experiences.



Suzanne learnt to spin and weave using the fleeces from the sheep and tried making garments to wear. Steve enjoyed renovating tractors and other farm implements.

Over the following years the farm grew in size as land nearby become available to



purchase and the farmhouse was modestly extended and improved. Steve has used his wood working skills to build a green wood porch and renovate the pigsties to create a wood framed structure to support solar panels.



They are keen to attract wildlife on the farm and take part in the Chet Valley Bee Line project. They planted trees and hedges to provide habitats and food for birds and insects. Fenced areas were planted with wild flower and bird seed mixes.

They were able to increase their flock of sheep and each year rear a few piglets. Chickens were kept for eggs. Being a small flock the animals receive individual attention and the best of care aiming to produce high quality meat. They grow plenty of fruit and vegetables for the family to last through the year. Steve now has a selection of tractors and old farm implements to assist in hay making and land maintenance. By coppicing the trees and using the wood from unwanted trees

they produce enough fire wood to heat the house and water during the winter. The aim is to live a more sustainable life by growing most of their own food, using fewer resources, reusing and recycling. To cover costs of rearing the animals Gravel Pit Farm sells meat boxes to friends and local customers. The animals were butchered at Orchard Farm Butchery keeping the process local. The fleeces are sold to local spinners or made into commercially spun wool.



Eggs can be purchased from a box at the top of Gravel Pit Lane. It might not be most peoples' idea of retirement but for Steve and Suzanne it provides endless enjoyment.



you would be interested in purchasing meat or eggs please contact Suzanne on [suzanne@gravelpitfarm.co.uk](mailto:suzanne@gravelpitfarm.co.uk) or drop in at the farm.

**Suzanne Whitby**

I would like to thank Suzanne and Steve for this wonderful insight into life at Gravel Pit Farm and congratulate them on all their hard work. Please do contact them if you would like to be a customer - how lucky are we, to have fresh home-reared produce on our doorstep!



## THE ROAD THAT LED TO THE GENTRIFICATION OF THE DENNY FAMILY OF BERGH APTON MANOR

John Ling

It's thanks to historian Geoffrey Kelly that we know about a new road, built through Bergh Apton in the reign of Queen Victoria, funded by the Denny family who lived at Bergh Apton Manor for over 400 years from 1552 until the death of Beatrice Jessie Denny-Cooke in 1960.

This road was the most ambitious project in the transition of a family of tenant farmers of the sixteenth century who, through hard work in the 17th and 18th Centuries, become gentry owning not too far off half the lands of this parish (*note 1*) .

There is early evidence of this upward movement in the 17th Century when Edward Denny, (1567-1621) referred to himself as 'Yeoman' (a small landowning farmer) whereas his son Richard (1598-1554) called himself 'Gentleman' (*note 2*) . The status of 'Norfolk Gentry' was achieved in the 19th Century through three key developments that we can track with the help of Geoffrey Kelly's two publications 'The History of Bergh Apton Manor' (published privately in 1990 (*note 3*) and 'The Book of Bergh Apton' (Halsgrove 2005).



The transition began in 1825 when Richard Denny (1789-1856) - left, demolished the old family home (*note 4*) to build what is, in essence, the house we know today. The second change, in 1853, was Richard's work to re-route the road from Thurton to Alington (*note 5*) . The third, in 1869, was his son's purchase of the lands of the Manor that brought with it the title 'Lord of the Manor of Bergh with Apton'. Thus it was that the Dennys became owners of the lands they had

tenanted since the 1500s, whose name they changed to 'Bergh Apton Manor' (*note 6*) .

We don't know the cost of the new house in 1825 or the new road in 1853 but we know that Richard Cooke Denny (1816-1890) -below right, paid the Earl of Abergavenny (*note 7*) the sum of £1,320 (*note 8*) to buy the land and Lordship (*note 9*) in 1869.

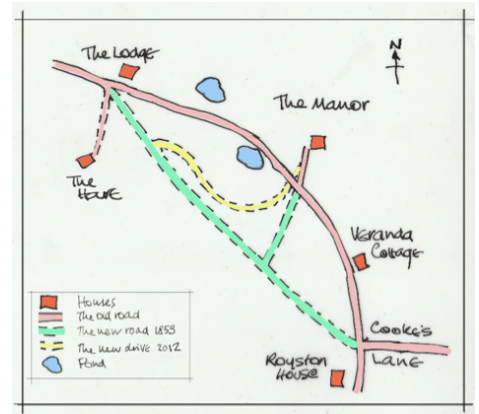
That, today worth about £136,650 (*note 10*) , seems quite a modest means by which the Dennys completed their three-hundred-year evolution from modest farmers to Gentry.

With his lands and his title now secure, Richard Cooke Denny - Lord of the Manor of Bergh with Apton - could look out over parklands his father Richard created when he re-routed the road.



He was no doubt happy that the world, his wife, his noisy children and his livestock would no longer clatter past, within earshot of his house.

In 2004 we tried to work out the route of this old road. We knew that it ran from The Street past Veranda Cottage (*note 11*) and passed very close to the house, but its course from there across the Manor's lands had disappeared over time.



Geoffrey Kelly came to our rescue with the map dated 1825 that he appended to the history he wrote for Kip and Alison Bertram in 1990. This 'Plan of an estate in the parish of Bergh Apton belonging to Richard Denny Esq' (*note 12*) shows the road following a natural curved path between trees to the south of a large pond in the park to the west of the Manor House (*note 13*) . It also showed the meeting of The Street and Cooke's Road (then called Cooke's Lane) to have been a 'T' junction from

which the old road headed up what is now the private drive to Veranda Cottages. At its western end it joined Threadneedle Street between the old pub 'The Hare' and The Lodge, the thatched cottage that acted as living quarters for the Manor's coachman (*note 14*) .



The late John Fryer, grandson of Thomas Denny-Cooke, added a bit more to our knowledge of this road through his 1930s childhood recollection "I remember my grandfather and I prodding the park with walking sticks to trace the path of the old driveway which led to the cottage where the Farrows lived (which we always called the Lodge).

When our sticks hit a hard surface a few inches beneath the turf that was where the old road had been. I wonder if you have tried this. As far as I remember the line of the road was much as you have drawn it (*note 15*) . I seem to remember we did the same from the gate halfway up the drive (*note 16*) on the left and again wondered why this road (which I think led around to the area of the old barn) had been discontinued".

More evidence was to follow in 2012 when the Bertrams created the new driveway to the house further west along on Threadneedle Street from the old entrance (that now leads to Monty's Meadow and the East Park). Excavations for the cattle grid at the southern end of the ha-ha lawn uncovered increased stoning, perhaps the base of the old gravel road, just where we expected it would be.

I'm grateful to John Fryer for that valuable nugget of memory of The 1852 map and (above) a sketch showing the new road and the 2012 drive tracing the road, to Kip for letting me have sight of Geoffrey Kelly's history of The Manor and to Geoffrey himself, for his meticulous compilation of that history and its map that led us to the course of the old Bergh Apton road.



### Notes relating to article P10

1 'Book of Bergh Apton' p.115

2 'Book of Bergh Apton' pp.48 & 53

3 for Kip and Alison Bertram.

4 The present house is probably the third on this site. The first, on the site in 1593 ('Book of Bergh Apton' p.79), was replaced by one built in the time of John Denny who died in 1723.

5 Richard Denny obtained permission of the Justices of the Peace to divert the road ('History of Bergh Apton Manor' p.25).

6 The estate was formerly known as Bergh Apton Lodge ('Book of Bergh Apton' pp.61, 91 & 92).

7 The Earl of Abergavenny, whose family held the title since the Norman Conquest, sold it as Lot 42 of the auction of all his

Norfolk lands on 5 August 1869 at the Royal Hotel in Norwich.

8 'Book of Bergh Apton' p.91

9 Wikipedia: 'The title is not a peerage or title of upper nobility (although the holder could also be a peer). It was a relationship to land and how it could be used'.

10 <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation/inflation-calculator>.

11 Veranda Cottage was, until the late 1930s, a single dwelling on the Manor estate. It was occupied at times by Denny widows when their sons, having inherited the estate, put their mothers out to grass to use the house for their own families. There were also times when a young Denny and his wife lived there, perhaps to await his

father's death and his possession of the Mano.

12 The original map is in the Norfolk Record Office.

13 The second of the two large extant ponds, just south of the old road, came later.

14 The Lodge is not shown on the Estate map of 1825, so must have been built later.

15 I had written to John Fryer in 2004 asking him to comment on the draft of the thumbnail map Book of Bergh Apton p.81) that included my own thoughts on the likely course of the old road.

16 The original drive that, when the new drive was built through the parklands in 2012, was downgraded to give access to Monty's Meadow, the East Park and the barns behind the house.

### CAPTAIN JOHN DURNFOLD – WAR POET

Paris Back's rendering of the poem 'VJ Day Khanaburi' was one of the most emotionally- moving elements of Bergh Apton's VJ Day service on 15th August.



The poem was written by John Durnfold, a young Royal Artilleryman captured by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore in 1942 where he was fighting with the 18th Infantry Division of which the 4th and 5th Battalions of the Royal Norfolk Regiment were part.

Durnfold spent the rest of the war in captivity. In 1942 he was sent to Thailand with 21,000 of his fellow-captives to work on the infamous Death Railway built to carry Japanese supplies from Thailand into

Burmah to prepare for the invasion of India. On completion of the railway in October 1943 those who survived the experience were sent either back to Changi (in Singapore), to work in mines and factories in Japan, or to other camps in Thailand. Durnfold was among the latter and tells of the day war came to an end for them in the poem read so movingly by Paris

Back at the VJ Day service.

He returned to England in October 1945 and stayed in the Army until 1953 when he became a teacher. He died, aged 75, in August 1995. You can read his poetry and learn of his wartime experiences on the website:

<http://www.boxpeopleandplaces.co.uk/epitaph-to-ww2.html>



Norfolk born writer Patrick Barkham is a celebrated nature writer known for titles such as The Butterfly Isles, Badgerlands and Islander.

In 'Wild Child: Coming Home to Nature' we witness the rural childhood of his three children in Norfolk through his role as a parent and volunteer at his local forest school.

With increasing concern in the media that contemporary children are now lacking contact with nature, Patrick takes us through a reflective year of snowsuits, muddy wellies and sunhats with his children; twins Milly and Esme (5) and younger brother Ted (3). Interspersed with facts as well as nostalgia, Patrick aims to demonstrate how a childhood engaged with nature does not have to be a lost option. As a natural history writer for the Guardian, he expresses concern at recent studies showing children increasingly unable to identify common birds and plants, who do not understand where their food comes from and have such packed diaries that time to roam free is no longer a possibility.

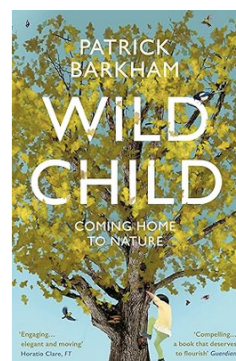
We are introduced to the different personalities of his family, from the more reserved Milly whose preference is crafts and collecting to the outgoing Esme who thrives in all things outdoor with voracious curiosity, and Ted, younger brother who forges his own path as a carpenter-inventor and hoarder.

The Dandelion forest school the children attend, in conjunction

with days at their local primary, was established in 2016 by owners Emma Harwood and Hayley Room, former teachers who became tired of a rigid curriculum, testing and league tables. Instead, they set up a low resource site where children would learn through play, curiosity and discovery. Plans remain unaffected by weather; sunny, rainy or in snow, the children spend their time outside, eating jammy porridge by the fireside. Creepy crawlies, dead animals and fungi all create subjects for discussion and investigation, with songs and poems used to remind the children of safety messages or key information. All the children are allowed to follow their own interests, with space to climb, make dens and handle insects and the resident chickens Daisy and Feather.

Toys are 'open' in their possibility to be anything; broken tiles and bricks, trowels and spirit levels, gutters, tyres, hay bales and wooden pallets. In contrast to prescribed purpose built toys which are now invariably plastic. Emma and Hayley also emphasise the difference in sensory experience with over stimulation often created by a traditional classroom with its whiteboards, toys to fight over, noise and constant stimuli.

It's a very interesting, delightful and informative look at the choices available to parents and the impact this may have on future generations...do have a read.



Jenny Lovatt

### 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

#### 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

#### 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

|                      |                |                    |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>        | 10am           | Extend Fitness 50+ |
|                      | 5pm on         | Dog Training       |
| <b>Tuesday</b>       | 9.30am & 10.30 | Pilates            |
| <b>Tuesday</b>       | 7pm            | The La La's sing   |
| <b>2nd Wednesday</b> | 7.30pm         | B.A. Society       |
| <b>3rd Wednesday</b> | 10-12 noon     | Coffee n Catch Up  |
| <b>3rd Wednesday</b> | 2-4 pm         | Village Archive    |
| <b>Friday</b>        | 9.30am & 11.15 | Yoga               |
| <b>1st Saturday</b>  | 9-5pm          | Microscopy Group   |

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Join our Facebook community at:

'Bergh Apton Community  
Noticeboard'



or look on our website

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

I know it's early to mention  
Christmas...but a date for  
your diary

**Monday 22nd  
December**



A great way to enjoy the  
festivities.. do join us  
singing carols around the  
village - or let me know if  
you would like a visit! Carol  
sheets are provided.

### Village Diary

#### October

|                   |                                               |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1st 7.30pm        | BACT AGM                                      |
| 4th 9.30am        | Decorate church for harvest & gift day        |
| 5th 10am          | Harvest Festival at church                    |
| 8th 7.30pm        | BA Society talk on Norwich in the 50s and 60s |
| 11th 10-4pm       | BA Arts Clay Workshop                         |
| 15th 10am-12      | Coffee 'n' Chat                               |
| 15th 2-4pm        | BALHG archiving                               |
| 15th 7.30pm       | BALHG talk on History of Brewing              |
| 18th 10-4pm       | BA Arts Raku Workshop                         |
| 18th 10.30am      | BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field            |
| 18th 7pm          | Charlie Haylock on History of Spoken English  |
| 19th 1.30pm       | BACT Fungus Foray                             |
| 22nd 5pm          | BA Society visit to Greyhounds Gt Yarmouth    |
| 23rd 10am         | BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field            |
| 25th 6.30 for 7pm | Quiz 'n'Chilli                                |

#### November

|                   |                                                                                                       |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9th 10.30am       | Remembrance Day service at BA church followed by soup at the village hall                             |
| 12th 7.30pm       | BA Society talk on Dad's Army                                                                         |
| 15th 10am         | BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field                                                                    |
| 16th 11am         | Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal Service at BA church                                          |
| 19th 10am-12      | Coffee 'n' Chat                                                                                       |
| 19th 2-4pm        | BALHG archiving                                                                                       |
| 19th 7.30pm       | BALHG talk by Linda Davy on History of Pilgrimage & talk by Lorie Lain Rogers on her Walk of Kindness |
| 20th 10am         | BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field                                                                    |
| 20th TBA          | BA Society visit to Thursford                                                                         |
| 21st 7pm          | Lardal Kantori concert at BA church                                                                   |
| 26th 7pm          | Village Hall Management Trust meeting                                                                 |
| 29th 9am          | 11 Says Assembly at BAVH                                                                              |
| 29th 7 for 7.30pm | Christmas Bingo                                                                                       |

All activities take place at Bergh Apton Village

Hall unless otherwise stated.

If you'd like your event in the diary, please contact

[hilary.ling@btinternet.com](mailto:hilary.ling@btinternet.com)

#### December

|            |                                               |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 3rd 10-4pm | Christmas Wreath Workshop at the village hall |
| 22nd       | Carol Singing                                 |