



Bergh Apton Broadcast

Issue 203 Apr/May 2026

I hope you have all been enjoying the warmer weather and are looking forward to getting out to some Bergh Apton events. We have the start of some of the Spring events with the Easter service at the church on Sunday 5th April, followed by fund raisers for the church with Quiz 'n' Chilli in April and the Bergh Apton Horse Show and Fun Dog Show on the late May bank holiday.

If you are planning a 'Spring clean' and turning out the cupboards, shed and garage, please do think of us for fete donations. Many items we can take early and put into storage (it helps us and saves you a trip to dispose elsewhere!) - details can be found on P7.

Congratulations are in store for a number of residents: Chris Johnson, whose book, 'The Box of Lions' (an account of events on the India/Burma border in April 1944), is scheduled for release on 9th July, following a publication deal with London publisher Pen & Sword. John Whittow recently received an award from the National Trust for his contribution which helped to secure valuable stretches of coastline (see below). There has also been celebration by local business, Green Pastures, details of which are on P10, as well as a moving account of Paris and Nigel's charitable trip to Ukraine (P3). What a magnificent start to 2026!

Jenny Lovatt

Editor



Editor, Jenny pictured at her stand at the recent Spring Art Show at The Forum, Norwich. A successful event for me too, with work sold.

Prestigious Award for Bergh Apton Resident

John Whittow of Hawthorn Drive, Bergh Apton has recently been presented with the Omega Oak Leaf plaque - a rarely conferred award by The National Trust in recognition of his fifty-year honorary work for Britain's largest charity.



After helping to found the Trust's 'Neptune Coastal Campaign' in 1965 he directed their acquisition of selected shorelines to be saved from development, thereby conserving them for the nation in perpetuity.

Having completed a mapping survey of over 7,000 miles of the coasts of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, he recommended the purchase of 900 miles and this figure was finally achieved in 2025 with the acquisition of a further section of Dorset's 'Jurassic Coast'. The funds raised during this exercise exceeded £85 million.

Dame Fiona Reynolds, a former Director-General of the Trust, has stated that his work "...led to arguably the National Trust's greatest achievement". At a ceremony held at Morston Quay in north Norfolk he was given the award and photographed alongside the Blakeney Point ranger's boat, named in his honour.



Significantly, the United Kingdom Government has just announced that the final stretch of England's 2,700-mile Long-Distance Coastal Footpath will be completed by the spring of 2027 after a sixteen-year project.

Any contributions for the Jun/July 2026 edition of the Bergh Apton Broadcast, should be e-mailed to the Editor at berghaptoneditor@gmail.com by 10th May. All contributions welcomed.

RAMBLING RECTOR' with The Reverend Chris Ellis



My late mother spent most of her life living in towns or cities, but she always considered herself to be a country girl. She was born in a small Suffolk village where she attended the village school and worked in the village bakery from the age of 16. Her childhood was spent wandering the byways and field paths around the village, looking for flowers, insects and bird's nests. Even towards the end of her life, she could not walk along a country lane without looking into the hedge hoping to find a small nest tucked away. She was a mine of information about nature and knew the names of all the birds, flowers and trees many by their unique 'Suffolk' names.

It is very easy for us who live in our beautiful rural villages here in South Norfolk to take the wonder and beauty of the natural world around us for granted. I am writing this in the first couple of days of meteorological spring with a glimpse of blue sky visible from

my study window after what seems like endless weeks of grey, cold and damp. Nature is responding and the daffodils, crocuses, hyacinths and snowdrops are daring to raise their delicate and colourful heads towards the lightening sky and the hint of a breath of warmer air. The blossom on the trees in my driveway almost caught me napping as it appeared seemingly overnight and the birds seem to be hunting less urgently for food and are turning their thoughts to finding a mate. Spring has sprung!

It should not be a surprise that Easter occurs in Spring, the season of re-birth after a winter of dormancy. The Christian season of Easter is a celebration of resurrection following Christ's passion and death on Good Friday. God reveals in Christ's re-birth his purpose for all creation – to be born again into a new hope, a new life. Just as the green shoots appearing through the leaf mould speak of the promise of the glory of the flower to come, so Christ's death and resurrection speak of the hope of new life to come, a life

that will be filled with the glory and the beauty of God.

My dear mother approached the end of her life with no fear of death. I believe she saw God's presence in nature. She understood His loving purpose for all creation; a purpose rooted in the natural cycle of life from death revealed in nature and promised through Christ to each one of us through faith.

I do hope you and your families are filled with the hope, love and joy of Christ this Easter season.

With every blessing,

Fr Chris.



BUS CHANGES 12th April

A number of local bus changes have taken place, details of which are available on our village website:

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

Pertinent to Bergh Apton is Simonds 86(subsidised service) from Bergh Apton –Norwich (Saturdays only). This service will now be withdrawn due to very low usage.

Bergh Apton Parish Council:

We have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. The role involves attending seven meetings in a year at The Village Hall. It's an ideal opportunity for someone to participate in decisions made which affect the village and to contribute with ideas for things which would benefit the village.

All interested applicants to apply to the Clerk, Renata Thornber, by email at clerk@berghapton.org.uk who will be pleased to assist and answer any questions you may have on the position.

INVITATION FROM BERGH APTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Bergh Apton is a small thriving Village with a selection of facilities offered to the residents. Over the last few years we have welcomed newcomers into the village and are pleased to see more families with children. The village has a group of very dedicated people who work hard to look after the village and offer various social groups for villagers to enjoy. We also have a good selection of activities at the Village Hall in which many residents from the village and neighbouring villages participate. We have the benefit of Conservation Groups, History Groups, the Church offering events, a thriving Village Hall, Annual Fete etc. The Parish Council is aware that the workings of these groups as with the Parish Council itself, are undertaken by a number of people who have been undertaking these tasks for some time and wish for newcomers to the village as well as existing residents to feel they may like to become involved and contribute with ideas etc. This will help keep the social groups and other events going. It is appreciated that everyone's time is precious, and everyone is busy but you would be surprised to know that one would not need to contribute a huge amount of time.

The Parish Council oversee what is happening in the village and contribute opinions on planning applications which affect the village and its residents, and assist with making sure the integrity of the village is maintained. The Parish Council therefore wonder if residents may like to attend a Parish Council meeting to get an idea of what is involved and the subjects discussed. This may enlighten residents and make them feel they could participate in such a role.

The Parish Council wish to invite residents of our village, both old and new to either our AGM on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7.00 pm at The Village Hall or the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 20th May 2026, doors opening at 6.30 pm for drinks before meeting commences at 7.00 pm at The Village Hall. (Please note that the the Annual Parish Meeting, the representatives of various Committees in the Village talk about activities which have have taken place over the last 12 months).

There are other meetings throughout the year which you are most welcome to attend and details of our meetings are posted on the Bergh Apton website where you can also find the minutes of previous meetings to get a flavour for what the Parish Council involves.

Convoy4Ukraine



Some of you may recall from a previous Bergh Apton Broadcast, that Nigel and I were asked if we could be part of Convoy4Ukraine in February. Drivers and co-drivers are asked to raise £9000 each to buy the trucks, which are then

left in Ukraine for the soldiers and civilians. Each truck is filled with £9,000 of quality medical aid and humanitarian supplies specifically requested by the Charity's contacts in Ukraine. These are items such as electric wheelchairs and winches, generators, tourniquets, diesel heaters and adapters, celox gauze and burn gels. Each volunteer pays about £1000 to cover the costs of overnight stays, food, train and flights home meaning all donations go direct to the charity.

Lviv was an enormous mixture of emotions. We felt joy at the profound gratitude of the soldiers and civilians we met, along with deep distress at visiting the military rehabilitation hospital and witnessing the soldiers learning how to use their prosthetic limbs.



One young soldier had had his legs blown off with six inches of thigh left which is apparently a common injury. There was a poster of a child in a wheelchair on the wall of the hospital with no feet and she is one of thousands of children who have and will continue to be killed or wounded as a result of this unbelievably vicious war.

We visited a Greek Catholic Church where two priests blessed the trucks and showed us their beautiful church.



The murals remain uncompleted as the artist is away fighting.



In contrast, the Garrison Church not only had photos of some of the thousands of soldiers killed but also a cloud of white origami birds flying overhead. We all found this evocation of those killed intensely moving.



We visited the cemetery, which used to be an empty green field but is now filled with rows and rows of the dead. Every grave includes a photo of the soldier who has been killed.

We met and hugged weeping parents, and helped them clear the snow from the photographs of their children. Although we did not share the same spoken language, we were united in the common language of grief and despair at the futility of war. The tears we shed with those parents have come home with us and live on in our hearts.



We also had several talks in the evening to deepen our understanding of the situation there. Five veterans now enduring PTSD gave a talk, two of whom had suffered terribly in a Russian prison. The Veteran's Association supporting these men, women and their families is incredible, even extending support to families who now live in other countries.

Every day at 9.00 a.m. Ukraine stops, including the radio. We all got out of our trucks – ours at a green light on the first day and stood with our heads bowed for a minute. Many of us continue to do this every morning at 7.00 am, Ukraine being two hours ahead.

We have now passed the fourth anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion. It is an astonishing achievement by the Ukrainian people to have stood up to the resources and savagery of the world's third superpower for four bleak intensely cold winters, often with no heat or electricity and thousands having had their homes destroyed.

Thank you to all those generous souls who supported this trip. Nigel and I hold this cause very close and will be returning on the October convoy this year. If you would like to contribute to this, we would be very grateful. Please e-mail me on parisback14@gmail.com or ring if you would like to hear more about it on 07900 683 617.



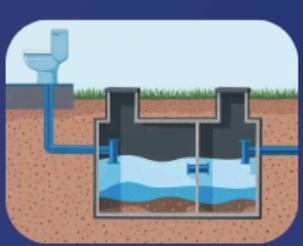
FREE SEPTIC TANK UPGRADES

Protecting rivers across Norfolk

Our Rivers is a pioneering collaboration between local Rivers Trusts and regional experts in drainage and septic tank installation.

The Problem
Your septic tank plays a crucial role in the health of our local ecosystem. Older systems can release excess nutrients into our waterways disrupting natural ecology and causing lasting impacts on the wider freshwater environment.

Our Solution
Our Rivers is working with Norfolk Environmental Credits and the private market to provide FREE septic tank upgrades to modern package treatment plants that remove up to **90%** more phosphorus and nitrogen.



Norfolk Rivers Trust **Norfolk Environmental Credits** **Our Rivers**

How it works...



Our Pledge
We reinvest in rivers and their communities. Through our partners at **Norfolk Rivers Trust** we reinvest a share of any profits into local river restoration and enhancement projects. We help create a ripple effect for environmental improvement that goes beyond fixing the immediate problem.

Register to make a difference
Scan the QR code or go to www.ourrivers.co.uk



info@ourrivers.co.uk
07398 270 409

Norfolk Rivers Trust **Norfolk Environmental Credits** **Our Rivers**



Would you be interested in joining a sketching/en plein air painting group in the Spring/Summer? A couple of artists in the village would like to create a group to get out in the fresh air with pencil, paints and sketchbooks - to find locations in the village and enjoy some creative company. If you are interested in joining us, contact: berghaptoneditor@gmail.com

A Huge Thank You from EACH - Christmas Carolling

We are so grateful for your continued support and for your fantastic effort in raising £98.87 for EACH this Christmas, it is so kind of you to sing on our behalf.

Your continued kindness means that the children, young people and their families currently in our care will continue to receive an outstanding family centred, needs-led service. At EACH, we ensure that all of the needs of the children, young people and their families we care for are met – whether those needs be psychological, physical, emotional, social or spiritual.

For families like Georgia's, this approach has meant they have felt supported at every stage of their journey with Miles. Benefitting from fun-filled family events, counselling services and support from our help at home volunteers.

"The fact we have a family care coordinator who checks in regularly and offers ideas and support for us as a family is a wonderful source of stability for us." Georgia – Miles' mum

Thank you again for making our vital work possible. Put simply, we could not do what we do without you. If you would like any further information on the difference your support makes, please contact us on the details below.

I have attached a Thank You Certificate for your newsletter.

Very best wishes
Cassie



Cassie Hollis
Community Fundraiser - Norfolk
East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH)



each
East Anglia's Children's Hospices

Thank you for making a difference

Thank you to:
Bergh Aptis Carol Singers

For:
£98.87

With your support we can continue giving care and support to life-threatened children, young people and their families when they need it most.

www.each.org.uk
Royal Patron: HRH The Princess of Wales
Registered Charity Number 1205284

HUMANS OF SOUTH NORFOLK

Don't bin them, recycle your old electricals

Anything with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled and turned into something new.

Bag up your small electricals and batteries and book the new kerbside recycling service. Search **South Norfolk Small Electrical Recycling** to book your collection.

Search 'recycle your electricals' to find all your local, repair, donation or recycling points for items not accepted as part of this service.



For further information on recycling, please look at <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling/bin-collections-and-app/south-norfolk-small-electrical-items-and-battery-recycling>

recycle your electricals **South Norfolk**

VALENTINE SIDNEY (DEREK) SECKER

(February 1933 - January
2026)

Derek Secker, who died a few days short of his 93rd birthday, came to live with his wife Adèle at Barras Hill on Sunnyside in 1979. They shared a love of its garden, lake and woodland until Adèle's death through cancer in 2010 brought to a close a happy life together of just over fifty years. Derek lived at Barras Hill for another fifteen years and died there surrounded by his family.

Always known as Derek, though his parents named him after the Saint on whose day he was born, he came into the world on Magdalen Street in Norwich and was schooled in the city before completing an apprenticeship with his father's electrical business. He joined Royal Mail Lines in 1953 with whom his first posting was as 3rd Electrical Officer in RMS Highland Monarch and his last was as 1st Electrical Officer in RMS Thessally, a new ship commissioned in 1957. This rise in four years to the senior Electrical Officer's position in a brand-new ship may be taken as an indication of the confidence the shipping line had in Derek and his professional capabilities.

On leaving the Merchant Navy in 1959 he re-joined his father's electrical business in Norwich and persuaded him to turn the business into a limited company, appointing Derek and four of his brothers as Directors. He retired from the business in 1997.

Derek's life changed one night in 1956 when, having just arrived home on leave from his ship and still dressed in his navy uniform, his brother Maurice persuaded him to go to a dance at the Norwood Rooms on the Aylsham Road in Norwich where the popular

organist Neville Turner was playing and, that night, was accompanied by his daughter Adèle. Both she and Derek always said that the love they felt for each when they met that night was immediate. It led to their marriage in Great Yarmouth in 1960 and the birth of their three sons Gary, David and Paul while they were living on Riverside Close in Hellesdon.

In 1979 Derek brought Adèle to see a piece of woodland on the river Chet that he had bought at auction. Parking at Barras Hill to walk down to the river to see the wood they met Anne Colman, the resident-owner of the Barras Hill estate of some twenty-eight acres that she had inherited from her uncle Charles Palmer-Kerrison, the reclusive former African 'big game hunter', when he died in 1965.



Derek and Adèle on their Wedding Day

It was a seminal meeting that led to Miss Colman agreeing to sell her house and the entire estate to Derek and Adèle. The thirty-three years that followed were an idyll in which Adèle looked after the garden and its wildlife and Derek pursued his interests in conservation, fishing (for which he won the first Norfolk Broads Open competition in 1968) and shooting.

His interests outside life at Barras Hill included badminton and bowls that he shared with Adèle and darts in which he won the EDP trophy playing for the Tuns pub (now the Temple Bar) on the

Earlham Road. He joined the Thorpe St Andrew Lodge of Masonry in 1974 and rose to Master of the Lodge in 1984, making many friends in the fifty years he was an active member of Freemasonry.

Derek had a direct manner of speaking that could be quite brusque for those who did not see the warmth and humour of the man himself. He was always ready to help when needed and was a wise counsel for those who sought his advice based on many years of experience and observation.



Derek and Adèle in later years

He was a regular participant at the monthly lunches for those who lived alone, held in the Church for a number of years until Covid struck, that gave those attending an excellent hot meal and much-needed company. Derek's charm and wit were a great help to those who might feel downhearted or lost and he found friendship and warmth that were a great help to him in the time following Adèle's death.

Though he was a very private man who valued the privacy of his estate he was ready, when asked, to give access to the woodlands and paths of Barras Hill. One notable example was when the organisers of the Sculpture Trail of 2005 needed a location for the

sculptures made by children of Alington and Bergh Apton's primary school - mobiles that would work best if displayed on a long tree-lined country path. Derek and Adèle agreed to host them along the old carriageway from Sunnyside down to the bridge over the river, thus creating a unique gallery still remembered fondly by those who walked it.



Derek in his element in the woodlands of Barras Hill

Derek's most memorable contribution to the life of Bergh Apton in the heady days of the Sculpture Trails - and the most surprising given his natural reticence and the recent loss of Adèle - was playing Noah, the lead character in 'A Mighty Water' - the mystery play performed at the parish church on the three Saturdays of the 2011 Trail, that deserves its separate remembrance in this newsletter, written by Christopher Meynell of Bergh Apton Arts.

We send our condolences and our thanks for the part their father, grandfather or great grandfather played in the life of Bergh Apton to his sons Gary, David and Paul, to his grandchildren Eloise, Niall, Shaun, Laura, Bethany and Paige, and to his great grandchildren Martha, Arlo, Otto, Henry and Evie.

John Ling

A MEMORY OF DEREK SECKER THE ACTOR

In 2011 Bergh Apton Arts presented its last Sculpture trail, "The Journey" whose theme was to celebrate the journey many took in the building of a Mediaeval Church such as that in Bergh Apton. One of its highlights was a new Mystery Play, "A Mighty Water", written by Hugh Lupton who developed it from the foundation of the Biblical story of Noah.

Apart from that of God, played in turn by the Anglican & Roman Catholic Bishops and the Methodist President, all parts were played by inhabitants of the village.

With little doubt one of the stars was Derek Secker. Initially a little reluctant he blossomed as rehearsals and performances progressed, playing Noah as though the part had been written for

him. Such was his skill that we wondered if he was the source of his granddaughter Eloise's success in her professional career as an actress, in which he often expressed his great pride.



Derek, far right, with (l-r) Peter Knight, John Sayer, Rebecca Hartley and Hugh Lupton in a scene from the 2011 Mystery Play

Derek said afterwards "I was invited to take part in the Sculpture Trail play and readily agreed. Any activity to take my mind off my bereavement was welcome. I had no idea what was involved but after downloading the script and realising how funny the play was, I decided I would put my best effort into it.

Having never acted before I was grateful for the advice received from David, the director.

After the first two rehearsals I realised just how much I was enjoying it and when the crowds turned up for the first performance and the standing ovation we received at the end was so exhilarating, the next performance would not come soon enough. All the cast were so helpful but I must admit it was nice to get my dirty overalls off".

Bishop's House Open Garden:

A Community Afternoon in Support of the Magdalene Group



Bergh Apton resident and Magdalene Group staff member Rosie Winn is organising a fundraising Open Garden event at the historic Bishop's House in Norwich. Set within ancient walls beside the Cathedral, the rarely accessible four-acre garden offers a unique chance to explore one of the

city's hidden green spaces.

The Magdalene Group is a long-established Norwich charity providing specialist, trauma-informed support to women and young people affected by sexual violence, exploitation and abuse.

On Sunday 31 May, 1pm–4.30pm, Bishop's House Garden will host a warm, family-friendly afternoon with homemade cakes, refreshments, children's activities, garden games, a treasure trail, and live music. All proceeds support the charity's services.

Entry is £5 for adults; under-16s (accompanied) and wheelchair users enter free. Tickets can be booked online or purchased at the gate.



To book or learn more, visit: www.magdalenegroup.org/bishops-house-open-garden/ or via this QR code



I have just read *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque. I can't tell you how much it has affected me, a story of misguided leadership and destruction of the innocence of youth by war. The young man it follows is Paul from a very ordinary

German village where the Kaiser has convinced the German people of the honour in and benefits of an expansionist Germany. Paul's family are poverty stricken and hopeless. Paul volunteers with all his school class at 18. The ensuing war he experiences is shocking but sobering in a world hell bent on war. The book is written in a style not unlike that of an 18 year old writing home, it is immediate and observational and shows how quick witted we become when our survival is at stake.

John Hemmant

Parable of the Old Men and the Young

Wilfred Owen

SO ABRAM rose, and clave the wood, and went,
And took the fire with him, and a knife.
And as they sojourned both of them together,
Isaac the first-born spake and said, My Father,
Behold the preparations, fire and iron,
But where the lamb for this burnt-offering?
Then Abram bound the youth with belts and straps,
And builded parapets and trenches there,
And stretch'd forth the knife to slay his son.
When lo! an angel called him out of heaven,
Saying, Lay not thy hand upon the lad,
Neither do anything to him. Behold,
A ram caught in a thicket by its horns;
Offer the Ram of Pride instead of him.
But the old man would not so, but slew his son
And half the seed of Europe, one by one.

Take heed you expansionist leaders with power in this world.

QUIZ 'N' CHILLI

Bergh Apton's Brain of Britain

?? Saturday 11th April
6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start



BERGH APTON VILLAGE HALL

£10 per person

Cash or cheques - payable to Bergh Apton PCC

There will be a raffle too

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

Let him know your team's meal preferences
Chilli options range from mild (Bolognese) to moderately fearsome!
Veggie/gluten-free can be catered for.

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

EASTER COMMUNION



followed by
Refreshments
and an Easter Egg Hunt



BERGH APTON CHURCH

Sunday 5th April
10.00 am



BERGH APTON HORSE & FUN DOG SHOW

On the East Park of Bergh Apton Manor (NR15 1BL)
By kind permission of Kip & Alison Bertram

Monday
25th May 2026

The Fun Dog Show starts at 12.30
Registration from 11.30
All dog classes £3 per entry

1. The Dog with the waggiest tail
2. The Prettiest canine
3. The Most handsome canine
4. The Dog who looks most like its owner
5. Best Veteran dog (8 years & over)
6. The Best young handler
7. The Best trick
8. The Best paw shake
9. The Best pair of dogs (2 dogs = 1 entry)
10. The Dog the judge would most like to take home

1st & 2nd place winners from each class will qualify for the
BEST IN SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP

Fundraiser for Bergh Apton Church
No charge for spectators but donations much appreciated

For details of Horse Show classes
see <https://www.facebook.com/BerghAptonHorseShow/>
or email ba_horseshow@outlook.com

CAN YOU HELP?

The Bergh Apton Fete is coming up three weeks earlier this year – on 20th June. If you're having a sort out and thinking of taking stuff to the charity shop, why not think closer to home?

The fete is a vital fund raiser for the Village Hall and Bergh Apton church, and the stalls rely on contributions in kind. These could be toys, books, toiletries, white elephant/bric-a-brac,/nearly-new/unwanted gifts, bottles and in-date (non-perishable) foodstuffs.

We can take early delivery, too, if that would help. Call 01508 480576 or email bachurchwarden@outlook.com to talk about that option, or leave them at the back of the church (foodstuffs in a box/bag labelled 'Fete' to avoid confusion with Food Bank donations). We can't take electricals or clothing, though.

If your talent is of the green-fingered variety, you could start preparing plants for the popular Plant & Produce stall – but, along with any cakes/savouries, we can't take those until just before the fete.

Thanks for your support.



Breaking news - 'There's been a spot of bother in the Middle East.'

!

In numbers, that's more than 67,000
Palestinians killed in Gaza, many of them

children, and nearly 2 million people have been displaced.

How is Christian Aid responding?

Thanks to the generosity of Christian Aid supporters, over £5 million has been raised to help their local partners deeply rooted in the community. Despite the challenges, they're delivering aid every day.

That means that, working through the Palestinian Medical Relief Societies, over 800,000 have received emergency aid, 1.3 million supported with food, and more than 950,000 helped with water and sanitation.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/dec-middle-east-humanitarian-appeal>

The door-to-door collection envelopes we delivered last year contributed over £615 to this and other work around the world.

As I write this, attacks continue in Iran, Lebanon and elsewhere in the Middle East and, as always, it will be the most vulnerable who suffer the most so, if one of those red envelopes pops through your door, please help.

Thank you
Shirley Rimmer

BERGH APTON ARTS

In 'METAMORPHOSES' Hugh wove words to give us yet another evening out of the ordinary as you will read in these comments :

Christopher:

The evening was cooling as the crowd gathered ; a lovely Valentine Day crowd of all ages. And Hugh Lupton , a major ingredient of the Bergh Apton Arts menu over some thirty years was with us once more.

Curiously, the crowd didn't seem overly worried at the 'possible' prospect of stories in Greek or Latin. But Hugh took pity and the stars shone as we learnt of the origin of so many of our sky beauties. Which constellation had the most romantic backstory; was it Orion the handsome hunter? As we left the church we all peered skyward to catch a glimpse of Pegasus or the Pleiades or either of the 'Dogs', or, oh dear, what was that one? Perhaps it was newly christened Luptinius. Hugh had melded together a fascinating group of beautifully crafted stories, bringing so many of the ancient Greek mytha to life. A special unmissable performance.

Peter:

It was another splendid evening with Hugh. This time the stories were a little more familiar to me but none the less compelling for that. We heard archetypal tales of King Midas and the warning to be careful what you wish for ,the winged horse Pegasus being tamed by Bellerophon who overreached himself after this success, about Orion and his faithful dog Sirius and the tragic tale of Orpheus and Eurydice, Many of these characters were thrown into the night sky by the gods where they became constellations and permanent reminders of their stories.

Francis:

The affairs and entanglements of humans and the gods were a fitting subject for Valentines Day! Hugh Lupton's way with words is well recognised and our small South Norfolk village is fortunate to have its connection with a storytelling master. He wove the threads of familiar Greek myths with his customary digestible and pared down lyricism. As a storyteller Hugh specialises in stories that make

sense of place and telling these Greek myths was no exception. They speak of the Ancient Greek view of the cosmos and our place in it. So many of the stories told explain the constellations in the night sky. It's difficult to look up now and not think, for example, of the giant hunter, Orion, being chased by the Scorpion across the heavens for all eternity. A wonderful evening.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops are for those who want to learn a new skill or polish an old one! The tutors are all professionals and well known in their fields both nationally and internationally and some, such as Hugh Lupton, Georgina Warne and Di Griffiths, have worked with us for a very long while.

Workshops are deliberately kept small so the tutor has time to spend with those taking part and there is room to work.

WRITING WORKSHOPS

These are taken by Hugh Lupton who not only tells stories but is a writer too. His latest book is 'Uriddling the World' which was published at the end of last year.

It is a small group so time to not only write but listen, think and discuss.

We all write shopping lists and a note in a card but these words are like knives, forks and spoons, useful tools. These workshops have quite a different approach, a challenge to rise above the everyday and work with words to produce a cocktail of ideas well expressed.

The next set of writing workshops will take place on Tuesdays 3, 12, 19 and 26 May 1000 – 1200, the cost is £80. All four workshops must be attended. There is sometimes homework!

To see if a place is available email : p.mlej@btinternet.com

We hope to have a printing workshop with Georgina Warne later in the year.

RAKU

Examples of some of the work from the last workshop. All work that goes into a kiln offers a surprise when it comes out, but even more so with Raku!



Photos: Christopher Meynell (far left and centre left) and Jenny Lovatt (far right and centre right)

Welcoming all new arrivals



The Broadcast tries to print a welcome to newcomers when we know that they have arrived – but that's only possible if villagers are able to let the Editor know that they have a new neighbour. As we create bi-monthly editions, the news can sometimes come through at the wrong time in the Broadcast publication cycle, meaning the greeting can be months out of date, and the newcomers are – well – not newcomers any longer.

So – apologies to anyone who has not been properly welcomed in the Broadcast so far - we look forward to getting to know you.

COUNTRY MATTERS

by Pat Mlejnecky

MORE ENCOUNTERS

.....and there was an eye looking at me! I was moving some flowerpots and there, on a necklace of spider's web speckled with dust and seeds, was this 'eye'. It was the 'eye' on a tattered wing of a long gone peacock butterfly.

Peacock butterflies use this 'eye' to confuse and make a possible hunter think twice.



From ghoulies and ghosties
And long leggedy beasties
And things that go bump in the night
Good Lord, deliver us!

It was December and near the Solstice, one of the hinges of the year. A day as cold as sea shells and shrouded in a thin mist, no stir of air, a young moon rising as the dark closed in early, a day that had kept itself to itself. I was in the kitchen when I became aware of a noise but being absorbed in preparing supper at first I paid no heed. Then I began to listen, a hoarse, breathy and rasping noise which moved along from cupboard to cupboard. I began to be spooked and rang M. to say there was a noise in my kitchen and could he come! M. was in bed being unwell and said he could not come but J. would be home in half an hour or so and she would come and she did. Just before she arrived the noise stopped. Even though bigger, bolder and braver than I she gingerly and, standing at arm's length, opened the cupboards. All was well in the cupboards, bowls and jugs, cups and saucers and all such that live in kitchen cupboards all stood to attention, no movement, no noise. Some weeks later, one evening I was in the conservatory with a friend and telling her about the noise when, it started! This breathy rasp moving along the side. We peered outside but all was dark and the breathing stopped. Again, sometime later I was telling an elderly neighbour about this and she said at once that she and her daughter had recently had the same 'visitor' and her daughter had been so frightened she cried. However they had seen who had rasped and barked, it was a short leggedy beastie, a muntjac who had been foraging in the borders outside the house!



Photo: Christopher Meynell



As spring arrives, the team at Chet Valley Vineyard has been busy among the vines. Pruning is now well underway across the vineyard; It is one of the year's most important

tasks. Careful winter pruning helps shape each vine for the coming season, controlling growth and ensuring the plants focus their energy on producing healthy, balanced fruit.

Although it's meticulous work carried out in the colder months, it sets the foundation for the entire vintage ahead. With longer days and warmer temperatures just around the



corner, the vineyard is beginning to feel the first signs of the growing season.



Alongside the work in the vineyard, an exciting programme of events is lined up for the coming months. From the 1st of April to the 23rd of May, the vineyard will host an exhibition of Ewan Graham's artwork, offering visitors the chance to enjoy local wine while exploring a collection of inspiring pieces set against the vineyard backdrop.

Wine lovers can also look forward to a Cheese and Wine Pairing evening on the

1st of May from 6 to 8 p.m. This event will feature five carefully selected wines paired with complementary cheeses for a relaxed, flavorful tasting experience.

As the summer approaches, the vineyard's popular themed evenings return. Mussels and Fizz Fridays will take place on June 26th and 17th of July, featuring fresh mussels from Naked Fish paired with sparkling wine for a laid-back evening among the vines. Later in the season, Pizza and Fizz Fridays will run on the 5th of June, 24th of July, and August 7th and 21st, pairing wood-fired pizza with a glass of fizz in the vineyard setting.

With the vines carefully prepared and a full calendar of events ahead, it's shaping up to be another lively and enjoyable season at the vineyard. Visitors are encouraged to keep an eye on upcoming events and plan a trip to experience the vineyard as it comes to life over the coming months.

Lily-Ann Hare
Chet Valley Vineyard



COOKS CORNER

RECIPE FOR BREAD WITH FLAIR!
by Noah Lovatt
(aged 12yrs)

minutes until it becomes tighter and springy - pull the dough into a ball and put in a clean oiled bowl. Leave for 15 minutes somewhere warm until doubled in size.

4. Tip the dough onto a lightly floured surface and divide into three balls. Roll each into a long sausage shape, then squeeze together one end (you might want to use some beaten egg mixture). Plait the three sausage lengths together.

5. Roll the plait up from one end so that you have a spiral form.

6. Place on a dusted baking tray, cover with a damp teatowel and leave in a warm place to prove for 1 mins or almost doubled in size.

Method: Baking your dough

7. When the dough is ready, glaze with the beaten egg (or milk) and top with seeds.

8. Bake for 25-30 mins, until light brown and hollow sounding when tapped on the base. Leave to cool on a wire rack - and then enjoy!

Ingredients: 250g bread flour, 7g fast acting yeast, 10g (2 tsp) sugar, 5g (1tsp) salt, oil (1tsp), warm water, egg (beaten) to glaze, sunflower/sesame seeds to decorate.

Suggested additional flavour enhancers: olives, cheese, spring onions or chives, chorizo

Oven: 200 degrees centigrade for 25 - 30 mins or approx. 18 mins on 180 degrees in a pre warmed air fryer

Method: Preparing your dough

1. Prepare your flavour enhancers; eg grating cheese, slicing chives or onions etc

2. Tip the flour, yeast, sugar, salt and oil into a bowl. Pour over 170ml warm water, then mix with a fork until it comes together as a shaggy dough. Cover and leave somewhere warm for 5 mins.

3. Add your flavour enhancers if using them and incorporate, then tip the dough onto your worksurface. Knead the dough for at least 10

Green Pastures Wins Top Award!



Just as we were going to print, we received details of the success of local business, 'Green Pastures Plant Centre, Farm Shop & Restaurant', located on Mill Road in Bergh Apton.

Following nominations from happy customers and a visit by the selection panel in January, 'Green Pastures' were delighted to receive the "Best Norfolk Retailer" Award at the Broadland and South Norfolk Business Awards 2026.

Congratulations to the whole team who helped to achieve this, and to the customers who nominated and voted for them. The photos show

James Debbage (above) with the glass award and key representatives of the team at the Awards dinner (right) receiving their trophy and plaque, which are now viewable at the garden centre till.



CHRIS JOHNSON OF BUSSEY BRIDGE – AUTHOR OF ‘BOX OF LIONS’

The London publishers Pen & Sword have just announced their plans for the publication of ‘The Box of Lions’, an account of events on the India/Burma border in April 1944 when Britain’s ‘Forgotten Army’ turned back the heretofore all-conquering Japanese Army in major battles at Kohima and Imphal.

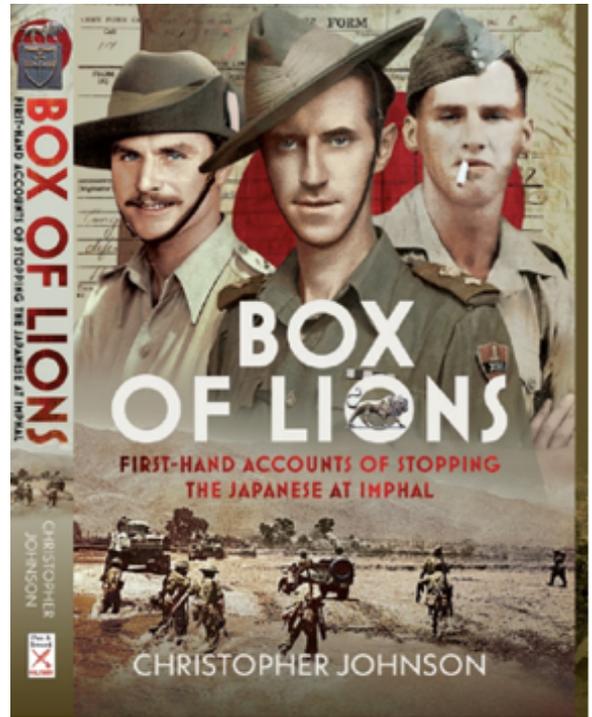
The book is the work of Bergh Apton’s Chris Johnson who lives at Bussey Bridge. It is the result of more than twenty years of research on the Battle of Kanglatongbi including conversations and correspondence with many who took part on both British and Japanese sides of the battle.

Chris’s book includes much documentary and pictorial records of time - March and April 1944 - when units of the Fourteenth Army prevented the Japanese from capturing weapons, ammunition and food stored at Kanglatongbi all of which were vital to the enemy as part of their strategy to conquer India. They were vital because the enemy knew they did not have enough of their own in their push to overcome the last stronghold that confronted them – the 14th Army defenders of Kohima.

This book is not the work of a professional historian. It is Chris’s own homage to his father, Company Sergeant Major George (‘Johno’) Johnson of the Royal Norfolk Regiment who was one of only a handful of Line-Regiment soldiers at Kanglatonbi. There can be no doubt that his leadership of his mainly non-combatant troops encouraged them to acts of resistance and bravery that few of them would have thought was in their kitbag.

The men illustrated on the jacket of ‘Box of Lions’ are not an artists or an AI imagining of fictional heroes. They are (left to right) Major Arthur Mackenzie RIASC, Major John Boyd MC IAOC both of whom survived the battle and Pte William Howard of the Border Regt, who did not.

Their photos were sent to Chris Johnson by members of their



families who are part of a seventy+ strong group of Brits and Indians whose forebears defended Kanglatongbi and who keep in touch with each other in a Group they have christened ‘The Lion Cubs of Kanglatongbi’.

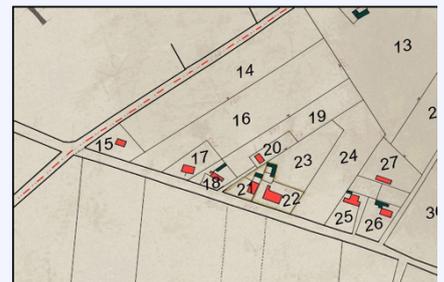
Other members of the group are those who have supported and encouraged Chris is his more than twenty years of research. One of them is Imphal-based historian and battlefield archaeologist Rajeshwor Yumnan who has done vital work on the remains of the battlefield and has accompanied Chris and other Lion Cubs on two visits to the battlefield itself, with another visit planned when a current political difficulty in the Imphal area has abated.

‘Box of Lions’ is scheduled for release in stores and online on 9th July 2026.

THREADNEEDLE STREET LOSES ONE OF ITS EARLIEST DWELLINGS



Before and After: The demolition of a pair of cottages on Threadneedle Street, close to its junction with Mill Road, has done away with one of the few buildings that stood on the road way back in 1839 when a new map of the village was completed. There were only twelve dwellings on the street, all on the north side of the road.



The two cottages, one of which was occupied by the late Pauline Silcock for some years until her death in April 2022, had been neglected over many years. Its condition had deteriorated to the point where its new owners, Derek Guy and Val Porter, may have had little choice but to remove it and start again, replacing it with a single story dwelling that they will occupy when completed.



These maps of Threadneedle Street are separated by one hundred and ninety years. At the top is what was there in 1836 when Bergh Apton’s Tithe Map was drawn up, with the demolished pair of cottages numbered 17 being among a scattering of dwellings on one side only, facing agricultural land. At the bottom is the street today shown on Norfolk County Council’s Interactive Map, on which the cottages are shown in red.

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

Bergh Apton Broadcast

Jenny Lovatt 07542 927630

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

Monday	10am	Extend Fitness 50+
	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	10-12 noon	Coffee n Catch Up
3rd Wednesday	2-4 pm	Village Archive
Friday	9.30am & 11.15	Yoga
1st Saturday	9-5pm	Microscopy Group

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Want to get regular updates?
Join our Facebook community at:

'Bergh Apton Community Noticeboard'



or look on our website

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



Photos: Chris Roe

Do you have any gems to share too?



Village Diary

APRIL

4th 9.30am - 12	Decorate Church for Easter
8th 7.30pm	BA Society talk on Hawk Honey - Forgotten Bees
11th 7 for 7.30pm	Quiz & Chill
15th 10am - 12	Coffee 'n' Chat
15th 2-4pm	History Group Archiving
18th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
22nd 7.30pm	BA Local History Group AGM & talk by Mary Fewster on History of Dining
23rd 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
28th 7pm	Annual PCCs AGM at BA & Alington School
29th 7 for 7.30pm	BA Village Hall AGM

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

MAY

6th 9.45am	BALHG tour of Norwich castle (meet BAVH)
6th 7pm	Parish Council AGM
7th 7 - 10pm	Local elections at BAVH
13th 7.30pm	BA Society talk by Mary Newton, retired forensic biologist
16th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
20th 10am - 12	Coffee 'n' chat
20th 2 -4pm	History Group Archiving
20th 7pm	Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting (all welcome)
21st 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
25th All day	Horse Show at The Manor
25th 1pm	Dog Show at The Manor
30th 9am	11 Says assembly