



Bergh Apton Broadcast

Issue 204 Jun/July 2026

Half way through the year already! I'm hoping things will have warmed up when you receive this, as whilst writing we are experiencing a chilly phase. All my summer plants are currently cowering under fleece in the greenhouse at night although the processes of nature still carry on regardless. Here, at Giants Wood, the moorhens have laid a second clutch of eggs, the trees are now in full leaf and we are looking forward to increasing numbers of bees, butterflies and dragonflies as warm sunshine finally breaks through. We are hoping to harness the sun and some warmth for **the fete this year** as it will be three weeks earlier than usual - for this year only, **Saturday 20th June**. Please do let your friends and family know, so they can get this is the diary! Last year we were lucky with the weather which gave us our best results ever - one of the secrets to a great day is to have plenty of donations for sale on the stalls. This is where we need your help...please turn out your cupboards, sheds and garage and donate anything you no longer want, which

may be just what someone else needs. Details of what to do and where to take it can be found on P3. In the meantime, I have included a full page poster, so you can also help to spread the word by displaying it in your car window or on your noticeboard at work. You may notice this edition of the newsletter is a bit smaller than usual - a combination of less happening over the summer (usual activities are in the Village Diary on the reverse) but also a lack of contributions. Please do think how you could add to this publication - I need creative news, book or exhibition reviews, events, clubs or sports you are involved in...or anything else you would like to share which may be helpful to others!



Jenny Lovatt

Editor

SOUTH NORFOLK PLANNERS DEFEND BERGH APTON'S LANDSCAPE

By John Ling

On the morning of Wednesday 13th May, South Norfolk District Council's planning committee voted unanimously to reject an application to build on the open parklands between our village hall and Washingford Barn – an area defined on this South Norfolk Council plan that was part of the papers examined by the committee today.

The committee listened to the recommendations for refusal made by



South Norfolk case officer Ellie Yarham and to representations made by Sue Price, Chairman of Bergh Apton Parish Council, Hilary Ling representing the Trustees of Bergh Apton village hall, and to John Ling representing the views of other objectors. No one spoke in its defence.

The significant points made in both the Council officer's presentation, and by Sue, Hilary and John, were that:

- (a) this land is ancient open fields and parkland within the curtilage of Washingford House,
- (b) it is outside the village planning boundary
- (c) 48 new houses, either recently constructed, or included in plans to develop the old Church Road blockworks, are the ones that will make a significant contribution to Norfolk's need for new housing, and obviate the case for the three urban-style 5-bedroomed 'executive' dwellings proposed for this location.

We were very pleased that the Planning Committee accepted these arguments as the basis for their refusal.

Their decision is a further and hugely-welcomed step to maintain the character of our village that has been under threat in this location for more than ten years. It began when the previous owners of Washingford Barn, when they sold it, retained a small wood planted by Christopher Harris that they felled to accommodate two houses, but were refused permission that they then appealed, but lost their appeal comprehensively.

In this current application they are joined by the Trustees of Christopher Harris's estate who own the land around the village hall, some of which was thrown into this unsuccessful venture to build three large and obtrusive houses under a policy that allows limited building on land outside a village planning envelope. Their case has now been rejected on several key issues.

This is not over, of course. Bergh Apton has won this battle but still needs to win the war that might continue if the applicants decide to appeal the planning committee's decision. The basis on which they might do that is tenuous and depends on an interpretation of planning policies that we are confident will not stand.

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

RAMBLING RECTOR' with The Reverend Chris Ellis



As a Parish Priest, I generally find the period from December to May to be busy and challenging. From the hectic Christmas Season we move swiftly into Epiphany, The Feast of the Presentation of Christ and before I know it, we are into Lent, Holy Week and Easter with its many and varied church services. Whilst still in the Easter Season, the Church of England (in all its wisdom) demands that each church holds its Annual Meeting of Parishioners (to elect churchwardens) and then its Annual Parochial Church Meeting (to review the previous year, approve accounts and elect various officers of the church) by the end of May; somewhat demanding in the paperwork and administration it involves.

As June begins, traditionally clergy breathe a sigh and look forward to a calmer and quieter few months and the opportunity to reflect, refresh and renew;

to look at future plans and initiatives, to focus on those things which have been squeezed out in past months and concentrate on the core ministry of pastoral visiting and the occasional offices (baptisms, weddings and funerals). In short, to do more 'being' and a little less 'doing'.

However, in recent years I have noticed that this slackening of the pace has not happened as easily as in the early years of my ministry. With the reduction in the number of clergy and the increasing size of the areas of responsibility we are expected to cover, the opportunity to slow down has been squeezed. In common with so many in our society, the pressures of work can become all encompassing, and it often feels that the only way to cope is to keep 'doing', to push ourselves and try to take control of situations; in short, to drive things forward rather than wait for them to happen.

The Gospel reading set for our communion service recently was the well-known passage from John 10 where Jesus refers to himself as the shepherd. "...the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out...the sheep follow him because they know his voice" (John 10:3-4). The style of shepherding in our modern, western culture is somewhat different to that of

Jesus' time and, indeed, in the Middle East to this day. Our sheep are kept in large numbers in a field or on a hillside and mostly left on their own with the shepherd checking on them periodically. By contrast, the shepherd of Jesus' day lived with the small flock they cared for, knew them individually and was known and trusted by the sheep. Where the shepherd went, the sheep followed. In our culture there is more emphasis on driving the sheep, usually with a dog, rather than expecting them simply to follow.

For the good of our physical, emotional and spiritual health, we all need times when we are not being driven but instead are simply waiting trustfully for what is to come. I know from my own experiences that it is often the encounters and conversations I did not plan that prove to be the most valuable and uplifting.

The Celtic Christian tradition has a great connection with God in creation and encourages a more patient and trusting approach to God and to life. I find this simple phrase from Celtic Evening Prayer most helpful when times get over busy:

I will wait for the Lord. My soul waits, and in His word do I hope.

With every blessing,

Fr Chris.



Gallery News - Rosie Winn

I am very pleased to announce I have 9 drawings on show at Mána Art Gallery in Aylsham. They have hung the work very well and it all looks fabulous. I don't have an end date yet but if you are in the area, please do pop along! Their website is here <http://www.manaartgallery.com/>

Andrew Waters RIP

Andrew Waters of Royston House, on the junction of The Street and Threadneedle Street, died on 17th April at the age of 83 years after a long fight with cancer.

It was too late in the cycle of the Broadcast to put together an obituary worthy of this notable Auctioneer and Land Agent in time for this edition so we will do that in the August edition.

In the meantime, we send our condolences to Gill and to their children Nicholas and Charlotte and their families.

David Whiskerd RIP

David Whiskerd, who moved to Bergh Apton from Brooke with his wife Angela in March 2024 after renovating 'Endene Cottage' on The Street, has died on 7th April after

a short illness at the age of 77 years.

We send our condolences to Angela who has recently taken up the challenge of village life by joining the Parish Council as part of their plan to wind up their Building Contractor business to spend more time together and take a more active role in the life of the village.

We shall miss David's practical experience and steady nature that would have been brought to bear on such events as the Fete, where he dipped his toe in the water last year by helping to run the ice cream stall. He would, without doubt, have become a significant member of the team that runs that event and of other elements of village life.

John Ling



The Bergh Apton Fete
 is coming up three weeks earlier this year
 on
Saturday 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 & accessories, white elephant/bric-a-brac, nearly-new/unwanted gifts, bottles and in-date (non-perishable) foodstuffs – for the tombola. We can't take electricals or clothing, though.

You may drop them off from 5pm Friday 19th June - The Manor
(use rear driveway to access barn storage area where we will meet you)

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).

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.

Do let us know if you need us to arrange collection.

Thanks for your support.



PS Spare hands are always appreciated for this event, so if you are able to spare an hour or two, please contact us using the details above!

Sentinel of Conscience.

From the first prayers
 And dreams of my journey,
 A silent voice
 Has stood sentinel
 Within my soul.
 No answers given,
 No miracles offered,
 No blinding light
 To penetrate the darkness,
 No dogma or creed,
 No sectarian vision,
 Only silent prayer,
 Through times of joy and pain.
 This silent voice,
 This sentinel of conscience,
 Has been my shadow,
 Has shared my life,
 Has given reason enough
 To continue my journey
 Through the darkness
 And on, into the light.

Chris Roe



Photo: J Lovatt 'From Giants Wood to Thurton'

Quotes for June & July

It is the month of June, The month of leaves and roses,
 When pleasant sights salute the eyes and
 pleasant scents the noses.

Nathaniel Parker Willis

If the first of July be rainy weather, 'twill rain, more
 or less, for four weeks together.

English Proverb



2026

**BERGH APTON
ANNUAL FETE**

2.00 pm

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE

AT THE MANOR

*by kind permission
of Kip & Alison Bertram*

**FREE
CAR PARKING
AND ADMISSION**

All in the best tradition of the English Village Fete

**MUSIC, STRAWBERRY & CREAM TEAS, PIMMS,
CAKES, PERFUMERY, WHITE ELEPHANT,
BOWLING FOR A HAMPER, ICE CREAM,
RAFFLE, SMASH THE CROCKS,
TOMBOLA, GAMES
And a whole lot more**

Please cut this page out and use it to display the poster
on your noticeboard, in your car or in a window

Gardens Open nearby - June/July 2026



The National Garden Scheme gives visitors unique access to over 3,300 exceptional private gardens in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands, and raises impressive amounts of money for nursing and health charities through admissions, teas and cake.

Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors they have donated over £77.8 million to nursing and health charities and in 2025 made an annual donation of over £3.8 million. Their core beneficiaries include Carer's Trust, Macmillan Cancer

Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Parkinson's UK and The Queen's Institute of Community Nursing.

Details correct at time of publication; for full details and to verify opening information, please go to <https://ngs.org.uk> where you will also find information on accessibility & services provided.

JUNE

3rd June - Somerleyton Hall Gardens, Suffolk NR32 5QQ

7th June - Ferndale, 14 Poringland Road, Upper Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8NL

7th June - Manor House Farm, St Olaves Road, Herringfleet, Lowestoft, NR32 5QS

13th June - 47 Norwich Road, Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8AB

13th June - 51 Norwich Road, Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8AB

14th June - 47 Norwich Road, Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8AB

13th June - 51 Norwich Road, Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8AB

14th June - 72 Bracondale, Norwich, NR1 2BE

14th June - 1 Woodside Cottages, Bracondale, NR1 2AY

14th June - Bracondale Gardens, Norwich, NR1 2BB

14th June - 14 Conesford Drive, NR1 2BB

28th June - Squires Barn, St Cross, South Elmham, Harleston, IP20 0PA



Ferndale, NR14 8NL - open 7th June and 26th July

I hope you enjoy a visit over the summer. Perhaps you can send your photos and reviews to the newsletter for the next edition?

JULY

5th July - Bishop's House, Bishopgate, NR3 1SB

15th July - The Walled Garden, Little Plumstead, NR13 5FA

19th July - St Stephens Square Community Garden, Norwich, NR1 3SS

19th July - North Lodge, Norwich, NR2 3TN

19th July - St Stephens Square, Norwich, NR1 3SS

19th July - 3 St Stephens Square, Norwich, NR1 3SS

19th July - 11A St Stephens Square, NR1 3SS

19th July - 35 St Stephens Square, Norwich, NR1 3SS

19th July - 37 St Stephens Square, Norwich, NR1 3SS

19th July - 39 St Stephens Square, Norwich, NR1 3SS

19th July - 15 St Stephens Square, Norwich, NR1 3SS

26th July - North Lodge, Norwich, NR2 3TN

26th July - 33 Waldemar Avenue, Hellesdon, NR6 6TB

26th July - Ferndale, 14 Poringland Road, Upper Stoke Holy Cross, NR14 8NL

The Walled Garden, Little Plumstead, NR13 5FA - open 15th July



Local News and Updates

We have recently been advised of an update regarding East Pye Solar. In view of its complex nature, this can best be viewed using the link on the village website:

<https://berghapton.org.uk/latest-from-east-pye-solar/>

I would like to thank Parish Clerk, Renata Thornber, who keeps us updated with these, and to Steve Whitby who continues his role as Webmaster, updating the village website.

Information on the current situation with regard to Local Government reorganisation may also be found on the home page at <https://berghapton.org.uk/>

BERGH APTON ARTS

The Writing Workshops with Hugh Lupton have started and the theme is Memory and Memoir. Hugh says:

'I'm interested in how the past shapes the present, in how the past lives in us. As I hit my mid seventies I realise that I remember people who were born in the 1870s..... that's 150 years ago.....another world.'

This drypoint workshop will take place in late summer. Details will follow in later 'Broadcasts' and a chance to see if a place is available.

DRYPOINT PRINT WORKSHOP

with GEORGINA WARNE

Drypoint print making is an intaglio printing method which involves scratching an image directly onto a copper, zinc or plastic plate using a sharp pointed tool. The 'burr' that is created in the plate holds the ink and prints a soft, velvety line.

It is an accessible technique, easier than etching requiring no acids or chemicals.

We will be using a plastic (Perspex) plate which has the advantage of being transparent, therefore, you can lay it on top of a drawing and, using an etching needle, trace directly on to the Perspex. We can also experiment with wire wool and sandpaper to achieve other textural qualities on the plate.

Once the plate is finished we will go through the process of inking up and wiping back and then printing onto dampened good quality

printing paper using a small etching press. After the print has gone through the press, peel off the paper to reveal your print! You can now ink the plate again and make another print.

We will be using oil based water soluble inks so no nasty chemicals. These inks have been specifically manufactured to ensure that you can achieve the same quality and strong pigmentation as oil based solvent based inks.

All materials will be provided. It is advisable to wear old clothes!

Georgina Warne

The Winter Hare Drypoint on handmade paper with dried feverfew flowers, hawthorn leaves and poppy seed heads sealed in beeswax.

www.instagram.com/georginawarnearestist



COUNTRY MATTERS

by Pat Mlejnecky

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

A MYSTERY PLAY

There is many a thing that happens but cannot be explained and we say it is a mystery. 'Mystery' is one of those words that over time has changed its meaning. In the years of the 1300s and 1400s it meant a trade, whether a man was a butcher, a baker or a candlestick maker that was his mystery, his trade and all tradesmen belonged to a guild. Mystery plays grew out of the Church's efforts to bring the stories from the Bible and Christianity to people very few of whom could read or write. The interior walls of churches were painted with pictures of saints and scenes from Bible stories so to those going to church it would have been like walking into a picture book. At 1 Corpus Christi, a feast in the liturgical year in early June, each guild began to choose a Bible story, if possible with connection to their trade, to perform. The Guild of Carpenters acted the building of the Ark, the Bakers chose the story of the loaves and fishes and the visit of the Magi with precious gifts was acted by the Guild of Goldsmiths. Each Guild in towns had a wagon on which to perform their play starting with the Creation to the Day of Judgement, all the glory of heaven and the horrors of Hell played out on a small stage. The plays started early in the morning and continued till evening and the people of the towns walked from one play to the next. Norwich had its own cycle of Mystery plays as did towns all over the country. It is thought that the thousand roof bosses in Norwich cathedral represent characters and scenes from these plays. The only written record remaining from the Norwich Cycle is the one performed by the Guild of Grocers. It gives details of a large 4 wheeled cart topped by a roofed stage and crowned by gilded griffins, the Grocers' emblem. In 2014 Bergh Apton Arts performed a Mystery play written for us by Hugh Lupton, 'The Legend of the 2Rood'. The first scene took place in a garden and then moved round the surrounding countryside. The cast was drawn from the village and the surrounding villages and the then Bishop of Norwich in mitre and vestments stood on the top of a tall step ladder to play the part of God in one of the scenes. Each of the three performances played to a packed house and the Bergh Apton Mystery Play was a great success. Here is my Mystery play for the times in which we now live.

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Pat Mlejnecky

The two opening lines by Samuel Taylor Coleridge are spoken by the cast:

'He prayeth well, who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast.'

The chorus is to be said by all the creatures after each has spoken his part and the audience encouraged to join in:

Chorus:

Feather and fin, paw and claw.
We are as we are made, no less, no more.
It's not up to you of the human race
On this beautiful earth to deny us a place.

Fish:

I live in the river in water cool,
I glide and dive in each shadowed pool.
Among bubble and ripples, root and reed
I swim at my ease, this is all I need.

Moth:

On soundless patterned wings I fly,
While stars and moon are shining high.
I search for nectar from the flowers
That bloom pale and sweet in the darkest hours.

Rook:

We are the rooks, black as moonless midnight.
On fingered wings we are masters of flight.
We ride the wildest wind with ease,
We live as a tribe high in the trees.

Dragonfly:

Out of the water to an airy world,
In the sun's bright light my wings unfurled.
They shine like opal, clear and bright
As over pond and pool I take my flight.

Deer:

Antlered stag and fawn with doe,
Through secret woodland paths they go.
From time out of mind they have lived here,
They know it's safe, they have nothing to fear.

Oak:

On either side of the woodland ride
The great oaks stand side by side.
They give shade and food, they are strong and tall,
Among the trees oak is king of all.

Fox:

I am fox red and lean,
Swift as an arrow and seldom seen.
I know each field, each path, each wood,
I live on my wits as any fox should.

Hare:

Hare is known for his running speed,
He can race away in times of need.
His long ears catch the slightest sound
As he crouches close to the grassy ground.

Hornet and Wasp:

Striped hornet and wasp make wonderful homes,
They recycle wood for their papery domes.
They feast on ripe apples and fallen plums
That are Autumn's gifts before Winter comes.

Frog:

I live among rush and reed where it's damp and cool.

Right at the edge of river or pool.
In water I swim and on land I leap,
In Winter at the bottom of a pool I sleep.

God:

You sing my praise in Church and hall
That I am the God who made it all.
All those who swim or creep or crawl
Yes, I am the God who made them all.
I made marsh and moor and rivers that flow
Field and fen, heath and hill so
All of my creatures had a place.
And I am sad to see how the human race
Is so slow to care, so slow to share.
Put away all guns, all traps and snares,
Show mercy to each living one.
That's how real praise should be done.

1. The Feast of Corpus Christi this year is Thursday 4 June.
2. 'Rod' is a very old word and it means a cross or crucifix. Some churches have a rood screen which separates the chancel from the nave.

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 (BACT)

Tony Davy 01508 558453

BA Local History Group (BALHG)

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

Roberts & Son Printers

Litho & Digital Colour Printing
Printer Ink/Toner/Spares
Office Supplies

High Quality Colour Photocopying and Laminating Service available

T 01508 520221 F 01508 528313
E print@robertsandson.co.uk
www.robertsandson.co.uk

2-6 Bridge Street • Loddon • Norwich • NR14 6EZ

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

'Bergh Apton Community
Noticeboard'



or look on our website

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

St Peter and St Paul

This stunning image of Bergh Apton church was taken by Shirley Rimmer on a late night visit to undertake church warden duties. Isn't it stunning?

If you have any other great photos of Bergh Apton life, then please do get in contact at berghaptoneditor@gmail.com

Bergh Apton Local History Group are particularly interested in documenting any events, activities or places you have recorded into their archiving project so that future residents will see all the wonderful things that have happened here!



Village Diary

JUN

12th 9am	BA Society visit to Oxburgh Hall
17th 10 - 12	Coffee 'n' Chat
17th 2-4pm	History Group Archiving
17th 7pm	Village Hall Committee
19th 5pm	Fete goods donation - please deliver to The Manor (use rear driveway and deliver to the barn)
20th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
20th 2pm	Bergh Apton fete at The Manor
21st 2pm	De-rig Fete at The Manor - all help welcomed
21st 6.30pm	BA Local History Group & BACT BBQ at Flint Cottage
26th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field

JULY

8th 2.15pm	BA Society visit Carrow House
15th 10am - 12	Coffee 'n' chat
15th 2 -4pm	History Group Archiving
18th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
18th TBA	BA Society Cromer Pier Show
23rd 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
25th 1pm	Strawberry & Fizz at Cherry Tree Cottage, Thurton
25th 9am	11 Says assembly

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