

Bergh Apton Broadcast

Issue 205 Aug/Sept 2026

Hello to you all,

I am sure you have all enjoyed the summer sun, been vexed by the heat and are now battling with the hosepipe ban! The good weather however was in force for our annual fête, where as you can see I partook dressed in my usual pirate outfit, hosting 'Bowlin' for Booty!'. More photos can be found on P5.

If you would like to join us at another event, there is the usual plethora of events taking place, details of which can be found on P2&3 including Paris Back's charity coffee morning, sea shanties at the church and the Harvest Festival (and decoration for which volunteers are appreciated).

As you can see from the article below, work has been underway to create storyboards which explain the content of our village sign, and we would welcome you to join us at 11.30am on 8th August when they will be officially unveiled.

Talking of village signs, we have an interesting story provided by villager James Debbage on P5 which may make you smile. Maybe one for our historians...

If history interests you, then John Ling brings news of a new permanent display in the church of the Tithe Map of 1841. Arranged by the Bergh Apton Local History Group, this document will be accessible to all and may be of interest if you wish to know more about your property.

Finally, I was sad to hear of the death of Andrew Waters in April, who I know many of you knew well and had shared good times with over the years at events in Bergh Apton. My sincere condolences to his widow Gill who I know many of you have been in touch with. His obituary follows on P3 together with notice of the death of Peter Rope, who also had connections to the village. Love & light,

Jenny Lovatt
Editor



UNVEILING THE VILLAGE SIGN STORYBOARDS – 8th AUGUST

Bergh Apton's village sign on the junction of The Street and Church Road tells the story of Bergh Apton from Roman times right up to the end of the Twentieth Century. It was set in place in September 2004 following a three-year gestation period during which the ideas for its story and its shape evolved.

The sign that emerged from that process was the work of Ivan Soanes (designer and artist), East Coast Castings of Watton (metal foundry), Carl Harvey (steel fabricator), Lorie Lain-Rogers (carpenter) and an installation team of whom the key players were Kevin Parfitt and the late Derek Blake.

What has been missing until now is an explanation of the complex imagery that Ivan Soanes created to illustrate our village history. That omission will be put right on 8th August when, at 11.30 that morning, two storyboards (one for each side of the sign) will be unveiled by Sue Price, Chairman of the Parish Council that approved the storyboards design and found the funding through CIL (the community infrastructure levy).

The photos are of Kevin Parfitt and Kyle Harper installing the foundations of the two storyboards - one on either side of the sign. Kyle, manager of the Old Rectory estate

grounds, is the one with his head in the hole! (The road closure, by the way, was for telecomms work at Dodger's Lane, NOT for our modest works!)

Our thanks to Donna and Liam Doyle of the Old Rectory for letting us poach Kyle for this job that wasn't an easy one, given the rubbly character and rock-hard condition of the ground into which the foundations were installed. you are warmly invited to the unveiling. Here's the date:

8th AUGUST - 11.30 am - AT THE CORNER OF THE STREET AND CHURCH ROAD



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

RAMBLING RECTOR' with The Reverend Chris Ellis



In July every year Melanie and I host a gathering of the clan at The Rectory. Our two children both have their birthdays in that month so it is a good reason to get everyone together along with wider family members to have a BBQ and a good catch up. With three young boys in the extended family all within a few months in age, it can get a little noisy and even more so when the older generations decide a football challenge is required. Our neighbours usually comment that they are aware of the annual gathering and the need to return footballs and planes which have strayed from the Rectory garden into neighbouring lands!

Gathering with family and friends is an essential part of community life and sharing food and fellowship helps us to feel connected and feel that we 'belong'. Our understanding of ourselves is very

often rooted in the relationships we have with others.

For Christians, this is never more evident than when we gather at the Lord's table to share in Holy Communion – to literally commune with God and one another. But it should never be seen as an inward facing activity, but one where we look to God, look to each other and look outward into the world.

By chance, the Bible reading set for the day after the Ellis party was the well-known parable of the sower where the seed that is sown falls on different ground; some on the path to be eaten by the birds, some on shallow soil where it springs up quickly but has no roots and soon dies, some amongst weeds and thorns which strangle it and prevent fruition and finally some in the good soil where it produces a harvest. Jesus helpfully explains the meaning of the parable: the seed is the word of God which when received by some is ignored and lost, by others it is received with great excitement but does not endure when the trials and challenges of life come along, by others it takes root but is strangled by the desires of the material world. But in some, it takes root and grows strong and produces a valuable harvest.

Interestingly, Jesus does not define who

the sower is. Is it God and the seed is the Word, i.e. Jesus? Is it Jesus himself and the seed is his teaching? As in all parables, we are invited to place ourselves in the story. We may be the soil – good, bad or indifferent in our response to the Word. But we could also be the sower, called to take the abundant seed we have been given and share it liberally with all. To let the seed fall upon the path, or the poor soil or amongst the weeds as well as onto the good soil should not be seen as wasteful, but as a willingness not to judge who is the good, bad or indifferent. We have all experienced the times when we have taken great effort in sowing seeds or planting plants and they have failed to grow, whilst often plants will take root and grow in the most unlikely of places in gaps in the pavement or in rough ground. Faith often means trusting God for the growth, rather than choosing the soil into which we seek to plant, sharing His love widely and without prejudice.

So next time a ball or plane from a neighbouring garden appears in yours, see it as an invitation to share in the joy that is happening there, even if it does crush one of your prize blooms!

With every blessing,

Fr Chris.

Charity Talk for Convoy4Ukraine

Richard Farleigh, Senior Conservator of works and paper at the Fitzwilliam Museum is going to come to Bergh Apton to give a talk about his work. I have been to one previously and it is completely fascinating. We haven't a date yet but if you are interested to hear more, please email Paris Back on parisback14@gmail.com or call 07900683617.

Donations at the door to Convoy4Ukraine:

www.justgiving.com/page/paris-and-nigel-back-2

Upcoming Workshops:

Flower Pot Painting & Planting - £20

Saturday 18th July, 10:00 - 12:30

Candle Painting - £20

Saturday 22nd August, 10:00 - 12:30

Stamp Painting & Printing - £30

Saturday 19th September 2026, 10:00 - 12:30

Mosaic Tray Workshop - £35

Friday 9th October 2026, 19:00 - 21:30

Wreath Making Workshop - £35

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd November, 10:00 - 12:30



@wellbeckwellness

07377059378

wellbeckwellness@outlook.com



COFFEE MORNING

with stalls

at Washingford House

Cookes Road, Bergh Apton, NR15 1AA

Thursday 1st October

10.00am to 1.00pm

In aid of St Elizabeth Hospice

<https://www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk>

and The Brooke

<https://www.thebrooke.org>

With a donation to our church

Jewellery, Cards, Christmas Gifts and Decorations,
Handmade Soaps & Bath Products, Bags, Reed
Diffusers, Glass Gifts, Plants and more!

Cake and Tombola stall

Entry £2.50 to include coffee and biscuits



Offers of cakes/tombola/raffle prizes greatly appreciated

ALL WELCOME!

Paris Back and Liz Lester

07900 683 617/parisback14@gmail.com

ANDREW WATERS RIP



Andrew Waters (shown left as a young man) of Royston House in Bergh Apton died on 17th April, just a few weeks after his 83rd birthday. His death at home followed a thirteen-year battle with prostate cancer that he did not allow to prevent

him doing things right up to within a couple of months of his death.

Andrew, the first baby to be born in the new (1943) maternity unit in Cromer hospital, spent a happy childhood and youth in Norfolk, and was educated at Felsted school near Braintree in Essex and City College in Norwich. On qualifying as a Chartered Surveyor, Auctioneer and Valuer he joined the family firm of Waters and Son that ran the Loddon and Acle sale grounds and was prominent on the Norwich cattle market where it had its offices at 30, Cattle Market Street.



He and Gill married in 1975 and came to Bergh Apton in 1976 when the Annis family put Royston House (on the corner of The Street and Threadneedle Street) up for auction through Waters and Son. They knew that the house and its grounds would be an ideal home for them and the children they hoped to have (son Nicholas was born in 1978 and Charlotte in 1980) and

appointed friend Michael Cadge to act as their agent in the bidding. Michael secured for them not just the house but fifty years of contentment living amongst the good people of Bergh Apton.

Changes in the farming industry towards the end of the twentieth Century, and the pressure to build new houses at Acle and Loddon, led Andrew to dispose of the two markets and to close the Norwich office. He joined the many independent professionals who took up working from home and looked after the interests of a list of loyal clients and local Councils, for whom he acted as District Valuer, until the time of Covid when he decided to give up his licence to practice.

Despite a growing challenge of life with cancer, and because of Gill's tender care and encouragement to keep going, Andrew continued to live a full life, that included welcoming the carol singers at Christmas time to end their evening at Royston House with delicious food and a hot toddy.

One of his most devoted activities was to support Gill and her friends who run the monthly Coffee-and-Chat mornings at the village hall that began in 2012 when Barry and Richard Cushing retired from running the village shop and Post office further east on Cookes Road.

Before that, between 1997 and 2011, Andrew was a also key member of the small team that ran the six Bergh Apton Sculpture Trails. He was our 'Money Man' who, deftly and without fuss and sometimes several times a day, spirited the many thousands of £££s taken in ticket sales from the village to Barclays Bank in Norwich.

In that role he was ever cautious, conscious that revelation of his role could attract the ungodly to take a very personal interest in him.

Andrew was a man of great hospitality who, with Gill's enthusiastic support, welcomed people to their home and to the village. One proof of this concerns the considerable community dismay that arose when eight rather large houses were proposed on Cookes Road right opposite the village hall on what had been

church glebe once known as Reed's Pightle.

It was no surprise, given that the development would bring about a major change to the street scene and much increased traffic outside Royston House, that Gill and Andrew were in the vanguard of opposition. But eventually the houses were built and newcomers arrived in 2013/14, including John and Diane Whittow who came from the banks of the river Thames to rural Norfolk.

It says something about Andrew and Gill Waters generous and welcoming nature - and about John and Diane Whittow's ability to adapt to change - that the two couples, having met and discovered the many interests they shared, quickly became the fastest of friends.

We send our condolences for this great loss to Gill, to Nicholas and Hannah, to Charlotte and Rob and Andrew's grandchildren and to Andrew's sister Angela.

Andrew's son-in-law Rob Baird said of his father-in-law that he was 'the most contented person I know'. All who knew Andrew will heartily agree and pay our respects with a smile and a nod of the head - or a tip of the hat by those who share Andrew's liking for the days when men wore such things.



Left: Andrew at home with his five grandchildren; l-r Jim (front), Alice, Felix, Edward and Bill

Bergh Apton Church, NR15 1BX
Saturday 5th September, 7pm

Traditional and not-so traditional sea shanties and sea songs



Pot of Gold Shanty Crew

Expect fantastic harmonies, humour, brilliant musicianship - and a spot of audience participation - all making for a great evening's entertainment.

Tickets £12

please book ahead if you can
from **01508 480576** (leave a message)
or

Email bachurchwarden@outlook.com
Refreshments & parking included

Harvest Festival

Bergh Apton Church
Sunday 4th October
10:00 am

**Donated dry goods will be taken to the
Norwich Food Bank and fresh produce to
St Martins Housing.**



**Bring your donations
to the service, or
to decorate the
church for Harvest
on Saturday
3rd October**

PETER ROPE RIP

We have learned of the death of Peter Rope who, at the age of 86, died on Saturday 27th June in Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital.

Peter had a lifelong interest in the village and was of a family that lived at Holly Lodge Farm on Loddon Road, had connections with both.

Are you green fingered?

I have thought for a while it would be good to have a gardening or horticultural group to share experience, ideas, plants and seeds, with maybe a speaker or two...or to share frustrations over pigeons, muntjac or slugs! If you are interested, please let me know :-
berghaptoneditor@gmail.com

Bergh Apton Church Sunday 20th September

At 10:00 am

PET SERVICE



We'll be giving thanks for our much-loved pets of all shapes and sizes.

Do bring along your pet or – if there's any danger that it might eat (or be eaten by) someone else there, perhaps just bring a picture or soft toy!



Two or four-legged furry, feathery or scaly friends are very welcome – well-behaved humans too!

The service will be followed by refreshments

BROADCAST NORFOLK CHURCHES BIKE, WALK, DRIVE

There's a great opportunity coming up, to combine some exercise, visiting some fabulous historic buildings and countryside and helping a worthwhile charitable cause.

What's not to like?

OK – here's the deal?

The Norfolk Churches Trust provides grants to help many of Norfolk's incredible historic churches and chapels in urgent need of repair – from leaky roofs and crumbling stonework to essential timber and window repairs.

On 12th September between 9 am and 5 pm you can take part in their annual sponsored BIKE, WALK, DRIVE (yes – if you don't fancy the 'exercise' part of the plan, you can drive!). Get yourself a few sponsors, plan the route for your tour of Norfolk's stunning churches, maybe including a pub lunch en route – and you're set.

The money you raise will be shared equally between the Trust and a church that you choose to support (it would be nice if it were St Peter & St Paul, Bergh Apton, but it doesn't have to be). And there's a chance to enter photography competitions for adults and under-16s.

I can provide all the paperwork necessary, a list of the participating churches, sponsor forms and general information, and you can take a sneak peek at the Norfolk Churches Trust website for more information.

<https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride-walk/>

Do give it a go – it's great fun; we've done it for years but, sadly can't this year. (Poster is across the page on P4)

Shirley Rimmer
(bachurchwarden@outlook.com)

01508 480576 – An answerphone will reply but start to speak and you may find yourself speaking to a human – otherwise do leave a message.

Please come along to Bergh Apton church on
SATURDAY 3rd 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
ALL WELCOME!

kindly sponsored by



Heritage | Community | Preservation

kindly sponsored by



BIKE • WALK • DRIVE

Saturday 12th September 2026
9am–5pm

Win a Bike!

see overleaf for information on all our competitions

Many of Norfolk's incredible historic churches and chapels are in **urgent need of repair** – from leaking roofs and crumbling stonework to essential timber and window repairs.

Your support helps keep these remarkable landmarks **safe, open and alive** for the communities they serve.

Take Part & Make a Difference

Explore Norfolk's stunning churches and raise money simply by being sponsored for your **bike ride walk or drive** or make a personal donation

50 years of preserving Norfolk's Churches



To donate scan the QR code or visit
norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/donate/

Your Support Really Counts

Last year, the Bike, Walk and Drive raised over **£120,000**, helping churches and chapels across Norfolk to be **repaired, restored and improved** for future generations.

Every donation is shared between the church, chapel or meeting house you choose and the Norfolk Churches Trust to support our vital grant giving work.

It's a fantastic **family day out** – with beautiful countryside, friendly communities and centuries of history waiting to be explored.

Thank you for your support!

Competitions: Why not enter our annual photography competition to win £50 for the best pictures of the day or join with others in your parish to win £1,000 for your church by becoming the parish with the most improved amount of money raised. And this year, to celebrate 50 years of Norfolk Churches Trust, we are featuring a special children's competition to win a bike!



Find out more

norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bikeride

HOW TO TAKE PART

1. Get a Sponsorship Form

Download yours by scanning this QR code:



2. Raise Sponsorship

Ask friends, family, colleagues and neighbours to sponsor your walk, ride or drive. Don't forget to note **which church or chapel you're supporting** or simply fundraise for the Trust.

3. Enjoy the Day

You will often find refreshments at the churches and chapels!

- At **manned churches**, someone will sign your form.
- At **unmanned churches**, simply record your visit yourself.

4. Send in Your Sponsorship Money

Post your completed form and donations to:

**Bike Ride Team,
Wood Farm,
Foxley Road,
Themelthorpe,
Norfolk NR20 5PU**

Prefer to donate online?

Use **JustGiving**

Please remember to name your chosen church or chapel

All the fun of the Fête - Bergh Apton Fête 2026

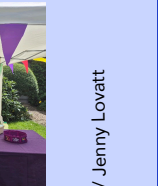


Despite the change of date to June this year, we were blessed with good weather and a good turnout for another successful year. Although we didn't manage to achieve the record-breaking levels of 2025, everyone involved was pleased to achieve a result of £3797.58, which will be shared between our community resources; the village hall and church.

A huge thank you to everyone involved, in whatever way you contributed. For fear of missing anyone out, I won't mention individual names, but you know who you are! Please also pass on thanks to anyone who does not receive the newsletter.

As a thank you, and also an opportunity to reflect on successes, observations and ideas for the future, we have a meeting on **Wednesday 5th August at 7pm in the village hall** with wine and nibbles. Please do come along!

A final thank you to our hosts, Kip and Alison Bertram, who kindly allow us to descend on their home and garden every year for this community event.



Photos: Hilary Ling/ Jenny Lovatt

A Long Way to Norwich

The World Cup may now feel like a distant memory, but footie fan James Debbage of Bergh Apton and lifelong local friends found themselves unlikely stars of a local newspaper in the USA when they visited Norwich, Connecticut, 3,000 miles from home.



Spotting a 'Welcome to Norwich' sign en route from the 0-0 Ghana game, the life-long group of friends stopped to take a photo and found themselves at the centre of a news story, resulting in an introduction to their local mayor, Swarnjit Singh.

Norwich, Connecticut was founded in 1659 and has a population of around 40,000. Their football team 'CT United', sport a purple kit and play in MLS Pro, the third tier of American football.

After an impromptu tour of the town hall, the group were taken to a local bar to celebrate with the reporter, who declared it 'the best story in 25 years'!

Friends on tour:
James Debbage (Bergh Apton),
Rhys Moore (Norwich), Greg Roper (Brooke),
Paolo Payne and Mike Delbridge (both of Alington)



BERGH APTON ARTS

Pat Mlejnecky

'The past is a foreign country, they do things differently there.'

These are the opening words to L.P.Hartley's book, 'The Go-Between.'

The theme for the Writing Workshops taken by Hugh Lupton was Memory and Memoir. Hugh is interested in the effect of these on both people and places. Never turn back it is said but we did and stood where Time ebbs and flows and found that mores even so recent as those of our grandparents are markedly different to those of today. The four sessions with Hugh were absorbing and interesting, very worthwhile.

Here are two writings from talking and writing about the second World War:

The left behind-war in 1981:

Wandering one evening along the country lane that followed, more or less, the meandering headwaters of the river Alde, we were, all of a sudden, halted in our tracks. Not by an obstruction, a fallen tree, a flooded river.....but by a sound. A song. A trill of beauty, mellifluous, full of throttle, full of throat. A sound that carried through the osiers, out towards the sea. A sound I haven't glimpsed since and that was over thirty years ago. And Margaret was with us, thrilled. As were we. Le Rossignol. Oh, for Berkeley Square.

Our tuneful companion stayed with us, its songs following our line to where the lane straightened, where, alongside we discovered a series of hard-standings. Odd, we thought! Then the purpose dawned through the mental haze. Another piece of the puzzle that is Suffolk's history.

Before big moves during the war, Britain tried to ensure the enemy were uncertain where we would strike, with numerous deceptive activities, not least of which was 'Operation Mincemeat', 'the man who never was'. Here along the east and south coast of England, General George Patton was tasked with 'Operation Fortitude' to prepare an army for D Day, to land in France as the Pas de Calais. A mass of signal traffic, evidenced the large numbers of troops assembling, whilst on the ground, tanks, tents, vehicles and even moored landing-craft, gathered in growing profusion. The appointment of Patton was a master stroke. His reputation as one of the more aggressive and determined commanders was there for all to see. But this army, Patton's army, was a Phantom, it was a 'not an army at all'. It was a dream of a nightmare!

And this lane was where one of his designated tank regiments would begin their disciplined preparations. However, if I had walked down that lane in 1944 in the moonlight, nothing would have moved. The wind might have whistled through the overhanging trees, there might have been strange creaks and muffled knockings. But no soldier clanking billycans, no tea brew up, no weapon cleaning or greasing of tank tracks.

All was quiet. Not a sound. If I had sidled up to one of the big beasts and

knocked, hoping to have a word with an occupant of this armada, I would have staggered back in surprise. My hand would have hit soft material.

And as I did so, the material might have crumpled and the whole, seemingly, danced as if lifted off the ground on its tether. It was nothing.

But a wood and canvas carapace.

While the sounds of war were far off, the signs of war were everywhere, leaving the sounds to be no more than those of the natural world in the osiers. And these were leading the way back towards Easton Church where nightingales once more, were performing their nightly choral evensong.

Christopher Meynell

PARK HOUSE

There is a house just off the main road between Mark Cross and Mayfield called Park House. It is a foursquare house with chimneys at either end.

The roof slopes in on all four sides meeting on a ridge that runs along the middle. During the Second World War my father lived near by and would watch German bombers flying overhead on their way to London and other industrial cities.

After one such raid, when the bombers were returning back home to Germany, one of them dropped its unused bombs over the Sussex countryside. Park House didn't take a direct hit but a bomb must have landed close by as the explosion took the roof clean off.

It was tremendously exciting for my father and his friends and they couldn't wait to take a closer look. All the walls of the house were still intact and the furniture was arranged as usual but in the garden lay the roof buckled and

crumpled with the teetering chimneys ready to fall at any moment.

After the war a new roof was put on and it seemed as if nothing had ever happened to the house. Its traumatic secrets living only in the minds of those who had witnessed the events of that fateful day.

Peter Lyle

When the writing sessions finished, we discussed in what form to keep a record of our writings. One idea was to make a board game but we decided on a card game, the Great Game of Wardrobe. It is similar to the children's game of Happy Families. There are seven 'families'; Corvidae, Fleetwood, Memory, The Pinewoods, The Rum Babas, Sentinels and The Watch House. Each 'family' has four members which could be a place, words, a creature or a person from our writings. We each decided whowas in our 'family'; we drew, painted or printed them and Peter and Christopher turned them into a pack of cards for each of us.

Christopher collected all our writings. Peter marbled paper and made a pouch for each of us with cards of our particular 'family' and each card in turn became a pocket to keep the writing about each character.



We met in a garden and sat beneath trees on a very hot day and played the Great Game of Wardrobe.

'There was laughter of heroes; harp-music ran, words were warm hearted'

There might not have been heroes or harp music but we had birds and butterflies, what better? We sat in sunshine and shifting shadows to have lunch with many warm words and laughter.

'It was lovely to play the game in the cool shade followed by a delicious lunch, a most pleasant way to spend time.'

MAKING SUNFLOWERS

SATURDAY 13th JUNE

When the Russians invaded Ukraine many of the people fled to find refuge in other countries. Many came to live in England and some even lived with families in this village. The sunflower has become a symbol of hope and resistance for these people.



UKRAINE BLOSSOMS is a group whose aim is to keep Ukraine culture alive and they have been invited to take part in the Lord Mayor's procession in Norwich in July and, in this workshop, will make a giant sunflower to carry.

Bergh Apton Arts have contributed to the cost of this workshop. Kate Munro, who will take this workshop has worked with us for some years and is first rate tutor. She said:

'It was an absolute delight, the ladies were fantastic to work with.'

With Ukraines in mind, for lunch after one of the writing sessions, we had Chicken Kyiv and they came to the table each with a Ukraine flag!



Continued from previous page (Bergh Apton Arts)

Here is a letter from Oleksandra:

'Щиро дякуємо вам за неймовірну підтримку Arts Bergh Apton group за фінансування цього майстер-класу. Ми щиро цінуємо вашу доброту та допомогу.

Майстер-клас «Соняшник» пройшов дуже добре. Усі чудово провели час і з великим задоволенням працювали разом своїми руками. Ми дізналися багато цікавих технік створення реквізиту, ідея Кейт була просто чудовою. Це був прекрасний день, який об'єднав людей і зробив нашу громаду ще сильнішою.

Готовий соняшник виглядає неймовірно. Як символ України, його нестимуть під час ходи Lord Mayor's Procession у суботу, 11 липня. Хода розпочнеться о 15:00, і ми пройдемо центральними вулицями міста, несучи наш соняшник з гордістю'.

Here is her letter in English:

'Thank you very much for your amazing help and thank you to the Arts Bergh Apton group for funding the workshop. We truly appreciate your kindness and support.

The Sunflower workshop went very well. Everyone had a wonderful time and really enjoyed crafting together with our hands. We learned so many interesting techniques for making props and Kate's idea was absolutely brilliant. It was a lovely day that brought people together and made our community even stronger.

Thank you so much for providing the venue and for paying for the workshop. We are truly grateful.

The finished sunflower looks amazing. As a symbol of Ukraine, it will be carried during the Lord Mayor's Procession on Saturday 11 July. The procession starts AT 3.00pm and we will be walking through the city centre carrying our sunflower with pride.

If you would like to come along and support us, we would be delighted to see you there'.

COUNTRY MATTERS

'.....defend us from all perils and dangers of this night'

From Evening Prayer from The Book of Common Prayer

It was the wail of the sirens that woke her, a child of about eight to nine years of age. The room was without light but she knew every inch and made her way to the window. Long heavy curtains covered them and with a cautious finger she pushed the folds aside an inch or two just enough to see out. It was as dark outside as in the room for the cloud cloaked moon gave but grudging light. Then great highways of light crisscrossed the sky searching for the German bombers, Heinkles, Dorniers and Junkers on their flight paths bringing death and destruction. As the beams of light pinpointed one, caught like a fly in amber, guns thundered and she crossed her fingers that they had sent plane and pilot spinning down, one less. High in the gods she watched the theatre of the night, darkness and silence torn apart by 'sound of fury' the drone of engines, lights, thunder from guns, and the 'players' strutting and fretting their hour on the 'stage'.

The school she went to had six forms, two for infants and four for each year of the junior section. There were about forty or so children, all sorts of conditions of men in each form. It was ruled with a rod of iron by the headmistress. Lessons were formal and each child left the school with a first rate grounding in arithmetic and the English language.

Outside the school were long brick built tunnels which were air raid shelters. When the buzzer sounded in each form room it meant a raid was imminent and every child stood and in line filed out to those shelters. There was no fuss, no command from the teacher, after several years of war every child knew what to do, it was part of life. The shelters had no heating, no doors to shut out wind, rain or snow so those at the front, in winter, shivered and shook. There was no lighting, moisture trickled down the walls and those at the back endured in damp gloom. The seating was narrow planks so the children perched like a flock of birds and, like birds, sang to pass the time. Led by the teacher they sang from the National Song Book, 'We'll fight and we'll conquer again and again', 'Hearts of oak are our men', 'Cheer up my lads 'tis to glory we steer'. They chanted tables from two times to twelve times. When the buzzer,

like an angry bee, sounded to tell that the raid was over and the all clear sounded the child with the other children marched back to the form rooms, all so used to it and continued with such intricacies as:

A dozen eggs costs half a crown, what will 4 eggs cost?

Ribbon is 7d a foot, how much will it cost to buy 2 yards?

A spelling test, hand writing, mental arithmetic.....

Four o'clock and the school day comes to an end with hands together and eyes closed and

Lord keep us safe this night

Secure from all our fears.

May angels guard us as we sleep

Till morning light appears.

Pat Mlejnecky

CREATIVE WRITING IN A NORFOLK NARNIA

I always think of Bergh Apton as a place where magic happens, a community producing thought provoking collaborative works of art that are both beautiful and inspiring, with a compelling common story at their heart centre.

My experience of productions such as 'Doggerland' and 'One for the Rook' are etched on my memory. Audience members were skilfully shepherded into a parallel world and as the story unfolded, we became part of it. We had entered a Norfolk Narnia and it was absorbing and enchanting.

Having recently retired, I was looking for some inspiration and guidance to try my hand at writing. When I happened across this series of workshops in Bergh Apton led by Master Storyteller Hugh Lupton, it seemed as if the stars had aligned. I jumped at the chance and reserved my place.

The theme for our classes was memory and memoir, connecting with the past and breathing life into different lived experiences through writing.

To start us off, Hugh set a warm up exercise, before reading from the

works of different authors and poets to introduce the week's topic. He then shared his own response to our writing brief, produced within the same timescale he gave us.

Then it was over to us to face the blank page – and write. Sometimes, I was stumped. Sometimes, the words flowed and I ran out of time mid- sentence, the page in front of me a tangle of words, crossings out and additions.

Afterwards we shared our work, reading it aloud to the group. Each person responded very differently to the brief and I was bowled over by the skill and beauty of some of the work created in such a short space of time. I realised I had joined

a circle of accomplished writers. I was the apprentice and I learned a great deal from listening to the way my fellow 'students' had crafted their words and made the story their own.

Despite my inexperience, this was always a safe place to learn. Everybody in the room listened with kindness and respect, responding sometimes with thoughtful silence or offering encouraging insights.

The classes are over but our work continues as we get together to celebrate and create a lasting memento of the pieces we have created.

I have loved every minute of this special time in another Norfolk Narnia.

Time to experiment, play with words and once again be part of the story.

Frances Broady

BERGH APTON ARTS

DRYPOINT WORKSHOP with GEORGINA WARNE

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

(1000 – 1600)

Cost: £25.00

Drypoint printing 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. All materials, equipment and gloves will be provided.

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

Above: Georgina in her studio, above right - examples of Georgina's drypoint work



A NINETEENTH CENTURY 'DOMESDAY MAP' OF BERGH APTON by John Ling

Are you interested in the history of your own house and its land in Bergh Apton? Would you like to know more about how it looked, who owned it and who lived there almost two hundred years ago? Or, if the house was built in modern times, what was there before?



You can now do all that in Bergh Apton's parish church.

Bergh Apton Local History Group (BALHG), working with the PCC (the Parochial Church Council), has funded and curated a permanent display of the village Tithe Map in the North Transept. It is a copy - virtually full-size at over 1.5 metres square - of Bergh Apton's Tithe Map published in 1839.

The display comprises a map and a written summary of what the map shows that includes every house in the village in 1839. If yours was built later than that will tell you what was there before.

Both the map and the summary (called 'The Apportionment') reflect a farming community that lived on and depended on the land but is recognisably the same place as our village today (though there were far fewer houses and many of them were not the ones that occupy the same ground now). Thus it is not unreasonable to regard the map and apportionment, taken together, as akin in importance to the Domesday Book of 1086 because both record everything about a community at a single point in time.

The map came about because the Government of 1836 passed a Law - the Tithe Commutation Act - to abandon a feudal system begun in Saxon times whereby a village's Landowners provided the wherewithal to sustain the village Parson's living in the form of a Tithe (Old

English for one tenth) of their produce delivered to him as it was harvested, be it grain, fodder crop or animal.

Neither party was happy with the ancient system at a time when Economics, the Industrial Revolution and religious reform were all calling into question everything that was thought to be set in stone. Both parties were ready for change.

The Government's new Law substituted a cash payment in place of 1/10th of a crop and so required a map and a list giving the crop value for each field.

Bergh Apton's map was created (from scratch) by local Surveyor and Loddon schoolmaster William Gerard Jones. He used the ancient skills of the mapmaker with a theodolite (or earlier means of obtaining levels), a chainman (assistant), lots of long lengths of measured chain, a stout pair of boots and drafting skills to present his findings in a clear and concise map that showed every dwelling and barn, every road, every field, every wood and every pond to scale.

Below; Lorie Lain-Rogers points out some of the Tithe Map's features to PCC Members Lisa Flatman and Milton Harris



Jones compiled the Apportionment using his other skill as a Land Valuer. His work identifies (and in most cases names) every dwelling, field, and woodland, names each owner and tenant, records the acreage of each field and assesses the value of its potential crop.

BALHG's display comprises a copy of the Apportionment and two versions of the map,

side-by-side. Why two maps? The original (provided by the National Archives in Kew, and also held in the Norfolk Records Office in Norwich) has so faded over time that the detail is difficult (and in some places impossible) to read. The second map addresses this problem by using computer graphics to make all that information clear and readable.

The Local History Group, having completed this project, and learning much it didn't know before, hopes that everyone interested in their property and their community will discover something, or some things, about their houses and their village that they, too, never knew before. So do pop into the church and have a look – the door is always open.



These photos of the south end of The Street including Apton Manor and the Old Rectory (in 1839 they were Street Farm and The Rectory) illustrate the comparison of the original and enhanced versions of the map.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS.

We would remind all dog owners of the need to keep dogs in sight and under control at all times.

We have recently received reports of instances, where dogs have aggressively approached people in the village, baring teeth in a threatening manner.

Under the Antisocial Behaviour Crimes and Policing Act 2014, any dog owners failing to control their dogs could be liable to prosecution. Uncontrolled dogs behaving in an aggressive and threatening manner are in breach of this law.

We appreciate your help and support in keeping the roads and public footpaths in Bergh Apton enjoyable and safe for all parishioners. We thank the majority of dog walkers in the village who show this consideration.

Bergh Apton Parish Council

Bergh Apton Parish Council recently met with local police officers to discuss scam and security issues. As a result, they hope to distribute window stickers and leaflets shortly. Any reports or concerns you have can be emailed to the Police at: sntsouthnorfolk@norfolk.police.uk E-mails should be dealt responded to within 48 hours of receipt. (See poster on right).

YOUR LOCAL OFFICERS

Email: sntsouthnorfolk@norfolk.police.uk

Your safer neighbourhood team

Your Local Officers

Loddon

Inspector Chris TOMKINS

Local Policing Inspector

PS 499 Stu BARNARD

Local Policing Sergeant

PC 2394 Keiya CADWELL

Beat manager



What Do They Do?

Your local officers work with everyone in the community to identify and deal with current issues and concerns in the neighbourhood.

Find out more on our website at norfolk.police.uk/your-area

Did you know?

You can report any non-emergency crime or incident online at norfolk.police.uk or via the QR code here. Just scan it with your mobile phone camera or QR code reader.

Always call 999 in an emergency.



Suspicious activity? Call us on 101. Emergency? Always use 999.

f @SouthNorPolice

@norfolkpolice



norfolk.police.uk

HOW TO USE YOUR NEW WEEKLY FOOD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE



Starting week commencing 27 July

Scan to learn more or search 'South Norfolk food waste'

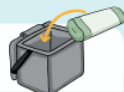
South Norfolk recycles

South Norfolk

HOW TO USE YOUR FOOD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

From week commencing 27 July, your food waste will be collected weekly on the same day as your rubbish and recycling, by a separate vehicle. Please put your outdoor food bin out by 6:30am.

1 Line your small kitchen caddy with one of our free liners.



TOP TIP: If you would rather use your own indoor container that's fine – do whatever works for you.

2 When you need to empty your kitchen caddy, tie the top of the liner and pop it in your outdoor food bin.



TOP TIP: Remember not to let your caddy get too full before emptying it.

3 Put your larger outdoor food bin next to your rubbish or recycling bin for collection. Lock the handle to help prevent spills and pests.



TOP TIP: When you run out of liners, tie one to the handle of your outdoor food bin and the crew will leave more.

WHY RECYCLE FOOD WASTE?

Recycling your food waste reduces what goes in your rubbish and helps cut harmful greenhouse gases. It's quick and easy, keeps your rubbish bin cleaner, and your free weekly collection turns food waste into renewable energy and fertiliser.

WHAT YOU CAN RECYCLE

YES PLEASE

All food waste, raw and cooked, including:



NO THANKS



YOUR QUESTIONS

WHAT IF I DON'T PRODUCE ANY FOOD WASTE?

Even small amounts make a difference. Some waste is unavoidable, like vegetable peelings, bones and eggshells, all of which can be recycled and turned into renewable energy. In fact, just one banana skin can produce enough electricity to charge your mobile twice.

I DON'T HAVE SPACE FOR THE KITCHEN CADDY, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

The caddy is compact, to take up as little space as possible. Many people keep it under the sink, next to their kitchen bin or on the worktop. You can also use your own container if you prefer.

WILL THE FOOD IN MY BIN SMELL?

Food waste is collected weekly to help prevent smells. Empty your caddy into the outdoor food bin regularly and give both a quick rinse. Your outdoor bin also has a lockable lid to keep smells contained and pests out.

WHAT IF I ALREADY COMPOST MY FOOD WASTE?

If you compost at home, this service can still be useful for food waste that's not suitable for composting, such as meat, fish, bones and dairy products.



Check your first collection date on the bin app – scan to get the app or search 'South Norfolk Council' in your app store



christian
aid

Thank you, Bergh Apton, for your generous response to the Christian Aid Week appeal in early May.

Regulations only allow collection during the designated week, and lack of volunteers meant that there was only time to deliver and collect envelopes to

6 roads in the village.

That makes the total of £613 pretty impressive, more so when the gift aid is added to it which, potentially, could take the total to over £730.

If you'd like to take on deliveries to your road for next year, or even if you didn't get an envelope this year and would like to in 2027, please let me know.

Shirley (01508 480576)

EDITOR'S PLEA

As many of you spotted, the last newsletter was a little thin, although I am pleased to report we have had more contributions this month from our regulars.

It would be great to hear some new voices though, so please so don't be shy. Have you got some interesting content ready for the winter editions coming up (Oct/Nov and Dec/Jan 27)? Maybe a craft for Christmas or news of an exhibition or garden you visited over the summer?

Please send contributions to: berghaptoneditor@gmail.com

With thanks...

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

Our thanks go to:

Fanny Thursby Trust, Bergh Apton Arts, Bergh Apton Conservation Trust, Bergh Apton Society, Bergh Apton Local History Group, Bergh Apton Parish Council, Bergh Apton Parochial Church Council, Bergh Apton Village Hall Trust, Bertram Charitable Trust, 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/>



Best Afternoon Tea Winner - Muddy Stiletto Awards 2026



Green Pastures have asked me to express a huge thank you to everyone who voted for them in the recent Muddy Stiletto Awards and who continue to support them.

James Debbage said "This award means so much to our team, and we couldn't have achieved it without our wonderful customers".

If you would like to try one yourself, then please call Green Pastures on 01508 480734 to make a booking.

Village Diary

AUG

5th 7pm	Fete Wash Up meeting
7th 6.30pm	The Hare at Royston House
15th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
19th 10-12	Coffee 'n' Catch Up
19th 2-4pm	History Group Archiving
20th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field

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

OCT

1st 10 -1pm	Charity Coffee Morning & Stalls Washingford House, NR151AA
-------------	--

SEPT

2nd 7pm	Parish Council Meet
9th 7.30pm	BA Society Talk by Donard de Cogan on The Weather
12th All day	BA Arts Print Workshop with Georgina Ward
16th 10-12	Coffee 'n' Catch Up
16th 2-4pm	History Group Archiving
16th 7pm	Village Hall Management Committee Meeting
19th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
24th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
26th 9-11 am	11 Says Assembly at the Village Hall
30th 7pm	BACT AGM