



Bergh Apton Broadcast

Issue 206 Oct/Nov 2026



I hope you all had a good summer - we certainly had a warm one! Like me, I guess you spent a lot of time keeping plants alive and finding tips to keep cool at night so you could sleep. So now we are heading into our autumnal programme launching on 1st October with a charity coffee morning hosted by Paris Back at

Washingford House. If you have never been before, this is a great opportunity to meet people from the village as well as shop for early Christmas gifts and raise money for some good causes. If you are not sure where Washingford House is, do e-mail Paris at the address on P3 and she will send you directions.

The events we hold in the village are all fundraisers; back for it's annual October return is the popular Quiz 'n' Chilli. Do find a few friends and bring your humour and brains for a night of entertainment!

If your interests are more musical, we have some choral events for you at the church in October and November so do get your tickets early as these are always popular. Lardal Kantori return again, with carols and songs in Norwegian and English. A great

way to get in the festive spirit. For me, this is all about thinking of others and we have opportunity to do that with the Harvest Festival service on the 4th October and the 'Be a Star' service in November where you can donate gifts for children who are supported by the Salvation Army appeal for families in need. Full details are on P5, please do see if you can support this as it makes such a difference. If you can't attend the service but would like to contribute, do let me know.

Before we reach winter, we have some wonderful opportunities to get outside with the Conservation Trust. As well as the usual monthly meet up, there is also the annual 'Fungus Foray' exploring the conservation area. If you have seen fungus on a walk but always puzzled what they are, then you have opportunity to ask Dr Tony Leech...and if you don't know Bergh Apton has a conservation area, then it's a good way to find out! Meet at Church Field on 18th Oct.

Hope to see you at an event or two.

Best wishes,

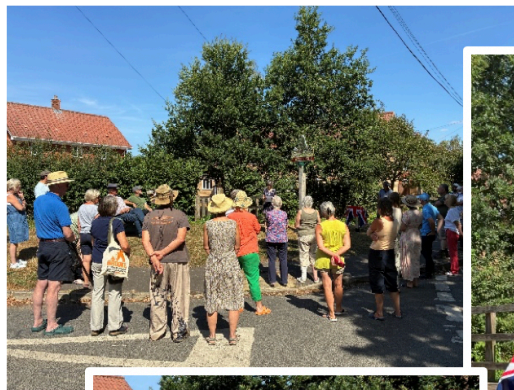
Jenny Lovatt

THE VILLAGE SIGN STORYBOARDS

When Bergh Apton's village sign was set in place on the corner of The Street and Church Road in September 2004 there was no budget to provide information boards to tell its stories that illustrate episodes and elements of village life since Roman times.

On 8th August this year storyboards were put in place to do that, with funding provided by CIL, the Community Infrastructure Levy paid by developers of new houses in the village.

On one of those beautiful Summer days of the heat wave, Sue Price, the present Parish Council chairman, and Bob Kerry, who drove the project that created the sign when he was chairman in 2000-2004, each unveiled one of the two storyboards that now help people to interpret the signs' illustrations.



Clockwise from left:

People await the unveiling;

Sue Price says a few words and Bob Kerry waits for the moment of unveiling; The deed is done; (l-r) Keith Mann, Kevin Parfitt (seated), Evy Sayer, Gillian Kent, Ann

Woods and Mike Moore inspect the board about the village from the 15th to 20th centuries.

'RAMBLING RECTOR' with The Reverend Chris Ellis



I am writing this edition's ramblings just a couple of days after officiating at a special Service of Wholeness & Healing in our benefice. The healing ministry of the Church is one which is often overlooked, but the restoration of people to a better physical, emotional or spiritual condition formed a significant part of Jesus' ministry. Showing compassion to those being held captive by physical disability or illness as well as the release of those suffering spiritual or mental torment was one of the ways Jesus revealed the love of God and affirmed his own divine power as His Son.

The Church has always understood its ministry as one which continues that

healing and the restoration of wholeness; in The Acts of the Apostles, we read of the lame man who approached Peter and John asking for money. Peter said: 'I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk' (Acts 3:6) and the man was instantly healed. It is hard to imagine Peter having that ability and power if it were not for his complete confidence in the resurrected Christ he had seen and his total trust in His power to heal through him.

At the Healing Service, I invited those attending to choose a stone from a basket and then spoke of how each stone was very different; they were different sizes, shapes and colours, some were smooth, some rough, some had blemishes, cracks and chips others appeared unmarked. They were intended to represent each of us gathered there that afternoon – all different, carrying different cares and concerns for ourselves or others be they physical, emotional or spiritual; some visible, some hidden. But I am certain that nobody there was untouched by the pain and challenges of life. There was then an invitation to place the stone into a large glass container that had been filled to the brim with water in recognition of Jesus' command to the servants at the wedding at Cana: 'Jesus said to them, "fill the jars with water". And

they filled them to the very brim.' (John 2:7) At our service, as the stones were dropped into the container, the water overflowed as a reminder of God's abundant, overflowing love and his ability to wash away sin, pain and suffering. The water was also a reminder of our baptism, through which we receive the Holy Spirit and, as Christians, never walk alone again regardless of how dark or difficult our lives may be at times.

The service finished with the opportunity to receive the laying on of hands and the sacrament of anointing with Holy Oil. It was a special service and a powerful, prayerful experience.

At the heart of Jesus' healing ministry was often a simple question: 'What do you want me to do for you?' Jesus rarely acted without invitation, but when invited responded out of compassion and love. And very often once healed, the individual is told: 'your faith has made you well'. A reminder that healing and wholeness is a shared endeavour requiring faith and trust in God and a willingness to turn to Christ and empty ourselves before him. When we seek Christ with all our heart, mind and soul, we will always find him waiting to respond.

With every blessing,

Fr Chris.

IMMORTAL SPIRIT 2

*Beside me once more,
In peaceful silence,
Softer than a feather
Cast adrift upon the breeze*

*In memories,
Your spirit,
Immortal,
Returns.*

Chris Roe



Giants Wood mushrooms

BERGH APTON & DISTRICT SOCIETY HOLIDAY 3-8th August

The BA Society holiday this year was a visit to Northumbria.

We paid a visit to Alnwick Castle, a stunning place with beautiful gardens. The castle itself is well known for being a TV and film location, most notably as Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films. We had a full day tour exploring the Heritage Coastline. We made our way to Holy Island,



which is subject to tidal conditions and known locally as Lindisfarne and being the birthplace of English Christianity; then onto the mighty Bamburgh Castle which sits high on a crag above the sea and golden sandy beaches. A lovely visit to Hexham with its stunning Abbey, the town has some outstanding flower displays which looked so welcoming. After a bite to eat, we made our way to the fine city of Durham with its magnificent cathedral which towers over the River Wear, then onto the castle for tea and cake. As we made our journey home, we stopped for a photo of the Angel of the North.



THE FRIENDS OF THURTON CHURCH

A big thank you to all who came to our Strawberry and Fizz evening at Cherry Tree Cottage Thurton, Ray and Lynton's home, on a lovely summer's evening with the swifts flying high above us and the scents of the garden. We made a profit of £500, which will go towards the restoration of the new church path and flagpole.

Ray & Lynton

COFFEE MORNING

with stalls

at Washingford House
Cooke's 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



QUIZ 'N' CHILLI

Bergh Apton's Brain of Britain

Saturday 31st October
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 Shirley - 01508 480576

Let her 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

BALHG

The Bergh Apton Local History Group
welcomes you to our autumn
programme. These talks are open to
everyone, however if you would like to
become a member we are offering
membership for the rest of this year
and next for £15. The group meets
throughout the year for a mix of talks
about local history, social get
togethers and visits. If you would like
more details or wish to join please
email our membership secretary on
bewickcssm@aol.com

The History of the Norwich Shawl
21st October 7.30pm

Talk by Joy Evitt from the Costume
and Textiles Association.
BA Village Hall

A colourful journey through their
history, illustrated not only by beautiful
photographs but also by Joys'
personal collection of original
garments.

Free for members Guests £4

**Norwich at work: trades and
industries in 19th -20th century**

18th November 7.30pm

A talk by Adrian O'Dell
BA Village Hall

Adrian has devoted himself to the
study of Norfolk and Norwich's history
and heritage following an international
career in the oil industry.

Free for members Guests £4

BERGH APTON & DISTRICT SOCIETY

WEDNESDAY 14th OCTOBER

Remember Magnus Pike, English
Scientist & Broadcaster?

Laurie Poulson will be returning to the
Society to enlighten us about:

'The Amazing Pykes'

A story of two cousins, one who was
'Churchill's favourite scientist and the
other, TV's archetypal 'mad scientist' and
'best TV newcomer of the year'

WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER

Speaker Jim Stebbings, will be detailing
the 'Sentiments of Christmas'

Both meetings: Tea/
coffee with biscuits,
social business &
affle

£4.00 pp at the door
7.30 pm start



John Ling is one of a number of residents researching
the village through Bergh Apton Local History Group.
On P9, we have an article he has written on Bergh
Apton House. He has asked that if you wish to delve
deeper, you can read the notes for this article in a
separate document that he will be happy to send you.
You can contact him on john.ling@btinternet.com

If you are interested in the history of your house, do
contact the BALHG, and I am sure they will be able
to help you.

All the groups and activities in Bergh Apton would
love to see some new faces. If you are interested in
joining any of them, there are a list of contacts on
the reverse of the newsletter so you can find out
details of meetings and someone can greet you when
you arrive. Please don't be shy... it would be great to
try something new, wouldn't it?

One event we always love people to join with is the
night we schedule in December, singing Christmas
carols around the village. It is a lovely evening of
camaraderie - we have lots of fun, a few mince pies
and mulled wine, whilst fundraising for EACH. We
also have the carol service and Christmas Eve crib
service at the church so there are lots of activities
to get involved in later in the year - details in the
next issue.



I know we have
had quite a few
new people
moving into the
village over the
last few years so
do come along and
join in with some
of our village
events.

Concert with Lardal Kantori at 7pm Friday 20th November



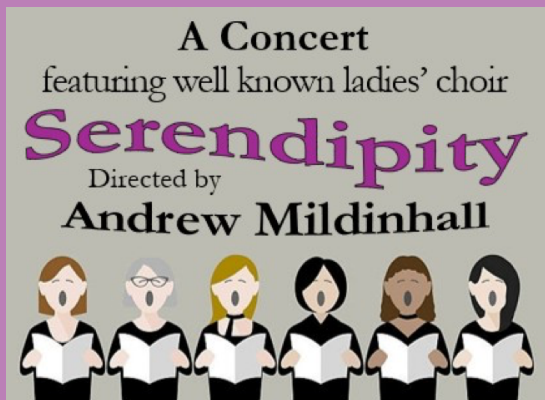
A musical & visually colourful treat.

We're delighted again to welcome our Norwegian friends to Bergh Apton, who will bring a selection of songs and carols in Norwegian and English to herald the Advent season. They were first with us in 2012 and we're really looking forward to this, their 10th visit.

Tickets £12 including refreshments

This will be a popular event so we do ask for advance booking if you can please – by phone **01508 480576** (an answer machine will greet you, but start to speak and a human might interrupt – if not, please leave a message) or email bachurchwarden@outlook.com

Concert in Bergh Apton Church



7pm, Saturday 17th October

This wonderful choir of upper female voices comprises a group of highly experienced and expert singers – many are conservatoire trained, some are soloists in their own right, and some run their own choirs.

Their repertoire is wide – ranging from 16th century works through musical theatre, Schubert, Elgar, to pop classics by Elton John, Abba, Lennon & McCartney and Eric Clapton!

Something there to please everyone!

Their director, Andrew Mildinhall, has worked with the Northern Sinfonia and the Manchester Camerata, and many well-known singers. For 12 years, he was Director of Music at the Collegiate church of St Mary in Nantwich.

Advance booking via phone or email will really help us to plan our catering.

Tickets £12 including refreshments If you can book ahead it really helps our catering

01508 480576 (leave a message) or

Email bachurchwarden@outlook.com

More details: <https://berghapton.org.uk/7093-2/>

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

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

***Be a Star
and donate
a gift***



Hardship just doesn't seem to let up – and at Christmas that families can feel the greatest pressure. But with our help, the Salvation Army can be there to help

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

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

on

Sunday 15th November at 11 am

to support this year's

Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal

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

Bring along, **EITHER TO SCHOOL BEFOREHAND, OR TO THE CHURCH ON THE DAY**, your donations of **new, unwrapped** toys or gifts, for children and Young People aged 0 – 16

Afterwards, the Bergh Apton team will arrange for them to be taken to the Salvation Army Norwich depot where the gifts will be wrapped before distribution to those in need.

Here are a few gift ideas:

- 0-3 years: dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, puzzles
- 3-5: dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles
- 5-9: educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords
- 9-12: games and toys, stationery, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats
- 13-16: books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers

There will also be an opportunity at the service to make monetary donations to the Appeal.

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

If you have any events, notices or contributions for the Dec 26/Jan 27 edition of the Bergh Apton Broadcast, please e-mail berghaptoneditor@gmail.com by 10th November. All welcomed!

PETER ROPE RIP

16 October 1938 – 27th June 2026



Peter Rope as a young
Royal Navy Petty Officer

Peter Rope who, though he never lived in the village, was from a long-standing Bergh Apton family and was brought back here by his family to be buried in our churchyard on 23rd July.

His great grandfather Aaron farmed Bussey Bridge Farm in the 1880s, his grandfather Aaron farmed Holly Lodge Farm from the 1890s until his death in 1939, and Peter's father Armyn then helped his mother, Aaron's widow Ellen, to farm there until

she died in 1944. On his maternal side, Peter's grandfather Josph Kiddle also farmed here, at Washingford Farm and Mill on the river Chet.

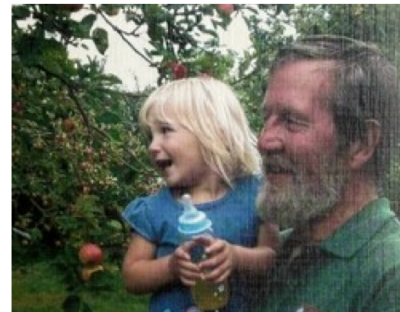
His Rope grandparents, his father and his mother Shelah are all buried in the churchyard in which he himself now lies.

He treasured these connections with the village that were made more poignant by the wartime death of his Holly Lodge uncles Leonard Godfrey in 1916 and Alfred Hubert, a year later, during the First World War. His attendance at our Remembrance Service, and his help on workdays to maintain the graveyard where so many of his family are buried, made him a familiar and much-respected figure in those circles here (he is pictured below in a church working-party at the back right).

Peter was born in Billockby near Acle, the son of Armyn and Shelah Rope and brother to Alan, Jeffrey and Godfrey. When he was fifteen years old he went to HMS Ganges, the Royal Navy's 'stone ship' training establishment on the river Orwell at Shotley in Suffolk, from where he joined the Royal

Navy. In 1983, with the rank of Chief Petty Officer (Radar), he left the Royal Navy and was appointed as Norwich City Corporation's Harbour Master for the port on the river Wensum, from which he retired after twenty years' service in 2003.

Peter and Val Savage married in 1968 and set up home in Acle where their son Richard and daughter Victoria were born and where, in the same year, he bought some land on the Billockby marshes in part so that his widowed mother (his father Armyn had died earlier the same year) could grow produce as a market gardener.



Peter with his granddaughter Jennifer.

On leaving the Royal Navy and securing his future with Norwich City Corporation he and Val moved to Thorpe St Andrew. In 2015 Peter sustained life-changing injuries from a fire on his land in Billockby that resulted in the loss of both his legs. The event forced their move two years later to a single-story house not far away where they adapted to a life constricted by his wheelchair and Val's own decline in health. This led him, with his natural grit and interest in life, to new responsibilities including those of family cook. It was a role at which, characteristically, he became rather good. Peter's injuries and their consequences did, however, give cause for constant health issues that eventually led to his death on 27th June. We send our condolences to Val, to Rich and Kina, to Victoria, and to Victoria's daughters Jennifer and Catrin.

John Ling



This photo - of a churchyard workday back in December 2004 - appears in the obituary above for Peter Rope. Here's a bigger version so you can see better what the participants looked like more than twenty years ago! John Ling took the photo during a break from making a new access into the churchyard from Church Field so we can use it as a car park. The adults in the photo are, left to right:

Lorie Lain-Rogers, Renate Turk*, Evy Sayer, Kevin Parfitt, Hilary Ling, Dennis Moye, Fred Littlewood, Gunter Turk*, Peter Rope and Christopher Meynell. Can anyone tell us who the two boys are, sitting in front?

*In 2009 Renate and Gunter left Apton Manor to return home to Germany where they live in Hamburg.

SHELAGH YALLOP RIP

29 December 1934 - 14th July 2026



I'm grateful to Jane Yallop for sight of the family's eulogy for Shelagh, read at her funeral by her sister-in-law Paulette, on which this obituary is based.

Shelagh was born in Norwich, the eldest child of

Sybil and John Skinner, sister to Benny and Andrew. She and her brothers grew up at High House Farm in Billockby near Acle at a time when one could walk along the now-notorious Acle New Road to Yarmouth and hardly see a car or a lorry.

After a childhood in which she saw and heard German aircraft flying to Norwich and Great Yarmouth on bombing raids in the Second World War the family moved in 1945 to Avenue Farm in Yelverton.

When Shelagh left Thorpe House School for Girls in Norwich she followed her mother into nursing but, during her training, realised that she really wanted a farming life. So she left nursing and set up her own egg-production business at Avenue Farm with hens bought for her by her father. The business led her to join the Stoke Young Farmers Club where she met Terry. They married in July 1962 at Yelverton Church and bought the cottage on White Heath Road in Bergh

Apton where they raised their children Patrick and Rachel.

When the children went to Bergh Apton Primary school (just around the corner, opposite the church) Shelagh decided to help and took a job there preparing, cooking and serving school dinners. When the school closed in 1980 she became a home help for Social Services where, in a way, she returned to the nursing career that her mother had wanted her to follow by caring for the elderly in their homes.

Shelagh loved being part of Bergh Apton village life that included caring for the churchyard for many years. She was right at the heart of many village activities and fund-raising events as a long-serving and active member of the Village Hall and Fete committees and she and Terry hosted the catering for the judges at the Bergh Apton Horse Show. She also helped Ray Wharton and Lynton Johnson to organise Bergh Apton Society events and outings that included some memorable overseas trips, from all of which she would return home with great stories of the good times she had shared with her friends.

In 2019 Shelagh and Terry sold the thatched cottage on White Heath Road that had been home since their marriage in 1962 and moved to Seething Fen - just across the parish boundary from Bussey Bridge - to the family house where her brother Benny had lived until his death in 2018.

It was there that Shelagh died on 14th

July, after been diagnosed with terminal cancer earlier in the year. Her funeral on 11th August was at the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Crematorium.



Top left: A studio portrait photo of Shelagh as a young woman.

Top right: Shelagh and Terry outside Yelverton church on their wedding day

Above: Shelagh (extreme left, with broom) in costume for a Bergh Apton Fete of the late 1980s with a 'Country Fayre' theme*;

**Also on the photo, from left, are Jill Emms, Fred Littlewood, Sandra Sillett, Ted Armiger, Violet Littlewood and Poppy Annis.

TRIP OF A LIFETIME - to UGANDA

Volunteers to SANYU BABIES HOME in Kampala, Uganda arrive from all over the world; many come in gap years and spend time at Sanyu as part of a wider African experience. Some simply stay at Sanyu where they make good friends, experience love, compassion and learn a great deal (perhaps without realising it).



Several from our villages have stayed at Sanyu, as guests or as volunteers. They always have been mightily impressed, have returned home full of stories and have even found themselves a new focus in life. As one volunteer wrote in the Sanyu newsletter, "When I volunteered at Sanyu Babies' Home, I thought I was going

there to make a difference in the lives of the children. Instead, they changed mine".

Sanyu is always looking for those who would like to spend days, weeks or even months, helping out with the needs of the fifty or so rescued babies, rescued from abandonment on the city's streets, or in its drains or even its cesspits. The home does wonders for the babies, who in due course, are adopted, fostered or returned to their wider families. At Sanyu they receive, often, for the first time, a name, a basic education, food, and great healthcare. Amazingly, this year, with the generous support of 'Love Without Boundaries', three year old Gracious was flown to India for open heart surgery and is doing well back at Sanyu. Many of you, over the years, have donated to pay for a doctor and nurses at the Home. Wonderful.

So, if you know of anyone who would like to learn more about this hundred year old but still young at heart centre, contact either:

Liz & Christopher Meynell - Bergh Apton (lizmeynell@gmail.com) or Ruth & John. Everett - Rockland (everettapplebee@hotmail.co.uk).

Early signs of global warming in Africa

A fascinating insight by Bergh Apton resident Dr John Whittow, environmental author of 'The Edge of the Land', of his experience and the challenges he faced investigating glaciers in Uganda in 1957.

Exactly 120 years ago a major expedition, led by the Italian Duke of Savoia, climbed up to the cloud-hidden summits of a previously unexplored major mountain range (110 km. long) on the western border of Uganda. He had been told by porters from the famous late-19th century travels of Henry Morton Stanley that the range was called the Ruwenzori and that its peaks were covered in salt. Instead of salt, the 1906 mountaineers discovered one large ice cap and no less than 30 separate glaciers spread over six different peaks, ranging in height from 16,763 feet to 15,179 feet at their summits. Subsequent estimates have placed the area of ice cover in 1906 as 7.5 sq.km. But during the last British glaciation (20,000 BP- 10,000 BP) the Ruwenzori glaciers must have covered 260 sq.km. within their terminal moraines. These were not like those of Kilimanjaro or Mount Kenya whose ice tongues flowed from single ice domes—the Ruwenzori glaciers filled a network of valleys like those of the Alps. As early as the classical Greek philosophers there were suggestions that these unclimbed equatorial peaks were the fabled "Mountains of the Moon" and a major source of the Nile headwaters.

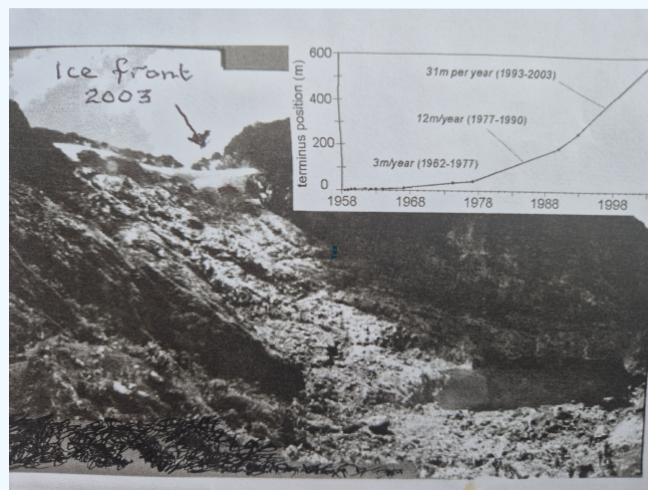
During the International Geophysical Year 1957, I was invited to take part in an expedition from Makerere University College in Uganda (East Africa's only university) to examine the remaining ice cover of the Ruwenzori; help build a new hut at 14,300 feet and measure run-off from a few of its major glaciers. As the glaciologist I was expected to map their major ice fronts and install suitable markers for future reference. Funded by grants from the Royal Society, the Royal Geographical Society and the Mt. Everest Foundation, further expeditions were mounted in 1958 and 1960, in order to extend the research over a wider area. Ice cores were taken above 15,000 feet and considerably more meteorological data accumulated alongside measurement of glacier recession rates.

All the glaciers examined were shown to have become drastically reduced in size since 1906, with an apparent acceleration in melting rates since the 1940's. Six glaciers were found to have disappeared completely whilst several others had split into discrete units. I worked mainly on two of the largest glaciers: the Elena Glacier and the Speke Glacier. The former showed a marked recession even in those four years whilst the latter appeared to be stationary although declining in thickness. Little did we know that the Speke ice tongue which still avalanched into the valley below was only a fragile cover

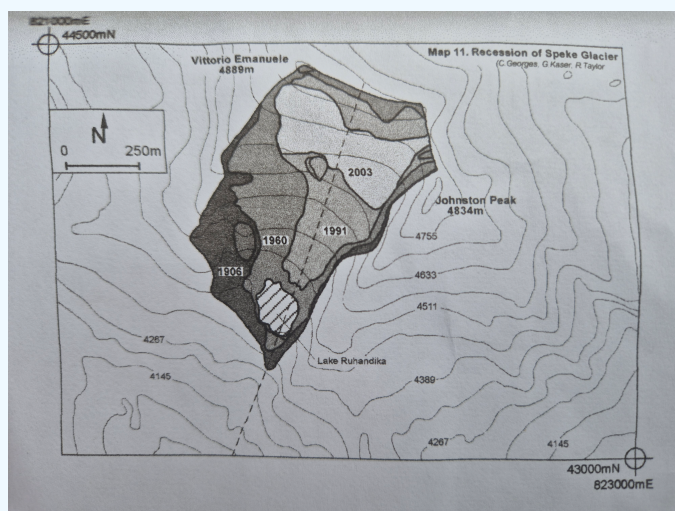
above a deep sub-glacial lake. This entire unit collapsed entirely in a few hours in a subsequent year and latest photographs show that the substantial glacier of 1958 has disappeared almost entirely by 2003 (see photos).



Left: Mount Speke from the south-west showing the snout of the Speke Glacier and its melt stream, with the Bujunku hut (bottom left) in January 1958. Note the cirque-like basin, to the left of the glacier snout, which was full of ice in 1906



Above: Retreat of Speke Glacier



Above: Recession of Speke Glacier

My most arduous exploration was to map the Moore Glacier in a less frequented valley away from the tourist route and its huts. With my colleague, Bill Dickens, and seven porters we climbed from our tent up a rock face to find the ice body was virtually stagnant—modern photographs show its disappearance. We then planned to move over the range's main watershed onto the very remote slopes on the western (Congo) side, to map glaciers rarely visited and previously mapped by Belgian scientists. Having crossed a 14,000-foot pass and descended on the 'wrong' side of the range, away from the main party of our expedition, Bill collapsed with pulmonary oedema and quickly went into a coma. The only means of communication was my note carried by a porter to request help from my colleagues. Meanwhile I used the climbing ropes to tie Bill into a bundle and my remaining six porters slung him on a pole and carried him back through a blizzard and avalanches over onto the Uganda side of the range. A fresh relay transported him on the four-day descent to base camp but with great regret he died before the police, game wardens and hydro-electric plant engineers met the stretcher party, after being delayed by a herd of elephants. Ironically, at the burial at Fort Portal, the police handed me the precious notebook from his pocket that bore the results of glacier meltwater run-off that were needed by the power station operatives. I was asked to convey to the authorities that the other expedition members were still slowly descending and had not been killed as some of the world media had intimated. Our results demonstrated that Ruwenzori glacier recession had been prevalent for several thousand years, long before the Industrial Revolution and may be linked more closely to rainfall anomalies than to temperature change. Our ice cores showed close correlations with modern day wet and dry season fluctuations in East Africa. Other scientists have suggested that decreasing cloud cover on the range has exposed the glaciers to increased ablation from the fierce equatorial sun. Who is correct?

John Whittow

I would like to thank Suzanne Whitby for sending on this account on behalf of BALHG - for those of us who are more recent residents, stories like these are a fascinating insight and we are grateful that information is recorded for future generations.

The Bergh Apton Local History Group were keen to preserve the memories of some of the long standing members of the community. In 1998 they interviewed some of the residents.

Fred and Violet Littlewood of Seven Bells, Threadneedle Street, Bergh Apton.

Part of an interview carried out on Sept 8th 1998:

Fred was born in Bergh Apton, born in 1930. He was the eldest of five children. His father had lived at the Round House in Brooke and then moved to Freestone Cottage in Bergh Apton. Here he worked as an agricultural labourer at Valley Farm, then owned by Mr Waters. In 1938 the family moved to Threadneedle Street when his father bought two houses from Mr Freestone for £300.

Fred started school in Bergh Apton but when the family moved he attended school in Alington. Bergh Apton School had two rooms with a folding partition. There were about 30 children in each class. He passed his scholarship to attend CNS in Norwich. When he left Fred worked at Church Farm which was run by Mr Symonds.

He then joined the Navy in 1949.

Violet Dye was born in 1935 and lived at Kent Cottage then moved when twelve in 1947 with her family to Church Road.

In 1953 Fred and Violet married and were the first couple to use the new village hall for their wedding reception. They bought the cottage which housed the old shop with his sister Vera and her husband Ron. After four years they moved away returning in 1979 to live on Threadneedle Street.

Here are some of their memories of living in the village.

Trades

Freds earliest memory was of going with his mother and sister to do the weekly shop at Grace Lesters shop on The Street. He walked on the footpath between Welbeck Road which came out near the council houses on Church Road. The post office was opposite Hubbards' cottage and was run by Mr and Mrs Lock. The village had local deliveries by the butcher, baker, milkman and fishmonger. Tubby the milkman sold the milk from a churn. Tubby had a smallholding which became Risebourns. Harry Sayer the fishmonger travelled on a horse and cart. The baker also sold flour and yeast. Water was obtained from a well. The one in Threadneedle Street was 90 ft deep.

The whole of Threadneedle Street consisted of market gardens. The cherry orchards belonged to the Vincents who had a carpentry shop (Laurel House) and builders yard. The shop made coffins. The woodshed was by the lokeway adjoining Oak Tree House. Vincent built the village hall in 1952-3.

The doctors' house and surgery was at Holly House. The waiting room was in the hallway with seats under the stairs.

Activities

Fred played football on the roads and at Harveys' Field which was an open meadow near the council houses. He then played for Alington in a league where Church Meadow is now.

There were films at the village hall once a week with the travelling cinema which cost one shilling. Also whist drives and dances. Dance lessons took place at Bergh Apton School. Eddie Gates was the blind pianist. There was square and ballroom dancing in the 1940s. An occasional coach took everyone to a dance in the Floral Hall in Gorleston.

The fete was at the Manor. There was a beer tent and Pat Annis sold trays of cherries. The Denny Cookes owned the Manor in the 1940s-50s and were very socially minded. The Girl Guides, Brownies and Red Cross met there. The children played in the park at the Manor. Church was better attended. The Sunday school was held where the organ is

now and the organ was up in the balcony.

Transport

There were only three cars in the village, the doctors, Denny Cookes and someone else.

Public transport was provided by Bloomfields (taken over by Cullings) to Ber Street, Norwich on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Eastern Counties offered a service from Hellington Corner.

The War

Fred remembered the American airfield at Seething. In 1944 he attended a Christmas party held at the base for school children. There are some photographs of the event in a publication ("Over Here-Americans in Norfolk"). He travelled there in the back of a truck. He remembered returning American aircraft being followed by the Germans and being shot at. There was a search light on Cookes Road.

Unexploded shells and incendiary bombs were found on Bob Debbages land (left from a raid on Norwich). Although there were Anderson shelters in the gardens Fred and Violet remembered sitting under the table during the raids. There was a dummy airfield at Rockland St Mary which was set on fire during air raids as a decoy.



In the photograph are Nellie Jermy (brides mother), Fred, Violet and Freds' mother

A MANSION HOUSE CALLED THE COTTAGE

by John Ling

A potted history of Bergh Apton House

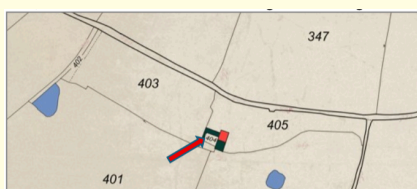
The hidden architectural gem Bergh Apton House stands in its own parkland to the south of Loddon Road with its eastern border following the course of Bungay Lane. Until the 1950s it was called 'Bergh Apton Cottage' - a rather underwhelming description of this elegant house with nine bedrooms that stands in its own considerable acreage of park and garden.

But it reflects its origins as a Dower House commissioned by a wealthy family whose stately home in Brooke was a Palladian pile that had 24 bedrooms.ⁱ

It was built in the 'Cottage Ornée' styleⁱⁱ to replace an earlier dwelling that was most likely a simple cottage of the 1700s built before the land was owned by Quaker Thomas Kett (1746-1820) of Seething Old Hall and Brooke Houseⁱⁱⁱ. We don't know when the Dower House was built but it was certainly before 1811 when a codicil to Thomas Kett's Will of

1811 described it as 'the Mansion House called The Cottage and 132 acres of land'^{iv}. The codicil left the house and its land in trust to his daughter Juliana who had married Quaker brewer Charles Tompson of Norwich in 1805. In 1819, when it was advertised in a Norwich newspaper to let, it was described as a 'Cottage Ornée in grounds of 34 acres'^v.

So, the house existed long before Bergh Apton's tithe map of 1839 was drawn up. Yet the map - generally pretty accurate in the size and shape of buildings - shows it (see below) much more like the rather modest-sized cottage (in red) with outbuildings (in black)^{vi} that was probably there before the cottage ornée was built.



But the evidence of Thomas Kett's Will of 1811 and that 1819 advert - that the larger house was there at the beginning of the nineteenth century^{vii} - is so strong that we need to accept it and leave the riddle of the Tithe Map drawing for another time.

The earliest illustration (P11) in the Local History Group's archive is one of 1879 when the house and grounds were included in the sale by auction of the entire Brooke House estate. That sale was the result of a ruling of the Court in Chancery^{viii} that may be related to a traumatic time for the Kett family in which George Samuel Kett, owner of the Brooke Estate, died in April 1871, followed in January 1872 by the death of his sister Juliana (to whom, when he died, Kett had passed Bergh Apton Cottage and its lands) followed in November of the year by the death of Henry Kett Kett-Tompson^{ix} to whom, in his Will, George Samuel Kett had willed the rest of the Brooke Estate. Thus, within the span of eighteen months, three successive owners of the estate had died in short order.

(Continued P11)

COUNTRY MATTERS

THE HYLDEMOER

RUIS

In your garden hedge
and you not caring
ass among trees with
my cargo of wonders
Aonghas MacNeacail

Oak, ash and beech stand tall and beside them the elder looks a scrawny thing, neither tree nor bush but it is a gift to Mankind. If ever you want a branch from the elder you must ask the Elder Mother or woe betide you!

We live in a land marinated in song and story, rhymes, riddles and rituals and here is my story of a boy who forgot to ask to add to the mix.

Without thinking he stretched up and broke a bough from an elder tree and that is how it all started.

*Non, Neb and Luck lived in Beorgh, a small settlement. They had taken Black Boodie, a good hunting hound with them and were off rabbiting for Neb's mother had promised rabbit stew for supper and Non and Luck were going to share but as she had said, 'First catch the rabbits!'

Beorgh was about a journey of new moon to half moon from the Saxon shore but rumours told of these fierce men moving inland and unease and fear hung like smoke over the settlement. The boys had been warned to be wary and watchful. Grandfather had told them the best thing to take with them was common sense. They set off following a path once made by claw, paw and hoof but long used now by those of Beorgh.

It was late afternoon when the boys reached what was known as the Wild Wood, Black Boodie stopped, his ears cocked and he sniffed the air and, suddenly was gone, chasing fast. They called but the hound's nose was down following scent and he was not for calling back.

'We must get him back,' said Luck, 'If only we had a whistle.'

Without thinking he stretched up and broke a branch from an elder tree, his father had shown him how to hollow it and make a whistle. In the wink of an eye an old woman stood in front of the boys, she held Black Boodie by the collar. Her face was wrinkled as a long stored apple, her hair straggled limp and uncombed over her shoulders. A green gown, once fresh and bright as a leaf in Spring was tattered; Though bent and bowed with age she stared at them from sharp dark eyes.

'Ha! You did not expect this, you forgot to ask if you could have one of my branches. If you bring me three gifts then I will return your hound and you have till the next sunrise to find them. The first is a leaf from

the Golden Elder Tree. The second is a box that within is the silver whistle of Annkin the Wise and the third is a Prince who knows how to make me young. Where will you find them? That's for me to know and you to find out.' With that the old Elder Mother and Black Boodie vanished into the elder tree.

An elder tree and no ordinary elder but golden, Non, Neb and Luck had never heard of such a tree. They followed the path deeper into the Wild Wood, it was shadow haunted under the trees and they felt they were watched by many who kept themselves secret. The boys hurried on and in the heart of the wood surrounded by a shieldwall of dark holly trees they found the Golden Elder Tree. Every leaf, branch, flowers and berries were a shining gold. The boys stood and stared then pushed between the holly trees. It was Non who stepped forward and, kneeling, spoke to the tree.

'Golden Elder Tree will you give us one of your beautiful leaves please?'

They waited anxiously and then heard, 'Riddle-me-ree and Riddle-me-rye what am I? I run all day but never get out of bed. I have a mouth but no teeth or tongue yet you can hear my voice. Give me my name.'

Non, Neb and Luck stood silent, thinking hard. Grandfather asked them riddles full of trickery but this foxed them. Suddenly Neb shouted out, 'It's a river!'

One golden leaf from the top of the tree drifted as softly as a snowflake to land in his outstretched hand. Neb caged it in his fingers, they bowed to the shining tree and on they went further into the wood and came to a huge standing stone that the villagers called the Giant. It was ancient, three times their height, webbed with lichen and mosses. Strange signs were carved on it, who knows how long ago. Grandfather had said these signs were runes but he did not know how to read them and he told them that Merlin, enchanter to Arthur, the high King, had brought the stone there and raised it by magic. The moon was rising with its companion the Evening Star, it was a new moon, silvery gold and curved like the blade of a scythe. Non, Neb and Luck knew respect must be shown to a new moon and perhaps she would grant a wish so they knelt and each made a silent wish.

'Look,' whispered Luck, 'there's a box by the Giant's foot.'

They went to the great stone, they felt its power, at its foot was a wooden box, quite small and made of some dark polished wood and they felt sure the moon had granted their wishes. They stood still for, coiled round the box was an adder, Nathair the Adder, handsome in black and white, his tongue flickering. Like the new moon, adders were shown respect. Neb knelt with Non and Luck standing by him and spoke to the Adder, 'Great and wise Nathair, the

Elder Mother desires the silver whistle of Annikin the Wise and we think it is in the box you guard, may we have it to take to her?'

'Yesss, the whissstle is in thiss box but firsst let uss ssssee how sssharp are your witsss, anssswr this and you may have the whissstle,' replied Nathair.

'A box that hass no lid nor hingesss and no lock but a golden treasssure is hidden within.'

The boys stood silent, thinking hard. By chance a blackbird flew out of a tall hedge nearby and Luck's sharp eyes saw a nest and that gave him a clue. 'It's an egg, it's an egg!' he shouted.

'Yessss,' and the Adder uncoiled and slid away.

Luck seized the box and away they ran. They had gone but a short distance when approaching them was a man leading his horse. This man was no villager, he wore a robe red as the setting sun and carried a sword, he walked slowly for his great grey destrier had gone lame, Neb was the son of a blacksmith and he ran forward, 'Lord, your horse is lame, I can guess what the trouble is, I can help.'

He whispered to the horse and then lifted one of the forefeet and wedged in the hoof was, as he guessed, a stone. Using his knife he pried it out and patted the horse and spoke softly to him and led him a few steps.

'See, my Lord, he walks well enough now.'

'I am Prince Anselm, my grateful thanks to you. Perhaps I can serve you in some way?'

Non, Neb and Luck looked at each other and then told the Prince of the Elder Mother's wish to be young again. Prince Anselm with his horse now stepping proudly and the boys retraced their weary steps back to the elder tree and Non took the whistle from the box and blew three times.

At once the old Elder Mother appeared and by her side was Black Boodie.

Prince Anselm stepped forward and from the saddlebag took a garland of elder flowers, white as sea foam and placed it on her head. In the twinkling of an eye she became a beautiful young woman in a grass green gown.

'You have done very well boys. Here is your hound. Remember never break branches from an elder tree and that my berries and flowers are a gift to all of Mankind.'

Non, Neb and Luck and Black Boodie raced away, 'We still have a rabbit to catch and what a tale to tell!'

* Over the south door of Bergh Apton church are three heads, worn by time and weather as they were in place long before the porch was added. It is not known who they were but I have named them Non, Neb and Luck.

Pat Mlejnecky

BERGH APTON ARTS

INK & PAPER - HAND & EYE

One Saturday towards the end of August those who will be taking part in the Drypoint Workshop in September were invited to come and meet Georgina Warne, the tutor. She described the process and showed us some of her own prints, it was just like a Private View! We looked, we listened, we learned.



Peter:

A get together of those who had booked places on the Drypoint Workshop was organised for a Saturday to meet Georgina, the tutor, to show us what was possible with this method of printmaking. She brought along many examples of her own work and the tools we would be working with. These included sheets of clear Perspex that we would use as plates and various implements for scratching images into them. She even brought some sandpaper which can be used to create textures when rubbed on the plates. The Perspex is quite thin and can be cut with scissors to create different shapes rather than the standard rectangle. It can even be burnt along the edges with a candle to create a jagged edge. Some of the examples had been hand coloured after printing which adds another dimension.

The theme of the workshop is to create an image of any plant or creature that is native to Britain and we left the meeting full of inspiration and looking forward to the workshop itself.

Karleen :

I am rather shy about these things but I saw the workshop in the Bergh Apton Broadcast. I had seen a previous one advertised but being new in the village I didn't feel confident to join in. However, after getting to know Jenny during the Tommy soldier workshop last year and then meeting Suzanne several times, I was very happy to sign up for the Drypoint Workshop. I am very much looking forward to it.

Suzanne :

On Saturday I joined a group of fellow Bergh Apton residents to meet Georgina Warne, ceramicist and printmaker who will be leading a drypoint print making workshop. This was an opportunity to see some of her work and have the process explained to give us understanding of the process and gain ideas we could try as well as ask questions. Georgina started by showing examples of her work. Beautiful prints of wild life such as hares, in subtle colours. She then explained the basic principles and approaches. Drypoint printing involves scratching marks into a sheet of metal or plastic to create a burr. The sheet is then covered in ink and some of the colour removed to leave the ink in the burr and partly on the surface. The sheet is then printed on wetted paper in a press to create the image. Georgina showed us the same print using different types of paper which created different effects. It is possible to use the sheet several times. Georgina often combines both ceramics and printing by printing directly on to the clay, as well as hand painting onto the image. She also showed a technique of pulling the printed image through molten wax which leaves golden wax on the surface creating a golden hue to the print. For some the process was new and for others who have previously used the technique, a great reminder. For all it was an enjoyable morning and we are looking forward to the workshop.

Continued from Pg



Leaving aside the complex matter of estate duty payable in such circumstances, this is a classic case of litigation on the succession to a large and valuable country estate. In January 1879 the Court in Chancery decreed that the whole estate, defined in the sale catalogue as 'In re Tompson's Settled Estates', was to be auctioned to establish its true value.

The sale took place on Thursday 31st July of 1879 in Tokenhouse Yard near the Bank of England. The family bought back the most significant parts of the estate including Bergh Apton Cottage and life seems to have then settled down, with the fortunate John Henry Manners-Sutton, 3rd Viscount Canterbury, becoming the new owner of the whole Brooke House estate. ^x

After that series of family excitements Bergh Apton Cottage looks to have been rented by a series of (presumably wealthy) tenants until, sometime in the very early 1920s, the 6th Lord Canterbury lived there for a time having sold the main family home of Brooke House.

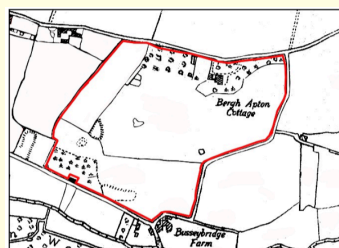
There is no public record of who lived there in the

time of the 1931 census because the entire England and Wales census was destroyed in an enemy air raid in 1942. However, through a chance too complex (and rather scurrilous) to explain here, we know that Major Thomas Edward Bussell and his wife Annie Livingston (née Bruce) occupied the house in that time.

On a techno-historic note, Major Bussell had the first telephone installed in a house in Bergh Apton. Below is his entry in the telephone directory of the time.

Norwich ... 1784	Bussell & Co., Umbrella Manfrs .. 26 Magdalen st
Brooke 12	Bussell Major T. E. Bergh-Apton
Downham ... 43	Bussell & Parkin, Wholesale, Red Irons High st
Stalham ... 14	Bussell A. O., Fruit, Flower Grower, Wayford
Harleston ... 22	Bussell P. C., Grocer, Providence Mount, Thomsenhurst

The death of the 6th (and last) Viscount Canterbury in 1946, who had no surviving children, brought the title to an end and the final elements of the once-vast Brooke House Estate were sold off. The Cottage and its lands (below)



went under the hammer at the Royal Hotel in Norwich on June 15th 1946.

I haven't done the work required to check who bought the house then but it may have been the Beauchamp family whose main house in Langley had been requisitioned by the Army for the duration of the war and then leased to Langley School.

Langley Park owner Shelah Barker-Hahlo ^{xi}, the daughter of Sir Reginald William Proctor Beauchamp, bought Bergh Apton Cottage as her new home. She died in Southampton on board the Polish liner 'Batony' in 1953, at the age of 71 and was succeeded at The Cottage by her son Jocelyn, who had taken the name Beauchamp on coming of age in 1931. Jocelyn, a confirmed bachelor who was an RNVR Fleet Air Arm pilot in WW2, and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, died at The Cottage in 1958 when he was 48 years old. ^{xii}

His executors sold the Cottage to the eminent Norwich Hospital Surgeon John Stephens who, with his redoubtable wife Bar, brought up their three children Muff, Pippa and Tim in the house they renamed 'Bergh Apton House'.

That brings us, following the death of John in 2004 and Bar in 2023, right up to date with Tim and Miranda as resident owners of what is still a family home for their children Gus, Isabella and Roseanna, though all are now pursuing careers away from home.

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

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Join our Facebook community at:

'Bergh Apton Community Noticeboard'

or look on our website

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

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

**Monday 21st
December**

SAVE THE DATE



Continue Bergh Apton's annual tradition and join in with **carol singing** around the village. Everyone is welcome! Details in the next newsletter, or contact Rebecca on 07564 061917

Village Diary

October

1st 10 - 1pm	Charity coffee morning at Washingford House
3rd 9.30am	Decorate church for harvest & gift day
4th 10am	Harvest Festival at church
14th 7.30pm	BA Society talk by Louis Poulson on The Amazing Pike
17th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
17th 7pm	Serendipity Choir at church
18th 1.30pm	BACT Fungus Foray with Dr Tony Leech. Meet at Church Field.
21st 10am-12	Coffee 'n' Chat
21st 2-4pm	BALHG archiving
21st 5pm	BA Society visit to Gt Yarmouth greyhounds
21st 7.30pm	BALHG talk on the History of Norwich Shawls
22nd 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
31st 6.30 for 7pm	Quiz 'n' Chilli for church upkeep at village hall

November

4th 7pm	Parish Council meet
8th 10.30am	Remembrance Day Service at BA Parish Church followed by soup at the village hall
11th 7.30pm	BA Society talk by Jim Stebbings on Sentiments of Christmas
15th 11am	Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal Service at BA church
18th 10am-12	Coffee 'n' Chat
18th 2-4pm	BALHG archiving
18th 7.30pm	BALHG talk on Trades of 19th/20th centuries
20th 7pm	Lardal Kantori at Church
21st 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
25th 7pm	Village Hall Management Trust meeting
26th 10am	BACT Workday. Meet at Church Field
27th TBA	BA Society visit to Thursford
28th 9am	11 Says assembly at village

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

December

2nd 10-4pm	Christmas Wreath Workshop at the village hall
11th 7 for 7.30pm	Christmas Bingo
21st	Carol Singing around village