



THE CHARTER

Beccles Town Council

Issue 11

DECEMBER 2008

BECCLES FRIDAY MARKET

On 4th June 2008 after approximately six years of negotiations, the Friday Market was transferred to Beccles Town Council. This is a milestone in the Council calendar as talk of facilities being returned to parish and town councils is now becoming a reality.

The market is the first devolved function from Waveney District Council. We await the outcome of other facilities coming under the control of Beccles.

Currently there are four stalls who are regulars, but it is hoped to turn this around very soon. There are hopes to source funding from Suffolk Acre for the supply of electricity for the stalls which in turn, will encourage new traders to the market.

OUR TRADERS

Wet Fish

Tony Law has a wet fish stall selling good quality produce along with a smile and a witty remark!

Eggs

Joining him is John 'the egg

man', who has a dry humour and chat up lines as fresh as the eggs he sells.

Dried Foods

Mr Randle looks after the cooks amongst us and those who are into healthy 'snacks' as he provides dried fruits, nuts and many other scrummy nibbles.

Fruit & Vegetables

Miles looks after us by supplying our '5 fruit and vegetables a day'. Here you can buy everything you need from melons to turnips, all of the highest quality.

Hot Sausages

Recently 'The Flying Chef' has joined our market. Christine produces quality home-made sausages and sauces with lovely soft rolls and garnish.

Cheeses, breads, etc

Arriving in early December Bill Lewis is bringing his vast range of cheeses, pickles and new bread for you to savour.

The Friday Market Working Party are currently considering ways in which to help the

traders further by seeking funding for electricity, etc.

Mr Tidy

We are fortunate in Beccles to have 'Mr Tidy', who will be assisting with the new cleaning regime starting in November. This will make a considerable saving on cleaning costs previously carried out by Waveney District Council.

Talks have been held with the traders and the high rent set by Waveney District Council was one of their concerns. This has now been addressed and hopefully, through word of mouth by our regular traders, we may see further additions to the market.

It would be helpful if we could gauge how the public feel about Beccles Market.

If you have any comments or feel you can contribute in any way with suggestions or ideas, etc, it would be very much appreciated if you would contact the Town Hall by letter, e mail jula.janney@beccles.info, or by telephone-01502 712109.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS

'THE COUNCIL'S APPRENTICE' COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CATCHPOLE

I have been the 'new boy' of the Town Council for three months and was asked by Jula Janney, the Editor of this newsletter for my first impressions of Council life - but to keep it short!

Firstly, I need new glasses for all the documents I am expected to read-not all vitally important but if you miss the ones that are, you do so at your peril!

The first lesson learned is that everybody believes that their opinion is valid and correct but has to be respected, even though it may be different from your own. Only by listening with an open mind, considering all information and then through good debate decisions are reached. The Town Council is extremely important to Beccles, but this is not always obvious. With the potential Local Govern-

ment re-organisation next year, the role of the Town Council could become even more crucial in supporting and promoting our market town.

As I get to grips with council procedures and protocol; Standing Orders; working parties and the various committees, I look forward to making a difference through representing the people of Beccles. I welcome opinions on issues that concern both Beccles and Rigbourne Ward.

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Mrs Berenice Broom—Town Clerk

Mrs Jula Janney—Deputy Town Clerk and Editor of The Charter

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DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL'S NEW WEBSITE?

DID YOU KNOW?

Beccles Town Council has its own website?

DID YOU KNOW?

You can find out who your Ward Councillors are by clicking on **COUNCIL** then **COUNCILLORS**

DID YOU KNOW?

You can meet your Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk by clicking Council and then Staff

DID YOU KNOW?

You can advertise your group, society, association, business etc, free of charge.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your future events can be published

on the website free of charge.

DID YOU KNOW?

That you can look up old photographs, look at the Time Line, find out the weather and also search for directions on the map for those days out.

DID YOU KNOW

That in October the website had 5,410 unique hits—that's an awful lot of interest!

IF THE ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS IS NO

You can find out more information by contacting Mrs Janney, Deputy Town Clerk, by phone: 01502 712109 Mon-Fri 9am-3pm, or by e

mail jula.janney@beccles.info

Log on to www.beccles.info and e mail direct anything you wish to be included on the Events Page, Directory or advertised on the Home Page.

The Website is always being updated and hopefully something new will be viewed whenever you log on. A 'Council Information Page' giving news and views will be available shortly. Planning and Town Council agendas will also be included on this page.

REPORTING LOAN SHARKS IN SUFFOLK East of England Illegal Money Lending Team & Suffolk Trading Standards

A Loan Shark is someone who lends money without the appropriate licence issued by the Office of Fair Trading. Loan Sharks rarely, if ever, give any paperwork and if payments are missed they often use intimidation and violence to get money from their 'clients'. The East of England Illegal Money Lending Team, working with Suffolk Trading Standards, is here to help. If you have any information, however small, on loan shark activities, we can help.

Have you been offered a cash loan? Have you been threatened when you couldn't pay? Has your bank card been taken from you as a security? Does what you owe keep growing even though you are making payments?

If you can answer yes to any of the above, then you may have been bitten by a Loan Shark. If you, or anyone you know, is experiencing any of the above, or has any knowledge of Loan Shark activities, then contact our team **IN CONFIDENCE**.

We can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **0300 555 2222** or by e mail at stoploansharks@suffolk.gov.uk or by text to: loan(space)shark (space) + your message to 60003.

If you have any fond memories of your youth in Beccles and surround, or have a story from friends and family then please e mail this to jula.janney@beccles.info who will forward it to the Beccles Town Council website for inclusion on the 'History of Beccles' page.

WARNING—KEEP YOUR VALUABLES SAFE—PURSE THEFTS IN BECCLES BY BECCLES POLICE

You may have seen posters over the past few weeks warning shoppers of purse thefts in the area. Nothing is so distressing as losing your purse so take heed of the warnings by the Police given for your protection.

The Police advise that you...

1. **Keep your purse out of sight.**
2. **Zip up your bag—keep it closed.**
3. **Wear a shoulder bag across the**

front of your body.

4. **If people push or bump into you—check your bag straight away.**
5. **Do NOT leave your handbag on a shopping trolley or pushchair—hold on to it.**

These are sensible measures to take on board, especially during the Christmas Shopping period now upon us. There are always those who will prey on the

vulnerable and trusting soul, so forewarned is forearmed!

Please don't let these people ruin your Christmas, and enjoy safer shopping by following these simple precautions.



Have a wonderful Christmas Holiday



A CHRISTMAS DAY DIP

At 10.am on Christmas Day, hoards of brave people will be running into the icy North Sea at Cobbolds Point, Felixstowe to raise funds for the Hospice. Last year the event raised over £6,000 and we hope that you will join us in making this year even bigger and better. This is a great chance to do something different on Christmas morning and really work up an appetite for Christmas dinner!

St Elizabeth Hospice provides specialist care and support for people in East Suffolk who have a life-limiting illness for whom the focus of care is quality of life. The Hospice is an independent local charity and all services are provided free

of charge. In total it costs £5.2 million each year to run the Hospice, of which 77% is raised by supporters.

For more information regarding the Christmas Day Dip, or how you can get involved, please contact the fundraising team on 01473 723600, or email: fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk or visit www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk

This is a brilliant idea for anyone who wishes to raise funds for a charity close to their hearts.

You could organise this yourself, but it may be a good idea to first contact the fundraising team to get all the relevant details for carrying out this fun event.



Staff from Michael Richards Hairdressers taking a dip on Christmas Day in 2007

COMMONS WORKING PARTY update— Councillor Chris Punt, Waveney District

Welcome to the November update of Beccles Town Council's Commons and Estates Working Party.

Currently we are looking at ideas to stop people driving onto the Common causing damage to grass and soil. We have some thoughts down on paper and are looking to implement them as soon as possible, but your design ideas and comments are always appreciated, so send them into the Town Hall with drawings where applicable (but keep them polite, please!).

As we head into Winter, we are starting to identify jobs to work on within the budget, namely the maintenance of the Gorse and

the next section of dyke to dredge. *If you identify any other works on the Council's estates, then please contact the Town Hall on 01502 712109.*

In the last three months the main highlights have been:

Pupils from Bungay High School, supervised by Colin Hart of The Broads Authority, have been digging small channels at the back of Boney's Island and re-profiling the ditch to improve drainage.

Boney's Island has also had attention regarding 'bush whacking' back the overgrown hedge and brambles, removal of dead trees to generally 'open up' the area. Thanks go to

Nick Stopher and Nick Harrison who organised and carried out these works. Walkers will find this area more accessible and should improve drainage which will encourage new growth.

New security bollards and a gate (prompted by the Police) have been ordered for the Rugby practice pitch from Suffolk Highways, but are still awaiting installation. Once installed it should provide better security for this area.

The main lowlights are:

Damage to the Common by very poor drivers who should realise that they are not insured when driving on Common land!

CHRISTMAS IN BECCLES

I hope you attended the 7th Late Night Christmas Shopping on Friday 28th November at 6.00 pm and saw the grand Christmas lights Switch-on carried out this year by Terry Molloy of The Archers and mad scientist Davros in Dr Who). I trust you enjoyed the many stalls offering gifts, sustenance and games along with the many rides, some scary and some more suited to the faint hearted! Did you find Santa Claus hiding from the snow, or did he wave to you whilst you were listening to the Brass or Samba Bands in the town. Was he in Hungate Church waiting for the switch-on of the Christmas Trees by the Deputy Mayor? These grow in number and are more lovingly decorated every year. Let's hope you had a wonderful time and a big thank you to Beccles Business Association

and those who supported the evening either by sponsorship or by helping during the day and throughout the evening. **Well Done to All!**

NEW LIGHTS IN BECCLES

This year the Christmas lights have a new look about them in some parts of the town, with the introduction of LED lighting. These lights have a very long life span with a lower electricity consumption, falling in line with EU regulations which come into force next year. You will see more Christmas trees linked together with illuminated Father Christmas, Snowmen, Angels, Stars, Bells, Reindeers, and Candles—a colourful display for all



HO HO HO!

who live in or visit Beccles over the festive season.

Thanks go to those businesses, and individuals who give support each year by allowing the contractors to use their electricity supply for the lights; some donating the electricity used.

Brett Snowling, along with Crisps Builders, are working with the Beccles Business Association and Beccles Town Council to make Beccles Christmas Lights extra special for us all to enjoy year after year!

Beccles Town Council

Pride in Beccles have finally received the go ahead from the local authority to install two new town signs at the entrances to Beccles in George Westwood Way and Ellough Road. Now all five main roadways show Queen Elizabeth I honouring Sir John Bass with the 1584 Beccles Charter.

We're on the web www.beccles.info



BECCLES TOWN COUNCILLORS—CONTACT DETAILS			
WARD	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
CENTRE	Peck, D W	8 Waveney Road BECCLES NR34 9NW	01502 712627
	Richardson, C	12 South Road BECCLES NR34 9PB	01502 719744
	Scott, C J	3 Firfield Close BECCLES NR34 9YE	01502 714831
	Woodruff, B	13 Meadow Gardens BECCLES NR34 9PA	01502 713053
COMMON	Bubb, Mrs S	'Greenacres' Clarke's Lane, Barsham BECCLES NR34 8HN	01502 713314
	Doherty, M	4 Kilbrack BECCLES NR34 9SH	01502 716324
	Featherstone, Miss J	6 Old Farm Road BECCLES NR34 9RW	01502 715606
	Smith, D M	14 Station Road BECCLES NR34 9QJ	01502 718018
RIGBOURNE	Catchpole, G	32 Coney Hill BECCLES NR34 7AZ	01502 715819
	Sutch, A	2 Grange Road BECCLES NR34 9NR	01502 713179
	Thwaites, A P	20 South Road BECCLES NR34 9NY	01502 714161
	Topping, Mrs C	7 Rigbourne Hill BECCLES NR34 9JG	01502 717276
DARBY	Harris, J D	26 Hungate BECCLES NR34 9TT	01502 717237
	Sigsworth, J	14 Janet Hadenham Close Worlingham BECCLES NR34 7SL	01502 711473
	Taylor, B	2 Fairfax Court BECCLES NR34 9XG	01502 713307
	Walmsley, J	37 Kemp's Lane BECCLES NR34 9XB	01502 717853

THE BECCLES SOCIETY
'To stimulate public awareness and appreciation of the beauty, history and character of Beccles and its surroundings'

The 'Beccles Society' is a 'civic society', best described by 'The Civic Trust' (www.civicsocieties.org.uk).
"Civic Societies represent us all. They are groups of local people who, like the Civic Trust, are passionate about the places in which we all live, work and relax."
 Residents recognise Beccles is special. It is ancient, vibrant and surprises the first-time visitor. Maintaining this character versus developments to meet changing needs creates tension. This is nothing new. Formation of the Society arose from people opposing a scheme they considered 'over development'.
 The Society aims are:
"To stimulate public awareness and appreciation of the beauty, history and character of Beccles and its surrounds."

How do we achieve this?
 We consider planning applications for potential effect upon the town. For example, we encouraged changes to Tesco store design, softening the 'industrial' appearance.
Informed unbiased input can influence!
 We encourage high standards by recognising good commercial and private developments, such as 'Eileen Crisp Court' houses, Prezzo and Mulberry Kitchens. All these developments enhanced Beccles' character.
 We are currently organising a school local history project award, to stimulate children's interest in their town.
 We contribute street hardware to add interest - ie plaques, signs and the milestone replica situated outside the Town Hall and intend siting four maps on top of Beccles Clock Tower to assist visitors.

We sit on the Mayoral working parties, giving us direct connection with Councillors.
 We belong to 'The Suffolk Preservation Society', allowing access to professional advice, assistance and influence.
Finally, we welcome everybody who loves Beccles to join us. Please contact:



Chairman:
John Sayer
01502 717415
Secretary:
Bob Aris
01502 716755

The Beccles Society