



THE CHARTER

Beccles Town Council



BECCLES CHRISTMAS MARKET FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER 8AM-4PM

Issue 15
December 2009

Beccles & District Regeneration Ltd are closing New Market on Friday 18th December 2009 from 8am to 4pm (road will be closed from 6am) to hold their second larger Market for Beccles which will help shoppers to do some last minute Christmas shopping. At this moment around twenty stalls will be trading, including books, soaps and driftwood craft, jewellery, shrubs, Christmas trees, and Christmas wreaths, joining the usual Market Traders. Charity stalls attending to date are East Anglia Air Ambulance and Beccles Lido.

Your usual Market traders serving the community of Beccles in all weathers are:-



Tony Law serving Fresh Fish every Friday with a smile and a cheery word

John Pavitt supplying barn and free range, eggs and pickles.



John has replaced John Capron, the original 'Egg man' for many years, who has recently retired, but since then has been suffering from ill health.



Linda Rowe is a newcomer to Beccles Market and is selling good quality

labeled baby and toddler clothes along with a small selection of garden plants.

Gerald Randle serves Whole-foods and has a vast selection of dried fruits and nuts. Finally.....



Miles of CCW Markets serving fresh Fruit and Vegetables all year round.

Unfortunately due to poor sales, we have lost Bill Lewis with his wonderful array of cheeses and breads. Let's hope he comes back in the near future.

Beccles & District Regeneration Limited have, in the last

few weeks, had electricity installed for use by both Traders and Beccles Business Association for organized outside events. This, hopefully, will be a facility which will encourage more traders to the Market and also make life a little easier for those running events in the town centre.

If both the community and visitors use Beccles Friday Market more regularly, it will help to keep Beccles a Market Town, encouraging visitors and new trade alike to this beautiful location. The Market needs more traders to attend the Market to keep this facility alive.

If you are interested in being part of the regular market, or would like to be included on the Christmas Friday Market and require further information, then please go to www.beccles.info where you can download an application form, or telephone Mrs Jula Janney on 01502 712109 between 9am and 3pm Monday to Friday.

BECCLES COMMUNITY ARTS 'CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE' FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER EXCHANGE SQUARE, BECCLES AT 4.30 PM

Beccles Community Arts are holding the 4th 'Carols Round the Christmas Tree'. This is now an annual event on the school calendar as every local school is invited to take part. It is hoped that this event will be well supported by the schools and

the community. A number of students from the Sir John Leman High School play for the children who sing a number of popular carols and Christmas songs. Father Christmas usually comes to see the children with an endless supply of sweets.



If you can make it, do come along for a good, old fashioned sing-

along around the Christmas tree and remember the true meaning of Christmas.

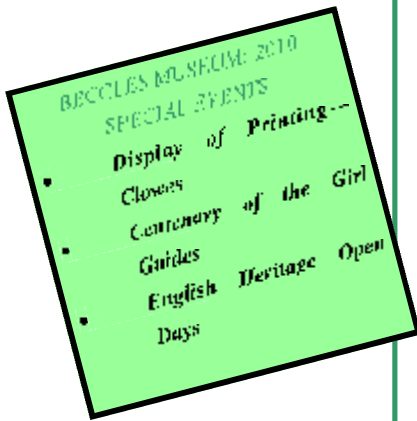
For info: 01502 712109

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Editor: Mrs Jula Janney



LOOK OUT PICK POCKETS ABOUT!

Make sure purses/wallets are kept close to you when shopping this Christmas! Be aware who is behind you—zip that handbag and watch that wallet!

LOOK OUT!



THE CHARTER

BECCLES MUSEUM
Leman House, Ballygate, BECCLES NR34 9ND
thecurator@becclesmuseum.org.uk — www.becclesmuseum.org.uk

Beccles & District Museum would like to give a big **THANK YOU** to all their stewards and volunteers along with the Feoffees (Beccles Townlands Trust) as Landlords. They all give much appreciated help and support to keep the Museum thriving. Special thanks to Maureen Edwards, Rota Manager who has now retired and a warm welcome to David Broom who has taken over this role.

The Museum had a good start from Easter through to September showing increases in visitors from 2008. This was helped through the Barsham and East Suffolk Rail-

way Exhibitions. Planned special events were very successful, such as the Waveney Revels on Easter Monday when Queen Elizabeth I arrived on horseback, and the English Heritage Open Day tours of Leman House, led by Ian Hinton. Other successful events, organized by Pam Finch, were the Victorian Clothes Show on Tuesdays and Thursdays during September and the Museum is now part of the History and Ghost Walks. You might also have seen a Duck on the premises as part of the Beccles Duck Trail! The Railwayman's Weekend in June proved very popular and the Museum gained

valuable archive material. The Sir John Leman portrait and retinue is proving a valuable asset to the Museum. Members recently visited Hampton Court to see an earlier version of his portrait painted by the same artist Levinus de Vogelaare in 1616.

John Brodribb has moved to new pastures and so Pam Finch is taking over as Curator with **Jenny Willer** as her assistant. As always, new help is always welcomed—if you feel you have some spare time please phone **David Broom on 01502 715722**. Full training will be given at a pre-season course for existing and new stewards.

AN INTRODUCTION TO AID & ASSIST
Registered Charity No. 1002282

Aid & Assist is a Registered Charity established in 1983 and operates in the Waveney area to help both the Local Community and Environment. Based at Lowestoft the aim of the project is to collect, free of charge, unwanted items, such as furniture and electrical goods, all within current safety regulations, which can be re-used or recycled.

Household goods received can be passed on at a low cost to those in need

Work experience is available to adults with learning/mental difficulties, providing placements in the community, along with promoting an ongoing program of practical, vocational and social skills.

The Property Maintenance service offers a 10% discount

to those on benefits. Basic gardening services start at £15 for the first hour and then £10 thereafter.

For further information please call: 01502 586925 or if you have access to a computer look at the website on:

www.onesuffolk.co.uk/aidandassistproject

54 High Street, Lowestoft NR32 1JA
Open Mon-Fri 9.00-4.00

WAVENEY STARDUST II UPDATE
Enquiries: Janet on 07817920502

Waveney Stardust II is currently sitting ~~ashore~~ in a 'boat bag', rather like a butterfly in a chrysalis, waiting to burst forth into life! Our second cruiser has had works below decks almost completed and the new hydraulic lift is complete and painted to the same standards as the rest of the cruiser. The interior fitting-out stage is

waiting for us to achieve the target sum set in August of £70,000. The amount has already been reduced to £40,000 with many grants and donations having been gratefully received. **THANK YOU.**

Unfortunately, everything has to be paid for and the longer the hull has to stay unfinished, the more it will

cost! The present financial situation in general means we are amassing less interest on credited sums.

As soon as the target sum has been reached, the boatyard can start work on the fitting-out. The cruiser is at the ~~stage where to do a bit here and there~~ is more costly than completion in one go!

A SENSE OF HISTORY
 Contact information: Mrs A Ayers, Hon Sec 01502 717086

Appropriately enough for a town that keenly values its heritage the Beccles & District Historical Society is one of the most enduringly successful of local societies. It was founded in 1927 at a time when there was great concern, nationally, at the neglect of ancient buildings and records in danger of being lost forever. The Society was vigorous in raising awareness locally of the problem, and its work played a significant part in the subsequent establishment of Beccles Museum and the Beccles Society and close links with these are still maintained.

Nowadays the main activities

of the Historical Society centre around a year-round programme of talks and excursions. During the winter season the congenial surroundings of Hungate Church are regularly filled each month for illustrated talks by visiting experts, whose subjects cover a broad spectrum of history but with a special interest in our own area. This year's programme includes talks on East Anglian landed estates; on the problems of our coastline; on Suffolk painters; and on 17th Century witches we were relieved to learn that none were traced to Beccles!

During the Summer the Society organizes monthly excursions,

ringing the changes between the stately homes, castles, churches and museums in which our area is so rich and enjoying our countryside, sometimes on the water or by narrow-gauge railway. This year's visits have included Thetford Priory, Woodbridge Tide Mill, Landguard Fort and The Museum of the Broads. In recent years we have undertaken longer expeditions and in 2010 we are planning to visit Chatsworth House and Haddon Hall. The opportunity to meet like-minded friends makes the Historical Society such an important and congenial part of life in Beccles for so many people.



POLICE MESSAGE -

There have been a spate of devices attached to ATM machines in the Beccles area. Please keep alert when using a cash point for anything or anyone suspicious hanging around. Make sure you cover the pad with your hand when keying in your pin number.

TASTING THE EARTH



At the Tasting the Earth Praise and Thanksgiving for Suffolk's Harvest Service held at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on 11th October, the presentations recog-

nized not only outstanding contributions that people give to agriculture through Long Service Awards, but also local schools which have participated in this year's Suffolk Schools Competition. Beccles Middle School has reason to be proud of four students who received 3rd prize in Key Stages 3 and 4 which was for an illustrated recipe for a

cereal bar, including a design for the wrapper. The recipe had to be one that could actually be baked and eaten. The four students concerned, Elena Catchpole, Claire Gasking, Kirsty Gregson and Millie Storey are pictured, as is the design for their winning wrapper. Congratulations to all four of them and well done! - *Berenice Broom, Town Clerk*

Elena's, Claire's, Kirsty's and Millie's winning wrapper



AWARDS AT MAYOR'S RECEPTION



Always a special occasion, this year's Mayoral Reception was no exception, as two very worthy awards were made to two very special people. Much to Councillor Douglas Peck's surprise, he was awarded the Leslie Freeman Award for Long Service. Councillor Peck was nominated for this award because

of his unstinting work within the community including many man hours for the Pride in Beccles team consisting of both Councillors and members of the public. He works tirelessly on the War Memorial Gardens, the Bell Tower garden and makes and maintains the many flower planters you find all around the town. The other Award Robert (Bob) Ellwood Memorial Plate for Outstanding Service

to the Community of Beccles, was made to Mrs Nancy Barclay. Mrs Barclay was initially dismayed at being nominated for this award as, being a very private person, did not feel worthy of such recognition. However, her friends and acquaintances who nominated her knew she deserved this accolade. The Mayoral Appeal for this year is for the Beccles Army, Navy and Airforce Cadet organizations.

If you would like to help support the Mayoral Appeal 2009-2010 then donations or fund raising activities would be very welcome. Please send any donations made payable to 'Beccles Mayor's Appeal' to Beccles Town Hall, The Walk, Beccles or telephone 01502 712109 for further information.

Thank you.



Beccles Town Council

Town Hall
The Walk
BECCLES
NR34 9AJ

Phone: 01502 712109
Fax: 01502 716166
E-mail: admin@beccles.info

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.BECCLES.INFO



BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

**WISH YOU ALL
A MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY
AND HEALTHY
NEW YEAR!**

COUNCILLORS ' DETAILS

CENTRE WARD	D W Peck	01502 712627
	C Richardson	01502 719744
	C J Scott	01502 714831
	B Woodruff	01502 713053
COMMON WARD	Mrs S Bubb	01502 713314
	M Doherty	01502 716324
	Miss J Featherstone	01502 715606
	D Smith	01502 718018
RIGBOURNE WARD	G Catchpole	01502 715819
	A Sutch	01502 713179
	A Thwaites	01502 714161
	Mrs C Topping	01502 717276
DARBY WARD	J Harris	01502 717237
	J Sigsworth	01502 711473
	B Taylor	01502 713307
	J Walmsley	01502 717853

Town Clerk— Mrs Berenice Broom
Deputy Town Clerk—Mrs Jula Janney

BECCLES—THE PAST
Berenice Broom, Town Clerk

The Town Clerk gave a talk to the Probus Club recently and, after a lot of research, ended up with six pages of information all relating to the history of Beccles, past, present and future. I asked if I could cover this in the Charter in installments, so here are the first few paragraphs

"The earliest recorded mention of Beccles was from an account of The Corporation of Beccles Fen which has a translation in the Charter granted to the Town by Queen Elizabeth I in 1584. In this book it states that "The Manor and advowson of Beccles were granted to the monastery of St Edmunds Bury by King Edwy about

the year 960". Beccles derived its name from two parts of its present name—Beck, meaning by the stream, and leas meaning meadow by the stream and was, at that time, a fishing town as the sea came in a large estuary up to Beccles and beyond. The town paid a tithe to the Crown of 30,000 herring per year but, due to land movements and changes in the way the sea came in at Gt Yarmouth, the estuary silted up and eventually the channel was embanked and land was reclaimed from the sea. The dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in the 1500s caused the people of Beccles to panic. It also created an opportunity for the local individuals and groups

contending pasturage on the Common, to fight about those rights, and this remained contentious for many years. The people of Beccles sent a Mr William Rede to London in 1542 to obtain the lordship of the manor for Beccles but many disputes continued over rights to the Common for 40 years or more. It was only when the Charter was granted by Queen Elizabeth I in 1584 that the contentious matters were settled. Although the Redes were then excluded from membership of the Corporation of Beccles Common or Fen until 1711, they retained the lordship of the Manor which included control and profits from the Market. (To be continued)