

BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL THE CHARTER

BECCLES TWINNING ASSOCIATION 30th YEAR ANNIVERSARY FROM 1978-2008 by Tony Clarke

Back in the 1970s a suggestion cropped up in the Beccles & Bungay Journal that Beccles might look for a continental twin town. The idea was spotted by Angela Therain, a former student of the Sir John Leman High School who had married a Frenchman and was living in Petit-Couronne, one of the small but progressive communes which surround the beautiful city of Rouen.

At first glance, there are few similarities between Petit-Couronne and Beccles. Beccles is (albeit reluctantly) part of Waveney District, but fiercely protects its identity as an independent centuries-old town, with its historic roots set deep in the rolling countryside of the Waveney Valley.

Petit-Couronne is close to Rouen's busy port area and is home to a large oil refinery. This fast-growing modern community is also within easy reach of the picturesque hills, forests and villages of the beautiful valley of the River Seine.

The first eight visitors arrived in Beccles in 1977 to be greeted by the town council at a reception at the King's Head Hotel.

The following spring a 16-strong delegation from Beccles went to France, and in the autumn of 1978 official friendship charters were signed in each town. An annual family exchange began immediately.

That was the start of a link which has now lasted 30 eventful, unpredictable, emotional

and joyful years, full of friendship and fun, and involving people of all ages and interests.

Hundreds of families, businesses, sports teams, choirs, musicians, school pupils, drama students and students on work experience have been involved—and still the family exchange is the backbone of the twinning.

The 30th anniversary of this friendship was celebrated over the Easter weekend when visitors from Petit-Couronne came to Beccles for the celebrations, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all, in spite of the 'Christmas weather'.

For more information phone 01502 713692 or email pat.clarke@atlas-features.com

BECCLES WELCOMES NEW MAYOR 2008-2009

On Tuesday 20th May 2008 members of the Town Council and invited guests saw councillor David Smith taking the Chair for the first time as Mayor of Beccles. He looked extremely dignified in the new Mayoral Robes purchased in early 2007. His

Mayoress, wife Barbara, received her Chain and a bouquet of flowers from Julia Harris, the outgoing Mayoress. Councillor Jeff Harris, the outgoing Mayor, gave a fitting tribute to all who had assisted him during his year of office. The Mayor's Deputy is Coun



cillor Colin Richardson, no stranger to the workings of the Council as he has served for many years on District and Town Councils.

Editor



Beccles Town Council

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Special points of interest:

- 30 years of Twinning!
- New Mayor of Beccles
- New Beccles Town Council website coming soon
- Centenary—The 5th Beccles Scout Group—tree planting
- Commons Working Party update

Stuck for something to do with the kids? —why not check out a new website. Visit www.ideasforthekids.com
It will be well worth it!

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AGE CONCERN—NEW QUARTERLY HELP DESK IN THE WAVENEY CENTRE, BECCLES

Age Concern Suffolk will be launching a new Quarterly Help Desk at the Waveney Centre in Newmarket, Beccles from Friday 6th June 2008.

“This Help Desk offers local, older people the opportunity to come and talk to our friendly Customer Service staff in Beccles about any issue that is of concern to them.” said Helen Taylor, Age Concern Suffolk’s Information Manager. “We have a huge amount of information at our fingertips and can offer a range of services to assist local, older people to stay independent.”

The help desk will be held on a quarterly basis on the first Friday of the month, with dates set for Friday 6th June, 5th September and 5th December 2008.



Bring your friends along for coffee :The Waveney Centre always makes you welcome

“There is no need to make an appointment, the Help Desk is available to all local older people, anytime between 10 am and 12 noon on the dates mentioned above.”

For more information about the Help Desk or Age Concern Suffolk’s local services in the Beccles area, please telephone the Lowestoft office on 01502 586308.

Miss Taylor concluded “Age Concern Suffolk gratefully acknowledges the continued support of The Waveney Centre for allowing us to use their premises for this service.”

For more information: Helen Taylor: 01473 284251 or email:

helen.taylor@ageconcernsuffolk.org.uk

Age Concern Suffolk, 8 Northgate Street, IPSWICH IP1 3BZ

Tel: 01473 257039

Reg Charity 1085900

COMMONS WORKING PARTY UPDATE By COUNCILLOR C G PUNT, WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

A programme of fence repairs has taken place on the Bypass/Common boundary and it seems that this boundary land has become a tipping point for all sorts of rubbish that we are now having to get cleared up. Remember **FLY-TIPPING** (the dumping of almost anything anywhere than in a recognised County Council refuse tip) **IS ILLEGAL**. It is unsightly, unhealthy and expensive to clean up. This is why, when people are caught fly-tipping, legal action is taken—and they can be found out by the authorities going through the rubbish which the perpetrator left behind! All householders and businesses now have a responsibility for disposing of their waste properly. Waveney District Council can provide advice about how to get rid of waste and they also have a duty to enforce these rules.

In the last 2 months the main high-lights have been:

A 1,670 metre section of dyke running from the Beccles Bypass, a continuation of the Worlingham Wall to Common Lane North, has been successfully dredged. We plan to get another section dredged during the winter

“they can be found out by the authorities going through the rubbish which the perpetrator left behind!”

months. The work was organised by Trevor Knights, Beccles Town Council Drainage Consultant, and successfully carried out by Askews. The water in the dyke is now flowing very well and we even have a small water-fall!

A campaign of tree maintenance has taken place in the Avenue to remove all low hanging and dangerous limbs and to generally raise the crown in the trees. It is very important to keep the shape of the trees in the Avenue as they are key to the environmental scene.

The main low-lights have been:

Complaints continue regarding damage done to the Common surface by rabbits and the dangerous holes that they leave, consideration is being given regarding their control.

Flooding of the allotments by Baldry’s

Sluice, (opposite Caxton Football pitch) seems to have abated, even though there has been significant rainfall over the last few months.

See you next quarter.

Councillor Chris Punt



BECCLES CARNIVAL 18TH— 20TH JULY

Due to the terrible wet weather last year the 2008 carnival will be a day shorter with the Carnival Parade and Firework Display being both held on the same day, Sunday. This does not mean that your expectations for this weekend will be any different from other years. Visit the website—www.becclescarnival.co.uk for more info.

A BIT OF FUN—OBITUARY FOR COMMON SENSE

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend by the name of **COMMON SENSE** who has been with us for many years. No-one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing

- When to come in out of the rain
- Why the early bird gets the worm
- And that life isn't always fair

COMMON SENSE lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not kids, are in charge). His health began to rapidly deteriorate when well intentioned, but overbearing regulations

were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student, but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Finally, **COMMON SENSE** lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

COMMON SENSE finally gave up the ghost after a women failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, spilled some on her lap and was

awarded a huge settlement!

COMMON SENSE was preceded in death by his parents, - Truth and Trust; His wife - discretion; His daughter; - responsibility and his son; - reason.

He is survived by two stepbrothers, MY RIGHTS and IMA WHINER.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone!

If you still know him, pass this on.

If not, join the majority and do nothing!



Author unknown

BECCLES AIR CADETS PACKING A LOT IN AND WINNING ALL ROUND

Packing bags has become a regular event for the Beccles Air Cadets both home and away. Their fund raising efforts in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund and regional activity centres were richer by £1,055 through Cadets packing bags for customers at Morrisons Superstore on Good Friday. WO Martin Dobson, second in command of the unit said "I am very impressed with the cadets and received many positive comments. I would like to thank all of the staff at Morrisons for their welcoming and helpful co-operation."

Also, selected Cadets were packing different types of bags - their own - when they recently attended the Norfolk and Suffolk Wing Squadron Commanders conference to pick up three trophies. They were there to celebrate successes in shooting due to a team of four cadets who have a long history of strong marksmanship, Sgt G Vejrych, Sgt J Barfe, Sgt J Tyson and Flt Sgt M Miller, who all scored extremely high marks, enough to win the Patrick King Cup. The second trophy was the Hunt Cup for sports achievement with young 17 year old Sgt Joe Tyson from Beccles picking up the unit's

first Corps blue playing rugby for the Air Cadets team.

The final trophy was brought home by Cadet Cpl B Bowler, 16 from Stoke Holy Cross, who won the Graham Cup for the best individual Aircraft Recognition score in the wing!

If you would like to be part of this winning team, Beccles Squadron is looking for young men and women of 13-17. Meeting on Friday evening from 7.30pm at the Drill Hill, Peddars Lane, Beccles—01502 714000 or visit www.becclesaircadets.co.uk for further information.

BECCLES MUSEUM—launch of new leaflet www.becclesmuseum.org.uk

Beccles & District Museum has launched a new leaflet which gives an excellent insight into the buildings' own history as well as that of Beccles. I would suspect that many Becclesians have never visited this wonderful building holding our heritage. I, until recently have to confess that I was one of those who have always said I would go, but never actually made it. Boy, was it worth it—absolutely fascinating to see the old

photographs, models and regalia of times gone by.

The building, situated in Ballygate, was originally thatched, and was first mentioned in 1576. Sir John Leman, a Beccles man, who became Mayor of London, founded a school there in 1631. Major restoration works in 1762 added the pan tiles, Tudor-style windows and the distinctive flint and brick-work on the street side.

A visit to the museum will lead you through the garden with fine views of the Waveney Valley. The building is a Grade I Listed Building and was purchased by the Beccles Townlands Trust, an ancient charity administered by the Feoffees, in the early 1990s and restored to its present condition to hold the museum. The motto on the end wall roughly translated gives the stern warning 'LEARN OR GO'...
Editor

Beccles Town Council

USEFUL CONTACTS

CENTRE WARD	D W Peck	01502 712627
	C Richardson (DepMayor)	01502 719744
	C J Scott	01502 714831
	B Woodruff	01502 713053
COMMON WARD	Mrs S Bubb	01502 713314
	M Doherty	01502 716324
	Miss F Featherstone	01502 715606
	D Smith (Mayor)	01502 718018
RIGBOURNE WARD	M Adams	01502 717352
	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

For further Information: Beccles Town Hall 01502 712109



You may, or may not have noticed two new town signs, unveiled by the Mayor and Mayoress of Beccles, that have appeared at the entrances to Beccles. One at the bottom of Northgate and the other at the top of London Road. They look amazing and were commissioned by Beccles Town Council's Pride in Beccles Working Party, (Chairman Councillor John Sigsworth), under the watchful eye of John Sayer, Beccles Society. He organised, along with Councillor Douglas Peck, the maintenance and re-painting of the Ballygate town sign, which also looks resplendent now that it is back in its rightful place. Funding from the Beccles Regeneration Trust and a large donation by Mr C Bean in memory of his family who lived in Northgate, helped to make these signs possible.

Well done to all who helped with the work!
Editor

THE 5TH BECCLES SCOUT GROUP

On Sunday 16th March 2008, by kind permission of Beccles Town Council, the 5th Beccles Scout Group commemorated the Centenary of the Scout movement by planting a Red Oak Tree (*Quercus rubus*) at Beccles Quay.



Many of the events commemorating the Scout Centenary were marked by atrocious weather conditions and the tree planting ran true to form with the weather on the day being windy and with heavy rainfall.

Proudly assembled by the tree were Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, together with leaders led by Group Scout Leader David Boggis. (On 31st March 2008 David Boggis retired from Scouting after serving 33 years—well done!).

It is hoped that members of the Group will take ownership of the tree and watch it grow to maturity.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Beccles & District Hospital	01502 719800
Beccles Harbour Master	01502 712225
Beccles Health Centre (Drs Appointments)	01502 712662
Beccles Library	01502 714073
Beccles Police Station	01986 835271
Beccles Swimming Pool	01502 713297
C A B	01502 717715
Environmental Health	01502 523110
Environmental Waste (refuse tip)	01473 583250
Suffolk County Council	01728 403090
Tourist Information (Quay)	01502 713196
WDC Beccles Local Office	01502 713113
WDC Lowestoft	01502 562111
Registrar, Marriages, Births & Deaths	01502 405096