

# THE CHARTER



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

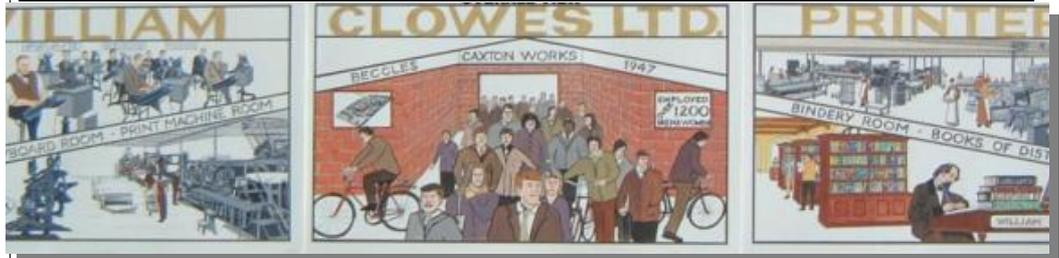
Christmas Lights	2
Beccles Music Festival	2
Beccles—A Fairtrade Town	2
6th Christmas Late Night Shopping Event	3
Dog Fouling on Beccles Common	3
Beccles Welfare Bus	3
Beccles Common—update	4

**Special points of interest:**

- New Murals in Beccles
- Needed—a Beccles Relief Road
- Christmas Lights—to be or not to be—LED
- Beccles, It's Official—A Fair Trade Town
- Beccles Welfare Vehicle for hire



**WM CLOWES (1847 – TO DATE)  
MURAL DEDICATION, NORTHGATE, 17 DECEMBER 2007**



One chilly morning in December, invited guests and Councillors met with the Wm Clowes Mural design winner Mr Charles Martin, (whose prize of £10,000 was donated by Tesco), to 'unveil' this magnificent piece of art-work; probably the largest Beccles has ever seen. Mr Martin took over six months to complete this permanent memorial which has been installed on the Tesco building depicting scenes from inside the old factory. Mr Peter Medley, ex-managing director of Clowes, was given the honour of cutting the ribbon and he made an excellent

speech in which 'he hoped that the people of Beccles and visitors would view the mural with pride as it was a tribute to the many employees who were part of the Beccles community'. Assisting Mr Medley were Councillor Christopher Scott, Deputy Mayor of Beccles who had been an employee at Clowes for 43 years and Mr David Browne, Sales Director of Wm Clowes at the new site on Ellough Industrial Estate. Councillor Scott advised that the mural depicted the history of the printing industry within the town and hoped that the many associated skills of

the employees will be long remembered. Hopefully the mural will spark questions from future generations wishing to know the story behind the pictures portrayed. In its heyday Clowes employed over 1,200 people, mostly Becclesians. In true printing industry tradition affordable houses were available for their employees.

Tesco are now well established supporting the local community through employment and helped with the Mural project by providing refreshments and display space for the events.

EDITOR

**BECCLLES RELIEF ROAD by John Sayer**

I must congratulate the Mayor, Councillor Jeff Harris, for his initiative in promoting Working Parties to involve the people of Beccles to put forward ideas for the betterment of the Town.

The Working Party set up to promote the building of the Relief Road was one of these. I understand that there is no money available at present to carry out this

project, and that the Working Party will not meet in the near future. I cannot understand the rationale of this decision, because if the money was available there would be no need for a Working Party to promote this project.

Now is the time to be lobbying for this money; everybody knows this Relief Road is needed.

Lowestoft has had many millions spent on improvements and is lobbying for more.

Bungay is doing the same for their bypass!

**COME ON BECCLES!  
SHOW THEM WHAT  
WE ARE MADE OF!**

*Now is the time to be lobbying for this money; everybody knows this Relief Road is needed'*

*(front page)*

## BIG DOG FERRY

Winter Season (October to Easter)

**Ferry Service**—operating from Beccles Bridge to the Geldeston Locks Inn every Friday, Saturday and Sunday (advance bookings only) - minimum tariff applies.

**Guided Fishing Trips**- Big stable boat for up to 4 anglers, dawn to dusk—Skipper/guide plus refreshments from £20 per person.

**Wildlife Trips**—Silent electric engine to enjoy Kingfishers, Marsh Harriers, Otters and much, much more. For up to 12 people, a minimum tariff applies for small groups.

**PRIVATE CHARTERS AVAILABLE**

07866 279859

01502 717256

[Www.bigdogferries.co.uk](http://www.bigdogferries.co.uk)

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2008—TO BE OR NOT TO BE? CLLR DOUGLAS PECK

The Council received many compliments again this year for the Christmas Lights display, both from visitors and the community.

We, as a Council, have recently undergone changes instigated by the local authority regarding risk assessments, insurances, licences and installation procedures which do not make our task any the easier. To estimate the annual budget with all these sudden extra costs, budgeting accurately for the Christmas Lights each year is nigh impossible.

Currently we have esti-



mated £10,000 in the 2008 budget for installation (which works out to be less than £1 per head). Another £2,500 is also set aside in the budget to buy replacement lights for the next two years.

Apparently light bulbs, currently used in Christmas displays, are going to be phased out over the next three years. This will mean

that LED lighting will be the main Christmas décor in the future.

The costs of the Beccles Christmas Lighting has spiralled and we are posing the question **DO YOU WANT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN BECCLES OR NOT?** Would you be prepared to dig into your pockets to help to buy LED lighting over the next 2 years so that, by Christmas 2010, LED lights will be covering our town with Festive Cheer.

*PHONE 01502 712109 with ideas of how to raise funds for new LED lights for Beccles (or to make a donation)*

## THE BECCLES MUSIC FESTIVAL 20TH-28TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Building on the success of the 2007 Music Festival, the 2008 Beccles Music Festival will be bigger and better, with a wide variety of music for all to enjoy. The Festival will take place from 20th-28th September in the magnificent setting of St Michael's Church. The Festival will be opened on Saturday 20th September with a concert given by The Loddon Mozart Players under their director and leader, David

Juritz with piano soloist David Neil-Jones, and will be closed on Sunday 28th September with a concert given by renowned jazz singer Jackie Dankworth and her trio. In between there is a feast of music performed by professional and local amateur musicians, including Andrew Giller and Jonathan Wortley—piano solos and duets, Sheila Barnes—soprano, Natalie Beauchamp—violin, local

young musicians, the Beccles Choral Society and the specially formed Beccles Festival Chorus. Festival brochures and booking forms will be available in March and up-to-date information is posted on the Festival website

[www.becclesfestival.co.uk](http://www.becclesfestival.co.uk).

Put the dates in your diary and watch out for more information.

## BECCLES MAKES A 'FAIR' CUP OF TEA & COFFEE

Beccles is now a FAIRTRADE TOWN—its official. This means that goals set by the Fairtrade Foundation have been met, ie *a resolution has been made in support of this by Beccles Town Council; a percentage of shops, cafes, restaurants and other businesses and organisations in the town are showing their commitment by offering fairly traded goods to their customers and/or their employees.*

Beccles shoppers will now be able to choose to give their custom to those businesses display-

ing the Fairtrade Foundation logo in their windows as well as on the fairly traded goods inside. These include six major shops—Morrisons, Rainbow, Somerfield, Tesco, Rigbourne Hill Co-op and Hungate Health Store, plus two cafes—Twyfords and the Garden Tea Rooms. Also supporting the campaign by catering with Fairtrade tea, coffee or other products are two major employers—M & H Plastics and Wm Clowes, two schools and all the churches in the town. The Fairtrade mark guarantees

that producers in some of the poorest countries in the world receive a stable price for the crops they grow, agreed in advance, as well as extra income for community development projects, such as clean water, schools and basic health clinics. Beccles has been supportive since the early 1980's and had the first shop dedicated to fair traded products called 'Fair Trading' in Hungate Lane.

For more info—Mrs Wendy Moxon  
01502 712832

## THE 6TH CHRISTMAS LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

The Beccles Business Association should be applauded for yet another wonderful evening in the run-up to Christmas. The weather was kind and there were vast arrays of stalls and attractions. For the first time upper Blyburgate, Exchange Square, Hungate and Smallgate shops were open and stalls were packed into these areas and the town centre. Twyfords were serving their famous traditional 'Festive Baguette' as well as mince pies, mulled wine and hot chestnuts and Stocks Fun Fair rides were in great demand by young and old alike.

Visitors were treated to The Beach's Paul Carter, Tim Lindon and The Beach Pa-

trols and Bunny hosted a special roadshow on the main stage and were joined by Elisabeth Sladen (aka Sarah Jane Smith) of Dr Who fame who hit the button to turn on the wonderful display of Christmas Lights at 6pm. She handed prizes to the winners of the Children's Poster Competition and the Business Associations awards for the Best Christmas Window display.

There are always familiar sights and sounds at this event and one of them is the Norwich Samba Band who cover the whole of Beccles with their exciting and vibrant samba music and dance. The smell of roasted chestnuts, hot food, mulled wine, and subtle perfume



coming from the soap gift stall linger on. Music could be heard from the London-based Caribbean Tropical Heatwave, Loddon Brass Band, Christian Youth Fellowship, Santa's Little Helpers and the Salvation Army. St Michael's Church was open for hot food and craft wares and Hungate Church staged its wonderful annual display of 38 decorated Christmas Trees. The 'UpStAIRs' Gallery held a Sparkle Event which is hoped to be held annually.

*Caroline & Lindsay*

### SISTERS with SCENTS

*First seen at the late night shopping event*

*Natural hand-made soaps and gifts made for you in Beccles*

*For more information call :*

*Caroline: 0786165713*

*Lindsay: 01502 710248*

## DOG FOULING—THE LAW COUNCILLOR C PUNT, WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Due to the continuing problem of dog fouling on the Common I am writing a bit more as promised.

### CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG

A cleaner neighbourhood, we all want it, we can all help achieve it. No-one likes dog mess, especially if you are enjoying yourself on Beccles Common and find you have stood in it!!!

Most dogs are valued by their owners and on the whole, make a valuable contribution to society. There are exceptions to this, usually arising from actions of negligence, by a tiny minority of dog owners. Aggressive dogs, stray dogs, dog fouling and noisy dogs can all cause problems of varying severity ranging from mild nuisance to disease, serious injury and even death.

The Waveney District Council has a role in trying to ensure that the acts, or omissions, of dog owners, do not adversely affect the health, safety or enjoyment of others. The Council has made an order under the provi-

sions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 which enables it to apply legal controls to:-

- a) require owners to clean up any dog fouling
- b) exclude dogs from certain areas and
- c) require dogs to be put and kept on leads in certain areas.

### POOP SCOOPING AND THE



### LAW

Under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005 it is **AN OFFENCE TO FAIL TO CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG** on most land open to the public in the Waveney area. WDC have begun issuing fixed penalty notices to advise the public of an £80 fine if they fail to clear up after their dogs. **THE PENALTY FOR NON REMOVAL IS A**

**MAXIMUM FINE OF £1,000 UPON CONVICTION** in the Magistrates Court.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?** You can take the owner to one side and talk to them, but ... I recommend that you contact the Environmental Health Department of WDC. The controls are enforced by the Council's Environment Support Officers, who can be contacted on 01502 523117 or [environment@waveney.gov.uk](mailto:environment@waveney.gov.uk).

**When you contact the Council, give as much detail as possible, eg date, time, place, type, size/colour of dog, owners name if possible—it is then over to the Environmental Support officers. You do not have to give your name when calling, - so don't be put off.**



### BECCLES WELFARE VEHICLE

Beccles Welfare Vehicle, owned by Beccles Town Council, is run as a charitable body by a group of volunteers who formed a committee, (The Beccles Welfare Trust) and have a pool of drivers. The vehicle can be hired by any group and has a ramp at the rear for wheelchair access. The hiring group must be a share-holder of the 'Trust' at a fee of £1 per share. A named driver would need to be provided aged between 25-70, who holds a full, clean driving licence with category D1 attached and would need to have a test drive initially. Some of the test incorporates instruction on the use of safety features. Hire cost is 40p per kilometre and there is no restriction of distance or location.

Booking enquiries: Michael Doherty 01502 716324 or email [michael.doherty@onetel.com](mailto:michael.doherty@onetel.com)

**SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST**

The Great Fire of Beccles struck in 1586, destroying houses and other property, including the roof of the parish church. It is said that scorch marks can still be seen on the pillars in the church and the west side of the tower shows areas blackened by smoke. The fire caused much hardship and appeals for financial help resulted in money being collected in many parish churches throughout the country. In Ipswich a special levy was made on the rates to help people living in Beccles.

Editor—Mrs Jula Janney

Articles contributed by:

Rev J Beauchamp

M Doherty

Mrs W Moxon

D W Peck

C G Punt

J Sayer

Printed by Micropress, Halesworth

Distributed through Archant Norfolk

**COUNCILLORS ' DETAILS 2007-2010**

<b>CENTRE WARD</b>	D W Peck	01502 712627
	C Richardson	01502 719744
	C J Scott (Dep Mayor)	01502 714831
	B Woodruff	01502 713053
<b>COMMON WARD</b>	Mrs S Bubb	01502 713314
	M Doherty	01502 716324
	Miss J Featherstone	01502 715606
	D Smith	01502 718018
<b>RIGBOURNE WARD</b>	M Adams	01502 717352
	A Sutch	01502 713179
	A Thwaites	01502 714161
	Mrs C Topping	01502 717276
<b>DARBY WARD</b>	J Harris (Mayor)	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 COMMON—UPDATE  
BY COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHER PUNT, WDC**

In the last two months the main highlights regarding the Common are:-

**NEW HEDGEROW**

A new mixed species hedge-row has been planted between the skateboard park and the Common. Thank you to the Broads Authority who provided the labour to set the 280 plants. This will eventually provide screening to the skateboard park and also a new habitat for wildlife.

**GORSE MANAGEMENT**

The Gorse management campaign on the 3 selected blocks has been successfully completed and I would like to thank Nick Harrison for the professional manner in which he executed the works. Much interest was shown by passers-by while Nick was carrying out the gorse management.

**DYKE CLEARANCE**

We have gone out to tender for the dyke clearance works—a contractor has been chosen and the work is planned to be completed by the end of February. The works will be under the supervision of Mr Trevor Knights, Drainage Consultant for Beccles Town Council.

The main lowlights regarding the Common are:-

**DAMAGE TO SKATEPARK**



Following an engineering survey by ROSPA we had to get the roof of the skateboard park shelter removed. **IT WILL NOT BE REPLACED!** Due to misuse—yes, believe it or not the roof is not a seesaw—the roof weld struts

were broken, resulting in a dangerous, and unstable structure. We have been able to save, and make safe, the 2 benches which can still be used.

**This is extremely disappointing—why don't people appreciate and respect what they are given and use it in the correct manner!**

**DRIVING ON THE COMMON**

Driving on the Common has been reported in the press and I do not wish to comment further.

See you next quarter.

Councillor Christopher Punt

**We are on the web  
[www.beccles.info](http://www.beccles.info)**