

THE CHARTER

BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

Issue 12



THE TOWN CLERK 'TWO YEARS ON' MRS BERENICE BROOM, BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

I can't believe that over two years have passed since I was appointed Town Clerk for Beccles Town Council. How time flies when you're having fun! I started work at the Town Hall in December 2003, working part-time as the Finance Officer and was then promoted to Town Clerk in November 2006; a great change, but one which I am enjoying immensely. The two years have seen changes, both in the town itself and in the Town Hall. We have security locks and



Mrs Berenice Broom,
Town Clerk

CCTV in the Town Hall, a sad reflection on the times we live in, but on a good note we have carpet in the offices and secondary double glazing, a real luxury and, in the end, a saving in fuel costs. Regeneration in the town is ongoing but the town still has its 'old world' charm and the two live happily side by side. Hopefully new shops will open in the units at present being built in the town. Unfortunately, in the recent economic downturn, we have seen the departure of Woolworths, which is a great loss and their presence will be hard to replace. I am pleased to say that the Council accounts are now up to date and most of the leases are in place. Some work is still ongoing with this as, with all legal processes, it takes time. It is amazing that there are

many who do not realise that the Town Hall is actually "in business" and, when visiting, are charmed by its old time worldliness, something that cannot change as the Town Hall is a Listed Building in a Conservation Area. Both I and the Deputy Town Clerk, Mrs Jula Janney, welcome residents of Beccles to visit the office for assistance or information, and look forward to being of service.

Beccles Town Council office opening hours are from
9am—4pm Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm Friday—Phone for an appointment or query 01502 712109 e mail admin@beccles.info

BECCLES TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB HAVE REACHED THE SEMI-FINAL OF THE SUFFOLK SENIOR CUP—John Humby, Secretary Beccles Town FC

Beccles Town Football Club have reached the semi-final of the Suffolk Senior Cup. This is only the third time since the end of the Second World War that they have got this far in the competition. The match is to be played on 28th February at Kirkley FC's ground. The last time Beccles FC reached the final of

the Suffolk Senior Cup was in the 1923/24 season when they lost 3-1 to Lowestoft Town FC. Beccles FC did win the Cup in the 1921/22 season when they defeated Ipswich FC G.E.R. 3-2. The scores on the previous two occasions when they were in this position, they lost to Nicholsons FC in 1976/1977 by 5-1 and then

in 1982/1983 they lost by 3-0 to Crane Sports FC. To win this season they have to beat Leiston St Margarets Football Club and the final will be played at Portman Road, home of Ipswich Town FC. This a great news for Beccles Town FC and for Beccles. **GOOD LUCK—FINGERS CROSSED FOR A WIN!!!**



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BECCLES TWINNING EASTER TRIP

FANCY A TRIP TO PETIT COURONNE FRANCE BY COACH AND FERRY FOR £100 PER HEAD? CHILDREN GO FREE! 10TH - 13TH APRIL Contact Mrs P Clarke 01502 713692

**Editor: Mrs J Janney
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NORFOLK AND WAVENEY MENTAL HEALTH NHS Foundation—a message from Pauline Elliott, Governor of the Trust

The Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust provides care and support for people in Waveney as well as the county of Norfolk.

Throughout Waveney the Trust is responsible for mental health services in the community, in addition to the day care and in-patient care to be found at Carlton Court in Carlton Colville.

Foundation status means that the Trust holds greater responsibility for identifying need and delivering the best possible services locally. It seeks to achieve this by appointing a Board

of Directors to ensure services are appropriate, but in addition it now has a Board of Governors. This second Board includes elected members of the public with a responsibility to be representative of whichever constituency they represent.

As a Governor living in Waveney, I am keen to let as many people as possible know of the existence of the Foundation Trust. Anyone can apply to become a member of the Trust. Everyone has the right to make contact if they wish.

If you would like to know more about

this NHS Trust, or make contact with a Governor, please do so in one of the following ways:-

Phone 01603 421421

Address Norfolk & Waveney Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, Hellesdon Hospital, Drayton High Road, Norwich NR6 5BE

Website www.nwmhft.nhs.uk

Pauline Elliot - February 2009

HAPPY RETIREMENT SERGEANT AT MACE MBE, QGM, BEM 2003-2009

The time has come for Beccles Town Council's Sergeant at Mace Mr John Allport, to 'hang up his Maces'! On 19th May he will be performing his last duty for the Council.

After six loyal years of service starting with the then youngest Beccles Town Mayor, Mark Bee in 2003, he has carried out his duties to the letter, as is his nature. He is one of the most helpful and amenable of gentlemen, always throwing himself totally and selflessly into whatever is passed his way. He has raised tremendous

amounts of money for various charitable causes and is a very dedicated Christian, putting a lot of energy into both St Michael's and St Luke's Ministries.

His biggest claim to fame by far was when he was awarded the MBE for his services to the community in 2007. A proud day for John and his family and a proud time for Beccles Town Council.

The Council and staff will be sorry to see him go, but wish him all the very best of everything in his 'retirement'.



BECCLES ANTIQUE STREET MARKET SUNDAY 3RD MAY 2009

Beccles town centre will play host to an **Antique Street Market** on **Sunday 3rd May 2009**. This new and exciting event will run from 10 am to 4pm on May Bank Holiday with Exchange Square and New Market being closed to traffic during the day.

Over forty antique dealers will be displaying a variety of antiques and collectables to purchase ranging from jewellery to china and furniture to

postcards. Whatever your passion might be, you will find something to pander to your taste here.

There will be refreshments available and many of the local, independent shops in Beccles will also be open.

For further information, or to book a stall, please call Kate Lee on 01502 711174 or Christine Pinsent on 01502 715771.



If you wish to book a stall the cost is as follows: -

6' pitch £40

10' pitch £60 (furniture)

*A new event
Antique Market
in Beccles*

(A copy of Public Liability Insurance is required with your application.)

WAVENEY STARDUST II — PROGRESS REPORT—DAVID BROOM



WAVENEY STARDUST is a Beccles based registered charity that provides daytime cruises for disabled and/or elderly passengers. The charity is building its second cruiser custom designed for wheelchair passengers.

'Waveney Stardust II' is a steel 46' x 12' 6" day cruiser with an internal headroom of 6' 3", and is designed to afford improved visibility for pas-

sengers in wheelchairs. The cruiser will be carpeted and heated throughout and have an extensive galley and toilet and washbasin facilities for the disabled.

A larger hydraulically operated platform lift at the stern will allow embarkation from port or starboard as well as from the stern, and will permit operation in all parts of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads and waterways.

Completion of the fitting-out will cost £80,000 and Waveney Stardust would welcome any donation, large or small which can be sent to the address at the end of this article.

Waveney Stardust skippers and crews are fully qualified and, together with administration and charity shop staff, are all volunteers.

The existing cruiser travels 4,000 miles a year carrying 3,000 passengers.

Cruises are made from Beccles, Oulton Broad, Loddon, Norwich, South Walsham and Stalham.

Enquiries and Bookings – please telephone 07817 920502 or write to 'Waveney Stardust', 7 St Edmunds Crescent, Kessingland, Lowestoft NR33 7PT

'IF ONLY' by Monty Pitkin

Iwonder how many times in the course of the year we have muttered to ourselves 'if only' - not loud enough for the wife to hear! If only I'd sorted out that slow puncture, it would have saved me from changing the wheel on a cold, wet night.

Many visitors and near-locals often ask directions or advice and without fail, they are all full of praise for Beccles. "What a wonderful selection of shops." "How handy the parking at Tesco's is" particularly as I see Waveney are increasing the parking tariffs. Beccles is one of the few towns which has benefited from Tesco's. The new national chain of shops see Beccles as an expanding, vibrant town, easily reached from some of the larger towns which always seem to have traffic problems. Have you been to Pensthorpe, Lackford,

Whittingham or possibly the large wetland reserve just west of Heathrow Airport? What have these all in common? They are all redundant gravel workings and are now wetland nature reserves of national repute. How wonderful it would have been if we heard our visitors say, "We will do some shopping in Beccles and spend the rest of the day by the lakes at Beccles". If only Beccles Council had grasped the nettle a few years ago and gone ahead with gravel extraction. We would now be seeing the environmental benefit as some areas would now have been returned to nature. I am sure Beccles Sailing Club would have enjoyed an area of wide, open water with the odd island to make an interesting course. The angling fraternity would also have enjoyed a large, cruiser-free area. If global warming is as serious as

they predict, one of the most valuable commodities would be water - why let all ours run into the North Sea?

The financial benefit for Beccles would be enormous and would solve the problem like an outdated swimming pool in poor condition. There has often been talk of a need for a community centre. All these benefits would have been possible if Beccles had not bailed out at the last moment, having spent a considerable sum of money on surveys and negotiating the surrender of various leases. When the Council failed to sign the lease, it seemed to lose heart in the idea when it should have been pursued more vigorously. The only consolation is the gravel is still there but it is very doubtful if the Broads Authority would grant permission for gravel extraction. **Everybody would be rich with hindsight.**

GHOST AND HISTORY WALKS AROUND BECCLES Beccles Helping Hands

Beccles Helping Hands have, over the last few years, been organising Ghost and History Walks around the town of Beccles and have raised a substantial amount of money for local organisations. These include Beccles Hospital, Waveney Hospice Care, Beccles First Responders, Horse Rescue, Beccles 1st Brownies and the Suffolk Brain Injury Rehab Centre. Their base for meetings is the Bear and Bells Public House, where the walks start from, and the Chairperson is Miss Joan Wright. If you are interested in

this group, please call on [01502 712983](tel:01502712983) or www.beccleshelpinghands.co.uk

NEXT EVENTS:

Step Back in Time History Walk: April 25th, May 30th, June 20th and 25th July all start at 7.30 pm

Ghost: March 28th at 7.30 pm, August 29th at 8.00 pm, September 26th at 8.00 pm, October 17th at 7.30 pm, October 31st at 7.30 pm.



Please be aware that these brilliant walks are soon booked up and at £4 per adult and £2 per child, are great entertainment value, so make sure you phone to secure your place.

Beccles Town Football Club have reached the semi-final of the Suffolk Senior Cup - only the third time since the Second World War!

BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

PLEASE NOTE

Public hire
Beccles Tennis Courts
Common Lane
C B Sports, 21B New Market,
Cost—£2 per hour + £5 key deposit

BECCLES COMMUNITY ARTS

This group held their AGM in January this year and were fortunate to gain more members which means that the 2nd HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL will take place sometime during August 2009. Initially the Festival in 2008 was held to make Beccles aware of the Quay as an entertainment area. Hopefully BCA can now begin to look for funding for a Bandstand and for enhancement of the Quay to make a park for the people to use all the year round. If you are interested in joining us phone 01502 712109 day/717098 evening.

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 |

FREE - 'Low Carbon Futures' Workshops Reduce your Environmental Impact Now

BRIGHT GREEN a Lowestoft-based environmental social enterprise, are currently offering **FREE** Low Carbon workshops that offer support and advice to help you and your colleagues take action against climate change.

Our project, 'Low Carbon Futures' (LCF) is a pilot project funded by Suffolk County Council running to June 2009. LCF helps individuals and households, mainly in the Waveney area, reduce their environmental impact by pledging to take carbon-reducing actions in relation to food, waste and consumer goods.

Our 'Low Carbon Futures' Champion, Kate Jackson, will come and talk you through the ways in which you can

make changes from taking old clothes to charity shops, to setting up a wormery using food waste which will significantly reduce your carbon footprint. We will also provide useful local information on kerbside collection (ie what can and can't be recycled), how to reduce waste and save money by managing food better, local recycling points, local food, composting, energy conservation and efficiency and much, much more!

This really is a great opportunity to find out local level information and ask any questions that you might have which not only may save you money, but you will be helping to build a greener home and therefore a greener community!

We are looking to visit as many groups/people as possible between January and April 2009. If you would like Kate to



REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT WITH BRIGHT GREEN

come and visit you then please contact Anna Martin on 01502 584061, or e mail her on anna@zwc.org.uk to book a convenient date and time.

Kate Jackson will be available to answer any queries you may have on Friday 27th March 2009 from 11 am - 1 pm situated on the Beccles Friday Market.