



# THE CHARTER

Issue 16

MARCH 2010

## BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

### A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR BECCLES TOWN CLERK

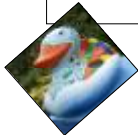
**B**erenice Broom will be retiring from the position of Beccles Town Clerk on Monday 31st May 2010 after three and a half very eventful years. Her employment began in 2003 as the Town Council's Responsible Financial Officer. When the previous Town Clerk left the position, Mrs Broom, through the process of elimination, was awarded the job. She was extremely nervous to begin with but quickly got into the swing of things with help of training by the Suffolk Association of Local Council (SALC) team, along with the support of Councillors and staff. In 2007 the local election raised its head but, as none of the existing Councillors were contested, the status quo remained. Mrs Broom succeeded in getting the CILCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification in 2008 which all Clerks should aim to achieve, and since that time has been working hard to attain Quality Parish Status for Beccles. This was recently submitted to SALC and the result is imminent. Mrs Broom

wanted to achieve this status for Beccles, especially in the current uncertain climate with the Boundary Review as, with this under our belt, Beccles Town Council would have more leverage with District and County Councils, especially in relation to taking on more powers from these departments. Mrs Broom has mixed feelings regarding her retirement—on one hand she is looking forward to spending more time with her husband, who has already taken retirement; but on the other she will greatly miss the job as, by its very nature it is diverse—meeting all walks of life and solving all manner of problems in the community and dealing with Council business as well. Mrs Broom will not be idle in retirement, her hobby, at which she is very talented, is making and icing celebration cakes and her order book for the coming months is already getting rather full.

*Have a wonderful, long and happy retirement Bernie! From all your friends and colleagues of Beccles Town Council.*



**Mrs Berenice Broom,  
Town Clerk from  
1st November 2006 -  
31st May 2010**



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BECCLES DUCK RACE EVENT—SEPTEMBER 2010

**I**f you enjoyed the Beccles Duck Race last year, then perhaps you might like to lend a hand with the next one scheduled for September. The Duck Race Committee are cur-

rently searching for **volunteers to help ON THE DAY** as Marshalls for the car park and other general duties. You don't have to be a member of the Committee, just an 'on the day helper',

so you won't have to attend meetings. TS Brave member Mrs Loraine Lofftstadt would be thrilled to hear from you and can be contacted on **01502 716553**

#### Inside this issue:

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| NSPCC helpline                        | <b>2</b> |
| Sunday Club                           | <b>2</b> |
| Where to turn?                        | <b>2</b> |
| It's a Bird's Life in Beccles         | <b>2</b> |
| Help make Suffolk the Greenest County | <b>3</b> |
| Beccles Common                        | <b>3</b> |
| Traffic Review Order                  | <b>3</b> |

**Beccles May Lose the Public Hall**—You may have read in the Eastern Daily Press that Waveney District Council (WDC) is considering the disposal, by sale, of Beccles Public Hall. This building was built for the town with monies from the ratepayers over 300 years ago. WDC took over the Public Hall in 1974 when the last Local Government Review took place. Beccles Town Council had had discussions with Waveney for the return of the Hall and to run it by putting it in the hands of a Trust. With this goal in mind they contributed £50,000 to assist with the renovation works a few years ago when WDC were undertaking major building works on the Hall. Due to poor surveys, further structural flaws were discovered which put the project way over-budget. Since that time, nothing has been actioned as the Town Council felt that they could not take back the Hall until all the remedial work had been undertaken. If you feel strongly about this please let us know by writing to The Town Hall, The Walk, Beccles NR34 9AJ and print 'Public Hall' on the envelope.

### Where to turn when you're worried about a child?



If you are ever worried about a child, you should get in touch with the NSPCC Helpline 365 days a year, day or night, **free phone 0808 800 5000, or e mail [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)** Keep these numbers in your phone so that you have instant access whenever you need it. Let's hope you don't....

All advisors are approachable, relaxed and friendly and it is these qualities that Helpline

wants to bring to the fore to encourage you to contact them about any aspect of a child's safety or wellbeing, such as calls from parents at their wits end who feel they can't cope or who just need some advice about the best thing to do for their child. Other times there are callers who may have seen something they feel rather uneasy about and just want to talk it through.

At risk children will have their details noted and

referred on to children's services or to the police for them to take it further. The experience of the advisors can tell the difference between something slightly wrong to something seriously wrong. That's why a call is so important. Be assured that details of callers are never passed on to the families concerned.

For more information go to [www.nspcc.org.uk/helpline](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/helpline)

### Sunday club—live a little, laugh a lot!

**'Most of us take for granted these facilities right on our doorstep ....'**

The Waveney Centre, New Market, Beccles is the venue for the **Sunday Club**. The Centre is wheelchair friendly and has easy access to all facilities with lovely panoramic views across the Waveney Valley.

The Club is run by volunteers Jill, June and Graham from 2pm to 5pm on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month.

Several excursions are organized throughout the year to the coast, to see shows, go Christmas shopping and for meals out on top of the normal club days.

Come along, make new and meet old friends. Be treated to tea and home-made cakes whilst being entertained by a variety of local performers. Have a go at bingo and the free raffle.

The Club operates a free bus service with tail lift facilities, so is able to provide transport for those who need it. Donations from users are always welcome to help with this cost.

For more information:

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

**Jill: 07789885488**

**Graham 07798894677**

### IT'S A BIRD'S LIFE (but hopefully not for long) IN BECCLES



The saga of Seagulls disrupting residents' peace who live in the area of Gosford Road is ongoing. This issue was hopefully to be resolved as the Town Council had enlisted the expertise of another bird, the Harris Hawk who has been in action since December 2009 attending once during that month,

then stepping up the action to twice a month in January and February. The sessions planned for March have had to be postponed due to a problem that has since arisen. A resident in the afflicted area, commendably gained the support and financial assistance from Anglia Co-op, and has had installed a stringed deter-

rent. This has caused a major problem with the bird of prey which now cannot be used as it would be too dangerous when alighting. After discussions with the resident an undertaking has been made to remove the structure. The Harris Hawk will continue his job as a deterrent to keep seagulls from nesting.

## Help Make Suffolk the Greenest County

From 4th February 2010, energy monitors will be available to borrow, FREE, from all Suffolk Libraries.

The scheme wants to help householders to reduce their electricity bills by showing them instantaneously from inside the comfort of their home, how much electricity they are using and what it is costing them in £s and pence. By raising awareness and changing behaviour, these devices typically save householders between £25 and £75 off a £500 electric-

ity bill. Tell us how much you have saved and what your top tips are and you will be entered into the monthly prize draw to win an energy saving 'Power-down' plug. Not only will you be saving money, but you will help to create Suffolk as the greenest County.

So take up the challenge today, and see who, out of your friends and family, can save the most.

For advice on how to reduce your energy usage, visit [www.greensuffolk.org](http://www.greensuffolk.org) or call the Suffolk Climate

Change and Energy Helpline 0800 0288 938 or you could follow us on twitter.com/greensuffolk.

**TOP TIPS:**

Switch off all unnecessary lights and appliances

Wash clothes at 30degrees and only when the drum is full

Use the dishwasher on the economy setting

Only fill the kettle with as much water as you need

Use a washing line to dry your clothes—they smell so much fresher!



## BECCLES COMMON—Councillor Graham Catchpole

The Commons Working Party, under the leadership of Councillor Graham Catchpole, are fulfilling items from the agenda made last December 2009. On the Working Party are members of the community who give valuable assistance when making decisions regarding the Common and the surrounding area. Works carried out so far by Nick Harrison, Council's contractor for the Common area, are to the Avenue trees, which had the bark damaged from either dogs or Muntjac deer. Substantial tree guards

have been put in place which should help to protect, and hopefully, save the affected trees. Low level Gorse cutting to help new growth is being carried out in April so as not to disturb nesting birds. This programme will continue to develop and improve the walkways to open up a whole new experience of walking on the Common to enable users to view the abundant wildlife which is all around; cut logs and branches have been left to encourage insect life which in turn provides food for birds and smaller animals.

The Council has an annual budget of nearly £10,000 for maintenance on the Common, The Avenue and Marsh Trail to keep these areas in prime condition, aiming to encourage wildlife and prove better access for all users.

Most of us take for granted these facilities right on our door step, but the Council is ever mindful of safeguarding these areas of natural beauty to ensure that they continue to give pleasure and provide exercise facilities for many generations to come.



## BECCLES TRAFFIC REVIEW ORDER, Suffolk County Council

Suffolk County Council are currently undergoing discussions with Beccles Town Council on a Traffic Review Order in Beccles. This exercise is to try and utilise problem areas such as Ravensmere, where a resident's wall has been knocked down several times due to traffic driving too fast. They hope

to make the pathway wider which will make the traffic slow down. Last year Beccles & District Regeneration Ltd requested a permanent road closure in New Market from 6am to 4pm on a Friday to help with the proposed expansion of the Market. This will mean changes to disabled parking and loading bays as well as other

parking restrictions in other roads around the town. Beccles Town Council are supporting this road closure suggesting a twelve month trial period. Once everything has been put forward by SCC and emergency services are agreeable, a Public Consultation will be arranged, which will be widely advertised.





## BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

Beccles Town Council  
The Walk  
BECCLES  
NR34 9AJ

Phone: 01502 712109  
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Website: [www.beccles.info](http://www.beccles.info)

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### STOP PRESS

**WIND FARM, RINGSFIELD**

Public Meeting

**WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH  
7.00 PM—PUBLIC HALL**



Volunteer helpers needed on the day of the Duck Race in September—please contact Loraine

## 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 |
|                | <b>Town Clerk— Mrs Berenice Broom</b>    |              |
|                | <b>Deputy Town Clerk—Mrs Jula Janney</b> |              |

## BECCLES - THE PAST

(continued from Issue 15)

Mrs Berenice Broom, Town Clerk

The Charter, which established the Corporation in 1584 stipulated that it should consist of two groups of leading citizens—the Twelves and the Twenty-fours. The Twelves were the senior group and the Portreeve was elected annually from the Twelves. The Twenty-fours held slightly more menial positions in the town, although today that delineation would be debatable. Families carried on the membership of these groups and promotion from the Twenty-fours to the Twelves was by no means automatic and appeared to happen through family or occupational connections.

The Charter gave the Corporation the power to oversee all matters concerning the Common or Fen. This responsibility involved, amongst other things, regulating the number of animals any man could pasture on the common, opening

and closing hours, maintenance of fences and ditches, cutting turf and reeds, granting of leases for the meadows, the audit and the disposal of the income.

The Corporation had no power over the town itself but the income generated from the Common enabled it to exercise a lot of influence on communal life.

The Beccles Feoffees administered the land and property in the town and it may not be surprising to learn that many members of the Corporation were also Feoffees. The affairs of the town therefore in the late 1600s were largely controlled by the wealthier families in the town.

In the 1650s the Manor Court Leet was the regulator of town life in Beccles. In the middle of the 17th Century the Court, or Land Leet and Water Leet, met annually to consider offences against local bye-

laws and these Courts were conducted by respected townspeople who were sworn in at the commencement of the proceedings. One such respected townspeople, who had been a juror for the Court of Leet, caused some embarrassment by being himself brought before the Court and fined for not attending the Beccles Water Leet.

This form of administration continued until an Act of Parliament in 1835 created the Borough of Beccles. The town's affairs were then administered by four townspeople who sat for six years and 12 Councillors who sat for four years before holding an election. Their portraits from 1835 until the present day surround the Chamber in the Town Hall with Borough Councillors on the top row and town Councillors on the bottom row.

**TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE 17**