

THE CHARTER



Issue 14

September 2009

Beccles Town Council

BECCLES HAS ITS VERY OWN 2,000 YEAR OLD IRON AGE CAUSEWAY



Staff and students from the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Birmingham returned to Beccles in June for a third, and probably final, year of excavations of a site near the Beccles Marsh Trail. The previous two seasons (2006-2007) had established the presence of a triple alignment of timber posts running for some 120m across the floodplain of the River Waveney. The site had been dated using dendrochronology (tree ring analyses) to 75BC, the very late Iron Age, but the presence of Roman pottery indicated that some form of activity continued on the site into this later period.

The 2009 excavations aimed to establish the full extent of the alignment and to answer other outstanding questions, such as whether the posts had originally supported a superstructure, or was it a raised walkway. These questions are critical for a fuller understanding of the original form and function of the site. The three weeks of excavations were a great success and alignment has been traced back towards Beccles. It is thought that the structure is some 450m long, probably terminating on what was the edge of the dry land in the later pre-historic period just to the north of Beccles.

Other evidence from the site suggests that the alignment may have, in places at least, supported a ground level walkway. In addition, Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered. Further analyses of the samples collected is

now underway and this should provide more valuable insights into the structure.

The current working interpretation is that the alignment might have provided access across the marshes to a crossing point, such as a ferry over the River.

It is hoped to conserve one of the large timber posts for a permanent display in Beccles Museum. [Watch this space for updates!](#)



The staff and students would like to thank Beccles Town Council, Beccles Amateur Sailing Club and everyone who took the trouble to attend the open day which was a great success with over 200 people attending.

[Ben Geary, University of Birmingham](#)

BECCLES GIANT DUCK ART TRAIL—YES DUCKS! To benefit our local schools

Have you seen them? springing up in Beccles during August, hanging around enjoying the admiration of the people until 4th October. Then they are to be unceremoniously ducked (or dunked) into the River Waveney from Beccles Quay, all for the sake of Charity. More ducks were on sale at the Harvest Moon Free Music Festival on 15th August



for £2 each or, if you kept your 2008 duck, you could purchase a neck-tie for £1 - goodness knows how many ducks will be bobbing along on the day. There will be loads of things to see and do and the 4th October is a must for all the family.

Tell your friends about it too, the more the merrier. So many people have worked so hard to bring this event to you, so please support them on the day and pray for good weather—we don't want it 'ducking it down' do we?

For more information-
www.becclesduckrace.org

Special points of interest:

- 2,000 year old iron age causeway
- Giant Duck Trail
- Police advice
- Tesco—Community Champion
- Catherine Adam
- Leslie Freeman Long Service Award

Inside this issue:

Home Security	2
Tesco's champion	2
Pride in Beccles	2
St Benets Wasps FC	3
Beccles Sea Cadets—We Need You!	3
Woodlark Trust	3
Town Council information	4



Pottery found during the archaeological dig on Beccles Marshes in June 2009

**HOME SECURITY—A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL POLICE FORCE
‘SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM’**

OPPORTUNIST BURGLARY

This is the most common occurrence in this category of offence. Most of our house burglars are not possessed of the keenest of criminal minds. Some of them **NEED YOUR HELP** so **IF YOU WANT TO HELP THE BURGLARS** follow these examples:-

Leave your doors and windows unsecured when you go out, or even whilst in the garden or watching TV

Leave back gates unbolted so that ‘Billy the Burglar’ can get access to the rear of your house easily (you wouldn’t want him hurting himself climbing high

fences, etc)

Think of poor ‘Billy’ and leave valuable property handy for him to steal; like your purse, wallet, car keys just inside the back door on the work top (‘Billy’ is not the brightest of individuals, but even he can recognize a purse or wallet thoughtfully left out for him)

Ladies—leave your best jewellery, you know, the expensive pieces, or those with sentimental value in your jewellery box on your dressing table, (that should put him off the scent)

Don’t even consider having a burglar alarm fitted—the noise it makes when ‘Billy’

breaks in is most traumatic for him and will usually make him leave in a hurry to find another, easier place to burgle, where the owner is more receptive to his attentions.

BUT YOU DON’T WANT TO DO THAT—DO YOU?

‘Billy the Burglar’ is a pathetic individual, but that is his problem—if you make it easy for him to steal - **it becomes your problem!**



DID YOU KNOW?

Beccles website has had 41,292 unique visits between January and July 2009—that’s a lot of people interested in our town!

TESCO—COMMUNITY CHAMPION

Abi Fiske visited me in my office at Beccles Town Hall after the Mayor had received an invitation to a Community Champion Launch Day held in Tesco Car Park on Thursday 20th August. Having not heard of a ‘Community Champion’ before, she proceeded to advise me of all that had been achieved since her appointment at Beccles. Abi is a local girl and knows both the people and the area and seems to understand immediately what is wanted. She has been working for

Tesco for the past three years but has only been in her new post for 3 months. She feels extremely privileged to have met and helped a variety of people such as Beccles Sea Cadets, Beccles Community Arts, Albert Pye Primary School, Butterflies Children Centre, All Hallows Hospital and many, many more. Her principles are simple—customers and the majority of staff at Tesco live and work in the area, and this means that her role in helping the local community not

only benefits them, but also their families and friends as well. Tesco’s role in this is; ‘through employing a Community Champion, it brings together itself and the local community it serves’. Abi’s main aim is to fund raise, and Tesco’s aim is to use Abi’s role to enable this to happen—her event will encompass many charities and organizations that she has helped along the way. If you wish Abi to help you, then please call 07885286702, or visit the Customer Service desk at the local Tesco store.



View from the Clock Tower over Beccles showing the River Waveney

PRIDE IN BECCLES—CREATION OF A GARDEN HAVEN AT KILBRACK CEMETERY

Pride in Beccles have taken on another project—to enhance the area of Kilbrack Cemetery to make it into a peaceful area to sit and walk. They hope to introduce new railings and plant hedging native to the area to encourage wildlife. Planting will be undertaken alongside the wall with specimen shrubs to soften and screen the unsightly fencing. In the main grassed area of Kilbrack, Pride in Beccles aim to cre-



ate a wild flower meadow with an information board to show what has been planted and hope that local schools will be involved in this. There is to be another information board outlining the history and how important this area is. Nest boxes

are to be installed to encourage wildlife. To help to enhance this part of the town, natural fencing will be used, helping to keep the area safe for all users.

If you have more ideas for the town and would like to join the Pride in Beccles team then please contact the Town Hall, The Walk, Beccles NR34 9AJ or phone 01502 712109 for further information.

ST BENETS WASPS FOOTBALL CLUB

St Benets Wasps Football Club was founded in 1973 by the late Stan Gruchy. Stan was the caretaker at St Benets Primary School and also helped to train the school football team. The Club entered the old Anglia Junior League on 24th July 1973 as St Benets Wasps and catered for boys between the ages of 11-13. A senior team for 13-15 year olds was formed in March 1975. From these modest beginnings 36 years ago, the club has grown and now has 16 boys' teams (ages under 7 to under 17) and 4 girls teams (under 12 to under 17) playing in the Norfolk and Suffolk Youth League. The Club's home

ground is the Wasps Nest, Alan Hutchinson Way off Common Lane consisting of two football pitches and one mini-soccer pitch. The 2009/10 season got under way with an annual pre-season 6-a-side tournament which was played on the 15th and 16th August. The theme for the tournament was around the Football Association's RESPECT Campaign. Seventy teams took part from as far away as Ipswich, Thetford, Dereham, and Norwich and included local teams from Bungay, Lowestoft, Gorleston and Loddon plus, of course, St Benets. Almost 450 games were played over the weekend and everyone who came

to support their teams made the tournament enjoyable and successful. Generous sponsorship came from local businesses ie Mark Harrod Product for Sport was the main sponsor; Tesco in the Community; M & H Plastics; Superfry; Apollo Lodge; M R King & Sons; Belle Coaches (Lowestoft) and Dimascio Ices (Belton). Douglas Peck donated the PA system for the day. **A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL!** Monies collected went to Click Sergeant for childhood cancer and The British Heart Foundation. *Youth football 'kick-off' Sunday 13th September. For more information call Gordon McKenzie on 01502 713395.*



A lovely view from Beccles Marsh Trail—a 'must see' at any time of year

WHAT BECCLES SEA CADETS GET UP TO

We live in a lovely area called Beccles surrounded by the beautiful Norfolk Broads. Situated on Quay are the Beccles Sea Cadets who meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at weekends. During the long summer evenings, no matter what the weather, the unit take to the water, learning how to canoe, kayak, handle a power boat and next year sailing, so they spend a lot of time on (and in) the River Waveney! Through the trained volunteer staff the cadets, rang-



ing from 10 to 18 years, are taught to respect the water and once all fears have been conquered, are seen careering down the river like they have been doing it all their lives. Onlookers may see cadets piling into a craft christened 'the submarine' until it inevitably sinks! Along with the fun they learn to be safe and act with care and consideration for the environment. Not only being water-

babies, other skills are taught such as parading, piping, drumming and seamanship skills to name a few. Certificates of Achievement can be earned and Senior Cadets get to sail for a week on TS Royalist, a fully rigged tall ship. Attendance at summer camp is a must too. The Cadets also officiate at Civic Functions.

If you feel this is for you please contact Sharon 07795411674 or Loraine 01502 716553.

BECCLES SEA CADETS NEED YOU!

THE LESLIE FREEMAN LONG SERVICE AWARD 2009/10

If you know of someone who has been serving the community voluntarily for a long time and you feel they deserve recognition, then please write to Beccles Town Council, The Walk, Beccles NR34 9AJ with their details (and yours) by 2nd October 2009. The winner will receive their award from the Mayor at the Mayor's Reception on Wednesday 14th October at the Waveney Centre.

THE WOODLARK TRUST - A THANK YOU TO ALL SUPPORTERS

The Woodlark Trust is being set up to provide a stimulating home for young, brain-injured people based in their locality.

There is such a place, 'Treetops' in Colchester, but this can only cater for 20. Nationwide there are in excess of 8,000 people who need this type of facility.

Due to family circumstances we have been unable to hold any fundraising events, but through local generosity

and support we are still striving towards our target.

A parcel of development land on a brown-field site, to our knowledge, is still available, although financially still out of reach at present. We hope to start our fundraising events again in October, and would ask for your continued support.

For more information please contact Mrs E Thwaites on 01502 714161.

BECCLES FRIDAY MARKET

—Did you go along to the Larger Friday Market on 28th August? What did you think? Would you like to have this facility more regularly? Please let the Beccles & District Regeneration Ltd know by writing to the Town Hall, Beccles.



Michelle Payne working on the Beccles Middle School duck vatories, at her premises 'Upstairs Gallery' and getting it ready for display in Exchange Square. She has based it on the Marsh Trail, so look very carefully when you see it and find the insects she has hidden amongst the reeds!

BECCLES COMMUNITY ARTS

A big 'THANKYOU' to all those who turned up for the **HARVEST MOON MUSIC FESTIVAL** on Saturday 15th August 2009. Even bigger thanks to the performers who played (in that heat) free of charge for our pleasure. Let's hope that next year will be as good, if not better, with continued support from both the community and visitors. Thanks also to Beccles Town Council, SCC Cllr Punt and Tesco in the Community who helped fund the event.

CATHERINE ADAM

On 5th August 2009, Catherine Adam, a former Mayor of Beccles (1995-96) passed away in her 85th year. Beccles Town Council would like to pay tribute to her work during her time as a Town Councillor. Mrs Adam undertook her role in the community extremely seriously and stood her ground on matters she felt strongly about. She made a difference to local organisations such as the May Centre, Sea Cadets and Waveney Centre to name but a few, giving them the support she felt they deserved. Beccles would have been a poorer place without her.

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
www.beccles.info

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 1.4.08-31.3.09 BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL BALANCE SHEET 31.3.09

Last year end 31.3.08		Current year end 31.3.09		Last year end 31.3.08		Current year end 31.3.09	
£			£	£		£	
		Income		LONG TERM ASSETS			
837.28		Admin	532.90	Investments		478.64	
506.76		Allotments	684.63	Long term debtors		0.00	
49,526.13		Estate	90,745.47	CURRENT ASSETS			
		Grants	500.00	Stocks and Shares		0.00	
7,675.00		Imprest/pay	4,175.00	Work in progress		0.00	
13.00		Mayors Account	0.00				
		Town Hall	1,509.83	5,662.51	Debtors (net of provision for Doubtful debts)	20,120.22	
7,310.00		Town Enhancement	7,358.80	3,353.36	Payments in advance	0.00	
20,564.00		Various	16,481.86		VAT Recoverable	3,018.85	
99,910.00		Precept	102,500.00		Temporary lendings (investments)	0.00	
£ 186,342.93			£224,488.49	264,863.32	Cash in hand	271,572.95	
		Expenditure		273,879.19	TOTAL ASSETS	295,190.66	
18,388.54		Admin	40,104.94	3,245.21	CURRENT LIABILITIES		
716.83		Allotments	953.16		Creditors	18,428.80	
9,906.07		Capital Projects	6,552.27		Temporary borrowing	0.00	
150.00		S137	100.00				
7,384.43		Common/Avenue	6,051.61		NET ASSETS	276,761.86	
127.25		Environment	335.08				
20,871.22		Estate	26,097.79		Represented by:		
20,962.83		Grants	11,485.03		General Fund Balance	-14,635.29	
79,025.47		Imprest/Payroll	83,170.53		Reserves:		
2,421.40		Marsh Trail	1,740.00		Capital	211,314.51	
2,610.33		Mayor's Account	4,041.47		Earmarked	79,604.00	
1,424.50		Subscriptions	2,471.30		External	0.00	
2,903.42		Town Hall	3,7769.86		Adjustments	478.64	
32,972.70		Town Enhancement	31,966.21				
2.06		Various	0.00				
£ 199,867.05		Prov for Dbtful debts	0.00				
			£218,839.25				
		General Fund					
5,239.59		Balance 1.4.08	-14,284.53				
186,342.93		ADD total income	224,488.49				
191,582.52			210,203.96				
199,867.05		DEDUCT Tot. Exp	218,839.25				
-8,284.53			-8,635.29				
-6,000.00		Transfer to reserves	-6,000.00				
£ 14,284.53		Balance at 31.3.09	£-14,635.29				

Transfers: General Fund to Earmarked Reserves £6,000.00

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31.3.09 reflecting 2009 income/expenditure