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Foreword

If you are a visitor, may I on behalf of Beccles and the Town Council, offer you a very warm welcome to our lovely market town situated on the edge of the Waveney Valley. If you are a resident of Beccles, I hope this Guide will introduce you to organisations and opportunities that perhaps you have not been aware of.

Nestling beside the River Waveney on the Suffolk and Norfolk border, our town is ideally placed to use as a touring base, with many exciting and varied places to visit, all within a thirty minute car journey, or you can always catch the local bus or train. You can also spend a number of days in Beccles itself, just relaxing and enjoying walks along the Marsh Trail or across Beccles Common. Boats are available for hire on the River or you can discover the cosy tea rooms and modern speciality restaurants. Explore the old streets (gates) and find something new around every corner.

With an excellent Outdoor Swimming Pool, small theatre, art gallery and a large selection of shops, Beccles has everything to offer the visitor; you may never want to leave. Visit the Museum to discover the fascinating and surprising history of Beccles. Visit the Town Hall or Tourist Information Centre, where the staff will be more than pleased to help you. Just a quick thank you to all the advertisers who have helped to make the production of the Official Beccles Town Guide possible.

To you, the reader, I hope this Guide helps you enjoy and discover the secrets of our special market town called Beccles.
Beccles Today

Beccles today is a thriving market town with an active community spirit, steeped in history. The picturesque town is situated in the heart of the Waveney Valley and has many a story to tell. The narrow streets and quaint architecture hide the sometimes turbulent history of this ancient borough with its fiercely independent citizens.

Baptist Church, Station Road

The Baptist church in Station Road stands near the site where, in the 16th Century, three martyrs were burnt at the stake for their religious beliefs. Here Chateaubriand, French aristocrat and writer, found refuge from the turbulence which was France at the end of the 18th Century. In the parish church Rev Edmund Nelson married a local girl called Catherine Suckling, and out of their union came Horatio Nelson, Britain’s greatest Admiral.

Sir John Leman School (now Sir John Leman High School)

The Sir John Leman School was founded more than 350 years ago by a man who, like Dick Whittington, found his fortune as Lord Mayor of London. Many of its students have become stars in the contrasting galaxies of science and the arts, including Nobel Prize winning chemist Dr Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin and Sir John Mills whose lifelong contribution to stage and screen is unrivalled.

Famous People

Other distinguished names growing up within the confines of the Beccles area include author and farmer Adrian Bell, father of BBC war correspondent Martin Bell, Second World War military leader, Field Marshall Sir Claude Auchinleck, Sir Stanley Rons Football Association Chairman, and globetrotting television pundit, Sir David Frost.

New Town Signs

The town signs, now placed at each of the five entrances to the town, depict the presentation of the Borough Charter by Queen Elizabeth I in 1584 and remind us of the independent spirit of the people fighting for their town and community.

District Councils and Other Bodies

Beccles, once governed by a Borough Council before Waveney District Council was formed in 1974, now has a busy and diverse Town Council working with and for the community. Under the umbrella of Waveney District Council, the Broads Authority and Suffolk County Council all working together to provide the community and visitors with amenities and facilities for modern living. Also working within these authorities is the Beccles Townlands Trust (Feoffees), an ancient charity, and a small group who make up the Beccles Society. All endeavour to keep the town of Beccles as close to its historic roots as possible without stopping progress.

Beccles a Market Town

Over the past years, Beccles has grown into a busy and vibrant Market Town with new businesses starting up. The town has one of the finest museums to be found anywhere and a well equipped marina complete with a Visitor Information Centre, toilets, shop and children’s play area. The Quay is used during the Summer for annual events such as the Beccles Carnival, the Duck Race and the Harvest Moon Free Music Festival.

Beccles has a diverse range of facilities which include the Waveney Enterprise Workshop, which provides sheltered but productive employment for those with special needs and has a well attended shop selling the crafts which the clients make. The Waveney Centre caters for the over 60s and this superb social centre commands magnificent views over the beautiful River Waveney every day of the week. The Centre is also open for use by others and is extremely popular.

Beccles has first-class facilities from the Library in Blyburgate, where many events and functions are held regularly, under the watchful eye of the Library Manager, Stephen Amer and his staff to the well-used Sports Pavilion, Indoor Bowls Club, and traditional Golf Course on Beccles Common and all situated in Common Lane South. The long-awaited Outdoor Swimming Pool refurbishment has been completed by Beccles Lido Ltd and the many volunteers who stepped forward to help complete the job. The pool, under the local District Council, had been in a state of disrepair for many years and was to be sold off, so it was a great relief for residents that it was taken on by local people and when it opened its doors for the first Season of 2010 it was very well received with record attendance from the start.

Beccles Twinned with Petit Couronne, France and Ahlem, Germany

Beccles also has a continued liaison over many years with Petit Couronne in France through the Beccles Twinning Association who carried this out on behalf of the Town Council. The Twinning Association, due to lack of members and an ageing committee, decided to cease running as a Twinning Association. Members of the Council decided to take on the Twinning with France and have had meetings with other organisations and the Schools in Beccles in an attempt to promote the French Twinning in the Town. Within this they would like to strengthen the link with Ahlem in Germany, a relatively new liaison for Beccles.
Local Government functions in and around Beccles are undertaken by three levels (or tiers) of authority; Suffolk County Council, Waveney District Council and Beccles Town Council. Elections for the sixteen Town Council seats take place every four years and in 2015 candidates will be fighting for the four wards of Beccles:

Centre – Common – Darby – Rigbourne

In 2010 the Council achieved Quality Parish Status and a certificate was awarded from the Chief Executive of Suffolk Association of Local Councils to the Mayor at that time.

The Mayor is elected annually by a vote of the Council. Each year the Mayor chooses a charity or local organisation/good cause, and raises money for this during their year of office.

The Town Council owns and manages quantities of marsh estate, Beccles Common and various other plots of land and buildings. The estate is leased or rented and this income, together with interest on investment, is used to maintain the Council’s holdings and provide services for the benefit of parishioners.

The day to day administration is carried out by the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk, and any enquiries can be made by telephone (there is an answerphone) - 01502 712109 from 9am-4pm Monday-Friday. Visitors can be received from 9am-1pm at the Town Hall, The Walk, Beccles NR34 9AJ.

A great deal of the historic records used to be kept at the Town Hall, but these have now been archived and deposited at the Lowestoft Record Office, telephone enquiries to 01502 405357.

The Councillors meet in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall twice monthly on the first and third Tuesday. The Council consists of Committees and Working Parties with the Planning Committee making recommendations for all applications received from both Waveney District Council and the Broad Authority for matters pertaining to Beccles.

The Beccles Fenland Charity Trust, of which the Town Council is the Sole Trustee, has supported various organisations, including the Beccles Twinning Association, Citizens’ Advice Bureau, drama and sporting groups. Grants are made three times a year in February, June and November and can be requested through a Grant Application Form which can be found on the Town Council’s website www.beccles.info or direct from the Town Hall office.

Every March, June, September and December 5,000 copies of The Charter are delivered to every home in Beccles. Since September 2005 this information leaflet has kept the community up-to-date with Council news and views and has been a vessel for local organisations to let the community keep abreast of achievements etc. This newsletter is collated, designed and edited by the Deputy Town Clerk and can also be found on the Council’s website www.beccles.info

The Beccles Town Council website was introduced in 2008, supported by a Working Party and the Deputy Town Clerk. Since then it has undergone reviews and refurbishment. In 2012 the Council was approached by the Beccles Business and Tourism Association (BBTA) who wished to amalgamate with the Town Council to form a new website for Beccles, incorporating business, tourism and Council information under one domain name, www.beccles.info. This new project is currently under construction and will be going live in the next few months. Keeping the website updated will now be undertaken by members of the BBTA who will upload information for Business and Tourism and the staff of the Council for Town Council information.
A Fairtrade Town

So What Is Fair Trade?

Fairtrade aims to help reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. Many producers in developing countries have been disadvantaged by the conventional trading system, with big global companies dominating the market and being able to pay as little as they like for their products. Fairtrade helps farmers and workers get a BETTER deal for their produce and earn a FAIR wage.

The Fairtrade Foundation awards the FAIRTRADE mark to products which meet their high standards. This mark means that producers in the developing world have been paid a FAIRER and STABLE price for their goods or crops. They also receive a Fairtrade premium, which they can use to help fund social, environmental or economic development projects, decided upon democratically by the producers.

What Makes Beccles A Fairtrade Town?

As well as gaining the necessary support of the Town Council, Beccles has a certain number of food retailers, cafes, businesses and organisations that sell or use Fairtrade products. We also have a steering group to ensure the campaign continues to progress and encourage others to support Fairtrade, with various events organised throughout the year.

How Can You Get Involved And Find Out More?

Anyone with enthusiasm for Fairtrade, and who would like to get involved either with their business or as an individual, can visit our page on Facebook — just type in Fairtrade Beccles and you will find us! The page is open to anyone, so even if you just want to investigate Fairtrade or see upcoming events in Beccles, please do join us.
The original town sign, one of the first to be erected in Suffolk, was carved in 1936 by Miss Judy Quinton Barber, the well-known Norfolk sculptress whose work is to be found in a number of churches and public buildings. It depicts the presentation of the charter by Queen Elizabeth 1 to John Bass, the first Port Reeve of Beccles, in 1584. Dr Henry Wood-Hill, Mayor of Beccles, had the sign installed at the end of Ballygate. In 1980 the sign was so badly damaged by vandals that a replica had to be produced to replace it. The original version, skillfully restored and repainted by Mr Arthur Josling of Beccles, is now on display at the Beccles & District Museum in Ballygate. Pride in Beccles have, over the past two years, helped fund and install replica signs at each entrance to Beccles from the main roads at George Westwood Way, London Road, Ellough Road and Northgate (this particular sign was sponsored by the Bean family who used to reside in Northgate).

**Pride in Beccles**

Pride in Beccles, set up through the Town Council, is a group made up from members of Waveney Norse, Beccles Society, the Town Council and members of the public who meet regularly to discuss the town’s needs for floral displays and areas requiring regeneration. The aim of the Pride in Beccles group is to improve the general environment of the town in relation to both planted areas and the street scene. What Pride in Beccles have been able to do and will continue to do, sometimes in partnership with other groups such as the Town, District or County Council as well as Beccles Community Arts, is to redevelop tired areas.

The War Memorial area has been opened up and greatly improved and the garden at the base of the Tower has been planted, along with the Lowestoft Road and Ellough Road junction. The Shelter and its garden area has been sympatheticly integrated into Exchange Square and inside the Shelter are panels in which artwork from the local school is displayed. Recently, four replicas of the Town Sign have been placed at the main entrances to Beccles.

During the past year the main interest of Pride in Beccles has been the further development of Kilbrack, which is an old Cemetery, with the planting of crab-apple trees and flowering shrubs in front of the newly installed fencing. An Information Board will be placed beside the path running through the grassed area reminding users of the history of Kilbrack as a Cemetery in the first part of the 19th Century. There is also a tribute to Edwin Cooper, a well-known painter of that time who is buried here.

Three seats on the banks of the River Waveney were provided by Beccles Helping Hands, a local organisation. Five flower towers were provided by Waveney Norse and the planting throughout the year was funded by the Town Council’s Pride in Beccles Working Party.

The dream for the future is to include real development for the Quay area. Anyone interested in these or other areas of Beccles is very welcome to become part of the team making up Pride in Beccles. Please contact Beccles Town Council, Town Hall, The Walk, Beccles NR34 9AJ 01502 712109.

The original Town Sign was sponsored by the Bean family who used to reside in Northgate).
From 2012 the school welcomed year seven and year eight pupils. In 2000 the school was awarded Specialist Technology Status and successfully maintained this through to 2004-2005 which has resulted in much improved resourcing across the whole school.

Nowadays the school places great emphasis on the celebration of achievement and has a rewards system which has been developed through the school council. Pupils, parents and staff enjoy the opportunity to recognise achievement at annual awards and celebration evenings. Partnership is the key to a child’s success and regular meetings with parents to discuss progress and continued school events help to create deeper continuity between home and school.

Pupils have a rich variety of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. Academic review days are held twice a year and give opportunity to pupils, parents and staff to review progress and set targets. The school still firmly believes in a philosophy of ‘Achievement for All’ which aims to allow individuals to flourish, developing many of the necessary skills required beyond the school environment.

Historic Beccles

Conservation and Heritage Protection

A few years ago, Beccles was successful in being awarded funding under the Market Towns Initiative Scheme. A significant proportion of monies from the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme has been spent on regenerating key buildings in Beccles, namely the Church Bell Tower and Beccles Public Hall. The Public Hall had been given sympathetic restoration works preserving the architectural character of the building. There are now more changing facilities for users of the hall, such as the Waveney Light Opera Group and Spotlight.

The Church Tower was improved to give better access for visitors and tourist information is available. There are guides who take you safely to the top and once there the view is amazing, taking in the town and the surrounding marshes and villages. There are pre-arranged advertised times during the summer months when this facility is accessible to everyone and these are listed on the Beccles Bell Tower website.

The Beccles Society, a group of people who are interested in local heritage, are key to helping preserve Beccles’ rich history but also are mindful of plans being made for the community to enjoy in the future.

Sir John Leman High School, Ringsfield Road

The Sir John Leman High School was founded in 1631 by Sir John Leman, then Lord Mayor of London and Prime Warden of the fishmongers’ Company. As a Free School 44 boys from Beccles, two from Ringsfield and two from Gillingham were educated there each year in its fine original building in Ballygate, now the Beccles Town Museum.

In 1910 the school moved to its present site in Ringsfield Road and became co-educational. Over the next 60 years the school rose from 80 to nearly 500 pupils. It became the Sir John Leman Grammar School and counted among its finest scholars Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin, Nobel Prize winner for Chemistry in 1964 (a plaque dedicated to Dorothy Hodgkin is to be found on the Beccles Town Hall wall). Sir John Mills the famous actor also attended.

In 1971 the School became a Comprehensive Upper School serving a large area of the Waveney Valley, South Norfolk and beyond. Now the school has grown in size to accommodate over 1,300 students with over 300 in the Sixth Form. New buildings have been added, a thriving Sports Centre developed and the School is the centre for adult education in the community.
Ancient Historic Walkway found on the Marsh Trail

Beccles Town Council own the Marsh Trail, a beautiful series of 3 walks starting from Beccles Quay. In July 2006 when flood defence works were being undertaken on the banks of the River Waveney ancient timbers were uncovered, but these were initially mistaken for modern fencing. After investigation by Archaeologists from the University of Birmingham and an archaeologist from Suffolk County Council, they discovered that these posts were part of a 4,000 year old ancient walkway across marshland crossing over into Norfolk. English Heritage stated that this was a nationally important find and all archaeologists were very excited and encouraged the Broadland Environmental Services Ltd (BESL), who were carrying out the flood defence works, to look in more detail. BESL paid for a three-week dig to try to find out more information on this Iron Age structure which, for ancient builders and craftsmen, was on par with creating Stonehenge or the Cerne Abbas Giant.

The area of the walkway is 16’ wide, capable of carrying carts, the equivalent of a motorway and archaeologists were stunned to find it was in use from the Bronze Age in around 1,000 BC, through the Iron Age and to Roman times and at least the 4th Century AD. This was discovered due to the posts being so well preserved by the marshy ground that the type of tools they used to cut the wood can be clearly seen. Some of the remains are currently on view in the Beccles Museum, Ballygate.

William Clowes, Printers 1803-today

Upon visiting the shopping precinct in Newgate, on the side of the Tesco building there is a wonderful mural dedicated to Clowes printing works. Founded in 1803 and based in London, by 1829 it was the largest printing works in the world. Clowes pioneered several printing and binding processes and in 1873 acquired the business of the Caxton Printing Works in Beccles, merging with the London company in 1880.

In 1941 Beccles became the main home of the company after the London property was destroyed through enemy action. Over the years the company has changed hands on several occasions, but still continues to operate and at one time had the largest Print Museum in England. This sadly had to be dispersed when the factory was sold, and the museum had to close.

The Mural was initiated by former employees of Clowes, namely Mr Peter Medley, ex managing director assisted by Mr Ron Walding whose father, Bert Walding, had been one of those who brought the Print Museum together. Tesco had put £10,000 towards a piece of artwork to be displayed on the building as a memorial to Clowes and all those who had worked there—it was said that someone from every family in Beccles had worked for Clowes at some time. Working closely with Beccles Town Council employee, Mrs Jula Janney, Mr Medley and Mr Walding advertised for artists with the brief of trying to portray the life and times of Clowes in Beccles. Members of the public voted on the artwork, by four local artists, which was displayed in the Atrium at Tescos during the summer of 2007. After the count one artist stood out—Mr Charles Martin, and on a chilly December day in 2007 the mural was installed. It really emphasised what Clowes was all about through the ages, and it has been said that some people think they recognise themselves in the characters seen pouring out of the factory gates at the end of a days work. At one time Clowes employed over 1,200 people, mostly from the Beccles area. The memory of Wm Clowes Printers on this site will always be close to the hearts of Beccles people and, with this mural to remind the future generations, will never be forgotten. Today, Clowes has downsized considerably and relocated to the industrial estate at Ellough where it still employs local people who produce fine books and other printed material.
Beccles Business & Tourism Association

Beccles remains one of the fastest growing market towns in the country, due to the increase in businesses both in the town centre and the outlying business parks which have seen vast amounts of investment in new and existing companies. This will progress into the future with the creation of the new Enterprise Zone which has been set up at Ellough near the existing business parks. We continue to work with the local District Councils, Town Council, Waveney Business Forum and the relevant Tourism groups. Networking and keeping up with the bigger picture countrywide is very important to ensure Beccles businesses are heard.

In late 2012 the Beccles Tourism Forum joined with the Business Association which means that all the businesses in the area benefit from enhanced training, networking and the relevant support when required. The Association is very active; always looking at the bigger picture, especially as tourism is playing a larger part in attracting visitors to the Waveney Valley, which last year launched its own destination branding to increase the number of visitors to the area.

With these changes happening, support to the many independent local retailers is more important than ever as they pride themselves in offering a good service and unique specialised goods. Accommodation is varied, from small welcoming guest houses to larger hotels, supported by some excellent restaurants and coffee shops.

We have some great tourist attractions in Beccles and the Waveney Valley with the Lido, Beccles Public Hall, the Go-Karting racetrack, UK Parachuting and, for more peaceful activities: fishing, the Bell Tower for views over the Valley, the Museum, walking, canoeing, cycling and boating all in and around the town.

In the last year the BBTA have been successful in obtaining grants for LEADER funding which has been used to improve the Beccles Tourist Information centre, provide interpretation material at the Bell Tower; print new tourist maps and local information signage boards; install video screens at major locations and audio tours, all to help the visitors and the community to enjoy the area. We also support and run many local events, such as the Late Night Christmas Shopping evening, the Duck Race and the Antique Street Markets.

In the coming year we are taking a major role with Beccles Town Council, in the creation of a new Beccles website (www.beccles.info) to ensure those looking at Beccles and the surrounding area know exactly what is on offer in the way of shops, leisure activities, businesses, employment opportunities and the many other attractions in the Waveney Valley. It is hoped that all businesses in the town and business parks will be listed giving a very good overview of what is on offer. Our aim is to attract more people to work, live, shop and relax in Beccles and the surrounding area, enjoying the uniqueness that Beccles and the Waveney Valley have to offer.

A personal message from Christine Pinsent, Chair of BBTA – “We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the local community and visitors to Beccles for supporting the local independent retailers and for ‘Shopping Local’, This is so important to the local economy, so please continue to do so and keep Beccles the great place it is.” For more information please contact 01502 715771
Beccles & District Regeneration Ltd
Beccles Charter Market

In 1974, due to Government reorganisation, facilities and functions which had been carried out by Beccles Borough Council were transferred over to Waveney District Council (WDC) for implementation, the Market being one of these. The Borough Council was then renamed Beccles Town Council.

For many years Beccles Council had been applying to WDC for the return of the market and on 4th June 2008 they were successful. The Beccles & District Regeneration Ltd (B&D) underwent discussions with Beccles Town Council regarding their proposal to lease the Friday market for 5 years to enable them to carry out the day to day running as, because of Charitable Status, funding could be sought for extra facilities for the market.

On 1st April 2009 the transfer to B&D was completed and a Market Manager was appointed who along with the Directors of the Company, were successful in accessing badly needed funding from Suffolk County Council. The money granted was used for the installation of electricity pillars in New Market, administration costs for holding larger markets and the purchase of a market stall for renting out to traders.

The B&D put in for a permanent Road Closure in 2009 but it took almost three years for this to be approved. In August 2011 the market was closed off to traffic from 6am till 4pm on Fridays, but this was an untimely event as it unfortunately clashed with a dip in the economic climate and businesses in the town centre lobbied the Town Mayor for a change. Therefore, after public consultation was carried out it was proposed to re-open the road to traffic from 9am until 2pm, allowing time for traders to setup and take down their stalls.

The market continues to expand and has a diverse range of goods available from the fifteen plus stalls each Friday. This is a vast improvement on the four stalls trading there before it was leased to the B&D. There is plenty of room for parking for those who wish to stop and shop quickly.

The market is held every Friday from 8am to 4pm in New Market.

For further information call Mrs J Janney, Market Manager - 01502 712109 or admin@beccles.info

The Town Trail

The layout of Beccles is that of a typical medieval market town and much of the present road system remains the same as it was some 500 years ago.

The Heritage Trail endeavours to include much of this aspect of the town, and to highlight our more interesting and historical features and buildings. Some twenty buildings have wall plaques, and these make useful ‘stepping stones’ for the Trail.

The Trail takes a circular route, with several optional diversions, so you can start at any point, but for convenience it is starting and finishing in Old Market.

The suffix ‘gate’ in the road names simply means ‘street or road’, and not ‘gate’ in the more accepted sense as found in a walled town.

- Blyburgate – the road to Blythburgh
- Hungate – a corruption of Houndage
- Ballygate possibly Baileygate – the way to the fortified part of town
- Saltgate – assumed to relate to the fishing industry which once flourished in the town
- Sheepgate – was originally Sheepmarket
- Newgate and Northgate are self explanatory

Much of the town’s architecture has a strong Flemish influence and many of the fine town houses have Georgian façades to what are, in fact, much older buildings.

The Bell Tower is separate from the Church and was built some 150 years later than the Church. The Tower is a symbol of the town and can be seen from all the approach roads—it is open at certain times throughout the Summer. The cliff at the west end of the Church is a reminder that the river at Beccles is tidal.

There is a booklet available at the Town Hall, the Tourist Information Centre and Beccles Museum outlining the whole trail and pointing out areas of interest and background information.

The Trail is just over a mile long and can be completed in an hour, but of course, you might be longer with a little bit of shopping on the way round, or an afternoon tea, a dip in the Lido, (found in Puddingmoor), a visit to the Town Museum (Ballygate) or a tour of the Church.
The Marsh Trail – Beccles Quay

Visitors to Beccles should make a beeline to Beccles Quay to saunter along the banks of the River Waveney along this green and very pleasant route. If you are interested in wildlife, fauna and flora, then this trail is for you. There are three walks available with differing lengths:

**Green Walk** 4 miles : 2h 30m
This takes you around the perimeter of the marsh following the river and then upon reaching the Worlingham wall returning across farmland back to the beginning at the bridge.

**Red Walk** 3 miles : 1h 45m
This takes you from the bridge, turning right at the Sailing Club and then back across to the farm buildings joining the green walk back to the bridge.

**Blue Walk** 1.5 miles : 45 m
This takes you from the bridge, past the Sailing Club turning right and then across Puttock Hill and back to the bridge. This walk is suitable for wheelchair users and slow walkers.

If you wish to download a Marsh Trail leaflet, please go to [www.beccles.info](http://www.beccles.info). Leaflets can be picked up at the Tourist Information at Beccles Quay (01502 713196) and the Town Council Office, The Walk, Beccles NR34 9AJ, (01502 712109). Please note that the Marsh Trail is closed every other Saturday between 1st November and 31st January as organised shooting is carried out by the local Wildfowlers Club.

Beccles Golf Club - Beccles Common

Founded in around 1899 Beccles Golf Club is a great place to play, situated on Beccles Common it is a challenging course. Located on the north side of the town it is accessed via Common Lane.

The Club itself is run by volunteers, apart from the part-time Green Keeper who has transformed the greens back to their former glory through his own hard work and dedication. The course has 9 holes varying from Par 3’s through to a Par 5, all laid out on what many call ‘an inland links setting’. Although there are no bunkers or water on the course, gorse is the main obstacle and with small, fast greens makes regular course management a requirement for a good round of golf.

The Club is growing fast, not only the men’s section, but also over the last couple of years the Club has seen several ladies take up the game. The junior section has some talented youngsters and attendance grows through the summer months. The course is available for public use at a small green fee to cover the Public Liability Insurance of the Club. Affiliated to the EGU and SGU the Club offers official CONGU handicaps to anyone who is a member. Competitions are held every week including handicap qualifiers and social nights are held throughout the year.

The Club are most fortunate to have a PGA Professional Coach, Mr Martin Elsworthy. If you require coaching for beginners, or need to upgrade your skills, then call 07751100816. He has competitive rates and is flexible when arranging lessons.

The course is normally restricted to members on Saturday mornings for competitions and some Sunday mornings for junior coaching, which is open to non-members and children who just want to try golf for the first time. The course is open from 8am till dusk, all visitors are welcome, but consideration must be given at all times to other Common users.

For further information please contact Ray Walding, Club Secretary on 01502 712544 or 07789 633530. The Club’s website address is [www.becclesgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.becclesgolfclub.co.uk) where you can find directions, information on fees, results and fixtures.
The Quay

Beccles Quay is set in beautiful tranquil surroundings. A place where you can enjoy relaxing walks around the Quay area and, if the fancy takes you, carry on to the Marsh Trail running along the Suffolk/Norfolk border. You can stop to rest and enjoy the refreshments available at the Quay Café, watching the Anglers and the world go by. There is a Snooker Club close by and during Carnival time in August the Fair comes to this area and there is always plenty to do then. There are many events held on this area including the Harvest Moon Free Music Festival in August, the Beccles Duck Race in September and sometimes the Circus in April/May. For further details of events log on to www.beccles.info

The River Waveney

Before the first millennium, Beccles was a thriving fishing port, paying an annual tithe of 30,000 herrings to the King. Built on a high promontory in the wide estuary which extended from north of Gt Yarmouth to Lowestoft, leaving an island, which today makes up these two towns. After the Norman Conquest, the tithe was increased to 60,000 herrings; this became increasingly difficult to fulfil due to the silting-up and changing sea levels of the estuary which was beginning to dry out. This enabled the River Waveney to be embanked and the land reclaimed and used for marshland grazing.

In the 1830’s lock gates were installed at Oulton Broad, enabling coastal trading vessels to by-pass the fixed bridge at St Olaves and travel to Beccles. At this time the Corporation made improvements to the navigation and constructed the Quay as it is today.

The coming of the railways in the 1860’s affected the commercial trade on the river and hopes of Beccles becoming an inland port were dashed.

The River Waveney is still the lifeblood of the area, with the navigation extending as far as Geldeston. The town supports a thriving sailing, rowing and fishing club. There are also two Broads hire yards and one-day boat hire.

Crafts on the River

Waveney Stardust Trust Ltd

Waveney Stardust, a forty-two foot [13m] broad-beamed single deck day cruiser, is wheelchair friendly and has no steps to negotiate. Access is via a gentle ramp and a hydraulic platform lift. A disabled toilet on board is large enough for a wheelchair and a carer when necessary. Cruises include light refreshments. Meals may be taken ashore at the many riverside pubs or a picnic consumed on board. Qualified volunteers operate the cruiser, which is maintained to a very high standard for safety and comfort, for the use of disabled and/or elderly persons with carers, friends and family.

A small charge is made for each passenger regardless of age, status or ability. The minimum hire fee is equivalent to six passengers. Parties may consist of between 1 to 12 individuals of whom one or more needs to be either disabled and/or elderly.

Waveney Stardust has been in service for over 16 years. In the last 10 years 37,000 passengers have enjoyed trips out covering 45,000 miles of the Broadland Waterways. To meet the ever increasing demands on this cruiser a second boat was commissioned and “Waveney Stardust II”, 45’ 9” was launched in October 2011 and is being very well used.

All cruises are required to be booked in advance. All day and evening cruises are available seven days a week, with half days when the days are shorter at the start and end of the season 1st April to 31st December. All bookings are taken by telephone, 07817 920 502 and enquiries may be made via this number or by visiting our website at www.waveneystardust.co.uk

Leaflets are available listing facilities and other information.
Annual Events in Beccles

To offer you the best time in Beccles during your visit the following events can be enjoyed during the holiday season. (For more information regarding these events log on to the relevant website or visit www.beccles.info)

April

Waveney Light Opera Group – WLOG – two performances April and October
Both performances during the year are held at the Beccles Public Hall in Smallgate and are well advertised. The Public Hall has a booking office and information leaflets can be picked up at local locations in the Town.

History Walks – April through to July
These walks for all the family start in April through to July from the Bear & Bells public house in Old Market (please check to confirm start time as this does vary from time to time). All walks cost £4 for adult and £2 for accompanied children and tickets have to be purchased in advance. For further information log on to www.beccleshelpinghands.co.uk

May

Beccles Cycle for Life
Beccles Cycle for Life is an annual sponsored charity cycle ride with varying distances from 7, 15, 25, 40 or 50 miles! A prize of a bicycle worth £250 for the winner with 50% of the money raised being donated to local charities. The event starts at 10am at the Sir John Leman Lower School, Castle Hill, Beccles. For more information log on to www.becclescycleforlife.org

Beccles Antiques Street Market – May and September
Organised by two members of the Beccles Business Association the Beccles Antiques Street Market is held annually with over 90 vendors who will be offering a wide and varied selection of antiques for both dealer and collector. This event is well signposted on all routes, and ample parking is available. You will be able to enjoy locally produced hot and cold refreshments along with local traders who remain open during this event. Held on the first Bank Holiday Sunday from 8am-4.30pm in the town centre.

All enquiries: Kate Lee 01502 711174/Christine Pirouet 01502 715771 or check the website www.beccles.info

June

Spotlight Musical Theatre Group
Spotlight are all amateurs, but give amazing professional performances every time. They never fail to delight their dedicated audience, so be sure to bag your ticket as soon as you see the advertisement for any forthcoming performances. For further information on future productions check www.beccles.info or www.spotlight.org.uk

Beccles Hospital Fete
Beccles Hospital Fete has been organised by the Rotary Club of Beccles for the past 50 + years taking over the Hospital Grounds on the last Saturday afternoon in June. This event is traditionally opened by the Mayor of Beccles accompanied by the Rotary Club President. The grounds are packed with stalls from many local organisations with games, cakes, bouncy castles and plants. Parravani’s famous ice-cream is available, the Beccles Carnival Queen and Princesses are in attendance and the Beautiful Baby Competition is always well supported.

August

Beccles Carnival
A very important date in the Beccles social calendar, this event has been running for many years, originally in conjunction with the Regatta Sailing week and is held during the third weekend in August. The Carnival used to run over four days, but due to a drop in attendance and the cost of the fireworks, changes were implemented to cut costs and now the event is over one weekend with the Carnival parade being held on Sunday afternoon. There are always lots of competitions, stalls, and family entertainment going on at Beccles Quay, and this is the place to go during your stay. Go to Google and type in Beccles Carnival for further up-to-date information.

September

Beccles Duck Race – Sunday 1st September 2013
This is an extremely enjoyable family fun event and should not be missed! Many hours of work go into this event (as in all events) with many hundreds of ducks being sold in the run-up to the day! Corporate ducks sponsored by businesses and the Town Council are painted and preened and set loose on the river. A website has been established (just Google Beccles Duck Race). Information Leaflets will be available and as this causes such a ‘quacking’ stir in Beccles, the media will be advertising it fully. This is a large event, so make sure you get there early to park, or alternatively walk from the town centre. You can buy a duck on the day and join in with everyone else who will be shouting their own little yellow peril hopefully to victory! This event is held during the first weekend in September at Beccles Quay.
Harvest Moon Free Music Festival – Sunday 1st September (usually held the 2nd Saturday in August)
This event was the brainchild of Beccles Community Arts, a group of local people whose aim is to put art, in all its forms, into Beccles. The event, in its 6th year, is usually held on the second Saturday in August from noon until dusk but for 2013 only is held along with the Beccles Duck Race. This event is growing in popularity as more and more people get to hear of it. All you need to bring to this event if you wish is a picnic, chairs/blanket, family and friends then relax and let the music take over. All artists perform free of charge and there is no entrance fee. Food and drink is available during the afternoon and there may be craft stalls selling their wares. The entertainment is provided by local bands, some new, some well established, all playing their hearts out for you.

Antiques Market – 1st September 2013
A very popular event held twice annually in May and September. This year it shares this day with the Beccles Duck Race and the Harvest Moon Free Music Festival both held at Beccles Quay. The Antiques Market is held in the town centre, and caters for every taste with a diverse, eclectic array of items. There will be many visitors in Beccles on this day, so get here early and park so that you enjoy all three events.

October
Ghost Walks/History Walks – March to October
These extremely successful walks take you slowly through the streets of Beccles with the guide relaying stories and folklore of ghostly events from bygone days. The walks are from March-October. The Special Halloween Ghost Walk will send shivers down your spine starting from outside the Bear & Bells public house in Old Market at 7.30pm. The History Walks are just as exciting and take you through the centuries revealing the people and events of the way we were. All walks cost £4 for adults and £2 for accompanied children and tickets have to be purchased in advance. For further information please log on to www.beccleshelpinghands.co.uk.

November
Late Night Christmas Shopping Event—last Friday in November
This attraction has become more and more popular over the last few years. Originally a late night shopping evening with a few stalls it has turned into a wonderful, colourful event on a par with many larger towns. This event is organised by members of the Beccles Business and Tourist Association with assistance from the Beccles Lions and the Beccles Helping Hands taking place on the last Friday in November. There are many attractions during the evening with bands, choirs and displays, the format of this changing each year so there is always something new. The local Parish Church is decked with holly around the many stalls you can find in there and the local shops open their doors (and some offer a glass of festive cheer). This occasion is always started by the switching on of the Christmas Lights at 6pm, carried out by a ‘special guest’, turning the town into a winter wonderland (yes, Beccles gets snow on this day). For further information contact 01502 717417 or 01502 711174 or log on to www.beccles.info

Some Local Hotels and Guest Houses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANGEL INN, THE</td>
<td>High Street, Wangford, Beccles NR34 8RL</td>
<td>01503 578638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHWAY COTTAGE</td>
<td>9 The Street, Geldeston, Beccles NR34 OL</td>
<td>01508 518056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASH FARM B &amp; B</td>
<td>Dairy Lane, Mutford, Beccles NR34 7QJ</td>
<td>01502 476892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAMPTON DOG</td>
<td>London Road, Brampton NR34 8EA</td>
<td>01502 575645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUTTERLEY HOUSE</td>
<td>Leet Hill Farm, Yarmouth Road, Kirby Cane, Bungay NR35 2HJ</td>
<td>01508 518301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATHERINE HOUSE</td>
<td>2 Ringsfield Road, Beccles NR34 9PQ</td>
<td>01502 716428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVELEIGH HOUSE</td>
<td>49 London Road, Beccles NR34 9YR</td>
<td>01502 715214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAIRFIELDS GUEST HOUSE</td>
<td>Old Lowestoft Rd, Worlingham, Beccles NR34 7PD</td>
<td>01502 476261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLUFF COTTAGE</td>
<td>1 High Street, Wangford, Beccles NR34 8RL</td>
<td>01502 578997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HILL FARM HOUSE</td>
<td>B &amp; B London Road, Weston, Beccles NR34 8TE</td>
<td>01502 711537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORCHARDS RETREAT</td>
<td>Beccles Road, Raveningham NR14 6NW</td>
<td>01508 548322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSE COTTAGE B &amp; B</td>
<td>School Road, Kirby Cane, Bungay NR35 2HL</td>
<td>01508 518534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALMON’S LEAP</td>
<td>Beccles Road, Barnby, Beccles NR34 7QW</td>
<td>01502 476756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALTGATE HOUSE</td>
<td>5 Saltgate, Beccles NR34 9AN</td>
<td>01502 710889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE ANGEL HOTEL</td>
<td>Thoroughfare, Halesworth IP19 8AH</td>
<td>01986 873365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE CASTLE INN</td>
<td>35 Earsham Street, Bungay NR35 1AF</td>
<td>01986 892283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE KING’S HEAD HOTEL (Wetherspoons)</td>
<td>New Market, Beccles NR34 9HA</td>
<td>01502 718730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE KING’S HEAD HOTEL</td>
<td>2 Market Place, Bungay NR311AW</td>
<td>01986 893583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAVENEY HOUSE HOTEL</td>
<td>Puddingmoor, Beccles NR34 9PL</td>
<td>01502 712270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beccles — a fine touring base

There are many pretty and interesting villages and market towns surrounding Beccles. Apart from those specifically mentioned below, Toft Monks, Goldeston, Mutford, Barnby, Aldeby and Shipmeadow are well worth a visit.

Barsham — with its round-towered church and seventeenth-century parsonage form a lovely group set back amid tall trees. The churchyard is a wilderness and has been left as a wildlife sanctuary. A rector of Barsham was the grandfather of Horatio Nelson. In 1806 a dreadful thunderstorm broke above the church and lightning struck through the east window, smashing the mullions and the mensa of the altar. Repairs were made, and at the same time, the chantry chapel was restored and rededicated. In our own time there was a worse disaster, when the thatched roof of the nave caught fire and the interior was severely damaged. Much of the detail was added this century: the stuccoed chancel ceiling of 1906, with its roses and lilies, the colourful rood canopy of 1919, and John Fisher’s exuberant stained glass of 1903, with its angels and baroque swags of wild flowers.

The terracotta tomb chest of Sir Edward Eckingham (d. 1527) was made from the same set of moulds as those of the Bedingfield monuments at Oxborough (Norfolk). The eastern exterior wall of the church should not be missed; it is covered entirely in flush work diamonds, a theme picked up and continued by the window tracery. The design was probably the work of Joseph Fleming, rector from 1617 to 1636.

Gillingham — Peace has returned to this hamlet a mile from the Suffolk border at Beccles, with the completion of the bypass on the A143. Its three churches now lie along a leafy lane that was once the busy Yarmouth road. The first church you see, climbing the hill, is the unusually tasteful Roman Catholic Church, built in 1898, of brick, in restrained classical style. The second church, St Mary’s, lies a little further north, and is an attempt to produce a copybook Norman church, built in 1858-9. The tiny nave displays every type of Romanesque ornamentation, including fat, spirally grooved pillars in the style of Durham cathedral. The interior is gloomy from the tiny splayed windows filled with Victorian glass but, even so, the church has an atmosphere all of its own. The third church, All Saints, a hundred yards to the south, is an attempt to produce a copybook Norman church, built in 1858-9. The tiny nave displays every type of Romanesque ornamentation, including fat, spirally grooved pillars in the style of Durham cathedral. The interior is gloomy from the tiny splayed windows filled with Victorian glass but, even so, the church has an atmosphere all of its own. The third church, All Saints, a hundred yards to the north, survives only as an ivy-covered tower, from where there are views eastwards to the Jacobean Gillingham Hall.

Loddon — This small market town 7 miles north-west of Beccles, is now bypassed and peaceful, with many good Georgian red-brick houses and a Gothic fantasy of a school built in 1857. These buildings line the big square Market Place, with Holy Trinity Church to the east. The church is full of memorials to generous patrons, among them one of Norfolk’s finest monuments, the figure of Lady Williamson (d. 1684), carved in white marble by Joshua Marshall and an entirely realistic portrait of an elderly lady. Lady Williamson was the biggest single contributor to the rebuilding of St Paul’s Cathedral after London’s Great Fire of 1666.

Hales — A mile to the south-east of Loddon, is the village of Hales. The Church of St Margaret is a beautiful and unspoilt example of simple Norman architecture, consisting of a round tower, thatched nave and an apse, ornamented with graceful black arcading. Scarcely anything later than the 12th Century intrudes; even the few windows that were inserted later do not detract from the timeless atmosphere.

Raveningham — a mile east of Hales, consists only of the Hall and St Andrew’s Church. Extensive walled gardens and a large nursery specialising in rare and exotic plants surround the Georgian house. It is open in Summer. The Hall is the home of the Bacon family, and the Church is full of delightful memorial tablets that remind us proudly and often, that the head of the family is England’s premier Baronet.

North Cove — Two miles east of Beccles, the five-acre Hall gardens, opened under the National Gardens Scheme, were planted in 1760; the surviving trees have now reached a considerable height. The Norman Church of St Botolph contains numerous 14th Century wall paintings, including scenes from the Passion, which were touched up when they were discovered in 1874.

Worlingham — has a Hall built early in the 19th Century by Francis Sandys of Ickworth fame, described by Norman Scarfe as ‘perhaps the most beautiful house of manageable size in Suffolk’, but the inside is far more beautiful than the outside. It is in a nice situation, with parkland and woodland going down to the Waveney marshes (not open to the public).

Bungay and Halesworth — Both Market Towns which can be accessed very easily by private or public transport. Both towns retain their traditional flavour with regular markets and events advertised in the local press. The Bungay Town Clerk can be reached on 01986 893148 and Halesworth on 01986 874527. Both will be only too pleased to help you.

Lowestoft and Gt Yarmouth — These seaside towns are only 10 miles from Beccles and easily accessed through public transport. In both areas the beautiful beaches are signposted and have lovely esplanades and entertainment facilities.

Southwold — Close to Beccles is the very popular market town (and much filmed and photographed) Southwold, famous for its Adnam’s Ales and dray horses pulling the traditional carts. Sadly this wonderful sight is no longer seen at Southwold due to modernisation. The Southwold Town Clerk can be reached on 01502 792576.

Norwich — As Beccles is extremely close to the Norfolk border and the Broads, Norwich deserves a mention. At only 18-20 miles away, it is our nearest city and has all the major retail outlets, as well as a fine castle (you would need to set aside a whole day for this). Norwich has a diverse purpose-built outdoor market catering for every need as well as Clubs, pubs and cinemas at Riverside plus two large indoor shopping areas Chapel Fields and Castle Mall.
Beccles Baptist Church - Minister Dr Derek Johnston 01502 715553 www.becclesbaptistchurch.co.uk
St Benet’s Minister - Father Martin 01502 713179 St Mary’s Road, Beccles NR34 9NR
Methodist & United Reformed Church - Minister E Bosse Hungate, NR34 9TT 01502 470815 www.hungatechurchbeccles.org.uk
New Life Christian Fellowship - Minister Mr J Girdwood Sir John Leman High School, NR34 9PG 01502 713067 www.beccles-christian-fellowship.info
St Michael’s Church - Minister Rev J Beauchamp The Walk NR34 9AJ 01502 712317
St Luke’s Church - Minister Rev J Beauchamp Ribbourne Hill, NR34 9HJ 01502 712317
Salvation Army 64 Blyburtage, NR34 9TA 01502 713235
Quakers (Religious Society of Friends) 15 Smallgate NR34 9AB 01502 712379 www.norfolk-quakers.org.uk

Hospitals
Beccles & District War Memorial Hospital, St Mary’s Road NR34 9NQ 01502 719800
James Paget, Gorleston, Gr Yarmouth 01493 452452
Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital 01603 286286

Public Services
Anglian Water, Emergency (Sewage) 08457 145145
Beccles Museum 01502 715722
Beccles Police Station, London Road, NR34 9TZ 01986 835300
Beccles Town Council, The Walk, NR34 9AJ 01502 712109
Gas EON (Emergency) 0800 111999
Citizen’s Advice Bureau, The Walk NR34 9AJ 01502 717715
Electricity EON (Emergency) 0800 0568090
Essex & Suffolk Water 0845 7820111
Health Centre, St Mary’s Road, NR34 9NQ 01502 712662
Health Centre, Pharmacy 01502 717578
Job Centre, Hungate NR34 9TT 01502 714999
Library, Blyburtage NR34 9TF www.suffolk.gov.uk 01502 714073
Social Services, Suffolk County Council, Market Street, NR34 9AQ 01502 717373
Tourist Information Centre, Beccles Quay 01502 713196
Waveney District Council Local Office, Market Street, NR34 9AQ 01502 713113
Waveney District Council, High Street, Lowestoft NR32 1HS 01502 562111

Local Banks and Building Societies
Barclays Bank plc 23C New Market, Beccles 0845 7555555
Halifax Building Society 5 Market Street, Beccles 0845 203040
HSBC Bank plc 3 New Market, Beccles 0845 7404404
LloydsTSB Bank plc Exchange Square 0845 3000000
Nat West 1 Smallgate, Beccles 0845 7888444
Nationwide Building Society 1 New Market, Beccles 0845 2661144
### Transport

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Rail Enquiries</td>
<td>0845 7484950</td>
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<tr>
<td>There is a regular service to London (Liverpool Street) and intermediate stations via Ipswich and also Lowestoft.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach—National Express—Booking Line</td>
<td>08717 818178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a daily service to London throughout the year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus Service—Anglian Bus</td>
<td>01502 711109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus Service—First Eastern Counties Buses Ltd</td>
<td>08456 020121</td>
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(Please bear in mind that contacts for local transport change quite frequently. Please call the transport helpline 01473 583359 if you are experiencing difficulty sourcing information.)

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<td>Goldline Taxis</td>
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<td>01502 710071</td>
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<tr>
<td>P &amp; S Taxis</td>
<td>01502 716629</td>
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<td>PC Travel</td>
<td>01502 710071</td>
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<tr>
<td>P J Taxis</td>
<td>01502 719718</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Market Row

#### CAFE & SANDWICH BAR

**Eat in...**
- Mon - Sat 8.45am to 4pm

We serve freshly prepared, locally sourced, seasonal food.

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**2-4 Market Row, Beccles**

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### The Needlecraft Shop Ltd

Janet Holt & Joan Moore
- 2, Station Road, Beccles, NR34 9QQ
- Tel: 01502 713543

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### The Needlecraft Shop Ltd

2, Station Road, Beccles, NR34 9QQ
Tel: 01502 713543

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- 2, Station Road, Beccles, NR34 9QQ
- Tel: 01502 713543

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The Boys are back in town! Kevin & David of Satis House Hotel in Yoxford have opened a fabulous new café at Evergreens Garden Centre in Beccles. Join them for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea or just a cuppa & a slice of cake!

Evergreens Garden Centre, Weston, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 8TT
Bookings - 01502 711147

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42a Blyburgate, Beccles
www.jewellery-room.co.uk

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Satis Cafe

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01502 712613
www.familygardencentre.com

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- Bowen Technique
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**www.saxontherapy.co.uk**

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