



MARCH 2013

ISSUE 28



THE CHARTER

GIVE YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BECCLES MARSHES



STOP PRESS!

CASH POINT POST OFFICE

Unfortunately there has been a delay in the installation of an external cash machine at Rigbourne Hill Co-operative and the Post Office at Chet Stores. Both these installations have been confirmed by the relevant companies, but the procedures to achieve this have taken longer than anticipated.

I will continue to monitor and keep behind this project and it is hoped both will be available by mid April.

Councillor Graham Catchpole
Mayor of Beccles

THIRD BROADS OUTDOORS FESTIVAL May 9th—19th

Two weeks of non-stop adventure will showcase all that the Broads has to offer. The third Broads Outdoors Festival will provide the opportunity for people to experience new activities and learn more about Britain's Magical Water-Land right on their doorstep. Over 80 specially designed events, along with some secret places, are opening for the occasion. Whether you love boats, birds, trains or windmills there is plenty to choose from. To find out more (and there is plenty more) visit www.outdoorfestival.co.uk

In March 2000, the Charity Commission (CC) contacted Beccles Town Council, informing the Council that it appeared to be Trustees of a piece of land named Beccles Fen and a corresponding fund in respect of the profits arising from it. This was based on information that the CC had received from a member of the public. The CC went on to suggest that the Fen appeared to be governed by the terms of a Charter granted by Elizabeth I to the town in 1584 that expressly provided that the profits from Beccles Fen be employed for 'the common benefit and utility of the inhabitants of Beccles and other pious and charitable uses'. The original Charter was written in Latin, and so the Council can only rely on a translation of the Charter that is included in a publication called 'An account of The Corporation of Beccles Fen'.

The translation of the Charter states that Beccles Fen, or Common as it was referred to, totalled an estimated 1400 acres and was vested in the Corporation of Beccles Fen for the benefit of the inhabitants of Beccles to enable them to exercise common rights over it. The CC have informed the Town Council that the profits from the lands and arguably the lands themselves, should be transferred into a Charity for the benefit of the people of Beccles. No map is attached to the Charter and so the CC have informed the Council that it must agree on the area of lands that should be transferred to the Charity.

The Town Council argued for many years that it was very difficult to prove beyond any doubt where the area of land that constituted the Beccles Fen or Common, as referred to in the

Charter, was actually situated. It also stated that as the Council was in existence to act for the benefit of the people of Beccles and already spent most of its profits from its land and property for the benefit of the town on items such as Christmas Lights, grants to Beccles organisations, planting around the town and the upkeep and administration of the disputed lands etc, it seemed pointless adding another layer of administration, given that the current arrangement has been in existence for the past 200 years.

The CC were still insistent that a separate Charity should be set up to administer the profits of the Beccles Fen, and so the Town Council set up a Charity called The Beccles Fenland Charity Trust in March 2011, with the Council acting as Sole Trustee to the Charity. Since that time, the Council have transferred an amount of around £12,000 per year to the Charity, and these monies are paid out to Beccles organisations in the form of grants. The Council has not as yet transferred any lands to the Charity as they feel that it can not simply be assumed that all of the freehold property of the Council are the same lands referred to in the Charter.

The earliest map that appears to be in existence of the area known as Beccles Fen is dated 1757, and this also includes a list of all of the field areas and their sizes. The total acres shown on this map is 1025. The Charter referred to 1400 acres, so within less than 200 years just under 400 acres of the original lands are not identified on this map. Various maps have been produced since then, with the 1916 map showing 898 acres. Since this time, more of the land

has been either sold off or transferred out of the Council's ownership or powers, totalling approximately 264 acres.

In order to progress this matter to a conclusion, the Council has carried out further investigations and put a proposal to the CC for an area of land to the north of the A146 bypass, totalling around 607 acres, to be held on Trust by the Council on behalf of the Fenland Charity. This may or may not be part of the 1400 acres referred to in the 1584 Charter, but the CC have indicated that they would accept an equivalent area of remaining land to be deemed Charitable. This area of land would generate a good profit for the Charity and would keep administrative costs for the Charity to a minimum as the whole area is leased to one company.

The CC have advised the Council that it should consult on this proposal, and a public consultation day will be held at the Town Hall in Beccles on **Tuesday 19 March 2013 between 11am and 6pm**. This will be an opportunity to view the Council's proposal and other research that has been carried out and submitted to the Council by other parties. If you are unable to attend this day, the consultation documents will be available to view by appointment at the Town Hall until **Tuesday 26 March 2013**. Please telephone 01502 712109 between 9am and 3pm. All responses to the consultation and any responses to this article should be posted or emailed to **Beccles Town Council, Town Hall, The Walk, Beccles NR34 9AJ - admin@beccles.info**

The consultation will close on Tuesday 23 April 2013.

BECCLES ANTIQUE STREET MARKET—SUNDAY 5TH MAY 2013—8AM-4.30PM

The first of the two Beccles Antiques Street Markets held in the town centre will take place on **SUNDAY 5TH MAY 2013**, Bank Holiday weekend.

The Market boasts a varied and interesting gathering of both general and specialist dealers, selling a wide range of antiques and collectables, including furniture, silver, china, linen, jewellery, books, clocks, retro and vintage design and decorative items. The dealers are experts in their field and are quite happy

to share their knowledge and expertise with collectors. In fact, it is the great selection of antiques on offer that make this Market so successful and creates a wonderful atmosphere which is much commented on.

Many of the local shops, bars and restaurants will be open during the day along with first class catering available on the Market. This includes Big Sky Pies, local Ice Cream, Coffee and even a Beer Tent for those in need of a certain liquid refreshment after a

busy day buying! If you haven't been before, you really should visit and experience the pleasure of a busy outdoor specialist market. It is **FREE**, well signposted and easy to find—

(SAT NAV— NR34 9HA)

For more info:

Kate Lee—01502 711174

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

The next Antiques Street Market will be on :

SUNDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2013.



Beccles Antique Street Market May 2012 Town Centre

BECCLES PUBLIC HALL

What's On in MARCH?

Tickets available at www.becclespublichall.com
Box Office Mon-Sat 11am-4pm

FILMS

Doors open 1.30pm

Thurs 7th My Week with Marilyn **C15**

Doors open 6.30pm

Thurs 7th The Hunger Games **C12A**

LIVE SHOWS

Doors Open 7.30pm

Thurs 14-16th The Rocky Monster Show

Sat 23rd Cantor's 10th Birthday Show, Song & Sign

Tel: 07980 359985 for tickets

Sat 30th Send us a Postcard, John Conolly

BECCLES COMMUNITY CHOIR

Beccles Community Choir was set up in 2010 by community musician and singing teacher, Stephen Amer, to promote singing for wellbeing; and explores the positive, physical, mental and emotional effects of singing and singing together.

The Choir meets fortnightly at the Waveney Centre on New Market from 6-7.30pm

and costs £3. The Group has been described by Eastern Daily Press as a small community in itself; friendly, accessible, welcoming, inclusive and above all **Good Fun!**

New members are always welcomed by the 50 members who regularly attend. No experience or ability is necessary with choices of songs made by the group.



For further information: www.beccleschoir.co.uk

BECCLES FRIDAY MARKET—ALL CHANGE!

USE OR LOSE THEM

Support both the Market and the Town Centre Shops.

The best shopping experience in Suffolk!!!



Don't forget that Beccles has a busy **MARKET** every Friday, but this will be changing in early March, after concerns from shop owners in New Market that trade had fallen on Fridays. Vehicles will now be allowed into New Market between the hours of 9am-2pm.

Therefore, all stalls will face the pavements running along the left hand side of the road from the Co-operative Supermarket. Some will be placed close together to restrict shoppers from walking out

between the stalls for their own safety, and hopefully both the Market and the Shops will benefit from this, as well as the car owners who will be able to get through town for a few hours without any hold-ups. If there are no stalls on the opposite side of the Market, cars will be able to park for the allotted time. Beccles is very fortunate to have such a diverse selection of shops whose owners work hard to keep their premises looking smart and inviting. I have been advised that

once visitors find Beccles, they want to return again and again as they love it!

KEEP FIT

Try not to use Supermarkets for everyday shopping. Bus or walk into town and support your local shopping centre by walking around the town for a couple of hours any day of the week, picking up a bargain or two on the way. You may find a few new shops you hadn't noticed before.

BECCLES IS THE BEST

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY REWARDED FOR THEIR TIRELESS VOLUNTARY WORK



Sam Kenward



Gordon Knights



Mr & Mrs Bennett

Every year, nominations are requested from members of the public through the media and this newsletter, for those who give that little bit more than you or I to local organisations in the community.

At the last Christmas meeting of the Town Council, three Awards were made to the following:

Sam Kenward—The Eileen Crisp Award for Youth receiving a Certificate and £25 :

Gordon Knights—The Leslie Freeman Award for Long Service in the Community receiving a small silver plate en-

graved with his name : and **Mr Roger & Mrs Molly Bennett**—The Robert (Bob) Ellwood Plate for Outstanding Service in the Community also receiving a small silver plate engraved with their names.

Larger plates with all recipients names are held at the Town Hall in the Council Chambers.

After the Awards Ceremonies, which were undertaken by the Mayor of Beccles, Councillor Graham Catchpole, the nominees and their invited guests enjoy a selection of refreshments and mingle with Coun-

cillors and their partners for the rest of the evening.

If you know of anyone who you would like to put forward for any of these awards, please write to the Town Hall office at any time with a full description of their achievements as well as contact details (which are treated as confidential). Do not let your nominee know that you have put them forward— keep it as a surprise for them. If successful, your nominee and you will be notified once the Awards Committee have made their recommendation.

A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT KILBRACK CEMETERY 1823-1854

Pride in Beccles will be installing an Information Board in Kilbrack and this is a little taster of what it will contain. Due to St Michael's Churchyard becoming full, an area called Kilbrack was possessed by the Church as a consecrated burial ground for the people of Beccles. This land was owned by local farmer, Benjamin Smith, who was given notice to vacate after his corn crop had been harvested. The ground was then prepared and a small, square brick Chapel was erected by local craftsmen.

On Friday 26th September 1823 the Lord Bishop of Norwich, Henry Bathurst, consecrated the Chapel and burial ground and not long after in 1827, Benjamin Smith was laid to rest there. Also interred were Thomas Woodruffe, who built the Chapel and erected the iron railings, and Thomas Pymmer, organist at St Michael's for over 50 years. The whole area was enclosed with iron railings and two large iron gates across the entrance from Blyburgate, which is still used today.

Over 400 people were buried with their places being marked by a variety of monuments, tombs, angels and headstones. These can still be seen resting in one corner to remind us of 30 years of Beccles History.

In August 1854, a court meeting in Buckingham Palace officially closed both Kilbrack and St Michael's churchyards.

Waveney District Council now care for the Beccles Cemetery off London Road.

BECCLES FENLAND CHARITABLE TRUST

HELP WITH FUNDING

If your organisation or Club requires help with funding, then please download the Grants Application form available on the Town Council website, www.beccles.info Fill in and return with a copy of your latest accounts and an outline of your requirements. Return to Beccles Town Council for consideration by the Beccles Fenland Charitable Trust committee. The meetings are held three times annually, but applications can be received at any time.

Contact: Beccles Town Council, The Walk, Beccles NR34 9AJ

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT—25 February—10 March 2013

Beccles is one of over 540 towns in the UK gaining Fairtrade status, a sign that the community has achieved the five goals set out by the authorising body, the Fairtrade Foundation. Buying goods carrying the Fairtrade Mark ensures that producers in developing countries receive a fair price and are able to support their families and communities.

The Annual Fairtrade Fortnight starts on 25th February till 10 March and builds on last year's theme 'Take a Step for Fairtrade', with the added challenge to 'Go Further for Fairtrade in 2013!' With over 4,500 different Fairtrade products, what to buy has never been easier. All the supermarkets and some shops in

Beccles stock a good range of Fairtrade goods with cafés serving Fairtrade tea and coffee.

Businesses, schools, churches and other organisations can make a commitment to use Fairtrade and some already do so, but more support is always valuable to meet their goal. During the promotion there will be an exhibition in Beccles Library focusing on the difference it makes to farming communities in developing countries, as well as publicity around the town. The Sir John Leman High School will be holding assemblies and a lunch hour event during this time.

[More information on 01502 712832](http://www.beccles.info)

STOP PRESS

Coming soon to Rigbourne Hill Co-op. Community Access Defibrillators

Fast Action in the first 4 minutes can save lives!



BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

Beccles Town Council
The Walk
BECCLES
NR34 9AJ

Phone: 01502 712109

E mail: admin@beccles.info
www.beccles.info

Mrs Claire Boyne, Town Clerk
Mrs Jula Janney, Deputy Town Clerk

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
THURSDAY 18TH APRIL**
All Parishioners are invited
to attend the above meeting
held at Beccles Town Hall
Chambers at 7.00pm
Any questions send to the
address above by 5 April



COUNCILLOR'S CONTACT DETAILS

COUNCILLOR	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>CENTRE</u>		
HARRIS, J D	26 Hungate, Beccles NR34 9TT	01502 717237
SCOTT, C J	3 Firfield Close, Beccles NR34 9YE	01502 714831
THWAITES, A	20 South Road, Beccles NR34 9NY	01502 714161
WOODRUFF, B	13 Meadow Gardens, Beccles NR34 9PA	01502 713053
<u>COMMON</u>		
BERGIN, Mrs S	Pinetrees, Park Drive, Beccles NR34 7DQ	01502 470796
BUBB, Mrs S	Greenacres' Clarke's Lane, Barsham NR34 8HN	01502 713314
FOULGER, S P R	'Rosy Dawn', 4 Ellough Road, Beccles NR34 7AE	01502 710370
WAREHAM, E K	42 Puddingmoor, Beccles NR34 9PL	01502 719712
<u>RIGBOURNE</u>		
CATCHPOLE, G	32 Coney Hill, Beccles NR34 7AZ	MAYOR 01502 715819
PECK, D W	8 Waveney Road, Beccles NR34 9NW	01502 712627
TOPPING, MRS C	7 Rigbourne Hill, Beccles NR34 9JG	DEPUTY MAYOR 01502 717276
WALMSLEY, J	37 Kemp's Lane, Beccles NR34 9XB	01502 717853
<u>DARBY</u>		
BEE, B	46 Clerk's Piece, Beccles NR34 7BG	01502 712812
HAYNES, MRS M	63a Kemp's Lane, Beccles NR34 9XB	01502 714093
SIGSWORTH, J	14 Janet Hadenham Close, Worlingham NR34 7SL	01502 711473
TAYLOR, B	2 Fairfax Court, Beccles NR34 9XG	01502 713307

New Hospice Shops in Beccles and Bungay

St Elizabeth Hospice are opening new shops in Beccles and Bungay and is appealing for volunteers. The Charity, which provides care for local people living with a progressive illness in Waveney and Gt Yarmouth, is appealing for shop helpers who can spare a few hours a week/month to suit. Duties include customer service, stock processing and till work. The shop in Bungay will open in the coming weeks and in Beccles later in the year. **To donate stock, once the shops are open, drops can be made between 9.30am to 4.30pm.**

More information call 07713 287435 or e mail volunteer@stelizabethhospice.org.uk and you can also apply at www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk.

These will be the Charity's 21st and 22nd premises and form a part of a retail expansion to generate vital income. Other shops opened recently are well supported by the community.

BECCLES MUSEUM EXHIBITS

**LET THERE BE LIGHT:
APRIL 1ST—5TH MAY**

A private collection of lamps has led us to think about what light has meant over the ages in Beccles and beyond.

**THE BECCLES SCENE IN THE 1970s:
MAY 7TH—JUNE 2ND**

Prawn Cocktail, Baked Alaska, Ford Cortina, ABBA, Platform Shoes and Flares. What **WAS** going on in Beccles? See what we've remembered and add your own memories.

**TEXTILE ARTS:
JUNE 4TH—JULY 14TH**

Hand-crafted items are trendy again. Here is a display including spinning, weaving, lace making, knitting and wood-work. Experts will demonstrate their skills on dates to be announced soon.

**RAVENINGHAM:
JULY 16TH—SEPTEMBER 1ST**

Raveningham's a village with houses, a church, a café, crafts and raven are there for those who search, A Hall with lovely gardens, a British Country Fair and HAT holds all the history of advertising there?

**TILL THE SOIL:
SEPTEMBER 3RD—OCTOBER 13TH**
Allotments, market gardens/plots—how Beccles fed itself pre-supermarkets.

ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADE

This year it is the honour of the 2nd Beccles Scout Group to host the Annual St George's Parade for Uniformed Organisations and this is taking place on **SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2013.**

All parties attending will be assembling in Priory Road (off St Mary's Road by the War Memorial) at 2.00pm. The 200 strong parade will process along St Mary's Road and Ballygate to St Michael's Church where a Service of Thanks will take place. The Parade will then march back to the War Memorial at 3.15pm.

All welcome to watch the parade.

