

# BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL



## Special points of interest:

- Co-options on to Beccles Council
- Election for third vacancy on Beccles Council
- New networking group set up by Beccles Mayor
- Awards for those special people of Beccles
- What's Growing in Beccles?
- Sponsors for Tree Competition

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# The Charter



Issue 30

September 2013

## NEW COUNCILLORS FOR DARBY AND RIGBOURNE THROWN IN AT THE DEEP END

Due to the resignation of two long-term Councillors, Jack Walmsley (Rigbourne Ward) and John Sigsworth (Darby Ward), vacancies for co-option were advertised. The two resigning Councillors had served on the Council for ten years contributing much to the community in that time, and will be sorely missed.

Surprisingly for a co-option so late into a four year term, ten worthy candidates applied for these positions. This left the existing Councillors with a difficult choice, but finally after much deliberation they voted for Mr Hugh Taylor for Rigbourne Ward, and Mr David Richardson for Darby Ward both standing for United Beccles.

Two very nervous men entered the Town Council Chambers for their first Council meeting on Tuesday 16th July where they signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Once this was done they then sat at the horse-shoe table with their fellow Councillors.

The very next evening the Mayor of Beccles, Councillor Mrs Caroline Topping, held her Mayor's Reception for over one

hundred guests at The Waveney Centre in New Market, supported by the Mayor's Cadet, Warrant Officer Hannah Fryer, and six other Air Cadets who were there to meet and greet and serve refreshments. The two new Councillors rubbed shoulders with officers and representatives from organisations and other Parish and Town Councils.

The Mayor, assisted by Keith Loffstadt auctioned off donations by various businesses and organisations in the town for the Mayoral Appeal for the refurbishment of the 2nd Beccles Scouts Head Quarters. This and the raffle realised £516 and the Mayor was thrilled with this great start. She aims to raise £30,000 for this organisation in her Mayoral year.

All the guests enjoyed the buffet by Mrs Christine Cutts, famous for her cakes and pies at the Indoor Bowls Club.

At the reception there were information display boards promoting smaller sectors of the volunteering community for local organisations (2nd Beccles Scouts, Helping Hands and the Beccles Community Arts.) Also



a new idea from Caroline was to have entertainment and she invited three young people, David, Maizie and Ellie, all competent artists, to sing and play during the evening. The Mayor's son Daniel played the organ (donated by the late Fred Leah's family) and Tom Lock played his accordion. Everyone enjoyed the music very much.

Andrew Florides is the Mayor's photographer for the year, taking over 240 pictures, and managing to capture everyone at some point during the evening. *Top*, Mayor with the Chair of Halesworth and *below*, Sam Kenward, Member of Youth Parliament.



## The Mayor's new Networking Strategy

Councillor Mrs Caroline Topping took on the mantle of Mayor on Tuesday 21st May and hasn't looked back since. She has received many invitations and has already attended over 20 engagements since that time. She takes her role in the town extremely seriously and has already embarked on a new 'networking group' as she noticed that there were more 'lady mayors' in office than usual and decided to invite Mayors, both male and female, as well as

leaders of towns in the Waveney Valley to a networking event. The first meeting was held at Bungay with nine Mayors and Leaders/Chairs from Harleston, Halesworth, Bungay, Diss, Waveney District Council, Loddon, Southwold, with apologies from Eye and South Norfolk District Council. This networking event proved extremely useful, with all gaining insight into their roles and how they brought together different and sometimes diverse actions to stimu-

late both their council and their towns. All agreed that this meeting proved that, with input from other councils, improvements could be made collectively by pooling information and possibly resources.

The Mayor will be arranging a further meeting of the Mayors' and Leaders soon, and it will be interesting to see how this very pro-active lady Mayor uses her enthusiasm to embrace this role in other ways.

## ELECTION FOR PLACE ON COMMON WARD



Ragwort clearing by members of the Town Council on Beccles Common— Councillors have to be hands-on in some cases. It was hot, hard work but the Common is looking so much better now.

The resignation of Councillor Mrs Sue Bergin came as a surprise soon after the resignations of Jack Walmsley and John Sigsworth. To have an election at least ten residents from the Parish Ward have to request an election. This costs in the region of over £3,000 and has to be paid for by the Town Council. By the time the election is carried out, (Monday 2nd September 2013) the new candidate will have just 18 months left to serve as a Town Councillor, until the next election.

The next Election for a four year term of office will be held in May 2015 when all existing

Councillors will have to battle to keep their seats against new Candidates fighting to take their place.

For future reference, to be nominated as a Councillor you must acquire a nomination form from the Town Clerk at Beccles or the [Returning Officer, Town Hall, High Street, Lowestoft NR32 1HS](#). This form must be returned to the Returning Officer at the above address with the required signatures obtained by the candidate.

If the election is contested for any of the 16 Councillor places in any of the four wards, Centre, Common, Rigbourne and Darby, a poll will take place on

the first Thursday in May.

This is an opportunity to serve your town and its people and make a difference in society. If you feel you have the skills, with a lot of common sense, a sense of humor the ability to see both sides of an argument and be a team player, then you would make a great Councillor and ambassador for the town.



One of last year's winners being presented with his award by the then Mayor Councillor Woodruff at the Christmas meeting of the Town Council.

## AWARDS FOR SERVING THE COMMUNITY

In the past, members of the Council who have worked extremely hard and committed themselves to their Council work, have had awards named after them. Currently there is the [Robert \(Bob\) Ellwood Plate for Outstanding Service in the Community](#), the [Leslie Freeman Award for Long Service](#) and the [Eileen Crisp Award for Services to Youth](#). During the months of July/August the community are asked to nominate their neighbour/friend/family

member who they feel have given outstanding service to the community for the 'Bob' Ellwood Award. Also during September/October for Leslie Freeman and November/December Eileen Crisp.

It does seem to get more difficult as the years move on to find candidates for these awards, although we know they are out there. It would be appreciated if you, as a Becclesian, keep these awards going by nominating worthy residents of Beccles

you know of and let the Town Council know by writing in with their details and contact information, along with a brief outline of why you have chosen them for any of the awards listed.

You will need to keep it a secret from your nominee, but if successful, you will both be invited to the last Christmas meeting of the Council where the Awards will be presented by the Mayor, Councillor Caroline Topping.

**Beccles Market Traders**  
 Tony—Fish  
 Wendy—Fudge  
 Jan—Flowers and Plants



## BECCLES FRIDAY MARKET—GROWING WELL

Since re-opening the Market area to traffic on 8th March 2013, it has grown even more and has attracted more shoppers. Up to 21 stalls are there at any one time and there are always enquiries being made from interested parties. All of the comments received are positive nowadays, although some wish the road was closed, but we know that this will not happen. Motorists are abiding mostly to the restrictions regarding parking overnight

and are extremely careful when moving around the market area. Some people still walk about like it was closed off as it feels so relaxed, and with more variety now, an excellent way to do your weekly shopping. Currently new trades attending are [Martin Key Cutter and Jane B with her beautiful cakes](#). Regular Wendy has started making fudge; Janet 'Flying Chef' has her preserves to add to her Hot Dog stall; Donna sells her books and magazines; Blue

Skies have their home-made pies packed and ready to go. Plus our old favourites Tony, Fish; Gerald, Wholefoods; Myles, Fruit & Veg; Paul, Double Glazing; Jan, Flowers and Plants; Richard, Burgers and chips; Keith, fresh Pork; Colin, bird food; Kerri, Angel crafts; and Dominic, the photographer.

Do come and enjoy this ancient way of shopping in this lovely Market town of Beccles.

## BECCLES FOOTBALL CLUB—THE WHERRYMEN

The Club has gone through several changes since the end of last Season under the guidance of newly appointed Chairman, Chris Punt. Abandoned by the First Team manager last Season they engaged the help of Colin the Assistant Manager, and finished 8th in the Anglian Combination Premier Division. Unfortunately for Beccles Town, Colin was offered by Lowestoft FC to look after their Youth side so, after discussion, the current Club Captain, Tom Roberts was asked to take over along with both Alex Greengrass and Andy Cave-Brown. The Reserves

will continue to be managed by Mark Bartram.

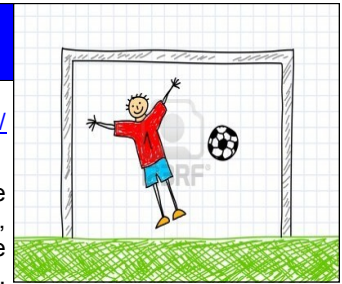
Training began in early June on College Meadow with new sports science techniques being tried. This has been very well attended, promising new signings and changes to last Season's line up in several key areas. Training will continue every Tuesday and Thursday from 7.00pm until the Season commences. Early Season friendly matches have shown results but there is a long way to go with the line up still in an experimental stage. Fixtures and results etc can be found at

[www.pitchero.com/clubs/becclestownfootballclub](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/becclestownfootballclub)

The Wherrymen play home games on College Meadow, Common Lane, and were formed back in 1920. Never winning the prized Sterry Cup, the next best was winning the Suffolk Senior Cup 1921/2 and 2008/9. If interested in volunteering/sponsorship please call Chris Punt on 01502 575518 or John Humby on 01502 713776.

Also please feel free to join us at College Meadow, you would be made very welcome.

*David Walters*



If you wish to have a stall on Beccles Market, please contact the Market Manager, Mrs Julia Janney on 01502 712109 for an application form.

## LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

The Committee behind the organisation of Beccles Christmas Lights have been working hard to ensure that this event, taking place on **FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER** is even more popular than usual, introducing some extra activities and surprises for 2013.

As usual, there will be a **Best Dressed Shop Window Competition** and this year will see **BBC Weather Forecaster Julie Reinger**

switching on the Christmas Lights.

The Team will also be launching a new website by October where people can see the schedule of events for the evening, and also a Facebook page to 'like' and share, through which special promotions will be released.

They are also introducing a brand new **Outdoor Christmas Tree Trail Competition** where businesses

sponsor a tree and participants follow a map around 'The Tree Trail' to visit each tree (and business) in order to be included in a draw to win a prize.

For further information on the Outdoor Christmas Tree Festival or to sponsor a tree at £30, please contact Kate on 01502 711174.

[www.facebook.com/BecclesChristmasLights](http://www.facebook.com/BecclesChristmasLights)



**DON'T FORGET HERITAGE DAY FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER**  
 Visit Beccles Town Council Chambers from 10am—2pm  
 Speak to the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Caroline Topping  
 See photographs of past Aldermen and Mayors to the present day.  
 Find out a little bit of History of the Town Hall

## SOUTHERN LINK ROAD UPDATE

### Where we are:

The Public Exhibition took place in May in the town's Library. The event was well attended and views were noted with further discussions with officers at the Library by those who would be most affected by the scheme. All correspondence had to be received by the end of

July. The Environmental Statement, a key part of the planning application, has been created from the Environmental Impact Assessment and it concludes all the surveys and assessments which have been taking place over the last year and a half. **What happens next:**

The Planning Application

is due to be submitted at the end of September 2013. This will allow the scheme to go to the Development Control Committee in either December or early 2014. If permission is granted, Suffolk County Council will then look to start discussion with landowners.

*Councillor C Punt, Suffolk County Council*

**ELECTRIC BLANKET FREE TESTING**  
 I know, we don't want to be thinking of winter, but it will come and you need to keep warm...  
 If you have an electric blanket you can get it tested during September and October—if it doesn't pass you will be offered a **FREE replacement**. Don't miss out try <http://salc.onesuffolk.net/new/electric-blanket-testing-campaign/>



# THE CHARTER

Beccles Town Council  
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BECCLES

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Editor - Jula Janney  
Printed by—Keely Print

Information in this issue  
correct at time of printing

## FRACKING

Suffolk County Councillor Chris Punt reports that he has been asked information about or seeking to ensure that Fracking doesn't happen in Suffolk.

Suffolk County Council is the Minerals Planning Authority in Suffolk and would deal with any planning applications for unconventional oil and gas exploration or production. However, it is most unlikely that there will be any interest in shale gas exploration in the region as the geology of the County would preclude this.

To date the main interest in shale gas has been in Lancashire, but there has also been interest shown in the Wealden area of Kent and West Sussex, Somerset and South Wales. The following link takes you to a map produced by the British Geological Survey showing areas underlain by shale formations. These formations are not in Suffolk. <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/research/energy/shaleGas/howMuch.html>  
There are no licensed areas in Suffolk.

## BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

### 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

### COMMON

BUBB, Mrs S	The Round House, Ballygate, Beccles NR34 9NA	01502 713314
FOULGER, S P R	'Rosy Dawn', 4 Ellough Road, Beccles NR34 7AE	01502 710370
WAREHAM, E K	42 Puddingmoor, Beccles NR34 9PL	DEPUTY MAYOR 01502 719712

### VACANCY

### RIGBOURNE

CATCHPOLE, G	32 Coney Hill, Beccles NR34 7AZ	01502 712103
PECK, D W	8 Waveney Road, Beccles NR34 9NW	01502 712627
TAYLOR, H	25 Northgate, Beccles NR34 9AS	01502 471532
TOPPING, MRS C	7 Rigbourne Hill, Beccles NR34 9JG	MAYOR 01502 717276

### DARBY

BEE, B	46 Clerk's Piece, Beccles NR34 7BG	01502 712812
HAYNES, MRS M	63a Kemp's Lane, Beccles NR34 9XB	01502 714093
RICHARDSON, D	11 Old College Close, Ballygate, Beccles NR34 9LY	01502 716616
TAYLOR, B	2 Fairfax Court, Beccles NR34 9XG	01502 713307

## THANKS FROM THE MAYOR TO THE SUPPORTERS OF HER CIVIC RECEPTION

The Mayor, Caroline Topping would like to thank the supporters of her Mayoral Reception as follows:

**Wine Vaults, Adnam's Wetherspoons** for Auction items and **Peter Aldous MP, Swan House, Up-Stairs Gallery and Mr & Mrs Taylor Raffle Prizes and Quayside Conservatories and Tesco** for donating towards the cost of the buffet.

Thanks also go to Loraine and Keith Loffstadt for their help on the day and with the Auction as well as the Council Clerks, Claire and Jula. Thanks to Mrs Cutts

for the buffet, enjoyed by all and table displays by the Flower Arrangers Club. Both David and Douglas set up the town sign and made a magnificent job of lighting it, with more floral decor setting the scene for a wonderful evening.

Thanks also to husband Stephen and children Daniel and Chelsea, as well as all the Cadets who served the guests so admirably.

**THANK YOU**



Mayor with Claire and Jula and below, Loraine and Keith

