2018 is the anniversary year of the Representation of the People Act. This means that 100 years ago, for the first time, some women who were over the age of 30 were able to vote in Parliamentary elections (if they or their husbands owned property) and all men once they were over the age of 21. For this reason I was happy to organise an event at Blyburgate hall in Beccles to celebrate. 100's of adults and children visited, the museum and Library had a stand and we had live theatre, dressing up, a suffragette cafe, the camera club, a film and lots and lots of children's activities. It was a really joyous celebration with a serious side - reminding us that equality is hard fought.

In October Beccles Town Council, the sole trustee of Beccles Fenland Charity Trust, officially took over the running of Beccles Quay. This follows a ruling by the Charity Commission which said Beccles Quay should belong to the Town rather than Waveney District Council. Beccles Town Council has lots of changes planned, with toilets and moorings taking priority as well as the play equipment upgrade as part of the Mayor's Appeal.

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A COUNCILLOR?

Becoming a councillor gives residents the chance to represent the local community, deliver services to meet local needs and strive to improve the quality of life in the local area. Town and parish councils have many powers but few duties, which means they can choose their activities according to local need. By becoming a councillor you will gain more insights into your local community, have influence over local decisions and be in a position to help local people build a stronger identity and better future. All 16 Beccles Town Councillor seats are up for election on 2 May 2019. For further details, please go to www.beccles.info and select the 'councillor' drop down menu. Alternatively, contact the town clerk, Claire Boyne, on 01502 712109 or email admin@beccles.info for more information.
B E C C L E S  
B O M B L E S 

It is great when local volunteering groups support each other. Recently Bombles did a river pick with Hippersons Boatyard, River Waveney Trust, Broads Authority and Big Dog Ferry. This was our second group pick this year and when Big Dog realised we needed equipment with more reach they decided to purchase Bombles a long 2m pick. Many thanks to all those who supported this and especially Big Dog

B E C C L E S  T W I N N I N G  A S S O C - T I A T I O N - 38 people from Beccles went to Petit-Couronne in October to celebrate the 40th anniversary of twinning between the towns. The final part of the original twinning charter had been signed on October 7th 1978 in Beccles by the Town’s Mayor John Bell, and on the 7th October this year, the commitment was reaffirmed by our current Mayor Elfred Brambley-Crawshaw, watched on by Dominique Randon, Mayor of Petit-Couronne, and Rainer Göbel, Mayor of Ahlem. The group were joined by 44 visitors from Ahlem, the German town, near Hannover, who were celebrating the 50th anniversary of twinning with Petit-Couronne and reaffirming their twinning charter. The group from Beccles who ranged in age from 8-80+ enjoyed a weekend of activities with their French and German counterparts, sharing experiences and friendships as many others have done over the past 40 years of twinning exchanges. Earlier that afternoon the Bells of Beccles (which had rung a peal of Plain Bob Royal in 1978) rang a successful quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples. This was watched live in Petit-Couronne during the town’s annual autumn fair, featuring local produce from the Waveney Valley as well as information about our town. If you would like to know more about the current activities of the town twinning group in Beccles, who are happy to promote positive exchanges of all kinds for the inhabitants of the town, please contact twinning.beccles@gmail.com Why not join them after Christmas, at another of their popular fund raising Quiz and Cake events on Sunday the 13th January?

B E C C L E S  C O M M U N I T Y  B U S - Use it or lose it! Beccles community Bus (aka Beccles Welfare Bus) has been serving the people of Beccles for over 40 years. Totally organised and run by volunteers, it is available for hire to social groups of all ages, living in or around Beccles. Seating 12, it also has the bonus of catering for wheelchair users as it has a tail lift at the rear. For a small one-off payment of £1 you can join the scheme and use the bus at a charge of 85p per kilometre whilst in use. Please contact the Booking Officer Susan Doherty on 01502 716 324 or susandoherty1946@yahoo.co.uk

B E C C L E S  B E L L  T O W E R - Each year, with the exception of occasional closures for wedding’s with bells, Beccles Tower is open every Saturday between Easter and the end of October for members of the public wishing to visit the roof. Our tickets are £2.50 for adults and £1.50 for under-16’s and all proceeds go towards the maintenance of this iconic Grade 1 Listed Building. The Tower is managed by the town Council, run by it’s core team, David Spink and Diane Dungate and helped by a team of six supporters. A big thank you to all of you, especially Claire Boyne, Charlie Middleton, Keith Brockwell, Roger Tuthill, Nigel and Julie Bartram, Jena Mason and Chloe Baker. We appreciate all you do and it’s great working with you. A special mention also to the bell ringing team who make a glorious sound and with whom we liaise closely. This season has been particularly successful and our takings currently stand at just over £4,500. We are aiming to
hit £5,000. On Saturday, October 27th, The Beccles Bell Tower closed its doors to visitors for the last time this season. The weather was typically autumnal and fitting for Halloween, cold and overcast with a strong breeze and frequent squall of rain, but people seemed undeterred. They turned up in their waterproofs and, thanks to the new wooden roof surface, were able to brave the weather and enjoy in safety the views of both the surrounding countryside and dramatic cloudscapes. Our doors will reopen for visits to the roof on Easter Saturday, April 20th 2019 and we look forward to welcoming everyone.

STARS OF LOWESTOFT AND WAVENEY AWARDS— It was with amazement and delight that our nomination, which was quite unusual, actually won the category for ‘Community Team of the Year’. Our ‘team’ was in fact a number of teams who all individually do amazing voluntary work with the town putting on events for our community and visitors throughout the year. Each of these organisations also raise funds for charities within our community. We won free tickets for Pleasurewood Hills which we donated to Elizabeth House Children’s Home, a bottle of posh fizz which we donated to the ‘International School for Peace’ raffle and a planter with bulbs which we are going to install at Beccles Quay. Go ‘Team Beccles’!

BECCLES FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL 2019- Celebrating it’s 5th year, Beccles food and Drink Festival is returning in 2019 to tantalise the taste buds. Set for Saturday 25th May, 10am-4pm, the festival features over 70 food and drink stalls, many of them local artisan producers, as well as those from further afield in East Anglia. Based in the centre of the vibrant market town, the Festival will include cookery demonstrations and talks, music and children’s entertainment. A free Park and Ride service will run throughout the day from Beccles Quay, where additional parking will be available. Building on the successful formula of previous years, some new and exciting features are planned. Details of these, along with updates will appear on the website and Facebook as plans are finalised, so anyone interested should keep checking back to keep abreast of the latest developments. E-mail info@becclesfoodfestival.co.uk Website www.becclesfoodfestival.co.uk Facebook @becclesfoodanddrinkfestival

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS— Congratulations to Sam Kenward. He came 2nd place in the National Association of Local Councils, Young Councillor of the Year. Sam joined Beccles Town Council when he was 18 and had to leave us last year as he had achieved his degree and moved away for his new job. Great achievement for him coming 2nd place and putting Beccles on the National map.

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR LOCAL CEO— 2018 has been an exciting year for me as the Community Engagement Officer for Lowestoft, Beccles and Bungay and I am looking forward to 2019! I have attended many fantastic events this year. I have also had great support from the community as well as being supported by the Officers within our Neighbourhood Response Team and Safer Neighbourhood Team. If you would like me to attend an event or give a talk to a local group please contact me on CEO lowestoft@suffolk.pnn.police.uk or call 101. If you want to see more of what I have been up to please go to @lowestoftpolice on Facebook or Twitter. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. PC 1330 Amy Yeldham.
**Councillor** | **Address** | **Telephone**
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**CENTRE WARD**
Bubb, MRS S | The Round House, Ballygate, Beccles NR34 9NA | 01502 713314
Elliott, G | 2 Old Hall, Barsham, Beccles NR34 8HB | 01502 714661
Harris, J D | 26 Hungate, Beccles NR34 9TT | 01502 717237
Kathuria, R | Highfield, The Street, Barnby, Beccles, NR34 7QB | 01502 476235
**COMMON WARD**
Downs, A | 70 Northgate, Beccles NR34 9AY | 07960 298473
Elliott, N | 2 Old Hall, Barsham, Beccles NR34 8HB | 01502 714661
Janney, J P | 28 St Matthew's Avenue, Beccles, NR34 9PS | 01502 717098
Birrell, G | 22 Ravensmere East, Beccles, NR34 9DG | 07702 800756
**RIGBOURNE WARD**
Catchpole, G | 32 Coney Hill, Beccles NR34 7AZ | 01502 712103
Stubbings, R (DEPUTY MAYOR) | 38-40 Blyburgate, Beccles NR34 9TF | 01502 797797
Topping, MRS C | 7 Rigbourne Hill, Beccles, NR34 9JG | 01502 717276
Lever, A | 141 Denmark Road, Beccles, NR34 9TF | 01502 719721
**DARBY WARD**
Brambley-Crawshaw, E (MAYOR) | 64 St Georges Road, Beccles NR34 9YA | 01502 217025
Brooks, N | 71 Darby Road, Beccles NR34 9XH | 01502 716223
Haynes, MRS M | 63A Kemp's Lane, Beccles NR34 9XB | 01502 714093
Walmsley, J | 37 Kemp's Lane, Beccles NR34 9XB | 01502 717853

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>YOUR WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</strong></th>
<th><strong>YOUR SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLORS FOR BECCLES</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graham Catchpole (Beccles South) 01502 712103 <a href="mailto:graham.catchpole@waveney.gov.uk">graham.catchpole@waveney.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw 07738 264091 <a href="mailto:elfrede.brambley-crawshaw@suffolk.gov.uk">elfrede.brambley-crawshaw@suffolk.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Topping (Beccles South) 01502 717276 <a href="mailto:caroline.topping@waveney.gov.uk">caroline.topping@waveney.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>Mark Bee 07932 650085 <a href="mailto:mark.bee@suffolk.gov.uk">mark.bee@suffolk.gov.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Graham Elliott (Beccles North) 01502 714661 <a href="mailto:graham.elliott@waveney.gov.uk">graham.elliott@waveney.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL HQ 0345 606 6067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Punt (Beccles North) 01502 575518 <a href="mailto:chris.punt@waveney.gov.uk">chris.punt@waveney.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>Consumer Advice/Education/Highways/Libraries/Street Lighting/Trading Standards <a href="mailto:customer.service@suffolk.gov.uk">customer.service@suffolk.gov.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Aldous 01502 586568 <a href="mailto:peteraldous.mp@parliament.uk">peteraldous.mp@parliament.uk</a></td>
<td>Emergency 999 Non Emergency 101</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/report-crime">www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/report-crime</a></td>
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<th><strong>WAVENEY NORSE</strong> 01502 527100</th>
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<td>Planning/Building Regulations/Council Tax/Housing Email: <a href="mailto:customer.services.wdc@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">customer.services.wdc@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a></td>
<td>Open Spaces/Refuse Collection/Toilets Email: <a href="mailto:waveney.info@ncsgrp.gov.uk">waveney.info@ncsgrp.gov.uk</a></td>
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