THE MAYOR’S REPORT

This is my last two months of being Mayor, and I have enjoyed my time and been humbled by it. Time and again Beccles people prove what a good place this is to live. It is not perfect, like all towns we get surges of crime and disorder, but on the whole the people of Beccles make me proud. For example, I keep hearing about people who volunteered to go out in the snow and help others. There was a group of 4x4 owners who took it on themselves to go out and dig people out, there were those who got their shovels out and cleared the snow from the streets, there were those who stopped by their elderly neighbours to ensure that they were alright and had food and heating. I would like to be able to thank them all individually, but so many are unsung heroes who did not give their names. So I will say thank you here to all these helpful people, it is you who help make Beccles what it is. The thing is, once you start, it is difficult to stop. There are so many people who go out to help improve our town. There are the gardening volunteers, the Beccles Bombles who litter pick, the neighbourhood watch volunteers, and so on. Whenever you start to produce a list there is always the fear that you miss some group off. So thank you everyone. Thank you for making Beccles great. This last week, and all the help done informally, has prompted the council to review its emergency plan. We want to help co-ordinate these volunteer efforts so that more can be done. Over the next few months we will be looking into our plans and see if we can come up with ways to do this.

There is a huge resource of goodwill in this town and if we can find better ways to focus this then the town can only get even better.

SUGGESTIONS SOUGHT FOR NAME FOR NEW SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD

Beccles Town Council is looking for suggestions for the name of the new Southern Relief Road that is currently being built and is due to be completed in Autumn 2018. A few different possibilities have been suggested, but the council would like to ascertain the views of the wider local community. Please note that if you would like to see the road named after an individual, that person can no longer be living. It will be preferable for the name not to already exist in the local vicinity. The closing date for responses will be 31 March 2018. Please email or post your suggestions to Beccles Town Council. Whilst the council does not have the final say regarding the name of the new road, it would like to put forward a name for consideration which has the support of the local community. The new road will also run through the parish of Worlingham, and Worlingham Parish Council supports the consultation and encourages members of the public to respond with their suggestions.

NEW YOUTH MAGAZINE AND CAFE FOR BECCLES

It has been a busy few months for the Youth Champion Team with two projects on raising awareness of youth provision in the town about to be launched. Working with local youth organisations, the pilot of our Youth Magazine has lots of adverts from youth organisations so young people and parents know what clubs and facilities there are in Beccles. The magazine will be available both electronically and by paper copy through schools and other local organisations from mid-March, and we hope this pilot will be the first of many editions! On the other project, we are working to enhance youth provision in Beccles. We have also been working with a group of young people and a parent who are really enthusiastic to create another space for young people. They came to us with an idea and we have worked to give them the support they need to make it a reality. The venue is sorted and we are now working in conjunction with the group to ensure everything is ready for the pilot of their Youth Café. It really is fantastic that this enhancing of youth provision is occurring and what is even better is that this is youth-led! Young people have a huge stake in this community and it is fantastic that they are determinedly working to enhance the town for youth! We look forward to working further on these projects and as always, more updates will follow in due course! The Youth Team can be contacted through their Facebook page or through Beccles Town Council.
THE CHARTER

RIGBOURNE WARD NEWS

We have a very active Rigbourne Hill Neighbourhood Watch meeting regularly at St Lukes Church. Please feel free to attend these meetings that are there for the benefit of the community of Rigbourne Hill and surrounding areas and talk to your town, district and county councillors about your concerns—the next meeting is their AGM at 6:30pm on 24th April 2018. The Beccles Bombles litter pickers are regular visitors (and always looking for new volunteers), but would like to mention that there are rubbish/dog waste bins at both ends of Sandy Lane and Rigbourne Hill Lane for you to use.

PROBUS CLUB LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Probus Club is a very friendly social club for retired and semi-retired professional men. We meet from 10.30am to 12noon on the first and third Mondays each month at the Conservative Club, Beccles. A speaker on a variety of topics is normally present, after we have enjoyed coffee and a chat. New members are welcomed. For more info please contact Freddy Davey on 01502 714205

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION

2018 marks the 100th Anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Air Force. RAFA welcome you to join them on Saturday 31st March 2018 to help mark the forming of the RAF in 1918 with an exhibition at Hungate Church and a wings Appeal collection and display in the town centre.

SCOUTS SEEK SKILLS

Due to retirement, the 60-strong, 5th Beccles Scout Group, is seeking additional volunteers (in both uniformed and non-uniformed roles), to help the group’s continued growth. Scouting is no longer just about outdoor adventure - young people can earn recognition in many subjects from DIY skills and basic car maintenance to performing arts and digital skills. So, if you can spare one to two hours a month, 5th Beccles want to hear from you! All training is provided free of charge, with any related travel and subsistence costs reimbursed. Uniforms where applicable are provided free of charge. Some roles require completion of a DBS check which will be undertaken without cost to the volunteer.

For further information please contact Colin Prior on 07435565735 or email akela5thbeccles-cubs@yahoo.co.uk

LOCAL POLICING VOLUNTEERS

The Local Policing Volunteer scheme is for members of the local community who would like to offer support to Suffolk Police. We would like you to be the “eyes and ears” of your community and pass on information by telephone, or email, to us. At no point will you be required to get directly involved – leave that to us. You know your area, what’s usual and what is out of place. Trust your instincts and if you see anything suspicious or have a hunch that things ‘just aren’t right’ then report it to the police. For further information telephone us on: 01473 613589 or email: specialsandvolunteers@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

BECCLES HELPING HANDS 2018

LIVING HISTORY AND GHOST WALKS

This year sees Beccles celebrating 40 years of being twinned with Petit-Couronne who in turn are twinned with Ahlem. This is being celebrated from the 10th to 13th of May when families from Petit-Couronne and Ahlem join us for a programme of events. Please go to http://www.beccleswinningassoc.onesuffolk.net/ to find out more.

The Living History Walks bring you face to face with some of the more colourful characters and stories of Beccles in an entertaining tour of the town that lasts about 90 minutes, with each walk starting outside the Bear and Bells in Old Market (the bus station) at 7.30pm. The next dates are: 5th May, 9th June, 7th July, and 4th August

The night time Ghost Walks around the dark streets of Beccles, introduce you to some of Beccles’ ghostly characters!

All of the stories are taken from documented sightings and legends that have survived the passage of time. As part of the Ghost Walk route is off-road, it is unfortunately not suitable for wheelchairs.

The next dates are: 29th Sept, 13th Oct, 26th and 27th October

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RIVER WAVENEY TRUST TALK

The River Waveney Trust is a charity that is part of the national Rivers Trust movement, with five local groups spread along the river at Diss, Harleston, Bungay, Beccles and Lowestoft/Oulton Broad, joined by a very active sub group in Scole. Members are welcome to join their local group who deliver projects, run working parties and social events. The aims of the Trust and its members is to care for the river, its ecology, water quality and environment guided by our local Broadland Catchment Plan. We place a big emphasis on working with our local communities. The Trust has long term partnerships with the statutory bodies which have a responsibility for the river. The Trust delivers courses and educational events. We always welcome corporate and individual volunteering for work on our open spaces across the catchment. Do you have children or grandchildren, aged between 5-14, who would like to learn more about our local wildlife and become involved in the work of the River Waveney Trust?

To find out more, please come along to our next event at Blyburngate Hall in Beccles in the evening of Monday 9th April when one of the River Waveney Trust Trustees Tony Brown is giving a talk on ‘The River Waveney and its Wildlife’. Complimentary drink and nibbles on arrival. This is a ticketed event with all profits going to The River Waveney Trust. Contact 07398 832628 or go to www.rwt.tidyhq.com for more information.

FAMILY SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Life can throw a lot at the families we support – Can you offer 3 hours a week to throw something good their way and do you: understand the needs of families with children aged 0-11, have 3-4hrs to support a local family and want to benefit from the support and training an established volunteer charity can provide? In return we can offer you: Level 1,2,3 OCN accredited training, ongoing tailored support and training, travel & Telephone expenses and out of hours support. Various volunteer opportunities; Home-visiting, group, fundraising, marketing, social policy. Please call us on 01502 507988 or 507989 or email us at headoffice@homestartinsuffolk.org or drop in to see us at Exchange house, Exchange Square, Beccles, NR34 9HH.

THE CHARTER WEEKEND

June and Sunday 1st July, with the following events already planned:

**Hungate Hall** - open garden, quilt exhibition, strawberry cream teas.

**Beccles Museum** - special exhibition, craft displays, WI refreshments and transport to open gardens.

**Beccles Tower** - open for visits and views of town gardens from top of tower. **Town Hall** - ‘meet the author’ event, historic council chamber open to public.

**Hippersons Boat Yard** - range of historic vessels (including Wherry, WW2 motor torpedo boat and historic beach-launched lifeboat), also a ‘celebrity’ water cycle challenge, boat trips, live music and a BBQ.

**Beccles Free School** - open garden, refreshments, free parking and free transport into town.

**Beccles Open Gardens** - gardens open to the public from around Beccles and Worlingham. **Waveney Stardust** - river trips between Beccles Lido and ‘old bridge’ to view riverside gardens.

**Beccles Men’s Shed** - ‘meet the members’ and ‘see our wares’. **Commemoration of Armed Forces Day** on June 30th - bagpipes from around Beccles and Lowestoft/Oulton Broad, joined by various local groups spread along the river at Diss, Harleston, Bungay, Beccles and Lowestoft/Oulton Broad, joined by a very active Beccles sub group in Scole. Members are welcome to join their local group who deliver projects, run working parties and social events. The aims of the Trust and its members is to care for the river, its ecology, water quality and environment guided by our local Broadland Catchment Plan. We place a big emphasis on working with our local communities. The Trust has long term partnerships with the statutory bodies which have a responsibility for the river. The Trust delivers courses and educational events. We always welcome corporate and individual volunteering for work on our open spaces across the catchment. Do you have children or grandchildren, aged between 5-14, who would like to learn more about our local wildlife and become involved in the work of the River Waveney Trust?

To find out more, please contact Town Hall for more information.

**QUIZ NIGHTS FOR BECCLES HOSPITAL**

If you like a challenge and fancy yourself as a bit of a brainiac, then get along to the Caxton Club for 7:30pm every 2nd Sunday of the month to test your knowledge and help Beccles Hospital at the same time.
### BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

**The Walk**  
**BECCLES**  
**NR34 9AJ**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CENTRE WARD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>BUBB, MRS S</td>
<td>The Round House, Ballygate, Beccles NR34 9NA</td>
<td>01502 713314</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELLIOTT, G</td>
<td>2 Old Hall, Barsham, Beccles NR34 8HB</td>
<td>01502 714661</td>
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<tr>
<td>HARRIS, J D</td>
<td>26 Hungate, Beccles NR34 9TD</td>
<td>01502 717237</td>
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<tr>
<td>KATHURIA, R</td>
<td>Highfield, The Street, Barnby, Beccles, NR34 7QB</td>
<td>01502 476235</td>
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<td><strong>COMMON WARD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DOWNES, A</td>
<td>70 Northgate, Beccles NR34 9AY</td>
<td>07960 298473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELLIOTT, N</td>
<td>2 Old Hall, Barsham, Beccles NR34 8HB</td>
<td>01502 714661</td>
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<tr>
<td>JANNEY, J P</td>
<td>28 St Matthews Avenue, Beccles, NR34 9PS</td>
<td>01502 717098</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIRRELL, G</td>
<td>22 Ravensmere East, Beccles, NR34 9DG</td>
<td>07702 800756</td>
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<td><strong>RIGBOURNE WARD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>CATCHPOLE, G</td>
<td>32 Coney Hill, Beccles NR34 7AZ</td>
<td>01502 712103</td>
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<tr>
<td>STUBBINGS, R (MAYOR)</td>
<td>38-40 Blyburgate, Beccles NR34 9TF</td>
<td>01502 797797</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOPPING, MRS C</td>
<td>7 Rigbourne Hill, Beccles, NR34 9JG</td>
<td>01502 717276</td>
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<tr>
<td>KENWARD, S</td>
<td>10 Stuart Drive, Beccles NR34 9SB</td>
<td>01502 711267</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DARBY WARD</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>BRAMBLEY-CRAWSHAW, E (DEPUTY MAYOR)</td>
<td>64 St Georges Road, Beccles NR34 9YA</td>
<td>01502 217025</td>
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<tr>
<td>BROOKS, N</td>
<td>71 Darby Road, Beccles NR34 9XH</td>
<td>01502 716223</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAYNES, MRS M</td>
<td>63A Kemp's Lane, Beccles NR34 9XB</td>
<td>01502 714093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALMSLEY, J</td>
<td>37 Kemp's Lane, Beccles NR34 9XB</td>
<td>01502 717853</td>
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</tbody>
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### USEFUL NUMBERS

**YOUR WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**  
Graham Catchpole (Beccles South) 01502 712103  
[graham.catchpole@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:graham.catchpole@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)  
Caroline Topping (Beccles South) 01502 717276  
[caroline.topping@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.topping@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)  
Graham Elliott (Beccles North) 01502 714661  
[graham.elliott@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:graham.elliott@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)  
Chris Punt (Beccles North) 01502 575518  
[chris.punt@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:chris.punt@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

**YOUR SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLORS FOR BECCLES**  
Elfred Brambley-Crawshaw 07738 264091  
[elfrede.brambley-crawshaw@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:elfrede.brambley-crawshaw@suffolk.gov.uk)  
Mark Bee 07932 650085  
[mark.bee@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:mark.bee@suffolk.gov.uk)  

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL HQ**  
0345 606 6067  
Consumer Advice/Education/Highways/Libraries/Street Lighting/Trading Standards  
[customer.service@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@suffolk.gov.uk)

**YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
Peter Aldous 01502 586568  
[peteraldous.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:peteraldous.mp@parliament.uk)

**POLICE**  
Emergency 999  
Non Emergency 101

**BECCLES HEALTH CENTRE**  
01502 712662

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE**  
111

**WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
01502 527100  
Planning/Building Regulations/Council Tax/Housing  
Email: [customer.services.wdc@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services.wdc@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

**WAVENEY NORSE**  
01502 712662  
Open Spaces/Refuse Collection/Toilets  
Email: [waveney.info@ncsgrp.gov.uk](mailto:waveney.info@ncsgrp.gov.uk)

**TOWN CLERK**  
Mrs Claire Boyne  
Deputy Town Clerk & Charter Editor  
Mr Charlie Middleton  
Tel: 01502 712109  
Fax: 01502 716166  
E-mail: admin@beccles.info  
WWW.BECCLES.INFO