The Town Council’s Youth Champion Team are really pleased with the outcome of their first community project. Beccles Common play park was looking uninviting after years of neglect. It was top of the list for Beccles Town Councillors Sam Kenward and Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw of issues to resolve when they met up after the May elections.

After consulting with members of the public, it was clear that there was enough interest to organise a community group to work together to make a happier space for Beccles children and their parents.

Over three days the ‘Community Team’ sanded and painted the play equipment, spending the last day weeding the area. Carpenter Ben Tonkes volunteered his time and mended the dilapidated ‘roof’ on one piece of equipment, as well as helping with the painting. C C Betts of Beccles donated the wood, making it a true ‘community venture’.

The Community Group will now keep a close eye on the park to make sure it stays a bright, cheerful and above all, safe place to play in one of Beccles’ most beautiful areas.

The ‘Community Team’

The Youth Champion Team, Sam and Elfrede would like to know of a park near you which needs some Tender Loving Care.

If so, please contact admin@beccles.info

In the beginning ....

In May this year, I was elected as a Beccles Town Councillor. As part of the new intake of councillors, I wanted to work towards involving young people more in the community, as did a fellow Councillor Mrs Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw who is assisting me and we have called ourselves the ‘Youth Champion Team’.

The role of Youth Champion was an idea created in 2013 when I was the elected Member of Youth Parliament for Suffolk and was taken up by Beccles Town Council. I felt it necessary to provide a position like this for young people, giving them a point of contact for raising issues or seeking information. The first Youth Champion was ex-Mayor and current District Councillor, Caroline Topping, who did a sterling job, putting a very strong focus on meeting and working with the town’s youth. We have visited many schools and youth groups since, and the reaction has been very encouraging, with positive ideas coming to fruition as a result.

We are continuing with our aim and will update you through articles in the Town Council’s newsletter, ‘The Charter’, enabling you to follow our progress and to see what is available for young people in Beccles.
The best advice given to the organisers of this year’s Beccles Annual Charity Triathlon was “best not get complacent about the weather” as for the previous two events, the magnificent Beccles Lido was bathed in sunshine. But this was our British Summer time after all!

“This year was certainly more of a challenge with the rain, sometimes ankle deep in transition,” said Head of Safety, Jason Painter who was one of five organisers who has worked on the event since last October.

Event Director Kate Bryson added, “Amazingly we didn’t get one ‘no-show’ on the day, despite the weather,” even though they had competitors coming from London and Finland. The first Beccles Triathlon held in 2013 was the impetus behind Kate and Jason (both BTF level 2 tri coaches) setting up the Beccles Triathlon Club, which has grown to sixty-seven people with ages ranging from 18 to 69!

The event raised funds for Beccles Lido - a charity run by volunteers, which topped £5,000 this year.

Hundreds of people turned out to cheer and clap those crossing the finishing line! A real ‘goose-bump’ moment! One participant, competing over three years said, “When you think it can’t get any better—you just blow us away!”

Next years event will be held at the end of May 2016.

INTERESTED? To join the Beccles Triathlon Club contact ktbryson4@gmail.com

#### Beccles Community Choir

Beccles Community Choir was set up in 2010 to promote singing for well-being; and explores the positive physical, mental and emotional effects of singing. The choir meets fortnightly from 6-7pm at the Waveney Centre on New Market on alternate Tuesdays and costs £4 to attend, first time free. They have been described by the Eastern Daily Press as “a small community in itself; friendly, accessible, welcoming, inclusive and, above all, fun”, which is all the things the choir believes music should be.

New members are always welcome and no experience of ability is necessary.

For more information visit www.BecclesChoir.co.uk or all 07909 510976
Mayor’s Appeal 2015/16
This year the focus is on two principal causes, namely access improvements at the Beccles Sports and Social Club (BSSC), off Common Lane, and the Friends of St Michael’s Church (FOSM), for repairs to the fabric of the main church. Members of the public at the Town Hall (Deputy Town Clerk) on 01502 712109.

Beccles Museum WW1 Project
The Beccles Museum website now includes details of their project about people from Beccles and roundabout, who served in the Great War and the effect it had on the town and surrounding area. Please see: www.becclesmuseum.org.uk/world-war-one-project/

Community Litter Pick
Become a BOMBLE (Beccles Womble) by joining the Beccles Community Litter Pick team each Tuesday from 3-4pm—bring your own gloves. Fluorescent jackets, hoops, bags and pickers are provided. The team is taking a break in August, but starting again on 1st September—details of each week’s meeting point can be found at www.beccles.info under ‘News’.

Councillor Surgeries
Town Councillors are readily contactable by members of the public (see back page list of Councillor details). Town Councillors are also available to meet members of the public at the Town Hall in the Committee room, on the first Tuesday of every month between 11am and 1.00pm—just call in or telephone 01502 712109 to make an appointment.

Lorry Watch
- Seen an HGV travelling down a road in Beccles that is weight-restricted? Email the details (registration and/or photograph) to lorrywatch@beccles.org

Community Speed Watch
- Had enough of vehicles breaking speed limits in Beccles? The Northgate (and area) Neighbourhood Society is looking at establishing a ‘community speed watch group’—for more information on joining the group or setting up your own, please email rnsbeccles@gmail.com

The NSPCC in Beccles
Like to help with fundraising for the Beccles group of the NSPCC in support of the work the charity does in our area? Please email nnsbeccles@gmail.com

BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL—AWARDS IN THE COMMUNITY
Each year the Town Council, through nominations provided by the community, make awards to those in voluntary roles in the following three categories. The Leslie Freeman Award for Long Service; The Robert (Bob) Ellwood Plate for Outstanding Service in the Community and The Eileen Crisp Award for Youth. Nominations from the community for any of these awards should be addressed to the Deputy Town Clerk and must contain a brief description, ie: length of service; their role in the organisation or as an individual, and/or any other details pertinent to their volunteering role. The nominee must not be made aware that they have been nominated.

When the Council have made their decision, both the nominee and their nominated person will be notified and invited to the Christmas Town Council meeting where the Mayor will present them with an award for their category, and then stay for the refreshments.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICES IN BECCLES
The Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday 8th November 2015 at Beccles War Memorial, St Mary’s Road at 1.45 for 2.00pm start. The Service is followed by a parade march to St Michael’s Church for a Service of Remembrance. Invited to take part in both Services will be members of the Air, Army and Navy Cadet Organisations, Scouts, Guides and Brownies, the Royal British Legion (RBL) Flag Bearers and Veterans, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, local MPs, Beccles Town Councillors and other invited guests. Members of the public are also invited to meet at 2.00pm at the War Memorial and follow the parade to the Parish Church for the 3.00pm Service of Remembrance.

On Wednesday 11th November at 11am the town centre will close down for one minute’s silence to remember those who lost their lives during the wars. Wreaths and Poppies will be on sale at the RBL shop in Smallgate.
William was born on 9 September 1780 at Manor Farm, Kessingland near Lowestoft. His parents were John Crowfoot and Susan Henchman. His mother died when he was young, so he was placed in the care of his Uncle by marriage, Rev W Clubbe, Vicar of Brandeston, who taught him Latin. William enjoyed his classical studies.

He was apprenticed by his father’s brother, William Crowfoot (IV) in 1794 living in Saltgate, Beccles at the age of 14. The future Viscompte Chateaubriand, a young fugitive from the French Revolution, lodged at 3 Saltgate and taught William French and fencing, and they became life-long friends. In 1799 William moved to London and became a student at Guy’s Hospital under Cline and Astley Cooper, the latter referring to William as someone who “to high professional skill, adds all the amiable qualities which can become a man”.

After passing his examinations he moved to Framlingham to practice. A year later he married Mary Bowles, a descendant of Tobias Rustat, Yeoman of the Robes to Charles II. When his Uncle William’s partner, Mr Purvis died, he was asked to join the practice in Beccles which he did in 1803, becoming a partner in 1805.

William lived on The Walk (now the British Heart Foundation Charity shop), which was to become the family home for three generations. The building had previously been a shop, but William converted it into a house and built a surgery at the bottom of the garden.

William and Mary had four children: William Edward, Mary, John Rustat and Susan (who died at 14 days old).

When he retired, William moved to Northgate House.