



Station Opening



After many years in a very poor condition the station building at Beccles has now been restored to its former glory.

Green Party Councillor Graham Elliott and Christine Pinsent have been working with the owners of the building for the last three years to try and provide much needed facilities at the station.

Graham said *"Our plan was to create a welcoming gateway to Beccles that gives visitors a great first impression of the town. We also wanted to provide some essential railway station facilities including a café and waiting room, a taxi hotline, cycle hire and tourist information. The vision was to create a thriving hub of activity that, along with CCTV, will put an end to the vandalism that has plagued the railway station. It is fantastic to see this vision become a reality!"*

The station building has two large multi-purpose rooms that can be

used for meetings, with the larger of the two being ideal for use as a studio for yoga or dance. The "nerve centre" of the entire project is the station cafe which also operates as a "Visitor Information Point" and a welcoming gateway to the town.

The cafe is being run as a social enterprise by Cathy Aukland and Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw (pictured) and this means any profits made will be ploughed back into community facilities.

Cathy said *"The cafe is a friendly place where the whole community can come, relax with friends, and enjoy fresh sandwiches and delicious cakes made with the region's fantastic local produce. We also act as the bookings office for the station's business and community facilities."*

Future Station Projects

Future plans for the railway station area include a refurbishment of the old platform with the provision of a decent passenger shelter and the long awaited station forecourt scheme that will include safe pedestrian crossing facilities over George Westwood Way, improved rail passenger parking and many other things. **Watch this space!**

Station Adopters

New Beccles Station adopters have recently been signed up and have started regular litter sweeps of the station and have added significant colour to the planters on the platform.



Fairtrade in Beccles

Fairtrade Fortnight was celebrated in Beccles this year with a fabulous talk from Kenyan tea farmer Patrick Muthaura.

It was amazing to hear that just by making the choice to drink Fairtrade tea in Beccles we can have such a positive impact on other peoples lives. Patrick explained that the communities decide how the Fairtrade premium is spent. Women are encouraged to have a role in the finances and running of the businesses and this has had a positive and beneficial effect on the whole community. With the

Fairtrade money Patrick's community have successfully built a school and are currently working on a project to build a maternity hospital. They have grown trees to combat environmental problems and have wisely spent money on local community food projects. He also made it clear that the Fairtrade customer also gets a great deal, with a superior cup of tea grown in sustainable way!

Play Parks

Elfrede is dedicated to improving things for children and young people within our community. She said *"We need to fight for our outdoor play spaces. Our children deserve green spaces within walking distance of their homes, with well maintained equipment. Fresh air and exercise is more important than ever!"*

Last year, along with fellow Councillor Sam Kenwood, she spearheaded the repainting and repair of equipment at the Common Play Park, following a



rumour that the site was under threat. Now Elfrede is putting her effort into the Townlands Park and is working with a team that will bring the park back to its former glory.

Would you like to help?

If you would like to help your local Green Party please contact us using the details below.

For further information on the Green Party please visit:- www.waveney.greenparty.org.uk or phone **01502 714661**, e-mail info@waveney.greenparty.org.uk or write to 2 Old Hall, Barsham, Beccles NR34 8HB.



www.facebook.com/pages/Waveney-Green-Party/207036366004097



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Community Orchard

Local residents in Beccles have got together with local Green Party Councillors to sow the seeds of a community growing project.

Danny Lawn said *"I have been really keen to start a Community Orchard having been inspired by other projects around the country, these projects benefit everyone by providing fresh produce and pulling communities together"*.

If you want to get involved contact Elfrede on **07554 012225**.

Your local Green Councillors

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