

THE WAVENEY CENTRE

NEW MARKET,
BECCLES,
SUFFOLK

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NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone and welcome to the Newsletter for **October 2025**.

“Have you put on the heating?” we hear being asked across the Centre. Some of us fire up the boiler on a specific date each year – perhaps the end of September. Others of us think that being cold at home is just not worth the cost the way we feel, so we put the heating on as soon as the temperature drops a little regardless of what the calendar tells us. Whatever your strategy it is probably worthwhile testing your heating before you need it, to make sure that when you need it, all is working ok.

There are additional costs of keeping ourselves warm in the winter nowadays, and many of us are finding it harder to pay the higher bills. If you are struggling with money East Suffolk Council (ESC) staff might be able to help through their Help With Money Team. ESC staff can work out with you if there could be additional State Benefits or grants you could apply for. They can also help you plan a budget and work out how to manage any debts. Please contact the team on 01394 444760 or maybe have a discrete word with Heather or Phil. Nobody should feel left out, and this includes you. If you live over the border, we would be pleased to support you in applying for a Discretionary Payment from South Norfolk District Council.

Many of us will recall the five picture frame memory boards that had been displayed on the walls near to the entrance to the Centre. Some have asked where they have gone. In truth, the photographs are gradually fading, and the newspaper cuttings are yellowing with age. Although we can't arrest these physical changes of time, the plan is to preserve the information on these boards for future generations before it decays much more. We can then do our bit to retain the social history of our part of Beccles. To this end we are working with U3A Digital Photography Group to capture the images and ensure that the information can be kept, despite the gradual physical deterioration that time inevitably causes. The project should start early in 2026 and we shall keep you posted of progress.

People have noted that there has been far less bird activity in our garden over summer. Maybe there has been more food available in the near neighbourhood, so we have not needed to provide as much food?

On September 24th 15 people put their name into the hat for our 2025 carpet bowls challenge. Despite being co-organisers, neither Mary nor Rowdy won! We held a knock-out format with neither of last year's finalists Danny or Mick making it through the first round. Jacqueline met dark horse Rowdy in the final where Jacqueline stepped up with

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an impressive performance. Well done! You deservedly won back the title you won in 2023.

From the time our refurbishment plans were underway at the end of May, we have been looking to source varied furniture that would hopefully meet the needs of our varied customers and the groups they attend. We had delivered a huge piece of easy furniture that will hopefully fit along the side wall of the conservatory. It was a mammoth undertaking to get the structure in to the building and it will be a bit of a slog to put it together correctly.

Our shed sprung a leak a while ago. The felt has been there for longer than anyone can remember and has cracked in the sun, leading to shrinkage and holes. It wasn't obvious from the outside as the roof has been almost completely covered by a rather fetching coating of moss. By the time you read this, we hope to have been able to get this sorted with the energy, ingenuity and muscle of a Men's group that meets in Sam's café in Lowestoft. Thank you to our new friends.

Another thing to look forward: On Friday October 10th at 12:30 we welcome back the Next Stagers theatre group who will be performing a collection of sketches, plays, and general silliness. Next Stagers are based at Lowestoft Marina Theatre, and each member is over the age of 50. They have presented for us on two previous occasions, and this is their first visit to Beccles in 2025. Come along, sit back, and prepare for entertainment. The session is free to attend.

On October 22nd we have live jazz at the Centre with Martin Eaton and Phil Brook. Their topic will be "Sinatra." This is a Beccles U3A production. However, those of us not members of the U3A are welcome. Cost will be £3 for this professional performance.

On Wednesday 29th October from 12:00 to 3:00 we will be partnering with our New Market neighbours Fred Olson Travels (FOT) for an event. FOT will be using our conservatory for a promotional, marketing afternoon. Why not come along to this free event and see what holiday choices they offer? You never know where this might take you!

We are planning the next Hoi for Wednesday 5th November.

Before this, on Thursday 23rd October we will be holding a Speed Snooker Challenge from 10:30. This event is open to all.

And Finally

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I asked my dog what is two minus two? He said nothing!

Why do bees have sticky hair? Because they use honeycombs!