

TITTLESHALL ALLOTMENTS 2022/23

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There is a short waiting list for allotments, but turn-over is quite slow so do speak to Paul Hands (pjhands14@gmail.com) or any of the current allotment-holders if you would like one.

Paul Hands May 2023

Most organisations, and certainly choirs, have reported fewer people returning post-Covid. Our choirs are no exceptions. This was one of the reasons that we changed our name to The Sunflower Singers last year - a new start. I used to run Tittleshall Ladies' Male Voice Choir and Fakenham Singers (formerly Fakenham Community Choir) but it seemed more sensible to merge the two under one name since we sing the same songs and perform together. The one in our village still meets roughly term times on Wednesday evenings, while the other meets at Hempton church hall on Thursday evenings. I am pleased to report that, little by little, we are welcoming new members.

We also changed our format so that we include the audience as much as possible, which seems to work very well. And we no longer organise concerts but instead perform by request. For example, we sing for an organisation called Dementia Adventure 6 or 7 times a year when their clients stay in Dunham.

Last year we could be found at a fund-raising event in Fakenham and performed at Tittleshall's summer fete. (Unfortunately, we are unable to be there again this year.) So far this year we have performed at Litcham Methodist church, as well as the first of our Dementia Adventure events. U3a liked us so much last year that they have invited us back again in November or December this year.

As I mentioned, we sing on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. I don't ask anyone to audition, nobody has to be able to read music, and I welcome everybody who wants to sing. The first evening is a free taster, and thereafter it's £5 per week. You get to learn new songs and make new friends. (And there's cake.)

If you would like to give us a go you can message or phone me on 0788 4066490 or email sunflowerchoirs1@btinternet.com. That way I can let you know exact dates of our meetings.

Sue

FLIX IN THE STIX CINEMA

REPORT TO THE ANUAL PARISH MEETING

TUESDAY 16TH MAY 2023

My thanks to the Parish council for this opportunity to present a report about the village hall cinema.

Flix In The Stix cinema has been in existence for sixteen years and it would have been eighteen years had not covid got in the way.

This cinema is the longest running rural village hall cinema in Norfolk and I think that is something we can all be very proud of. I personally was going to give it five years so from my point of view I am extremely proud that this little cinema has done so well and reached so many people.

One of the main reasons for the cinemas longevity has been our continuing association with Creative Arts East who, as an organisation, are committed to working tirelessly for groups such as ours in offering , should we need it, access to professional marketing and advertising advice as well as the opportunity to hire up to date film equipment.

As a member of Creative Arts East we have all our licences organised and obtained from Filmbank, film menu's are created that give us the opportunity to screen a wide range of films both mainstream and independent at a subsidised cost.

During this first year start up after the pandemic I think it's fair to say that the numbers are not as many as those prior to the lockdown. But then the economic climate now is very different and that will have a bearing on a choice of leisure pursuits that individuals now have to make.

But one of the innovations on offer to moviegoers at our hall is a choice of films screened over two evenings. Friday evenings are

dedicated to independent British film makers, foreign speaking films, world cinema and local archive films.

These films have, in my humble opinion, a very short-lived shelf life in cinemas and do not get the exposure I think they deserve. I am, however, quietly optimistic with the reception these independent films have had when screened here and I feel that it's worth while to continue. Saturday evenings at the movies are mostly mainstream and the interest in those films comes from a slightly different audience. And the noticeable result for me is that the variation in films attracts new audiences.

Covid and the lockdown generated a surge in membership to the streaming channels as people sought entertainment and company from films. It is now convenient for many people to have a cinema in their front room, but there are still those cinephiles who like to come to a cosy little village hall to see a film on a big screen and to chat afterwards with a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake. The narrative of film and its visual impact create a connection because you will always have an opinion about what you have just seen, and I think that the sharing of that opinion with others is a good thing. Hopefully Tittleshall Village Hall cinema will continue to create that space and to provide films that people still want to come and see for a while longer.

TITTLESHALL METHODIST CHURCH REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - MAY 2023

We are a small congregation, supported by one or two non-residents. We do not restrict our endeavours solely to religious services but try to carry our Christian convictions into the community. We are not 'an hour on a Sunday' group.

Our members serve on the Parish Council, Village Hall Management Committee, are active in the village Bowls Club. Also, one of our members is a published composer and has issued several CD's.

We attach a great deal of importance to our connection with the Trussell Trust Mid-Norfolk Foodbank branch at Fakenham where one of our members volunteers. We operate a collection point on Sunday 9-11am and Wednesdays 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon. We have very good support from villagers and others with donations of food. We held a special Foodbank coffee morning at the Chapel whereby we raised £160 and received food donations amounting to 147.4kgs. During the past twelve months we collected 230kgs. (on top of the 147,4kgs).

Our Wednesday coffee mornings continue, 10.30am to 12 noon with our regular band of supporters. There is coffee, tea, hot chocolate, biscuits and sometimes cake and there is no charge, it's 'donations invited'. It's a great chat-shop, not religious. If you do see a Minister they are there for conversation not preaching. We are a disabled access and dementia friendly Church with toilet facilities - everyone always welcome. Why not try it out one Wednesday?

In the autumn we join in the national MacMillan Coffee Morning and last year raised over £300.

In October we recommenced our Soup Lunch fund-raiser with a menu of four soups and several desserts plus coffee and tea. We didn't make a charge but received £307.50 in donations together with, I would say, praise and thanks from all participants.

We took part in the Tittleshall Summer Fete and raised £450 for Chapel funds.

We are part of the Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit which comprises 23 churches from Great Ellingham in the South to Blakeney in the north. Our annual contribution towards the cost of running the Circuit

is approximately £3400. On top of this we have to meet our utility cost, light, heat, water and insurance and we make contributions to several Methodist Charities. The majority of these costs are met by the direct giving of the members.

We have been blessed, during the last twelve months, with several organisations booking the Chapel for meetings which is much appreciated.

In the spirit of extending our mission outside the Chapel building we give our Harvest Thanksgiving collection to Ripples (formerly Send a Cow) which carries out agriculture and horticulture missionary work in Central and East Africa and our Christmas and Carol services collections go to Swaffham & Litcham Home Hospice and East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Ailsa Warburton
Senior Steward

Annual Parish Meeting 16th May 2023
Parish Council Report

2022/23 was a turbulent year for the Parish Council, with several new members joining and leaving in quick succession. Two of our most experienced councillors resigned and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Sue Lane and Mike Colman for their many years of service.

I don't want to dwell on the negativity that has surrounded the Parish Council this past year. I would rather look forward to a positive and proactive year with two new councillors joining us, welcome Mary Osborne and Peter Moore.

We will continue to support the village in any way we can, building on our relationship with Breckland to ensure our roads are kept as pothole free as possible (we have had to accept that the narrowing of our roads in and around the village will not be addressed by Breckland at any time due to lack of funds). We can also chase Breckland for any grass cutting that is needed in the village. We keep an eye on the levels of water that appear when we have torrential downpours and have recently managed to get the culverts cleared that run from one end of the village to the other and off out to Litcham. We have also provided sand and bags outside the village hall for anyone who is liable to flooding (we've had several houses recently who have suffered with flash flooding) and have renewed some of the salt/grit bins.

We have an emergency plan in place with a lead, deputy lead and 8 co-ordinators throughout the village who can assist until the emergency services arrive and a huge list of volunteers who can supply machinery, accommodation, shelter for pets, hot meals, deliver supplies and a whole host of medical expertise.

We also provide the village with allotments opposite the war memorial, there is a report from the Chairperson and contact details if you would like to go onto the waiting list for a plot.

Unfortunately the speed watch team has recently disbanded which means we will not be considered for a monthly speed camera visit from the police. This is a real shame and I urge anyone who has a couple of hours a month spare to get on board with any of the groups or committees within the village, ie Parish Council, Village Hall Management Committee, Parochial Parish Council to name a few, as we are all suffering with the same issue lack of support from those who live in the village.

Finally, I would like to thank Donna our Clerk who has been a great help with advice and guidance throughout the year and I look forward to welcoming anyone else who would be able to add their skills to this team – we currently have 2 vacancies to get us up to a full strength Council of 7.

Kay Gingell
Chairperson

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Report to the Tittleshall Annual Parish Meeting on behalf of Tittleshall Bowls Club

16 May 2023

As many will know the Bowls Club, situate on the High Street, has been a feature of the Village Landscape for a good many years dating back to when the Green belonged to the Ostrich Public House.

Currently we play in 3 evening Leagues two of which are played in the standard rink format whilst the third is what is called Roving Cott details of which I will not bore you with this evening, but if you are interested then I will be more than happy to supply you with a description after the meeting.

We are a very small Club with less than 30 playing members, but more who are classified as non-playing, but who support the Club through a diminished Membership Fee. To join as a playing member the annual fee is £25 plus a small fee when you play in a scheduled league match. For this people get access to the Pavilion and its facilities and can play at their leisure any number of times in the afternoon or evenings provided no work is being undertaken or a match is being played.

The ethos of the Club is that all those who want a game, within reason, can get a game and as such we have a wide variety of skills, ages and sexes. We do not consider ourselves elitists and whilst it is nice to win things that is not our main aim, that said late in April we played a 2022 delayed game against Gressenhall and in winning it we became champions of the Mid Norfolk League who play the aforementioned Roving Cott format. We are widely regarded as a friendly club to play against offering a half decent Green thanks mainly to the efforts of our man who cuts the grass twice a week.

Luckily currently we count in our membership a qualified coach who can help if required.

Like all other organisations the recent past has been a challenge financially speaking, but thanks to a grant we have set out to improve the facilities with a new ditch around the Green, a new pathway to give full access and a gate which provides direct access to our own land. We are self-funding and this has been and continues to be a struggle so if you can help in any way such as supporting our stall at the upcoming Fete. Better still come and join us, we have some equipment new comers can access as well as plenty of encouragement. If in any doubt come along when we are playing, it's a sure bet that you'll soon be muttering under your breath that you could do better than that. On a nice evening come and sit on the grass and who knows we may find you a cup of tea.

**Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on behalf of Tittleshall Poor's
Land Trust**

16th May 2023

I speak in my capacity as Clerk to this Village Charity which is overseen by 5 villagers who act as Trustees. It is Charitable Trust originally created in 1877 and was designed to give relief to the poor in and around the village by providing land upon which they would be allowed to forage for firewood and to later to have small allotments to try and feed themselves. Over the years it has evolved and currently its main outlet is to give a grant towards fuel costs to villagers in need, to help with chiropody costs again to those deemed in need. A small donation is also made to families who have been bereaved.

The Trustees consider each request for the above as well as other matters where people are struggling with costs particularly when children are going to higher education and are in need of books and the like. Whilst requests are considered the Charity Commission do not permit any disbursement to settle debts.

It is a small charity with limited resources mainly derived from the rent off land owned off Wellingham Road. The Charity also owns two pieces of land on the Heath where people these days use it to exercise dogs. On this matter people seem to forget that this is private land and its use is permitted by the Trustees at no charge and whilst it endeavours to maintain a barrier between the land and the road it does not see itself being under obligation to completely enclose the fields.

Currently there are 5 Trustees with the Chair being Mr Mark Robinson with his fellow Trustees being Ms Helen Petrie, Robert Cottrell, David Purser and Bruce Edmondson

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