

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

7th MAY 2024

REPORT FROM THE TITTLESHALL POOR'S LAND TRUST

The local charity has been in existence now for nearly 150 years and in line with many other small rural communities it was set up to aid what were predominantly agricultural workers by providing them with somewhere they could gather fuel and in some cases provide small plots of land to grow food. The world has moved on and the demographics of this part of Norfolk has changed dramatically.

Today the Charity's focus is to the less well-off in our society some of who whilst superficially comfortable in that they own a property do struggle in that their income and pension fails to keep up with ever rising costs.

There are set provisions to make payments late in the year towards energy costs, to give affordable access to a chiropody service and in the unfortunate case of a death to make a small contribution towards costs. The 5 Trustees do have it within their auspice to give grants outside of the previous criteria when they are approached and they feel it appropriate. Unfortunately the Constitution does not allow payments for settlement of rent or debt, but other costs, possibly unexpected, could be considered. In the past payments have been made to cover educational costs and minor adjustments to property to ease access. Requests can be made via the Clerk or any of the Trustees.

The Charity is self-funding with its most significant income being from the rent on a piece of land off Wellingham Road. It is in essence a very small charity with limited funds. Details of the Charity can be accessed via the Charity Commission website under the reference 215759 or in writing again via myself.

Any questions?

Arthur Drinkwater

Clerk to the Trustees

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REPORT FROM THE TITTLESHALL BOWLS CLUB

For a good number of years now the Bowls Club has been a feature of the village and even before the actual club itself existed it was a much smaller Green forming part of the Ostrich public house.

We have tried to maintain the club as best we can for our own use and also to be an asset to the village in fact it is interesting to see just how many people will walk past and stop and look, some to admire others, no doubt, to comment on the state of the grass.

Our ethos has always been to be an inclusive and welcoming club with no requirements regarding ability which in some ways restricts our success in the leagues we play in, but if you want to play then we would always encourage you to do so. The only pre-requisite is the wearing of flat footwear out of respect of the hallowed turf.

We have a small membership drawn from the village and others close by. During the season, May to September, we play in 2 Evening Leagues and this year we participate in an Afternoon League. It is often seen as a game for the ancients amongst us, but that is far from the case with the exception of the Afternoon League where you have to be at least 55 to qualify. Apart from these regular features through the season we also play 5 internal competitions, usually on a Saturday afternoon and perhaps the most enjoyable element are the informal "roll-ups" played as and when members arrange them

There is a fee of £25 for a playing membership and £15 for non-players on top of which a match fee of £2 when involved in a League match. Like so many of the village institutions we exist on moneys raised and especially the goodwill of members and like so many it is a case of use it or lose it. We like to think that to lose the Club from the village would be tragedy.

I invite you, if you are not already a member, to come along and give us a try. We don't bite and we are certainly not in a position to make comment on any crooked wood sent down. Alternatively come and watch and I can guarantee that within 10 minutes you'll be thinking

to yourself that you could have played a better wood than the one sent down.

If you want any more information then please speak to myself or in fact any member of the club. We do also have a good web site managed by Peter Moore whereby all our results and upcoming matches and events are advertised.

One date you might want to diary is the 27th July, a Saturday when in the afternoon a team from the Norfolk Bowls Executive are coming to help us celebrate the 20th anniversary of the building of the Pavilion something that was designed, built and paid for wholly by members of the Club. I promise you it will be like one of the early rounds of the FA cup when minnows meets the Premiership. Who knows what the result will be, well yes we do know, but we can maybe promise you a cup of tea and a raffle ticket.

Thank you. Any questions?

Arthur Drinkwater

Chair Tittleshall Bowls Club



TITTLESHALL MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUSTEES REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TUESDAY 7th MAY 2024

The maintenance of the Millennium Green is the responsibility of the Trustees and as such we make regular checks of the play area and the surrounding hedges and fencing. The Millennium Green is a charity and is totally self-funding. The finance for the annual insurance premium, the grass cutting contract and the fee for the Safety Inspection Report is raised by events organised by the Trustees. Due to regular checks on the play equipment and the surrounding fencing and hedges we maintain good annual reports from the ROSPA Play Safety Inspection. To cover the costs of these fundamental requirements the Trustees need to raise £1,700 per annum, and this is done by organising numerous fund-raising events on the Millennium Green, which include the village fete day, the famous dog show day, and an upcoming event with a given grant to commemorate D-Day on the green on the 9th of June 9.30am to 12pm (where on offer there will be a free bacon, sausage or egg roll and a hot drink) and is open to all residents, there are also bingo evenings and continued participation in the Breckland



lottery scheme, which is open to all who would like to help support the maintenance of the green.

An application was made last year to the Queen's Canopy scheme whereby communities would be given trees to plant which would help sustain wildlife. Fifty saplings of five species each were dispatched in late autumn, and we have Arthur Drinkwater to thank, whose help was invaluable, in potting the saplings and enabling them to over-winter safely. All the saplings have gone to good homes and three in particular have been planted in a corner of the wild meadow orchard in memory of Dick Thompson, who died recently, and who was a great supporter of the Millennium Green. We are looking to purchase a plaque in his memory.

Grant applications are on-going as we seek to generate more income, and we await replies, and hopefully donations, from the numerous organisations that we have contacted. We recognise that there are many groups such as ours applying for extra funding so this is not a quick process.

The Millennium Green would not be the good community space that is available to all residents and friends if it did not have support, so to those who have always answered the call for help this past year, to them a big thank you.

The Millennium Green Trustees:
Tracey Buttle, Jonathan Joplin, Wendy Seale
Treasurer: Mary Osborne

FLIX IN THE STIX CINEMA

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH

MEETING TUESDAY 7TH MAY 2024

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 eighteen years and it would have been twenty 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. And providing us with a quarterly menu of films chosen in association with the British Film Institute. These films reflect the work of independent film-makers, and provide rural cinemas such as ours the opportunity to screen a wide range of films mainstream and independents at a subsidised cost. English speaking films, documentaries, world cinema and local archive films, films that one might find difficult to locate and that do not have the screening time that they deserve.

As a member of Creative Arts East we have all our licences organised and obtained by them from Filmbank.

During the aftermath of the pandemic I think it's fair to say that the numbers attending the cinema were not as many as those prior to the lockdown. The present economic climate has had an impact too on numbers attending the cinema - choices have to be made regarding leisure pursuits but I do think that going to the cinema is still a thing of joy for a lot of people. And to create a better cinema experience one of the innovations on offer at the Flix to movie-goers is a choice of films screened over two evenings. Friday evenings are dedicated to the independents and

Saturday evenings are mainstream. Thus far the innovation is proving to be quite a success in attracting 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.

Annual Report from Allotment report by Paul Hands-Chairman May 2024

The Tittleshall allotments are adjacent to the village green just as the Litcham road goes out into the countryside. The site was once part of the village quarry where there is still a deep depression behind Holly Tree House and in the garden of Blenheim House, which is very relevant to the soil. My allotment has solid stone about a foot below the surface whereas others have deep loam. It is rather the luck of the draw and all of them can be worked and improved. It is a delightful place to work, surrounded on three sides by overgrown hedges that provide privacy and shelter and at this time of year blossom and birdsong.

There are currently nine allotment holders but two of them hold doubles in effect there are eleven single allotments. The financial situation is slightly complicated because the land is owned by the diocese, who rent it to the Parish Council who rent it to us. The diocese has increased the rent from this April to £225 to cover that, Individual rents have increased and are now £25.00 for a single allotment and £50 for a double. That allows me to hold on behalf of all of us, a small reserve that pays for minor maintenance costs, while the council would be responsible for larger costs if they ever arose.

We hold working days from time to time, usually in the early spring, to do tasks such as hedge cutting, repairs to the entrance and the gate and general tidying. Grenville very kindly cuts the grass regularly and we are each responsible for the fences, gates and paths surrounding our allotments.

At the moment there is only one name on the waiting list, one new tenant having taken on an allotment this spring, so if you are interested in taking one on it's well worth letting me know. We are a friendly, welcoming group who garden in a delightful spot.

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The Sunflower Singers' Report

Our choir in Tittleshall had been around for about 14 years, first as Tittleshall Ladies' Male Voice Choir and latterly as one of the two The Sunflower Singers groups.

From the very beginning it was a thriving choir, with a healthy numbers of singers from surrounding villages and beyond. Unfortunately, in the last 2 or 3 years the story hasn't been so good. We never really recovered post-covid but the remaining group of singers were strong and committed as a unit, leading me to believe that we had something to build on. And yet I did begin to realise that a merger with Hempton was the logical thing to do.

The next step was to decide whether I closed Tittleshall or Hempton. I weighed up the pros and cons of both locations, having spoken to the members, and concluded that Hempton was the more viable of the two. I didn't make the final decision at all lightly and the saddest part was losing 4 singers from our close community in the process.

We had a great run at Tittleshall and I am very happy to have made so many good friends there.

Sue Lane