

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Litcham held on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019** in The Jubilee Hall at 7.00 p.m.

**Present**

Councillor M Oldfield (Chair)  
Councillor C Mitchell  
Councillor M Anderson  
Councillor L Christie  
Councillor R Fagence  
Councillor C Lawrence

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris.  
District Councillor E Gould

4 members of the public.

**1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council.**

Councillor Oldfield welcomed all to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor J Jones, Mr D Shepherd and Mrs M Osborne

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

Councillor Anderson proposed and Councillor Mitchell seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2018 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**4. Reports from Village Organisations.**

Reports from the following organisations were received where noted and are attached to the minutes.

**4.1 Litcham School.**-No report had been received.

**4.2 Friends of Litcham School-Secondary Phase-** No report had been received.

**4.3 Litcham Children's Centre-** The Children's Centre is at capacity with a few places still open. It is not yet known what will happen in September and the County Councillor could not advise on any changes. He will get Norfolk County Council to discuss with the trustees.

**4.4 Litcham Common Conservation Group-** A report had been received which is attached.

**4.5 Litcham Common Management Committee-** A report had been received which is attached.

**4.6 Litcham Bellringers-** A report had been received which is attached.

**4.7 Litcham Methodist Church-** Stephen Lynn presented his report which is attached.

**4.8 Litcham Historical Society-** A report had been received which is attached.

**4.9 Church of All Saints Litcham-** Canon Heather Butcher presented her report which is attached.

**4.10 Friends of All Saints-** No report had been received.

**4.11 Litcham Tittleshall and District Royal British Legion-** A report had been received which is attached.

**4.12 Litcham Jubilee Hall Management Committee-** Councillor Anderson presented the report which is attached.

**4.13 Litcham Relief in Need Charity-** Councillor Christie presented her report which is attached.

**4.14 Community Car Scheme-** Councillor Christie presented her report which is

attached.

**4.15 L.E.G.S.-** No report had been received.

**4.16 Litcham Community Recreation Project-** No report had been received.

**4.17 Village Fete and Dog Show.-** A report had been received which is attached.

**4.18 Litcham Youth Club F.C.-** No report had been received.

**4.19 Homewatch-** Matthew Brookbank presented his report which is attached.

**4.20 Litcham Childcare.** No report had been received.

**5. Annual Report of the Parish Council.**

The Chairman Councillor M Oldfield presented the report which is attached.

**6. County and District Councillor Reports-**

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris presented his report which is attached.

District Councillor E Gould presented her report which is attached.

**7. Matters arising at the Meeting.**

There were no matters raised.

The meeting closed at 19470 hours.

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## REPORTS

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### Litcham Parish Council 2019 Chairman's Report

The Parish Council has for the last year done its best to support the village and maintain it as a place where people are happy to live.

The Parish Council was consulted on the proposal of the P.C.C. to take over the running of the County Fire and Rescue Service. After discussion the council decided not to support his plan.

New proposals on data protection were unveiled, parish councils would not require a data protection officer. A data protection policy and terms of reference for a data protection committee were discussed and adopted by the council. The protection committee will consist of all councillors.

New arrangements for Litcham Childcare centre were discussed with the chair of the trustees from the centre at a previous meeting, following the decision of N.C.C. to cut support to centres. The Parish Council supported her proposals for the centre.

We continued to consider planning applications and make observations. There is still no decision by B.D.C. to develop their land between Weasenham and Wellingham roads. N.C.C. highways department do not currently support this development.

The Parish Council were able to keep this years precept as the previous two years, £10.000. Donations were made to the British Legion, CAB.Norfolk, Litcham Conservation Group and Litcham P.C.C. for churchyard maintenance. To commemorate the end of World War 1 we purchased 3 ; There but not There silhouettes;.

Any problems with roads, pavements, street lights, bins and drainage can always be reported to the Clerk or Councillors. These will be passed onto relevant N.C.C. or B.C. departments for resolutions.

I would like to thank all councillors and the Clerk for their continued support.

Chairman  
Mike Oldfield

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## **County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Annual Report Report 2018-2019.**

Norfolk County Council agreed a net budget of £409.293m on the 11th February. It was agreed that Council tax would rise by 2.99% adding £39.51 per year to a band D property and that an adult social care charge of a further 3% rise was not to be made. The financial climate in which local government operates continues to be challenging with significant and ongoing reductions in core funding at the same time as substantial service cost pressures. The agreed council tax increase of 2.99% will enable the Council to protect vital services and will help to ensure a robust and sustainable financial position in future years.

The Council has absorbed significant and ongoing cuts in government funding, a total of £204m between 2010-11 and 2018-19. There are significant cost pressures such as inflation, demographic changes, unfunded burdens such as the National Living Wage and the need of vulnerable social care users becoming increasingly complex. Despite those pressures the Council is continuing to deliver savings and has plans in place to deliver £79m of savings by 2021-22. This includes £32m of saving in this financial year.

The Council has also agreed a £549m, 3 year, capital programme which will pay for investment in infrastructure, property and equipment. £120m will be spent on new special schools and resource bases for children with special educational needs, £120m on the third river crossing at Yarmouth, £9m for extra care housing to help older people live independently as part of a total investment of £29m. Most of the expenditure for capital projects is borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board, a department of HM Treasury, and repaid from revenue over a long period.

Adult social care costs continue to escalate, and the Council has made provision in the budget to invest £6m to address growing demand. Although the 3% adult social care precept was not raised this year all council tax rises from 2016-17 to 2018-19 are expected, by government, to be spent on adult social care. Thus, this year's council tax bill shows an adult social care precept of £96.05 for a band D property with no increase for this year. Additionally, government has awarded the Council a grant of £4.2m to help alleviate winter pressure on the Counties health and social care services. The money will go towards measures to avoid unnecessary delays in hospitals for people with mental health difficulties; bolster the short term capacity in the care market and to provide reablement support to enable people to regain their ability to live independently.

There are also substantial financial pressures on Children's Services. The Council has around 200 statutory responsibilities for children and the government has increased the top of the age range from 18 to 25. There are 1200 children in the care of the Council (the numbers have stabilised), 3000 children in special and complex needs schools, 2,900 children in need (590 with CP plans) and 20,000 children with special educational needs. The under 25 population of Norfolk is 243,00. As an example, home to school transport costs £27.7m pa, placements and support for looked after children costs £57m pa and education and care for children with SEN £56.4m pa out of a total budget of £186m.

The government awarded the Council £12.7m to fund pot hole repairs and highway improvement schemes. The highway team have been doing a good job over the summer and have largely caught up with the backlog of work. The extra cash must all be spent by the end of the financial year so some improvement schemes which

have been shelved though lack of funding have been resurrected. In my area much needed resurfacing of 2 miles the B1145 was completed in February. Resurfacing work at 3 busy junctions will be carried out before the end of March.

The Council continues to lobby government and the Highways Agency, through the A47 Alliance, to fund the dualling of the A47 from Peterborough to Yarmouth. The stretch of road between Tuddenham and Easton has been approved and work will start in 2021/22, this will provide a continuous dual carriageway link between Dereham and Norwich. Other schemes in Norfolk to 2020 include junction improvements at Thickthorn and at Yarmouth and dualling between Biofield and North Burlingham. Another top priority for the Council is the so called western link, the construction of a road between the A1067 and the A47. This would link the newly completed Broadland Northway (the NDR) with the A47. The final account for the construction of the Broadland Northway has been settled in the sum of £205m.

An additional £11m contract has been let to increase the superfast (>10mbps) broadband coverage from 92% to 95% in Norfolk. This will typically give coverage to properties and businesses that cannot be connected by Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) solutions and will use other technologies including Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). The small improvement in coverage for a fairly sizeable investment reflect the difficulty in reaching premises remote from the FTTC solution.

Last May the Council took the decision to revert to the Cabinet system of governance from May 2019 (an earlier transition was not possible legally). The recent departure of the Managing Director has given rise to an opportunity to move to an Executive Leader model. This would mean that the Council would be run on a day to day basis through weekly meetings between Cabinet members and the Senior Management Team (the paid Directors) with the Leader as Chair with all decisions being put through Cabinet or promulgated for consideration by Members. 4 Scrutiny Committees will monitor outcomes and will run a call-in system where decisions taken by the Executive Members and Cabinet can be called in by Members for discussion.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.

March 2019

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## **District Council report March 2019**

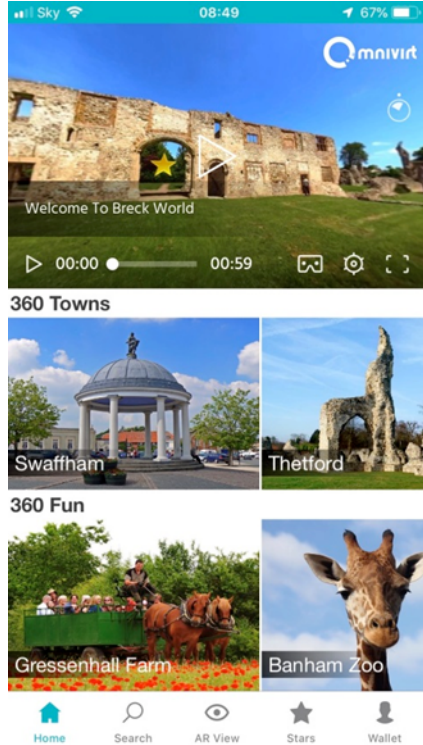
### **Market Town Initiative**

Breckland Virtual Reality Project – Breckworld

Following the presentation to Members recently at Full Council the team is now preparing the public launch of the app. This will be at a local tourist attraction in the District with all forms of media invited to attend. Currently this app is only available on the Apple platform, but will be rolled out on Android soon.

The Breckworld app is thought to be a world first, bringing together existing and newly developed technology into a single app. It extensively features ultra-high-definition 360° videos, some of which are narrated by Stephen Fry, so people can virtually explore Breckland's towns, attractions, free days out and independent cafes.

People can also take part in a virtual treasure hunt which is designed to help families and visitors make the most of their visit while unlocking special offers along the way.



## Environmental Services

### Waste Procurement

In 2021, Breckland Councils contract with Serco for the provision of waste collection, grounds maintenance and street cleansing ends. A partnership between Breckland, Kings Lynn and North Norfolk has been formed to jointly procure a new service.

Data sets for tender submission have now been completed.

### Garden Waste

Breckland currently has 22,355 subscribers using its garden waste collection service. The majority of new subscribers continue to pay online, with only 2% paying by cheque. Direct Debit facilities should be in place soon.

Our Breckland Lottery continues to attract new users and is now forecast to generate £37,752 annually for good causes across the District, with annual ticket sales expected to be £62,920.

To date £24,943 has been raised for good causes. Breckland currently has 60 good causes signed up to the initiative and will be working to identify and recruit more causes over the coming months with 600 players active.

[www.ourbrecklandlottery.co.uk](http://www.ourbrecklandlottery.co.uk)

### Silver Social

The Silver Social, an Arts Council England funded project, designed to engage older people in high quality day time arts activities across the district in an effort to tackle loneliness and isolation.

There have been 68 performances and workshops with over 600 participants.

November 2018 was a very busy month for the Silver Social with 5 x workshops and 10 x performances being held throughout the Breckland District with a total of 179 attendees. [www.thesilversocial.com](http://www.thesilversocial.com)

### Health and Wellbeing Grants

Having successfully drawn down £35,000 funding from Public Health Breckland is about to launch a Health and Wellbeing Grant Scheme.

The two small grants funds are created to support activities within the Breckland District boundary. Through creating these funds Breckland enables the local

community to be innovative in how they tackle health inequalities within the local area.

Healthy Communities Pilot Fund: up to £250

With this funding stream applicants can apply 100% of their total project costs. This funding pot is designed to enable applicants to test ideas or put on events that can be developed in the future to have longer term positive impacts on the Health and Wellbeing in the district. Activity for these grants must be completed by 31st August 2019.

### **District & Parish Elections – 2nd May 2019**

Work well underway on preparations.

Some key dates that may be useful over the months ahead are

Publication of the Notice of Election - Wednesday 20th March

Closing date for Nominations - 4pm on Wednesday 3rd April

Last date for Registration to vote – Friday 12th April

Last date for Postal Vote application - 5pm on Monday 15th April

The Count will take place on Friday 3rd May and will be held as usual at Dereham Leisure Centre, if anyone requires any further information on any part of the Electoral process please contact any member of the Electoral Services Team at Breckland.

### **Local Plan**

The inspector Jonathan Manning closed the local plan hearings on 20th September 2018.

He has suggested some modifications which are currently out for a six week consultation – comments deadline is Monday the 1st of April.

<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/article/10585/Consultation-on-the-Main-Modifications-to-the-Local-Plan>

### **Budget**

At the Council meeting on the 21st February Councillors approved the budget for 2019/20 with protects its frontline services and also invests £1.5m in community projects.

Over the next 10 years or so the council expects to spend around £28m on capital projects of which around £20m of it will come from bids from National sources.

From April 2019 the council tax in Breckland on a band D property will rise by £4.95 a year. Which means a Band D will pay £88.83 for a full year. The majority of residents in Breckland live in properties banded A-C so will pay less than this. Band A homes will be charged £59.22. despite these rises Breckland is expected to remain amongst the lowest in the country.

Breckland is in a stable financial position despite unprecedented pressures on public sector funding. Breckland is efficient and creates income through sound investments, so that it is not reliant on central government funding, so that it can protect local services as much as possible.

Please do all make use of the do it on line page on the breckland website [www.breckland.gov.uk/doitonline](http://www.breckland.gov.uk/doitonline) you can apply, pay or report things, its very useful, and it ensures that any report you make is tracked and reports are given back to you.

Any questions please do contact me.

Elizabeth

Having completed the extensive work to the nave and south aisle roofs of the church last year, we have continued work to enhance the building, with generous help from the Friends of Litcham Church.

Councillors will have seen the fine new gates and perhaps noticed the weather cock which has been regilded. A stained glass window given in memory of the PCC secretary's grandfather is due to be removed from a redundant church and placed in the west end of the north aisle. Much work had been undertaken to tidy the churchyard, particularly along the northern boundary. Work is shortly to be undertaken to fell three trees deemed to be dangerous and to remove dead branches and the epicormic Growth from the remaining trees. The school and local residents have been advised that there will be traffic controls in operation during the course of the work.

Here are concerns about the amount of items on some graves, with a variety of containers, solar lights etc. The PCC is trying to address this for the benefit of all who visit the churchyard.

We continue to be grateful to the parish council for the valuable contribution to the costs of cutting the churchyard. Wildlife and moth surveys have taken place over the year and the results are displayed in church. A wildlife display board is shortly to be erected in the churchyard in memory of Richard Jackman, with thanks to Mrs Jackman and the Friends of Litcham Church.

Junes' spoon breakfasts and the fete, also arranged by June were the main fundraisers. Sadly the takings from snowdrop would were down due to a very cold, wet Open Day.

The clergy continue to take assemblies in the primary and secondary phases of the school. We welcomed the school to church for Easter, Harvest, Christingle and Christmas.

The Nativity and carols attracted even more families this year. Carol Singers raised £200 in the village for the Salvation Army Toys and Tins appeal.

We are pleased to join with our Methodist friends for the monthly bible study. This has grown over the Lenten season with weekly bible studies attracting more people. We also invite evening speakers once a quarter has have helped us to reflect on a variety of subjects, the latest being Sam Leinster an oncologist, and former head of the UEA school of medicine and also Baptist lay preacher who spoke about a God of love and the problem of suffering.

Our newest venture is the setting up of a Drop In on Tuesday mornings in the Jubilee Hall. numbers are steadily growing and visitors enjoy cake, coffee and conversation. We collect used stamps for charity food for the food bank. We intend to remain open in the school holiday and provided a craft table for the school children.

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## **Litcham Common Conservation Group**

Report for Litcham Annual Parish Meeting on 4 March 2019

Litcham Common Conservation Group was set up in January 2004 to assist with conservation work on the common. The group is relatively informal, with no written constitution or formal membership list, and uses the Litcham Common Management Committee bank account to hold funds. We are a member of The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), a national organisation for voluntary groups such as ours.

The group's only income this financial year was a grant of £300 from Litcham Parish Council towards the cost of insurance, tools and equipment, for which we are very grateful.

Volunteers meet on the second Saturday of each month and carry out a variety of tasks. Over the past year work done has included cutting and burning scrub and

trees, clearing footpaths, removing ragwort and picking up litter. The numbers attending tasks has been variable, ranging from one person to twelve, but we always manage to make a difference.

Other Conservation Group members carry out regular welfare checks on the ponies that graze the common, on a rota basis. We have more than enough volunteers for this work so that the ponies are checked on a daily basis. We are also fortunate to have some volunteers who are very competent and confident in handling the animals when we need to round them up for visits by the vet or farrier. In addition, one of our volunteers carried out a plant survey last year.

Tim Angell

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## **Litcham Common Management Committee**

Report for Litcham Annual Parish Meeting on 4 March 2019

Litcham Common is a Local Nature Reserve and a County Wildlife Site. The Management Committee's primary responsibility is to manage the site for wildlife, taking particular account of its importance as an area of lowland heathland. At present, funding is received from Natural England under a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement that is due to run until February 2022.

The Management Committee was established in 1984 when Norfolk County Council and Lexham Hall Estate entered into a legal agreement regarding the management of the common. The agreement has never been formally terminated but the County Council no longer provides funding and has not sent a representative to attend committee meetings for some years. The present Committee is made up of Neil Foster (who owns the freehold of the common), Mike Oldfield (representing Litcham Parish Council), Helen Baczkowska (representing the Norfolk Wildlife Trust), Juliette Short, John Jones, Roger Watts and Tim Angell.

Conservation grazing is a key part of the management strategy and in spring 2018 we purchased two new Dartmoor ponies to bring the "herd" up to five animals. Dartmoors have the right qualities of hardiness and an appetite for the rough grazing found on the common. Local volunteers play a vital role in the work that we carry out, and we are very grateful for all they do. In particular last May one of the ponies had to be cared for in the corral for several weeks after a piece of barbed wire became embedded in its foot and in October around twenty-five volunteers helped herd the animals back onto the common after they escaped onto the Lexham estate.

A recurring problem we have is that some members of the public feed the ponies despite all the signs asking them not to. Consequently the ponies become too fat and at risk of laminitis, which could potentially cause them severe suffering.

Last year we had fourteen Hereford cattle grazing the common over the summer months. Initially there were fifteen but one cow escaped on the day of arrival evading capture until nightfall and sadly had to be shot due to the danger it posed if it had wandered onto a road. This was a real blow to us all, but fortunately the rest of the summer proved uneventful. The ponies and cattle complement each other with their different grazing techniques and this helps maintain a diversity of vegetation. We hope to have cattle on the common again this year, from April or May through to September, with the exact timing depending upon how quickly the vegetation grows. Having the right overall number of grazing animals in the summer should reduce the risk of laminitis in the ponies.

Ongoing management work is carried out in accordance with the terms of our HLS agreement with Natural England and we receive advice and support from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. The Wildlife Trust produced a management statement for us in 2017 and this is available to view on Litcham's website. Work carried out over the past



twelve months has included the felling of a relatively small number of mature birch trees and the continued clearance of scrub that has encroached onto the open heathland areas. Since November last year we have received assistance from unpaid workers on the Community Payback scheme, who have been clearing young trees from either side of the road.

Litcham Common Management Committee paid Norfolk County Council a lump sum of roughly £75,000 for the installation of the cattle grids, bypass gates and new highway road signage in 2012, on the understanding that the County Council is responsible for all ongoing maintenance. At last year's Parish Meeting I reported our frustrations that both bypass gates were in need of repair and SLOW markings on the road needed to be reinstated. It is disappointing that this work has still not been done.

Periodically we have guided walks on the common with the last one in September 2018 run by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust focussing on bats. We are also very pleased to see other groups using the common, with the evening organised by local moth enthusiasts in August last year being particularly interesting.

Other conservation and voluntary groups are interested in what has been achieved so far at Litcham and in December 2018 we gave a presentation at a Norfolk Commons workshop which was a surprisingly big, well attended, event. Looking ahead, there will always be new challenges, and management work will always be required to complement the grazing, but a lot has been achieved in recent years and we are confident that the common is in a good position to flourish in the future, both for the benefit of wildlife and local people.

Tim Angell

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## **Litcham Bellringers**

Report for Litcham Annual Parish Meeting on 4 March 2019

2018 saw an upsurge of interest in bellringing at Litcham and we trained three new recruits with a view to ringing in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the World War 1 Armistice. Learning to ring by rope and wheel in the traditional English fashion is not easy but our beginners persevered and it is of great credit to them that they were all able to join in the ringing on 11th November 2018.

We are fortunate that Françoise Walker from Raynham has been prepared to give so much of her time to training the new ringers, and this is continuing. As a result we now have five people who are members of Litcham tower and we were able to ring for two of the services over Christmas.

In addition to the beginners' training sessions over the past few months, regular bellringing practice nights at Litcham take place between 7.00pm and 8.15pm on the third Monday of each month, followed by a visit to the Bull Inn. The ringers come from a number of villages and on the other Mondays we ring at Sculthorpe, East Raynham and Whissonsett between 7.45pm and 9pm. The practices in Litcham take place at an earlier time than in other villages following complaints that the noise was stopping young children from sleeping.

Litcham's bells and fittings are badly in need of restoration and the Bell Restoration Fund now stands at £4,474. In addition, the Friends of All Saints charity has earmarked £740 from its funds for the bell project. The total estimated cost of the work to be done is well in excess of £40,000 so there is a long way to go. We are hoping to obtain advice on work that can be carried out in the interim which will make the bells easier to ring. In the meantime we are taking a "make do and mend"

approach, regularly applying castor oil to the bearings and replacing existing bell ropes when they show signs that they are about to break.

Litcham's bells and tower are part of the heritage of the village and I would be happy to show them to anyone who is interested. We would also warmly welcome any potential new ringers who would like to find out what is involved. I can be contacted on 01328 700045.

Tim Angell

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## **COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME**

Report to Litcham Parish Council 4th March 2019

The Community Car Scheme is now in its 5th year, and is much appreciated, especially by older people and of course not everyone is able to drive. Apart from being a little short of drivers at busy times, the scheme runs very well, and people who use this service finds it invaluable.

Elizabeth Christie.

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## **DOG SHOW & FETE**

REPORT TO LITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL 14 February 2019

Following the 2018 fete I have continued to act as secretary, Tracey Buttle remains as Chairperson and Alison Briston has continued as Vice-Chairperson, we have a new Treasurer in Donna Norton.

### **DOG SHOW**

We thought that the 2017 was our best dog show but we were wrong! The 2018 dog show was an absolutely fantastic dog show. Although we didn't have as many dogs as we had in 2017 we had an amazing response to our sponsorship request, we prepared our own refreshments and had a fantastic raffle. For once the weather did play ball. Hempton Dog Training Group leader Lisa Pearson was our judge and our champion was a beautiful black spaniel. The dog show raised an amazing £1,209.50.

The plans for the 2019 dog show are going really well. We have various stalls booked in and our sponsors have been very generous, local dog kennel WaggTails have agreed to sponsor all our classes, and we also have sponsorship from Su-Bridge at Saham Toney. The Dog Show is taking place on Sunday 12th May at Chalk Farm, Litcham between 12.00 p.m. and 4.p.m thanks to the Archer Family. We have booked sunshine for the day, we just need to wait and see if the order arrives on time!.

As in previous years we are having 15 classes, £2 entry per class or 3 classes for £5. We also have a children's class at just £1.00.

We have various classes to include Most Handsome Dog, Prettiest Bitch, Child Handler (16 And Under £1 Entry), dog living within 15 miles radius of Litcham, dog/bitch the judge would most like to take home and many more classes, we have something for everyone.

We still have some classes available for sponsorship, if anybody is interested in being one of our sponsors for further details please email [litchamcommunityfete2019@gmail.com](mailto:litchamcommunityfete2019@gmail.com). Sponsorship is just £15 per class.

For further information about the dog show please email us.

### **LITCHAM COMMUNITY FETE & CAR BOOT**

Again we had great weather for the fete. The Bull ran the bar for us again. We had music from the Fakenham Ukes, The Village Ukes, Tittleshall Choir, School Orchestra and we had performances from the Busy Bodies Dance Studio in

Dereham. We also had a five-a-side football tournament and ended with our usual fun tug of war.

Again 10 groups from the village and surrounding areas came and had stalls, with each stall keeping the money raised on their individual stalls and the money from the BBQ, bouncy castle, raffle and beer tent (and the dog show from the previous month) was then "pooled" and shared between each of the groups involved. Eight of the groups each received a cheque in the sum of £276.65, with the other groups getting £201.07 (they got slightly less because they were unable to help at the dog show).

The fete is the one time of the year that the various groups from around the village all join forces and raise money, community spirit was alive and kicking in Litcham that day.

The 2019 fete is taking place on Saturday 22nd June 2019 between 12.00 p.m. — 4.00 p.m. on the Litcham School Field - Secondary Phase

We are going to be having a BBQ, refreshments, car boot, raffle, live music from the Fakeham Ukes, tug of war, Zumba, the Busy Bodies Dance Studio are coming to perform again and we will have many more traditional stalls.

Car boot pitches are still available if anybody is interested in having a pitch contact Alison Briston on 07961370264 for more information.

We are praying again for good weather, the support of the local community and that again we can raise a substantial amount of money for the groups involved.

Sharon Moore, Secretary Litcham Dog Show and Fete.

14 February 2019

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## **REPORT FOR LITCHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2018/19.**

**SUPPORTING LOCAL GROUPS AND EVENTS:**This has become the LHS main goal these days and although we have no Museum and very few artefacts we still promise to insure the Litcham Fete and Dog Show again (2019).

The good news is that our coffers have increased through selling what we were left after Ms Shaw moved away.

The good news is that artefacts not sold have been sent to appropriate people and places in and around Litcham. For example I managed to retrieve the memorabilia and display cabinet which were proudly displayed in Beeston Village Hall at last year's Remembrance Day visit from relatives of USAF crew who were stationed and gave their lives flying from Wendling in WW2.

In June and July I rented a large area of Cokesford Hall Farm and contributed £230 raised from sales of old tools from the Museum. A further £400 was raised with subsequent sales after careful sorting at the Farm.

The first monies (£230) paid for a contribution to Heather Butcher's appeal for St Marys which has severe structural problems. The discovery of two antique black and white prints of Edith Cavell has led to a lot of interest both here and at Swardston (Edith's birthplace) and those in the village Church who already hold an icon of the famously brave lady. With the further sale of tools held by Ralph Nichols I raised enough to have them renovated and cleaned. Three large albums of many Norfolk village signs has been returned to their original owner; help has been given to enquirers about their Litcham ancestors. Interesting photos and poems have been discovered concerning Christmas Burgess, Litcham's Forgemaster (Butt Lane). A fuller account of his poems other than the C and V article will be made later this year.

I have made contact with Fakenham Community Archive who do not cover Litcham but at their monthly meeting we learned that our membership could manage to

archive via digital technology our entire 1000 plus photographic store held kindly by Ms Audrey Mitchell along with several old war time posters. Litcham's old photos will be our greatest future display tool; although we will not be at the Fete this year. Arthur Clarke has helped by looking after our old cameras.

Other items relating to the old Litcham's Schools are also stored with Audrey and we will be asking Litcham School if they have room to display these this year.

The old Long Case Clock formerly owned by a Litcham GP is being held for safe-keeping at The Bull. Although not completely clear the lock-up at Lexham will hopefully be cleared of all that remains of the Museum by year's end.

Once all monies have been checked by Mr J Jones our treasurer this year a meeting of all members will be held to decide how local groups can benefit from the surplus. It is uncertain therefore once monies have been divided, (and the groups who benefit to be reported to the Council) whether the Litcham Historical Society will still be here this time next year. I would still possibly be contributing articles to C and V and taking enquiries but if all capital is spent our Society has helped others, a fact of which we can be proud. DAVID SHEPPARD LHS 2019.

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## JUBILEE HALL

We have had quite a good year although things seem to be taking for ever to be approved.

We heard in April 2018 that we had been given planning permission to extend and renovate the hall; however there was a problem with the building regulations.

The original architect refused to help us with this and once again we had to involve a pro bono solicitor who managed to secure the CAD file from them. Using this we were then able to pay architect Adrian Jarrett to add the required specifications to the plans. After this we had to have a structural engineers report done, this was all submitted in December 18.

In the meantime I was advised by Canon Heather Butcher that we would need to apply to the Diocese for a faculty in regards the church wall at the rear of the hall. I have completed and submitted all of the necessary forms, placed public notices in the church, in the notice board and on the hall. We should be advised of their decision soon.

I contacted Adrian Jarrett on Friday and he is looking into why the Building Regulations seem to be taking a long while.

Once we have these decisions hopefully we will be in a position to ask for building quotes, and apply for funding. In the meantime we continue to fundraise next month with a Saturday morning brunch and a play being performed in the hall, any future events being planned and advertised in the usual ways.

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## LITCHAM METHODIST CHURCH 2018/19

Much of our time during the Spring and summer of 2018 was concerned with obtaining planning permission to replace the windows in the chapel. We had several 'lively' discussions with the planning officer and the Historic Buildings officer from Breckland Council, but were eventually granted planning permission at the end of September. This then enabled us to get permission to proceed from the Methodist planning department in Manchester.

With winter approaching it was thought prudent to wait until Spring 2019 to get the job done, and consequently, the new windows should be fitted during the week after Easter. It will be nice to hold a carol service and not watch the draught through the windows blowing the candle flames on the window cills almost horizontal.

We are sorry to be losing our Minister, the Rev. Andrew King, a year earlier than was anticipated, and he will be leaving us to move to Acle at the end of August. His replacement will be the Rev. Jaqui Horton who will be coming to us from Wymondham. Her tenure will begin on September 1st.

Andrew will not be only missed by us. He has become a very important part of the life of the junior phase of Litcham school. His wife Sarah has also made a valuable contribution to the local community, where she has been working as an Occupational Therapist, based in Swaffham, but covering many local villages including Litcham.

Our Thursday coffee mornings continue to be very successful, with around 20 people coming along most weeks. We see this as a vital part of our work in the village, giving folk a chance to get together on a regular basis, and share news and opinion.

Ecumenically, we enjoy working with our colleagues from All Saints. Our 'Second Friday' discussion group is very popular, and we enjoy exploring a vast range of topics from a Christian perspective. On paper it sounds rather heavy, but if you come along at 10am on the second Friday of the month, you can be assured that you will go home having laughed more than at any TV comedy show.

A spin off from this meeting has been the 'Quartely Queryists' group, which meets, not unsurprisingly, four times a year at the chapel, and has guest speakers on a very broad range of subjects. Details of dates and speakers are always publicised in 'Church and Village'.

We also enjoy organise services together from time to time, especially at Easter, Christmas and Harvest. One of the most important services we organise jointly is the School Junior Phase Christingle service. Hearing 150 young voices belting out 'O come all ye faithful' is truly spine-tingling.

We look forward to the challenges that lie ahead for us with great hope and expectation.

Stephen Lynn. Society Steward

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## **Litcham Neighbourhood Watch report to APM 04/03/19**

Further to last year's report the scheme has now been operating since mid 2018.

Last year I wrote a report in the Church & Village magazine informing parishioners about the new scheme.

I still intend to set up a social media page for the scheme so that relevant information can be exchanged where appropriate and this will be done in the near future.

I will also be seeking to have a section about the scheme added to the village website if possible.

I have only received one report of criminal activity which occurred at the fencing company on the B1145 towards Mileham, which involved a break in and theft and attempted theft of materials and equipment.

I have local volunteer wardens covering most of the centre of the village, and I would like to thank them for their continued support.

However I still do not have anyone to cover the following areas:

Pound Lane, Back St, Front St & Lexham Rd.

Butt Lane.

Oaklands Farm Area.

Wellingham Rd.

Weasenham Rd & Keppel Close.

Should anyone else be able to help, then please could they contact me directly either by phone on: 01328 701571 or email: matthew.brookbank@yahoo.co.uk please.

Matthew Brookbank

## **Litcham Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. LITCHAM RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY**

Report to Litcham Parish Council Annual Meeting March 4th 2019

The Litcham Relief in Need Charity has had another good year, in fact it is our best year to date with every allotment being worked, and each holder has renewed their leases for the coming year. I now have a waiting list.

Because we had such a successful year we were able to give £1,000 to Litcham high school to enable them to buy a laser cutter, and we have another two applicants in the pipeline.

Hedging, ditching and general maintenance and improvement of the allotment was continued.

The village orchard has been planted, with more trees planned.

Elizabeth Christie, Chairman, Litcham Relief in Need Charity.

## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

Litcham, Tittleshall & District Branch

Annual Statement dated 1st March 2019

Presented to Litcham Parish Annual Meeting on Monday 4th March 2019

The membership of the branch is now down to 4 local members. The branch is still in existence but not having a chairman we haven't had a formal meeting for the last three years. Again a number of RBL members from other branches have joined the branch so as to keep the branch in being, with the County Chairman acting as the branch chairman. We have had a member from the Dereham Branch making use of the branch standard at various functions in the local area but unfortunately she has since returned the Standard to Litcham and is now kept in All Saint's Church and put to use at the Remembrance Sunday Service, and only likely will be used at Remembrances services at All Saints Church or the Methodist Chapel in the future.

The collections for the Poppy Appeal sent to the Norfolk Poppy Appeal for 2018 amounted to £708.96 from the following sources:

Beeston & Bittering Parish Council	£40.00
Litcham Parish Council	£60.00
Beeston Parochial Church Council	£224.90
Litcham All Saint's Church	£184.00
Fransham Churches	£180.00
Cash Donation	£20.00

John E Jones (Branch Secretary)

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**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

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