

GREAT WITCHINGHAM FUEL ALLOTMENT CHARITY

Registered Charity No.: 210554 A/1



Trustees' Annual Report April 2024

Charity Report

The Charity was formed in 1811 by the provision of land under the Act of Enclosure and has provided residents of Great Witchingham, who are in need, hardship or distress, with charitable benefit in one form or another. Since that time, benefit has taken the form of a winter fuel payment in money or kind and applications for benefit are sought from September onwards. Charitable benefit is not limited to this period as need, hardship and distress has no such calendar boundaries. The Trustees will consider any written request for relief at any time.

Income is derived from the Charity's land, which is vested in The Charity Commission and governed by the Trustees. Contrary to popular belief, the land is private. Access to Charity land is, and has always been, by permission of the Trustees. Presently and for the foreseeable future, granting of that permission, by way of an annual permit, is delegated by a Management Agreement issued to the Fishery Manager.

Once the core aim of the Charity has been satisfied, The Charity Commission permits the Trustees to grant aid to groups or individuals in the Great Witchingham Parish to satisfy a particular need, which may exist in the Parish. The Charity is not permitted to relieve rates, taxes, or any other public funds but may supplement relief provided by public funds. The Charity is also not permitted to commit to repeating or renewing benefit granted on any occasion. The Trustees will consider all individual applications upon their merit.

2023 has thankfully seen daily life returned to normal following the pandemic but the economic effects of the war in Ukraine will be with us for some time. Liquid fuel, electricity and gas prices have been at a high, which affects the cost of living in every area, and whilst those costs have abated slightly, it is for now, the new normal.

The Trustees were pleased to make beneficial payments to 25 eligible applicants and village activities totalling £13,725. The Trustees will continue to accept requests for support from parishioners at any time of year.

This financial year gave rise to a net income from the sale of fishing permits of £20,522, from which a 20% in the form of rent, paid to Great Witchingham Church Lands Charity. The Charity also holds a permanent endowment in the form of COIF shares, which provides an income of approximately £1,900 p.a.

We stated last year that storm damage continued to be an annual event as the climate changes and 2023 had many named storms pass through, but with pro-active maintenance, the number of fallen trees are diminishing. The Trustees have resolved to provide permanent on-site facilities for the benefit of members, which will allow our fishery to compete favourably with other high quality venues in the county. The installation will commence in June 2024. The Charity continues to maintain contingency funds to withstand a prolonged loss of income without detriment to the benefit to those people and organisations we serve.

The value of our COIF investment shares has remained level over the last twelve months and dividend yield remains very much at a premium compared to ordinary investments.

The Trustees would like to thank all the people who give their time freely, particularly those who act as volunteer Bailiffs, without whose contributions the benefits that our charity is able to offer would be greatly reduced. The work of our Fishery Manager and his team of volunteer Bailiffs continues to be invaluable to the Trustees, managing both the land and the fishery in accordance with the Trustees rules and wishes and in a wholly professional manner. The Trustees are exceedingly grateful to our team of bailiffs who have worked so hard in providing members safe environment to enjoy.

We look forward to being able to continue to enjoy another near normal year, which we very much hope will allow us to continue and indeed improve upon our good work in the Parish.

Our thanks to Clare Morton, Chair of Weston Longville Parish Council, for kindly carrying out the annual audit of our accounts. A copy of the Charity's audited accounts is appended.

Fishery Report

The fishery at Great Witchingham provides the Charity's main source of income for the distribution of benefit. 2024 proved a very difficult start to the year for the fishery with extensive flooding throughout the Wensum valley meaning our fishery was closed for long periods of time and access had to be suspended. However once the waters receded we were able to make repairs and clear the damage the floodwaters had caused.

The fishery is now in excellent shape and looking forward to the installation later this year of our new welfare facilities

The start of the new season has brought some good fishing for our members who have been using the opportunity to spend as much time on the bank as possible and enjoy the surroundings.

Our fishery remains arguably one of the best mixed specimen syndicate fisheries of its type in this region and especially for big carp, with many of our fish in the thirty-to-forty-pound range.

Continued investment has provided our members with the fishing they look for when choosing the waters, they want to join season after season, in a safe well managed environment.

The fishery is managed as a traditional mixed species fishery, and on any day, members can not only catch large Carp, but large Bream, huge Tench into double figures, or large catches of smaller fish. The fishery has something for everyone, and an enjoyable day's fishing can always be had. We endeavour to continue with our aim to grow the fishery in stature and prominence as a superb place to fish.

The fishery will continue to be developed on an environmentally sustainable basis, to provide an excellent outdoor experience and most importantly, meet the aims and needs of the Charity in supporting the community.

Mark Pead
Chair of Trustees

Gt. Witchingham Fuel Allotment Charity - Statement of Accounts - 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

INCOME

OPENING BALANCES

CASH ACCOUNT
CURRENT ACCOUNT
COIF ACCOUNT
BP ACCOUNT

£300.74
£1,162.19 ✓
£51,180.74 ✓
£6,608.13 ✓

£59,251.80

INCOME

FISHING 2022
FISHING 2023

£12.00
£41,415.00

£41,427.00

INTEREST

BANK INTEREST
COIF INTEREST

£77.12
£4,808.53 ✓

£4,885.65

EXPENDITURE

DISTRIBUTION
ADMIN EXPENSES
BAILIFF GRATUITIES
CHURCH LANDS PAYT
FISHING 2023
INSURANCE RENEWAL
KEYS & LOCKS
KVH PREVENTION
MAINTENANCE
MANAGEMENT FEES
TOILET HIRE
VAT ON GOODS AND SERVICES

£13,725.00
£208.05
£1,200.00
£3,433.35
£430.00
£672.00
£1,038.45
£1,128.44
£2,448.28
£8,208.33
£5,114.48
£73.86

£37,680.24

CLOSING BALANCES

CASH ACCOUNT
CURRENT ACCOUNT
COIF ACCOUNT
BP ACCOUNT

£295.09
£867.70 ✓
£62,036.17 ✓
£4,685.25 ✓

£67,884.21

INVESTMENTS HELD: SHARES IN CHARITIES
OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND (INCOME UNITS)
2689.84 @ £19.8450 = £53,348.87
695.10 @ £19.8450 = £13,794.26
Value as at 31/12/23 £71,143.13

£105,564.45

£105,564.45

I HAVE EXAMINED THE BOOKS AND BANK STATEMENTS AND CERTIFY THAT
THE ABOVE STATEMENT REFLECTS A TRUE RECORD OF THE CHARITY'S
ACCOUNTS.

Signed  Treasurer
Signed  Chairman

Dated 29/1/24
13/2/24

Signed  Auditor
CE MORTON
Dated 25/2/2024

Clare Morton
2 The Cottages
Breck Rd
Weston Green
Weston Longville
Norwich
NR9 5LQ
27 February 2024

Dear Peter

Please find below, the methodology for the audit of the Great Witchingham Fuel Allotment Charity accounts for the year 2023

I have looked at each financial transaction and have cross checked each with :

- a. Supporting invoices or receipts
- b. Bank statement entries.
- c. The record of said transaction within the Trustee minutes where applicable.
- d. Eligibility of recipients

I have noted the basis for budgeting for the Charity to fulfil its requirement to distribute funds to the intended recipients and checked that the subsequent pay-outs were valid.

In all, I have found no evidence that the Charity's financial control is not being adequately managed.

I have therefore signed the audit return and such summary documents as you have produced.

Yours sincerely
Clare Morton.

Mr Peter Dilloway
Woodstock Bungalow
Etling Green
Dereham
NR20 3EY