

AGM of The Thaxted Society 2019

THE THAXTED SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

*The Thaxted Society
The Secretary
CIC 7 Town Street
Thaxted
CM6 2LD
thethaxtedsociety@gmail.com
thaxtedsociety.com*

NOTES

[Cover: A very fine example of fastidious restoration of the 'old manor, mill and granary' and much Tudor brick and detail, by Wadham Homes at Thaxted.]

CONTENTS

- *Agenda of the AGM*
- *Chairman's Report*
- *Annual Report*
- *Membership Report*
- *Treasurers Report*
- *Bulletin Editors Report*
- *Points for the Future!*

NOTES TO THE REPORT

- *Advisors and Compliance*
- *Minutes of last AGM 2018*
- *Record of Attendees AGM 2018*
- *Any further notes*

SOCIETY ACCOUNTS

- *Notes to the accounts*
- *Appendix Society Policy*
- *Accounts 2018-2019*

OUR THANKS

The Society is grateful to the Parish Council for supporting publication of the Bulletin and an ongoing contribution to the Thaxted History Project.

Thanks to County Cllr Simon Walsh for his continued support.

We thank Kemi Badenoch MP for her interest and care for Thaxted.

We thank UDC and its Officers for their cooperation and assistance.

And UDC District Councilor Martin Foley for his support and contribution to the History Project.



“What we do and then what we achieve may often be done quietly and without fuss. For the Society Thaxted comes first and any recognition of our work last!”



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday May 16th 2019 at 8 pm

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome.
- 2 Introduction. Any apologies received.
- 3 Minutes of the AGM of 2018 and any matters arising.
- 4 Appointment of the President.
- 5 Election of the Committee.
- 6 Chairman's report.
- 7 Treasurer's report and draft Accounts for 2018-19.
- 8 Parish Council Chairman's statement.
- 9 OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN "Going Forward" Richard Haynes.
- 10 Any Questions Thaxted: [a] Planning Matters [b] Other Matters
- 11 Proposed date of next AGM May 21st Thursday 2020

FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION

Society dues are payable tonight and for two months following, kindly see Angela or Maggie.
They remain £15 for a couple and £10 for a single.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AGM 2018

Well, after three years of hard voluntary work and with the assistance of professionals the Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan was not only adopted at a referendum but by a very large margin, and turnout.

To both R. Haynes and P. Neale go our unbounded thanks and to Rosie Barrie Jackson, the NPSG coordinator, without these, among others, this important milestone would not have been reached. Also: to the Parish Council who supported wholeheartedly this important initiative.

The Thaxted Society has been there at every turn, with the Design Statement in 2010, with the Building Design Guide in 2014 and now with the Neighbourhood Plan of 2019. This is not a testament to the Society alone but to the wide spread of cooperation and joint enterprise which makes such projects possible. (NPSG was: The Parish Council, HoT, and The Thaxted Society).

Equally our own Thaxted History Project grows yearly, this year with the publication of Volume II "The Cutlers of Thaxted", by Richard Till. In this we continue the work started by Lucy Brown in telling the authoritative story of Thaxted and how, and why, it came to be.

In examining Thaxted's history we bolster the case for preservation and care and strengthen the policies and aspirations of the Neighbourhood Plan. In knowing how and why Thaxted came about we may speak with renewed vigour and authority when it matters most

Again, your Society makes a plea for the Thaxted archives. The artifacts and collections, all deserve professional care and a home, where they can be studied and viewed. The ongoing efforts for the National Cutlery Museum at Thaxted might fulfill many of these aims!

I want to close by thanking the Officers of the Society, the Committee members and co-opted members, for their unflagging work over the year, especially our Hon Secretary Maggie Catterall, and may I thank you, the Voting Members, for your ongoing support. This is crucial in giving a professional and respected voice to Thaxted! Thank you all.



Michael Culkin
Chairman.



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

A very busy year:

- We consulted in detail on the emerging Local Plan.
- We continued discussions with the Worshipful Company of Cutlers ref the National Cutlery Museum
- We contributed to the Neighbourhood Plan and lobbied for its approval at a referendum. This was approved and 'made' by UDC
- We met with senior planners at UDC to discuss the emerging Local Plan and to lobby for greater enforcement of 106 agreements. (We are pleased an officer has now been appointed to this post).
- We presented a robust and detailed case against the closure of Thaxted Library.
- We met with our MP to ask for a question to be put to the Minister.
- We continued to meet with the leader at UDC and agreed to maintain communication and cooperation
- We continued our campaign for 'traffic relief' through Thaxted.
- Work on the Thaxted History project continued with Volume II
- The Society's online presence grew on our Facebook pages.
- We furthered our review of the future of the Thaxted Bulletin.
- We communicated with our MP ref infrastructure at Thaxted.
- We updated our policy regarding Outline Planning Applications
- We liaised with Cllr Frater ref broadband failures at Thaxted.
- We strongly lobbied Cllr Simon Walsh ref streetlights at Thaxted.
- We raised strong objections to the application for a variation of deed ref the Sampford 106 agreement. (now refused.)
- We congratulated the PC Clerk on her swift work ref the Sampford 106 agreement 8/8/13.
- We continued to work with the PC Chair and Councillors.
- We wrote congratulating our newly elected PC
- We wrote to Stephenson's ref any emerging threats to the 'bus service' at Thaxted
- We reviewed the Rosewell review of Planning Appeal Inquiries.
- We objected to the new proposal at the old telephone exchange.
- We remain vigorous in our support for the WINDMILL and its restoration.
- We posted our congratulations to our new District Councillors.



Your Society considers all angles.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society has a current membership of 175 voting members and approximately 2846 non-voting members. Anyone who receives the Thaxted Bulletin is a non-voting member of the Society unless they wish otherwise.

The Society has among its voting members, members from overseas, and those who no longer live in Thaxted but still have relatives or friends here.

Sadly, we have lost friends of the Society whom we remember fondly: Jan Gowlett a stalwart supporter, and the indefatigable Colonel Roger Burgess who was a longstanding supporter, and true friend to Thaxted.

The membership dues payable at the AGM or up to two months thereafter remain unchanged. We consider this a small and appropriate contribution to our ongoing work:

- publication of the Bulletin and maintenance of our online presence.
- design & publication of the Thaxted History Project Vol II
- our lobbying on planning, conservation and legislation.
- our interface with ECC, UDC, and Westminster including our MP
- our work in outreach via the Welcome Pack and the Town map.
- our constant monitoring of planning applications at Thaxted.

Single £10.00 per year - Couple £15.00 per year

Angela Clarkson

Membership Secretary

It is possible to contribute more if you wish. Your gift's use and an acknowledgement can be agreed.



Thaxted Cricket Club one among Thaxted's many clubs and activities.

TREASURERS REPORT

Another busy year for the Society and, as a result of generous support, subscriptions to the History Project, prudent spending, and a vibrant membership, I am pleased to report our finances remain robust.

It remains Society policy to fund projects on a project-by-project basis. This year we have raised funds for:

- The Thaxted New History project. *(public subscription)*
- AGM hospitality fund. *(Committee Members)*
- Thaxted Fayre welcome tent *(sponsorship)*
- Online Publication of the THP *(subscription)*

Membership dues are ring-fenced against running costs and core activities as set out in the Constitution.

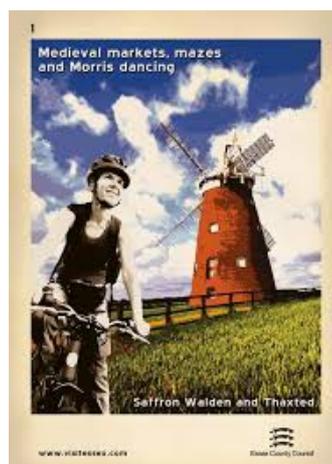
Membership waxes and wanes, meanwhile Angela Clarson's work attracting new members with our Welcome Pack, and gathering annual dues is much appreciated.

Subscriptions for the Thaxted History Project with Leicester University are ring fenced in the Society's general account.

There are accounts attached to this Report, page 13, and I will be happy to answer any questions through the Chair.

Dame Kate Barker

Hon Treasurer



Thaxted has long been a destination of choice for the discerning cyclist.

BULLETIN EDITORS REPORT

As I write this I am pleased to say that our Christmas Edition was well received, and I had many comments of appreciation. And even with new houses the Bulletin is still delivered *free to every home in Thaxted*. A print run of 1600.

Thaxted Parish Council supported the publication of the Bulletin once again, and they have my thanks.

My thanks also to all those who advertise in the Bulletin. As marketing budgets tighten, we are grateful for their ongoing support. Further copies are often available to promote your business, just let me know.

I would like to thank all the contributors to the Bulletin, among them: Bruce Munro our President and a regular contributor, also Richard Till, Mike Goacher, and those who submit articles for which there is not always room, but my thanks nonetheless.

My thanks also to the stalwart volunteers who deliver the Bulletin. We try to deliver on a local basis and if you think you might help kindly let us know.

As to the future, I hope to publish a Christmas 2019 Edition of the Bulletin this year as talks continue to develop a future for the Bulletin long term.

When I reflect upon 'water under bridges' I am still amazed that this Christmas we will publish Bulletin No 102. As S. Fry Esq. remarked of the 100th *"quite simply remarkable and splendid"!*

Brian Smith
Editor



Atop the hill it sits year on year and century after century

POINTS FOR THE FUTURE

We remain committed to '**raising our town's status**' as one of the surest methods of creating protection for the town. Our policy published on our website and available here today attests to this.

- Changing the designation of the town at UDC Planning. (*Ongoing.*)
- Reinvigorating our campaign to discourage pavement parking within the conservation area as per Neighbourhood Plan Policies.
- Encouraging the installation of charging points in all Thaxted's car parks.
- Seeking Ministerial clarification regarding planning and 106 enforcement.
- Commissioning research into the impact of B184 through Thaxted. Lobbying UDC for changes in their Local Plan to reflect this.
- Working with our MP to insist on infrastructure with development.
- Supporting plans to develop the URC as a community amenity.
- Encouraging the installation of further PC Bulletin boards across Thaxted.
- Consulting on proposals for a National Cutlery Museum at Thaxted, whilst supporting a museum & archive for Thaxted
- Lobbying for the restoration of the Eva Cooper shelter and the conservation of *all* Thaxted's memorials with the support of the PC
- Developing proposals for 'Thaxted traffic relief' in general.
- Monitoring all future house-building development proposals at Thaxted.
- Investigating building regs compliance in all Thaxted's new build and ensuring compliance with the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Publication of Volume II of the THP to be followed by a talk by Richard Till. An Autumn date to be confirmed.

We intend to develop and maintain our productive working partnership with the PC, whilst energetically holding them to account.

Until we exert the influence such a remarkable town merits we are at risk.

NOTES

ADVISORS - THANKS

The following are deserving of our thanks for their assistance throughout the year.

- *To Pellys, who via Andrew Arnold remain legal advisors to the Society.*
- *To John Arkwright at Arkwright & Co for ongoing advice.*
- *To all the very generous "Thaxted History Project" subscribers.*

THAXTED SOCIETY GOVERNANCE

The Thaxted Society is constituted under guidance and regulation of the Charities Commissioners and this AGM is one of the requirements of that guidance, and as set out in our adopted constitution.

The following are standing for reelection or appointment at this year's AGM.

Honourary (appointment)

Bruce Munro Esq. Hon President 2017

Executive Officers

| | | |
|------------------|------------|------|
| Michael Culkin | Chairman | 2013 |
| Ben Allen | Vice Chair | 2018 |
| Dame Kate Barker | Treasurer | 2015 |
| Maggie Catterall | Secretary | 2014 |

Executive Committee Members

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------|
| Peter King | Life | |
| Philip Leeder | Life | |
| Brian Smith | Editor | 2003 |
| Angela Clarson | Membership Sec | 2013 |
| Richard Till | Thaxted History | 2015 |
| Trevor Haynes | Building Regs | 2018 |
| Glyn Pritchard | | 2019 |

Co Opted Member-Advisors

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------|
| Ian Stewart. | Parish Council liaison | 19-20. |
| Rachel Wicks | Society online | 2017 |
| John Arkwright. | Estates and buildings. | |
| Michael Turner. | Legal advice. | |
| Brian Phillips. | surveying services | |

MINUTES OF LAST AGM 2018
Held at the Parish Church on May 30th 2018 at 19:30



Minutes from Thaxted Society AGM Wednesday May 30th 2018

1) Honorary President's Opening Remarks

Bruce Munro welcomed all attendees and thanked the committee especially Brian Smith for his work on all aspects of the bulletin.

2) Welcome & Introduction, and any apologies received

Michael Culkin gave special welcome to Richard Herbert ex master of Worshipful Company of Cutlers, Howard Rolfe leader of UDC and to Lucy Brown author of the first part of the Thaxted History Project. He also expressed the loss we all felt of Eileen Walsh.

The apologies he read out were as listed at the end of the Minutes.

3) Minutes of AGM 2018 and matters arising

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and, there being no matters arising, were duly signed and dated by the Chairman.

4) Appointment of the President

Bruce Munro was duly appointed our Honorary President. **5) Election of the Committee**

Brian Philips is standing down. Unanimous appreciation was expressed for all his hard work and he remains in an advisory capacity our surveyor. The committee were otherwise re-elected and Ben Allen & Trevor Haynes were welcomed as additional members.

6) Chairman's Report

The Society has worked hard to contribute to Thaxted having one voice. We want to reach out to other organisations and to act with one voice as a way to achieve much more for the town. We must never lose sight of two things

- ❖ Thaxted's uniqueness.
- ❖ The responsibility for ensuring that remains the case moving forward.

One way to help is to support and vote for Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan when the referendum comes. Even the imperfect may serve a greater purpose and so it is with the Thaxted NP. We are delighted to welcome members of the steering group and Peter Neal its chairman whose relentless hard work and diligence Thaxted will come truly to appreciate.

Please note two new policies, adopted by the committee, feature in the appendix items 10 & 11. They are essential in our planning work and policies going forward.

To clarify the position regarding the Thaxted Bulletin, we intend to publish an edition this Christmas and we are grateful to Brian Smith and to Angela Clarson who has taken over the advertising accounts. We now hope to develop a new team to take this award-winning publication forward.

7) Treasurer's Report. Kate Barker

We are grateful for the various generous donors to the Society in particular to the History Project and our 100th edition of the Bulletin. We only raise money when we have a specific project on which we want to spend it.

8) Parish Council Chairman's Statement Terry Frostick

The Parish Council are volunteers who put up with considerable abuse just for doing their jobs. Terry welcomes the listening discreet ear of our Chairman and yes, it is all about working towards the big picture. Traffic remains an issue and the need for a design of living that is informed by the historic nature of our town.

9) Questions

Heather Bull felt that irrespective of PC or Thaxted Society the planners pay no attention – witness 9x3 storeys @ Little Maypole. Problem with consultation: the expression of opinion does not guarantee you get what you want. The NP will put us in stronger position. Criteria for refusing planning applications we need to show a 5 year land supply moving forward. Maypole has been approved because we could not demonstrate a 5 year land supply.

10) Date of next AGM to be advised.

11) Thaxted History Project Update. Richard Till

Richard welcomed Lucy Brown and invited her to give us a brief insight into Thaxted and the politics of the time ~ sufficient to whet our appetites to dip into her book, Volume I of the Thaxted History Project. Lucy thanked Thaxted Society for support during completing her thesis and she then opened the first box of newly printed and bound copies of her Volume.

We concluded the evening with a reception

REGISTER OF ATTENDEES AGM 2018

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Maggie Catterall | Trevor Haynes |
| Angela Clarson | Richard & Noelle Till |
| Avril & Tim Russell | Philip Leeder |
| Will Brazier | Janie Stagg |
| Kate Barker | Val & Berty Felgatye |
| Ian Stewart | Jackie Farrant |
| Terry Frostick | Bruce Munro |
| John Ilott | Robin Lee |
| Joyce Thomas | Michael Goatcher |
| Colin & Marianne Porter | Edna Mardell |
| R D English | Gillian & Tony Dixon |
| Richard Herbert | Yvonne Baccush |
| Stewart McDonald | Heather Bull |
| Brian & Gwen Philips | Elisabeth & David Morgan |
| Michael Beresford | John Pepper |
| Michael Dellahooke | Joe Hobbs |
| Peter Donovan | Philip Tarris |
| Paul Meader | John Strait |
| John & Fran Morgan | Cllr Foley |
| Howard Rolfe | Brian Smith |
| Michael Culkin | Lucy Brown |

Apologies

Kemi Badenoch - Ann Pickhaver - Sheila Doyle - Angela Harbottle
Chris Brown - Cllr. Finch - Chris & Jayne Knight - Brian Challis
Richard Haynes - Cllr. Walsh - Rachael Wicks - Gwenda Hill
Marilyn & Chris Pinchen - Barry Hoare - Richard & Gillian Hingston
Fred Swinbourne - Mike & Patricia McCook Weir - Joy Green
Ray Williams - Sybil King - Mr & Mrs Beresford - Paddy March
Len English

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNT 18-19

- *Subscriptions to the Thaxted History project are ring fenced for the purpose.
- *Membership dues are ring fenced for the running costs of the Society only.
- *The Society owns a computer used by the Chair for Society business. (£470)
- *The Society has supplies of the Thaxted Welcome folder (480)
- *The Society has supplies of the 2016 BDG. (224)
- *The Society owns several gazebos and pop up display stands. (7)
- *The Society retains supplies of Volume I of the THP (160)

APPENDIX

Thaxted Society Adopted Policy 2019

- i. To: oppose all building outside the current development limits ref NP 2019.
- ii. To: actively encourage the use, protection, and designation, of Thaxted's public open green spaces in perpetuity for the benefit of all.
- iii. To: resist all matters of creeping urbanisation of Thaxted and most vigorously the Historic Core [Clarson Clause]
- iv. To: discourage parking on pavements, ancient pathways, and ancient cobbles.
- v. To: oppose all planning for the conversion of garages car-ports and car parking in any form resulting in the loss of parking for said dwelling.
- vi. To: resist and oppose change of use from commercial / business to residential.
- vii. To: encourage the use, style and form, of hanging signs in the conservation area.
- viii. To: robustly discourage the use of concrete kerbstones and asphalt on pavements and pathways.
- ix. To: vigorously defend and seek conservation of our original gas light lamp-stands and to robustly discourage installation of modern unsympathetic public lighting.

- x. **To: oppose all Outline Planning applications which: impinge, abut, or affect, in any manner the Historic Core including the Conservation Area.**
- xi. **To: insist that reserved matters, and their conditions, respond adequately to both Thaxted's historic and local vernacular as well as those details designated unique and particular whilst complying with the Essex design guide and the Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan.**

(And resulting from the adoption hereto to publish the Thaxted Building Design Guide 2016 2019.

AGM of The Thaxted Society 2019

| THAXTED SOCIETY ACCOUNTS | 2018-2019 | notes |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| income | | |
| a balance brought forward from 17-18 accts | £2,820.92 | a balance on previous years accounts brought fwd |
| a savings acct | £70.39 | a incl savings acct |
| b interest paid | £1.90 | b on savings account |
| s Misc deposit | £20.00 | s misc credit subs |
| s subscriptions | £1,140.00 | s subscriptions 2018-19 |
| d sale of pins | £5.00 | d sales |
| g SACT grant THP | £1,800.00 | d grant ex SACT Sue Barker |
| g UDC grant THP | £500.00 | e grant ex Cllr Foley |
| g Yardley's grant THP | £200.00 | y part grant from Yardleys |
| s books sales THP | £290.00 | pC AGM book sales revenue |
| s further subscription to THP | £90.00 | s1 Brazier THP sub |
| s further subscription to THP | £100.00 | x1 Smith THP subs |
| h New History Project subscribers | £1,000.00 | h1 anonymous donations |
| h New History Project subscribers | £498.66 | h2 Culkin in lieu of general expenses green |
| mc Committee membs contrib to AGM costs | £100.00 | mc contrib to AGM costs |
| total income 2018-2019 | £5,745.56 | |
| outgoings | | |
| Bulletin contribution | £ 1,500.00 | Bulletin costs are capped to the Society Dec 18 |
| THP printing Vol 1 | £ 2,756.00 | printing invoice for 1st volume |
| typesetting Vol 1 | £ 500.00 | typesetting 1st volume |
| THP expenses Vol 1 | £ 155.58 | expenses 1st volume |
| membership secretary costs | £ 34.00 | postage. |
| 2018 AGM costs | * £ 198.40 | Printing/postage/papers/invitations |
| 2018 Dues reminders | * £ 65.00 | postcard reminders and postage |
| THP delivery & annual report postal | * £ 73.09 | card nvelopes/ annual report postal requests |
| Thaxted Fayre | * £ 40.00 | fayre pitch cost |
| NPPF copy | * £ 12.96 | full copy of NPPF |
| Welcome cards and Membership apps | * £ 102.12 | reprint welcome cards and membership apps |
| duct tape | * £ 6.99 | very useful tape for all sorts of reasons |
| Web site hosting cost PA | £ 143.12 | Wicks for Wix hosting of website Feb 19/ Feb 20 |
| memberships SPAB CPRE BAHS | £ 90.00 | pro organisation associations |
| AGM 18 society catering | £ 500.00 | invoice from Parishes |
| copy paper | £ 4.10 | first paper charge in three years |
| total outgoings 18-19 | £ 6,181.36 | all costs for 18-19 including publication THP |
| balances | | |
| Income less expenditure | <u>£ (435.80)</u> | balance |
| balance at April 6th 2019 | £ 2,455.51 | bal on the 6th April 2019 our financial year end |
| <i>THP funds</i> | £ 1,000.00 | <i>ring fenced for the THP</i> |
| | £ 1,455.51 | <i>Society Gen funds</i> |
| PROPOSED BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD | <u>£ 2,455.51</u> | |

AGM of The Thaxted Society 2019

PRINTING OF THIS REPORT KINDLY SPONSORED BY THAXTED ANONYMOUS