

THE THAXTED SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

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“It’s what we attempt together that prompts success, what we are seen to do and be doing that promotes an impression, a new lustre and living clarity to the jewel in the crown of Essex!”

CHAIRMANS REMARKS AGM 2015

Good evening and I am delighted to see so many members, supporters and the avidly curious here tonight. I am happy to say that my remarks will be brief and in this year contain no sad condolences.

Whether we like it or not this year has been dominated by planning and house building, both that already approved and that fighting for approval.

With HOT's sterling work in both fund raising and opposition and the crucial support of the Parish Council, Thaxted mounted a great rebuttal of the last Gladman appeal. The Thaxted Society delivered their own rebuttal and were present throughout the enquiry at which all parties made much of the Thaxted Design Statement which was, of course, a Society initiative.

In a small community there is a tendency to believe what we know first hand and to ignore or disbelieve what we do not. Time and again the phrase '*I didn't know such n such was happening*' as if to suggest it was somebody else's fault.

On a national and indeed international scale the scope for information and news delivery is enormous, we may well know more about Ebola, or Ukraine than we do about Clarence House or the Library move.

This is because there are larger news and information organizations at work than a small community could hope to achieve and this in turn is why we have to participate and to find out.

Much of what goes on in Thaxted is public and publicized. The Parish Council meetings, Thaxted Society meetings, and many of the other voluntary and official bodies. But the news and information will not come to you, it will not pour out of your television or radio, you have to join in! If you want to affect where you live you have to participate. Being here tonight is one example!!

Michael Culkin

Chairman.
April 2015

CHAIRMANS REPORT

We have had an exceptionally busy year:

- We delivered our final bid document and addendum to ECC for CH and were then cajoled into delivering a restructured bid, and we await their decision. I will take questions on this later.
 - We submitted and went on record with the Parliamentary sub committee reviewing the working of the NPPF.
 - We appeared at the last Wedow Road appeal as well as the more recent Gladman appeal.
 - We have written in support of the Quiet Lanes initiative from ECC and will work with the PC in nominating same.
 - We will work with the PC in lobbying ECC to care for our vintage street lighting in town and its retention and maintenance.
 - We intend to commission an authoritative New History of Thaxted ex primary sources and have secured some in memoriam funding to enable this. In this we are grateful to Richard Till for his assistance.
 - We lobbied Adnams the brewery and were acknowledged as being material in preventing the demise of The Star as a public house
 - The Thaxted Society continues to lead in efforts to save Clarence House for the community.
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MEMBERSHIP

The Society has a current membership list of 243 voting members and approximately 2862 non voting members. Anyone who receives the Thaxted Bulletin is a non voting member of the Society unless they wish otherwise.

The Society counts among its voting members several members from overseas, and many who no longer live in Thaxted but still have relatives or friends here with whom they stay in touch via the Society

Sadly though our ranks have grown this year again we have lost a few stalwarts who we remember fondly.

The membership dues payable at the AGM or up to two months thereafter remain unchanged. We consider this contribution to our work and the publication of the Bulletin as well as our ongoing lobbying role in planning to be good value for money.

Single £10.00 per year - Couple £15.00 per year.

WAY FORWARD

The whole district remains at risk from predatory development and with the failure of the UDC LP we are even more at risk. We see the raising of our towns' status to be one of the surest methods of beginning to reverse this trend. Examples beyond the commissioning of the New History are:

- Changing the designation of the town within the Local Plan
- Supporting the PC in its effort to secure a Neighborhood Plan.
- Encouraging efforts to demonstrate greater care for our conservation area.
- Establishing with the PC nominations for the Quiet Lanes initiative.
- Listing pathways hedgerows and lanes.

Until we exert the influence such a remarkable town merits we are at risk. Until the UDC Local Plan is in place we remain vulnerable.

We propose working with the Parish Council to improve the approaches to Thaxted, verges and railings as well as maintaining our liaison and co-operation at many levels.

TREASURERS REPORT

This has been a very different year for the Society and as a result of additional grant funding and a surge in membership I am please to report our finances are robust.

We rarely raise money for no good purpose and this year we have been aware of the need for both funding for the New History project and indeed the Welcome Pack and our new outreach by way of the Discussion program.

Membership continues to grow year on year and Angela Clarson's efforts in gathering in the annual dues and also attracting new members has been remarkable.

It remains Society policy to fund projects on a project by project basis and therefore costs associated with the Clarence House Initiative have been forthcoming in the form of a pre feasibility grant from SIB. While the costs associated with the New History project at Leicester University are already rolling in and these stand apart from the accounts at in excess of 50% of the total required.

There are accounts attached to the report and I will be at the AGM to answer any questions through the Chair at that time.

Toby Briant

Treasurer
April 2015

EDITORS REPORT

Despite increased costs and an increase in the print run due to the new houses springing up all over the place I have managed to keep up with this without increasing demands upon the Societies coffers or putting up the rates

This is partly due to one significant new advertiser who is paying premium price for a premium position. Whilst this may well be judicious business in a competitive world we are none the less grateful for 'their' support.

Again the Parish Council has supported the publication of the bulletin with a grant as have both our District Councilors, my thanks to them all. The Holst edition was well received and I have high hopes for some success at the Essex Community Magazine awards in June. Watch this space.

Brian Smith

Editor

Item	RATES NEW2014		NEW 2015		NEW 2016		NEW 2017		NEW 2018	
	Inc + 10%	Costs + 2%	Inc + 10%	Costs + 8%	Inc + 10%	Costs + 5%	Inc + 10%	Costs + 8%	Inc + 10%	Costs + 8%
2 prime advertisers page	60.00	240.00		264.00		290.40		319.44		351.38
46 pro advertisers page	35.00	3,542.00		3,895.20		4,285.82		4,714.40		5,185.84
1 outside back prime	0.00	400.00		400.00		400.00		400.00		400.00
20 pro halves	25.00	1,100.00		1,210.00		1,331.00		1,464.10		1,610.51
1 quarters	20.00	44.00		48.40		53.24		58.56		64.42
70										
printing costs spring		2,022.66		2,184.47		2,293.70		2,477.19		2,675.37
printing costs autumn		2,022.66		2,184.47		2,293.70		2,477.19		2,675.37
digital scanning		1,004.70		1,054.94		1,107.68		1,163.07		1,221.22
design layout	251.00	268.82		282.26		296.38		311.19		326.75
materials		219.30		230.27		241.78		253.87		266.56
postage with promotion		291.72		306.31		321.62		337.70		354.59
postage only	135.21	144.81		152.05		159.65		167.64		176.02
stationery sundries	84.00	89.96		94.46		99.19		104.14		109.35
TOTALS	5,326.00	6,064.63	5,818.60	6,489.23	6,360.46	6,813.69	6,956.51	7,291.99	7,612.16	7,805.22
BALANCES	-738.63		-670.63		-453.23		-335.49		-193.07	
local grant Yardleys or Anonymous	300.00		200.00		100.00		100.00		100.00	
local grant Parish Council	500.00		500.00		500.00		500.00		500.00	
BALANCES	800.00		700.00		600.00		600.00		600.00	
members numbers	220		220		240		240		260	
membership dues	1,650.00		1,650.00		1,800.00		1,800.00		1,950.00	
subscriptions	60.00		60.00		60.00		60.00		60.00	
Bulletin sales	60.00		60.00		60.00		60.00		60.00	
BALANCES	2,570.00		2,470.00		2,520.00		2,520.00		2,670.00	
regular TS grant or no?	500.00		500.00		500.00		500.00		500.00	
BALANCE INCL DUES	2,631.37		2,499.37		2,666.77		2,784.51		3,076.93	
without membrshp but with TS grant	561.37		529.37		646.77		764.51		906.93	
<i>without membership or Society grant</i>	61.37		29.37		146.77		264.51		406.93	

AUTOMATED RATE CARD

outside back prime
prime full page
pro full page
local full page
pro half page
local half page
concession pages

15/06/15

BULLETIN INC/COSTS 2012-16

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ADVISORS

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

- *To Pellys in Saffron Walden who via Andrew Arnold remain both supporters and legal advisors to the Society.*
- *To John Arkwright at Arkwright & Co for advice and negotiations re Clarence House and ongoing advice.*
- *To Cllr Martin Foley at UDC for grant aid, to Cllr John Freeman at UDC likewise to SSD for grant assistance and to the Parish Council for continued support of the Thaxted Bulletin.*

THAXTED SOCIETY GOVERNANCE

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

The following are standing for reelection at this years AGM. The President is willing to continue in that capacity.

Executive Officers

Angus McDonald Hon President
Michael Culkin Chairman 2014
Brian Smith Vice Chairman 2013
Toby Briant Treasurer 2013
Maggie Catterall Secretary 2014

Executive Committee Members

Peter King
Jo Legge
Chris Galloway
Philip Leeder
Angela Clarson Membership Sec 2013
Brian Phillips surveyor 2013

Co Opted Member Advisors

John Arkwright - estates and buildings
Richard Till - Thaxted History
