

THE THAXTED SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

*The Thaxted Society
The Secretary
C1C 7 Town Street
Thaxted
CM6 2LD
thethaxtedsociety@gmail.com
thaxtedsociety.com*

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OUR THANKS

*The Society is grateful to the Parish Council for a contribution to the Thaxted History Project
To UDC Councilors for a contribution to the Thaxted History Project
We thank Kemi Badenoch MP for her interest and care for Thaxted.
We thank UDC and its Officers for their cooperation and assistance.
And ECC and UDC Cllr Martin Foley for his support and contribution to THP and UDC Cllr Mike Tayler
for his support and efforts for Thaxted*



...they came to see Thaxted's charms!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AGM 2022

Just a year since my last report and yet how life has changed. We currently bask in our return to some normality even if we have swapped pandemic for pandemonium in Ukraine. It is worth noting the incredible reaction of Thaxted in responding to the terrible events in Ukraine and making efforts to relieve suffering and a humanitarian crisis there with welcomes and efforts here.

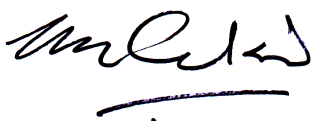
Against this very changed background, planning matters along with others persist. Your Society is vigilant in monitoring changes to the planning regime at Uttlesford. The option for developers to go directly to the Planning Inspectorate changes the process but not the concerns. Whilst we await decisions on the Cutlers Green solar farm and the development at Eller's Way, changes to planning nationally are having an impact. These combined with our Neighbourhood Plan now being out of date, the failure of the Local Plan, and no five-year land supply, mean the whole district is vulnerable. That said, the need for food and the land to grow it on does affect the demands from developers, in favour of land for food on our tables, even developers have to eat.

Proposals for changes to the hierarchical categorisation of settlements suggests a 'new' holistic approach to planning for the area. The Society is engaged in keeping a close eye on these proposed changes and the benefits to Thaxted they might bring. As a new Local Plan emerges it will be essential that the plan responds to a very changed world alongside what has always been Thaxted's uniqueness.

We may have to live differently if we are going to respond to both 'climate change' and world order shifts. The Society is keen to establish: what of Thaxted, and life here, we truly value and what sacrifices we might be prepared to make to hold on to those values. Efforts by both the PC and County Councillor to mitigate the harmful effects of increasing levels of traffic through Thaxted are to be welcomed in this regard.

We are pleased to welcome the ongoing progress of the Thaxted Community Land Trust and are robustly supportive of new plans to build housing 'for Thaxted' on P.C. Land. The Society proposal for a Green Charter for Thaxted was taken up by the Parish Council and we continue to support efforts to engage all local 'groups' in signing up to a number of clauses which advance the cause of climate change mitigation. In this the Society welcomes the Eco Church as partner.

No matter the turmoil, the Thaxted Society remains engaged and energetic in its longstanding aims and objectives for all of Thaxted and protecting the unique and exceptional qualities of the place we all value and call home.



Michael Culkin
Outgoing Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

A challenging year of changed work.

- We continued to work to 'raise the status of the Thaxted' as protection from inappropriate development.
- We engaged with UDC planning ref both Elers Way and Cutlers Green Solar Farm.
- We met with the new Chief Executive at UDC and made clear our keenness to engage assist and contribute to the emergence of the Local Plan.
- We remain committed to a viable future for the Thaxted Guildhall going forward.
- We engaged with District Councillors regarding climate mitigation for listed buildings.
- We lobbied our MP for a firm commitment to infrastructure with new development
- We contributed to the new half-pipe skate ramp at Thaxted Youth Club.
- We published Vol II of the Thaxted History Project by Richard Till which was well received.
- We distributed Vol II to every library in Essex, gratis.
- We welcomed Andy Frater as Parish Council liaison to the Executive Committee.
- We contributed to the Essex wide transport review and made clear Thaxted's reliance upon the bus service at a minimum of hourly and for longer in the evening.
- We held our long-delayed AGM 2021 via Zoom on September 16th. The incumbent Chairman agreed to remain 'pro-tem pending the election of a new Chair.
- The Society was prominent at the Thaxted Societies Fair in the Parish Church.
- We published the Christmas 2021 Edition of the Thaxted Bulletin.
- We joined with GIFTED in hosting a book signing of 'Mrs Gustav Holst by Phillipa Tudor.
- We made efforts to engage stakeholders in updating the Neighbourhood Plan.
- We continued to distribute the Thaxted Welcome pack.
- We continued to responded to planning applications at Thaxted.
- We remain engaged with both the Appealing Design report and Homes England 'affordable homes' initiative.
- We remain energetic in support of the Community Land Trust and their efforts.
- We are pleased to join the discussion on the greening of Town Street.



...as always, in need of restoration, conservation, and care.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society has a current membership of 136 voting members and approximately 2746 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 overseas, and those who no longer live in Thaxted but still have relatives or friends here. We are saddened to mention the following friends to the Society who have passed away.

Tony Brown
Fred Knight.
Gerald Lowe
David Morgan
Eric Earl

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

- publication of the Bulletin and maintenance of our online presence.
- ongoing commissioning & publication of the Thaxted History Project.
- distribution of the THP to all Essex Libraries gratis and nationwide.
- our interface with ECC, UDC, and Westminster including our MP
- our work in outreach via the Welcome Pack and the Town map.

Single £10.00 per year - Couple £15.00 per year

Angela Clarson

Membership Secretary

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



*the Thaxted Society stand at the Fayre of 2019
we will return to the Fayre in 2022. see back cover*

TREASURER'S REPORT

The draft accounts of the past two years attest to the kind of time it was, for us all. Despite the exigencies we remain financially healthy though the increased printing costs of the Bulletin have depleted our reserves.

The costs of publishing the Bulletin in its current form has now become so great we need to make changes if we are to continue its publication.

Many people have been generous with donations and also those specifically for the Thaxted History Project. They have our thanks. I want also to thank 'anonymous' for their generous donations.

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

- The Thaxted History project *(public subscription)*
- Vollume II THP book launch *(Committee Members)*
- THP, gratis distribution to Essex Libraries *(public subscription)*
- AGM hospitality fund. *(Committee Members)*
- Online Publication of the THP *(subscriptions)*
- Publication of Thaxted Bulletin. *(advertisers sponsors & PC support)*

Membership dues are ring-fenced against running costs and core activities.

Membership has remained steady, however Angela Clarson's hard work attracting new members with our Welcome Pack, and gathering annual dues is very much appreciated.

There are accounts for 21-22 attached to this Report and I will be happy to answer any questions through the Chair.

Dame Kate Barker

Hon Treasurer



Thaxted's mists and mellowness

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT

The Christmas Edition 2021 of the bulletin was my last as Editor.

I have reached an age where it is important to allocate time and energy wisely. After twenty-one years at the helm, every one of which I have relished, it is time for a fresh, and dare I say younger, hand on the Bulletin going forward.

I am eager to focus my remaining energies on the Thaxted History Project which delivers a great benefit for Thaxted and the wider community. Volume III of this worthy and sizeable undertaking is beginning to take shape and I look forward to its publication in 2023

I will refrain from looking over a new Bulletin Editor's shoulder but will of course happily advise and assist as and when I can. Otherwise, I am delighted to still be engaged in work I enjoy.

In closing I just wanted to thank all the Bulletin advertisers who have supported its publication and my work over the years, their loyalty is a true testament to the spirit of Thaxted. Thank you all.

Brian Smith

Editor & Publisher



*presentation by Bruce Munro Hon
President to Brian Smith on
publication of the 100th edition of
The Thaxted Bulletin.*



Christmas edition 2021

POINTS FOR THE FUTURE

We remain committed to '**raising Thaxted's status**' as one of the surest methods of creating protection for the town.

- Undertaking a robust review of the UDC Planning Services enforcement policy 2017 and encouraging an expansion in enforcement activity.
- Reinvigorating our campaign to discourage pavement parking within the conservation area as per the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Supporting the Thaxted Community Land trust and all its aims.
- Encouraging the repainting of lampstands and post and rails at Thaxted with general beautification of Mill End to the Bull Ring
- Encouraging the installation of charging points in all Thaxted's car parks also encouraging the installation of further PC Bulletin boards across Thaxted.
- Working with our MP to demand planned and provided infrastructure with any development.
- Consulting on and supporting a museum & archive for Thaxted and liaison with the City Guild of Cutlers.
- Consulting on the Uttlesford wide review of parking with a proposal for small satellite parking on entry to Thaxted to encourage Park'n'Stroll.
- Investigating building regs compliance in all Thaxted's new build and ensuring compliance with the Neighbourhood Plan, National Building Regulations, UDC design guidance, and the NPPF 21.
- We intend to develop and maintain our productive working partnership with the PC, whilst energetically holding them to account.
- Supporting the PC initiative for traffic speed control measures at Thaxted.
- Holding a watching brief on the various iterations of the NPPF and reviewing planning guidance as released by the Head Planner at HCLG.

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



...our handle with care campaign, bumper stickers are available!

NOTES:

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 re-election or appointment at this year's AGM.

Honourary (appointment)

Bruce Munro Esq. Hon President 2017

Executive Officers

Michael Culkin	Chairman Pro tem.	2022
Ben Allen	Vice Chair	2019
Dame Kate Barker	Treasurer	2015
Maggie Catterall	Secretary	2014

Executive Committee Members

Philip Leeder	Life	
Brian Smith	Publisher	2006
Angela Clarson	Membership Sec	2013
RichardTill	Thaxted History	2018
Trevor Haynes	Building Regs	2018
vacancy		
vacancy		
Andy Frater	Parish Council liaison	20-22

Advisors

Rachel Wicks	Thaxted Society online
John Arkwright.	Estates and buildings.
Michael Turner.	Legal advice.

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 and support.*
- *To all the very generous "Thaxted History Project' subscribers.*



MINUTES OF LAST AGM 2021 CONDUCTED ON ZOOM

Due to technical difficulties retrieving minutes for this meeting they will be published on line in due course.

REGISTER OF ATTENDEES AGM 2021 online

This meeting was held on line via Zoom.

Ian Stewart and
Leslie Stewart
Bruce Munro
Carolyn Munro
Kate Barker
Peter Donovan
Rachel Wicks
Andy Frater
Michael Culkin
Brian Smith
Richard Till
Noelle Till
Mr & Mrs Trevor Haynes
Angela Clarson
Ben Allen
Jane Allen
Maggie Catterall

APPENDIX

Thaxted Society Adopted Policy 2021

- i. To: oppose all building outside the current development limits ref NP 2019.
- ii. To: encourage actively 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.
- 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: discourage robustly the use of concrete kerbstones and asphalt on pavements and pathways.
- ix. To: defend vigorously 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.
- xii. To oppose all Outline Planning applications which: impinge, abut, or affect, in any manner, the Historic Core including the Conservation Area of Thaxted.
- xiii. The Society expects reserved matters and their conditions to 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.
- xiv. To support the development and use of solar panels and allied climate change mitigation at Thaxted including their appropriate use within the conservation area.
- xv. To encourage public bodies to install electric charging points throughout Thaxted to meet growing demand and encourage change to cleaner power.
- xvi. To urge the removal of publicly displayed posters, flyers, and notices after advertised event has occurred.
- xvii. To support and assist in the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan through its detail, conditions, and intent and thereafter to so monitor effect and compliance.
- xviii. To discourage the use of plastic: plants, trees, flowers, shrubs, and grass, outside reducing the polluting effects of plastic particles upon the soil and groundwater.
- xix. The Society expects and encourages the proper care and maintenance of all listed buildings at Thaxted without and before any needed intervention by the Conservation Officer.
- xx. The Society is resolved to object to all 'split-planning' applications where the evident purpose is to avoid mandated Low-Cost Housing contribution or any other legal requirements.

**(Adopted unanimously by the Executive Committee on April 26th 2018)*

*** (adopted unanimously by the Executive Committee on the 27th June 2019)*

**** (adopted unanimously by the Committee on January 23rd 2020)*

ACCOUNTS 2021-2022

THE THAXTED SOCIETY ACCOUNTS		
Closing balance 2019-2021		
Community a/c	£3,912.94	
Premium a/c	£1,075.79	
Total	£4,988.73	
Income 2021-2022		
Membership	£849.95	
Bulletin advertising	£1,778.50	
History proj books	£740.00	
Hist proj donations	£1,000.00	
	£0.00	
	£0.00	
Interest	£0.11	
Total	£4,368.56	
Expenditure 2021-2022		Notes
Web hosting	£0.00	cross check
Bulletin	£2,896.00	Bulletin starting balance: £300.00
Hist proj	£3,964.59	income £1,778.50
ESAH menb	£30.00	Total £2,078.50
Expenses	£392.95	Cost £2,896.00
Total	£7,283.54	Cost to Society £817.50
		Hist proj starting balance £3,499.99
		book sales £740.00
		subscriptions £1,000.00
		Total £5,239.99
		Cost
		printing/typesetting £3,164.00
		launch £800.59
		total £3,964.59
		Hist proj designated balance £1,275.40
New balance		
Closing balances		
Community a/c	£1,507.85	
Premium a/c	£565.90	
Total	£2,073.75	



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday May 19th 2022

at 19:30

Pam's Place formerly Thaxted Day Centre

AGENDA

- 1** Welcome.
- 2** Any apologies received.
- 3** Minutes of the AGM of 2021 via ZOOM. (these are currently unavailable due to technical difficulties)
- 4** Appointment of the Honourary President.
- 5** Election of the Committee.
- 6** Treasurer's report and draft Accounts for 2021-2022.
- 7** Annual Report..
- 8** Questions from the floor
- 9** Any Other Business

Please join us for a toast to HM the Queen in her Jubilee Year!

To be proposed by Society President Bruce Munro

NOTES - RECORDS

ACCOUNTS 2020 - 2021

income

Balance brought fwd from 19-20 accts	<u>£ 3,373.19</u>	funds brought forward from previous year
Bulletin repayment	£ 444.16	repayment of an advance and repayment of exps
interest paid	£ 0.50	on savings account
UDC grant	£ 500.00	UDC grant towards HP Vol II
Parish Council grant to Bulletin	£ 300.00	PC grant towards publication of Bulletin
Anonymous donations	£ 85.00	further to subs paid
book sales	£ -	
members subs	£ 674.00	subscriptions for year 2020
total income 2020-2021	<u>£ 2,003.66</u>	

outgoings

IT FB services	£ 240.00	monthly fees for IT and FB services 2020
Website hosting & maintenance	£ 148.12	Website annual hosting fees
contrib to Bulletin	£ -	Society grant to Bulletin capped.
total outgoings 2020-2021	<u>£ 388.12</u>	paid January 5th 2021 by cheque
Balance carried forward	<u>£ 4,988.73</u>	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 2020-2021.....

- *Subscriptions to the Thaxted History project of £3499.99 are ring fenced for the purpose.
- *Membership dues are ring fenced for the running costs of the Society only.
- * The Society has supplies of the Thaxted Welcome folder (360)
- *The Society has supplies of the 2016 BDG. (100)
- *The Society owns several gazebos and pop up display stands. (7)
- *The Society retains supplies of Volume I the THP (60)



PLAN YOUR CELEBRATION QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2ND - 5TH JUNE 2022

THURSDAY FROM 9PM	BEACON LIGHTING & FIREWORKS	JOHN WEBB'S WINDMILL
FRIDAY FROM 7:30PM	THAXTED LIVE	RECREATION GROUND
SATURDAY FROM 11AM	THAXTED FAYRE & FUN DOG SHOW	RECREATION GROUND
SUNDAY FROM 12 NOON	PICNIC IN THE PARK WITH LIVE MUSIC	RECREATION GROUND



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