

# THE THAXTED SOCIETY



## ANNUAL REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

*The Thaxted Society*  
*The Secretary*  
*10 Stoney Lane*  
*Thaxted*  
*CM6 2PF*  
[\*thethaxtedsociety@gmail.com\*](mailto:thethaxtedsociety@gmail.com)

---

## **CONTENTS ANNUAL REPORT**

- *Chairman's Report*
- *Annual Report*
- *Membership Report*
- *Treasurers Report*
- *Bulletin Editors Report*
- *Way Forward*

## **NOTES TO THE REPORT**

- *Calendar of Topic Led Discussions*
- *Minutes of last AGM 2015*
- *Record of Attendees AGM 2015*
- *Any further notes*

## **SOCIETY ACCOUNTS**

- *Accounts*
- *Notes to the accounts*

### **OUR THANKS**

*The Society is grateful to the Parish Council for supporting publication of the Bulletin.  
We are also grateful to Cllr Foley and Cllr Freeman for their support.  
We thank County Cllr Simon Walsh for his continued efforts and support.  
We thank Sir Alan Haselhurst MP for his continued care and concern for Thaxted.*

*“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!”*

---

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AGM 2016

Our past year has been one of mixed blessings. Our work with the Parish Council and the NPSG continues as do several of our campaigns the latest of which we hope will tackle the deplorable state of B0151 to Elsenham.

Sadly the past year saw our campaign to save CH fail. I was however humbled by your Committee's unanimous decision to welcome the new owners of Clarence House to Thaxted. This was a wonderful example of what makes Thaxted an exceptional community. Friendship!

It neatly chimes with our Welcome Pack, which is now delivered to all new residents and all new homes in Thaxted.

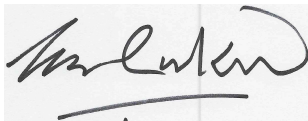
Our work to publish the definitive history of Thaxted in conjunction with Leicester University continues apace and we have now raised eighty per cent of the required costs through a generous public subscription.

What our work on the CH campaign taught us all is that often to work together in an attempt is often as valuable as any success. It is this work which I would encourage, to think big and strive for the big dream is often less contentious and more graceful than our petty differences over little details.

I am conscious of the legacy of The Thaxted Society and as we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> edition of the Thaxted Bulletin I am aware of my own and your Committee's, responsibility in protecting that legacy.

Thaxted also has much to care for, its archives and history both publicly and privately held, demonstrate the esteem in which we hold our home. The Thaxted archives, the artefacts and collections, all deserve professional care and a home, where they can be studied and viewed. Thaxted deserves an archive and museum!

May I finish by thanking the Officers of the Society, the Committee members and co-opted members, for their sterling and robust work over the year, may I also take a moment to thank the Voting Members for their support and of course their tireless assistance with various bi annual Bulletin delivery duties.



Chairman.  
April 2016

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Another exceptionally busy year:

- We spoke at the Clarence House change of use planning meeting.
- We continue to work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan with the Parish Council and HOT (*Our work is lead by Brian Phillips*)
- We have submitted and gone on record with the Housing & Planning Bill 2016 consultation.
- We responded to the Local Plan Consultation for Uttlesford.
- We responded to the Essex Rural Strategy Questionnaire.
- We published the Thaxted Building Design Guide and have received an excellent response to this publication.
- The Thaxted Bulletin was awarded Gold in the Essex Community Magazines awards. (*Our congratulations to Brian Smith Editor*)
- Work on an authoritative New History of Thaxted continues and subscriptions hereto amount to £8,000. (*In this we are grateful to Richard Till.*)
- We have launched a campaign to improve the B0151.
- With the cooperation of MAG we lobbied for the removal of redundant signage at Thaxted and succeeded.
- With the Parish Council we were successful in the repair and replacement by ECC of our unique street lighting in time for Christmas.
- We sponsored an exhibition at the URC Open Day of plans for the building. (*exhibition entirely paid for by an anonymous donor*)



## Membership

The Society has a current membership of 186 voting members and approximately 2891 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 often via the Thaxted Bulletin

Sadly, though our ranks have grown again this year, we have lost friends of the Society whom we remember fondly. Especially Jim Boutwood, a friend and stalwart of the Society and Thaxted, who worked tirelessly. He sadly died during the year.

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

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



Three generations of steeplejacks on Thaxted's spire.  
But who are they?

## Treasurer's Report

This has been an exciting year for the Society and as a result of, generous support, subscriptions to the History Project, prudent spending, and a buoyant membership I am pleased to report our finances remain robust.

We do not raise money for its own sake. 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)*
- The Welcome Pack *(SSD Community Fund)*
- The Thaxted Building Design Guide. *(UDC & Chairman's fund)*
- Membership dues are ring-fenced against running costs and core activities as set out in the Constitution.

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

The Front Garden Competition has been budgeted at £1000 (*capped*) including the prizes. We anticipate opportunities for sponsorship and are grateful to **H Lowe & Co** for their support with prize 'gardening vouchers'.

Subscriptions for the New History project at Leicester University stand at in excess of 80% of the total required. *(These funds are ring fenced in the Societies general account)*

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

*Toby Briant*

Hon Treasurer



## Editor's Report

Despite new houses springing up all over the place, I have managed to keep up with this without increasing demands upon the Society's coffers.

Our advertising rates remain highly competitive and there is growing demand for space. We are fortunate that one 'advertiser' pays a premium for a premium position, and we are grateful for 'their' continued support.

Again the Parish Council has supported the publication of the bulletin with a grant, my thanks to them. The Bulletin triumphed with the top prize at the Essex Community Magazine Awards in June last year.

This Easter's edition, already known as the 'Alec Hunter', has been very popular and Richard Till's original approach and painstaking research for his Thaxted's History... article has brought plaudits aplenty.

Next year sees the publication of the hundredth edition of the Bulletin. No 100. It will of course be a very special collectors copy in a year of Bulletin celebration!

*Brian Smith*

Editor



Brian Smith with the Bulletin's Top Award and other Award winners

---

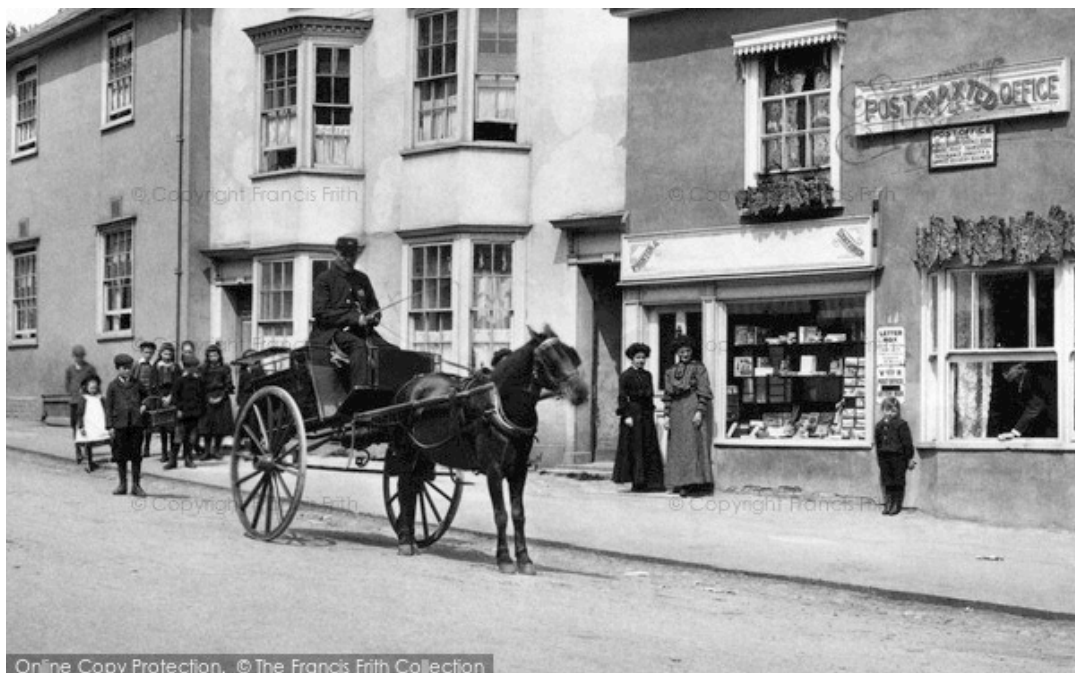
## Way Forward

We remain committed to '**raising our towns' status**' as one of the surest methods of creating protection for the town. Examples beyond the commissioning of the New History are:

- Changing the designation of the town within the Local Plan. (*Ongoing.*)
- Working with Parish Council as lead, to prepare a Neighborhood Plan.
- Establishing with the PC nominations for the Quiet Lanes initiative.
- Listing pathways hedgerows and lanes.
- Publishing notes on ditches and drains and how to mitigate flooding.
- Reinvigorating our campaign to discourage pavement parking within the conservation area, most notably along Town Street and on Stoney Lane.
- Commissioning research into the impact of B184 through Thaxted and possible alterations.
- Publication of a '**Vision of Thaxted**' to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Bulletin 2017
- Supporting the plans to develop the URC as a community amenity.
- Supporting emerging plans for a Museum & Archive for Thaxted.

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 with the PC at many levels.

***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.***





## 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 an 'anonymous donor' for supporting the Thaxted Building Design Guide,*
- *To all 'Thaxted New History' subscribers.*

### 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 adopted constitution.

The following are standing for reelection at this year's 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	
Philip Leeder	
Angela Clarson	Membership Sec 2013
Brian Phillips -	surveyor 2013
Richard Till -	New Thaxted History 2015

#### Co Opted Member-Advisors

John Arkwright	estates and buildings
Michael Turner	legal advice

---

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 2015-16**

\*Subscriptions to the New Thaxted History project are ring fenced for the purpose.

\*Membership dues are ring fenced for the running costs of the Society

\*The Society owns a computer used by the Chair for Society business. (£870)

\* The Society has supplies of the Thaxted Welcome folder (850)

\*The Society has supplies of the 2016 BDG.

---