

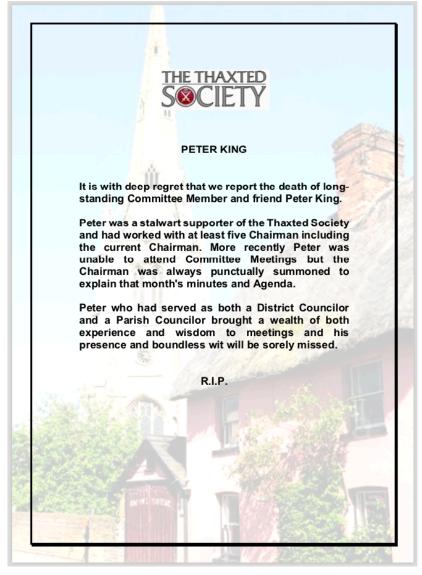


ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

The Thaxted Society
The Secretary
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COVER PHOTO
After recent gloomier days a sparkling and colourful Watling Street reminding us why we live in this remarkable place

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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 ongoing efforts for Thaxted.

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 Cllr Martin Foley for his support and contribution to THP



When the countryside is not enough there is always Yoga, just one of Thaxted's abundant activities.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AGM 2020

In what has been a tumultuous year by every measure, it might seem that Thaxted is less important but in fact quite the opposite. The tumult was felt markedly here as the Local Plan hit the rocks and then Covid-19 arrived, proving what a resilient community may do in the face of a common enemy.

Whilst we could not defend ourselves alone from the 'virus'; because we made a Neighbourhood Plan, and worked together, we are now better prepared than we may have been in the past.

As government returns to day to day normalcy we must renew our vigilance and response to emerging housebuilding policy. If we all enjoy Thaxted for our own particular reasons it follows that it remains attractive to the determined property developer.

For these reasons the Society published the 'Tabula Rasa' paper which looks at another way forward for the whole district after the failed plan. It was felt that the vacuum created by the failed plan offered the Society an opportunity to make several proposals about a new way forward. This was published on the Society web site: thaxtedsociety.com

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. These deserve professional care and a home. The PC has been supportive of this initiative in proposing a possible new old home for these records.

I want to close by thanking the Committee for their work over the year, especially Society officers: Hon Treasurer Dame Kate Barker, Hon Secretary Maggie Catterall, and Vice Chairman and Chairman elect Ben Allen, for his unflagging energy and enthusiasm for Thaxted.

I want also to note the passing of our friend Peter King. A vigorous and original supporter of the Society and a hugely influential Committee Member.

I would also like to send our warmest congratulations to Cllr Martin Foley on his election as Chairman of Uttlesford District Council.

Lastly but most importantly 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 Outgoing Chairman.

Mulda

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Another exceptionally busy year:

- We consulted in detail on the emerging Local Plan.
- 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 continued our campaign for 'traffic relief' through Thaxted.
- Work on the Thaxted History project continues with Volume II
- We took a stand at the very successful Thaxted Fayre 2019
- The Society's online presence grew on our Facebook pages.
- We furthered our review of the future of the Thaxted Bulletin.
- We updated our policy regarding Outline Planning Applications
- We further updated our policies regarding gaming the system
- We continued to strongly lobby Cllr Simon Walsh ref streetlights and highways matters at Thaxted.
- We raised strong objections to the application for a variation of deed ref the Sampford 106 agreement. (now refused.)
- We continued to work with the PC Chair and Councilors.
- We remain vigorous in our support for the Windmill and its restoration.
- We lobbied our MP and Ministers regarding the LP's failure.
- We met with our MP to ask for a question to be put to the Minister.
- We communicated with our MP ref infrastructure at Thaxted.
- We published and delivered Tabula Rasa, our response to the UDC failed Local Plan.
- We contributed to the 'airspace' review at Stansted Airport.
- We lobbied for the repainting of our telephone box.
- We strongly objected to several planning proposals which were contrary to Society policy and the Neighbourhood Plan.



After a long absence the Watling Bridge is back. Bridges are important, here, and at the Society which tries to be a bridge to a better Thaxted.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society has a current membership of 160 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:

Crawford Dew Barbara Longaretti Peter King. Diana Boutwood Gwen Phillips

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.
- design & publication of the Thaxted History Project.
- 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.
- publication of the Tabula Rasa paper ref the UDC Local Plan.

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.



Saved twice from being utterly despoiled by a flawed planning proposal.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A busy but finally odd year for the Society and all of us. As a result of generous support, subscriptions to the History Project, prudent spending, and a vibrant membership, I am pleased to report *our* finances are in good shape.

We are grateful to both: Essex Society for Archaeology and History and the Thaxted Fayre Trust for their support of the work of the Society. As well as the Parish Council and Uttlesford District Councilor Martin Foley. I want also to thank 'anonymous' for their most generous donation.

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)

• Online Publication of the THP (subscription)

ongoing publication of Thaxted Bulletin. (advertisers & sponsors)

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

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

Subscriptions to The Thaxted History project are ring fenced in the Society's general account.

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

Dame Kate Barker
Hon Treasurer



Some included in our NP and some not so. The struggle for sensitive common sense in planning continues.

BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT

Our Christmas edition of the Thaxted Bulletin was delivered in plenty of time for Christmas and even with all the new houses the Bulletin is still delivered <u>free to every home in Thaxted.</u> A print run of 1600.

Thaxted Parish Council supported the publication of the Bulletin and they have my thanks. My thanks also to all those who advertise in the Bulletin, and particularly to those advertisers who returned, perhaps persuaded by an early delivery date.

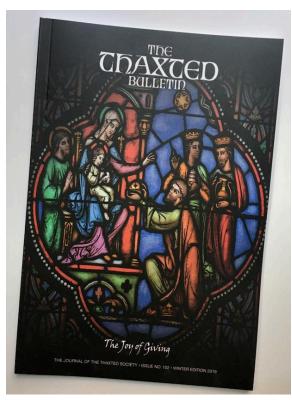
I would also like to thank contributors to the 2019 Bulletin, among them: Richard Haynes, Bruce Munro, Peter Donovan, with Mike Goacher for invaluable research.

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 do let us know. This year there were new 'delivery elves' who stepped into the fray, to whom I am most grateful.

As to the future, I hope to publish a Christmas 2020 Edition of the Bulletin. I hope by now that you will getting a preview glimpse of the next volume of the T.H.P. along with a talk from the author Richard Till.

I am pleased and happy to be still doing what I enjoy.

Brian Smith Editor.



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.

- Reinvigorating our campaign to discourage pavement parking within the conservation area as per the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Encouraging the installation of charging points in <u>all</u> Thaxted's car parks.
- Seeking Ministerial clarification regarding planning and 106 enforcement.
- Commissioning research into the impact of B184 through Thaxted.
- Working with our MP to demand proper 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.
- 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.
- 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.



Even in delicate marquetry the Guildhall remains recognisably iconic even with the black timbers.

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 reelection or appointment at this year's AGM.

Honourary (appointment)

Bruce Munro Esq. Hon President 2017

Executive Officers

Ben Allen	Chairman.	2020
Michael Culkin	Vice Chair	2020
Dame Kate Barker	Treasurer	2015
Maggie Catterall	Secretary	2014

Executive Committee Members

Philip Leeder	Life	
Brian Smith	Editor	2006
Angela Clarson	Membership Sec	2013
Richard Till	Thaxted History	2015
Trevor Haynes	Building Regs	2018
vacancy		
vacancy		

Co Opted Member-Advisors

Andy Frater Parish Council liaison 20-21

Rachel Wicks 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 2019

Held at the Parish Church on May 16th 2019 at 19:30



Minutes of Thaxted Society AGM Thursday May 16th 2019

1) Honorary President's Opening Remarks

Bruce Munro welcomed all attendees and gave thanks to the committee. He offered to arrange a Thaxted Walk & Talk in July as a future event of the year.

Welcome & Introduction, and any apologies received

Michael Culkin gave a warm welcome to all members who have joined the committee in attending the AGM this evening. He gave particular welcome to guests Richard Haynes and Cllr Terry Frostick PC Chairman. The apologies read were as listed at the end of the Minutes.

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.

Appointment of the President

Bruce Munro was re-appointed as our Honorary President.

Election of the Committee

The Chairman proposed re-election of existing committee with the addition of Glyn Pritchard who was unanimously elected. The Chairman indicated that this would be his last AGM as Chair though he hopes to remain an active member of the Committee. On retirement of Brian Smith as Vice Chairman, Michael was pleased to report the unanimous election of Ben Allen as Vice Chairman.

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 agree with one voice as a way to achieve much more for the town. We must never lose sight of two things:

- Thaxted's uniqueness
- We have a 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 NDP. We are delighted to welcome members of the steering company and Peter Neal it's chairman whose relentless hard work and diligence Thaxted will come truly to appreciate over the coming years.

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 hugely grateful to Brian Smith and to Angela Clarson who has taken over the advertising accounts. Between now and then we hope to develop a new team to take this award-winning publication forward.

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 do only raise money when we have a specific project on which we want to spend it.

Parish Council Chairman's Statement Cllr Terry Frostick

The Parish Council are volunteers who put up with considerable abuse at times 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 a big issue and the need for a design for living that is informed by the historic nature of our town. The adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan by a large majority, and an astonishing upheaval in the political landscape, has to be a milestone for Thaxted and for Uttlesford unique nationally. Work of PC continues and there is positive news about Guildhall repairs and new Broadband provision. PC enjoy a sensible and productive relationship with the society and are pleased that the Society may often say and do what we may not for Thaxted's good. For a small town we are lucky that many different voices can come together when needed and that factions and frictions are a thing of the past. At the PC we remain aware of challenges to come and count this Society as an important contributor strategic thinking.

Ouestions

Heather Bull felt that irrespective of PC or Thaxted Society the planners pay no attention - witness 9x3 storeys @ Little Maypole. Problem with consultation is that an expression of direct opinion to devolved body does not guarantee you get what you want. NP will put us in stronger position. Criteria for refusing planning applications if we are providing our 5year land supply moving forward. Maypole has been approved because we had no demonstration of land supply. Local Plan is also on the way to help.

10) Date of next AGM to be advised.

11) Thaxted History Project Update.

Richard Till

We have worked on this project having established link with Leicester University and Lucy Brown. In 1350-1470 Thaxted would have had a broad road leading up to the Guildhall recognisable as it is today. Originally the town would have surrounded the Anglo-Saxon Church with Manor to the right of the Guildhall in a nucleated settlement with those working on the agricultural estate and craftsmen and tradesmen Stoney lane would have been the main shopping street. From Cutler's Green to Tilty, Lords of the Manor set up satellite settlements for workers. Middle men could organise Agricultural villages. Settlement at Richmond Green adjacent to Great Park, wooded hunting ground which needed maintenance up until beginning of C 16th The market was at the top of Fishmarket Street. Cutlers moved 1360-1380 from London. They needed water for forge or leather work. Posh cutlers moved east from Margaret Street to junction with Tanyards with workshops built behind them. They were rich, built good houses and survived in the Manor around the Guildhall with workshops, brewery and so on in Park Street.

AGM of The Thaxted Society 2020

Workers houses for Cutlers were mostly in Middle Row, Orange Street and Mill End; also Tanyards into Copthall Lane to Kent's Bridge. Sheep Cote Lane linked with Weaverhead Lane where woolen industry existed from C15th. John Kent was Thaxted's Master Cutler lived on site of Folly cottage opposite first Guildhall of Cutlers which became Kent Lane and later Copthall Lane.

In C15th due to the volume of cutlers more land was needed in Park Street as far as St John's Ambulance shop. In the mid 1500's they demolished outbuildings and built a line of houses on West of Town Street and into Stoney Lane. Steward need house which was Recorders hence Edward's coat of arms. Guildhall was needed for Cutlers and then there was the market house Mercat Cross

Lucy Brown archaeologist took meter square by depth pits in some gardens of central Thaxted to obtain a sample of the archaeology. She would like or do more of this. Perhaps this brief paragraph indicating what Lucy has done gave us a tiny insight into Thaxted and the politics of the time, sufficient to whet our appetites to dip into her book. Lucy thanked Thaxted Society for support during completing her thesis

We concluded the evening with a reception

signed Michael Culkin

DATED 16/05/209

REGISTER OF ATTENDEES AGM 2019 Based upon sign ins.

Attendees

Maggie Catterall Angela Clarson Avril & Tim Russell Will Brazier Kate Barker Ian Stewart Terry Frostick John Ilott **Joyce Thomas** Barry Jackson Kathleen Perry Colin & Marianne Porter R D English Richard Herbert Stewart McDonald Brian & Gwen Philips Michael Beresford Michael Dellahooke Peter Donovan Paul Meader Robin & Sue Falkener John & Fran Morgan Howard Rolfe Ray Williams Ben Allen

Michael Culkin

Trevor Haynes Richard & Noelle Till Philip Leeder Janie Stagg Val & Berty Felgate Jackie Farren Len Farren Bruce Munro Robin Lee Michael Goatcher Mike McCook-Weir Gillian & Tony Dixon Yvonne Baccush Heather Bull Elisabeth & David Morgan John Pepper Joe Hobbs Philip Tarris John Strait Cllr Foley **Brian Smith** Lucy Brown Ann Pickhaver Richard Haynes David Barnard Peter King

Apologies:

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

APPENDIX

Thaxted Society Adopted Policy 2020

- 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.
- 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 were 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

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 2019-20

- *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 has supplies of the Thaxted Welcome folder (480)

- *The Society has supplies of the 2016 BDG. (140)
 *The Society owns several gazebos and pop up display stands. (7)
 *The Society retains supplies of Volume I the THP (160)

THAXTED SOCIETY ACCOUNTS	2019-2020			
income Balance brought fwd from 18-19 accts AGM contributions Smith Culkin interest paid repayment by Bulletin Fayre trust grant Parish Council grant to Bulletin ESAH grant for the THP Anonymous donation book sales members subs Bulletin repay Bulletin repay	£ 2,455.51 £ 150.00 £ 2.00 £ 750.00 £ 150.00 £ 350.00 £ 999.99 £ 400.00 £ 8.00 £ 1,170.00			funds brought forward from previous year committee contribs to the AGM costs on savings account repayment by Bulletin of Society advance grant towards the THP from Thaxted Fayre Trus PC grant towards publication of Bulletin grant for the THP Volume II from the ESAH to be used at the discretion of the Chairman subscriptions for year 2019 * due from Bulletin of Society paid expenses * due from the Bulletin of Society loan
total income 2019-2020	£ 3,979.99			
2019 AGM printing & postage costs 2019 Thaxted Fayre catering & design IT FB services Tabula Rasa printing Large letter postage Website hosting & maintenance AGM PCC donation contrib to Bulletin PC grant to Bulletin interim loan to Bulletin Guildhall meeting hire AGM catering CPRE membership Ink cart stationery Research and reprint costs replace broken ice box G Pritchard ESAH membership postage total outgoings 2019-2020	•	£ 35 £ 10 £ 50 £ 35 £ 50 £ 6 £ 3 £ 6 £ 3 £ 3 £ 3	4.92 0.00 1.24 1.80 3.12 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0	Printing/postage/papers/invitations cushions, refreshments, printing, monthy fees for IT and FB services printing of TB paper for distribution. postage of TB annual hosting fees donation made for use of the church for our AGI Society grant to Bulletin capped. grant rcvd and paid over to Bulletin * (repaid 8/4/20 not included in current accts) charges to meet in the Guildhall parishes for catering at 18-19 agm May 2019 mbrship pf the Essex Archeology and History Soprinting ink cartridge comp slips, reprts, copy paper, voucher envelop doc reprints, Sat Post, ESAH papers, photograplice box society membership of Essex Society Arch & History
Bulletin repay of loan owing Bulletin repay of expenses owing	£ 330.00 £ 116.14			Bulletin repay of loan owing not included Bulletin repay of expenses owing not included
balances				
	£ 3,373.19			
proposed balance carried forward	£ 3,373.19			carried forward to year 2020-2021



The Society took a large stand at the very successful Thaxted Fayre 2019. We are grateful to the Thaxted Fayre Trust for their generous support of the work of the Society. The Thaxted Fayre Trust is a voluntary charity which raises money for local causes.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A Thursday one day hereafter! AGENDA

- 1 Welcome.
- 2 Introduction. Any apologies received.
- 3 Minutes of the AGM of 2019 and any matters arising.
- 4 Appointment of the President.
- **5** Election of the Committee.
- **6** Chairman's report. (As in the Annual Report)
- 7 Treasurer's report and Accounts for 2019-20.
- 8 Parish Council Chairman's statement.
- 9 Any Questions Thaxted: [a] Planning Matters [b] Other Matters
- 10 Proposed date of next AGM May Thursday 22nd 2021
- 11 RICHARD TILL an introduction to Thaxted's cutlers.

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.

PRINTING OF THIS REPORT KINDLY SPONSORED BY THAXTED ANONYMOUS