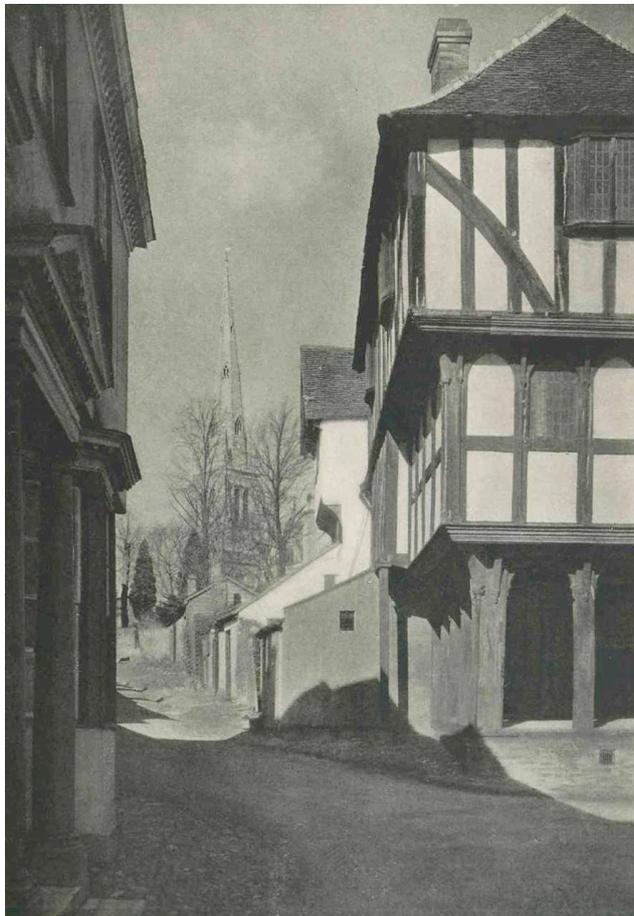


THE THAXTED SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

**RIP ANGUS McDONALD PRESIDENT
1925-2017**

*The Thaxted Society
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ANGUS MCDONALD

A great deal has been written, said, and recalled of the Society's longstanding stalwart, Bulletin Editor, and latterly, Hon President, Angus McDonald. Angus was an enthusiastic Thaxtedian and a great influence on the Society's growth and the Bulletin's, of which he was Editor, continued and uninterrupted publication for over fifty years. What may be less well known is Angus' huge contribution to Committee discussion and indeed Society policy over the recent past. His intellect and wit brought to bear upon a meandering discussion was always insightful and very much to the point. Angus was the absolute embodiment of what growing old might be, his razor sharp mind coupled with a wealth of experience made him as young and as bright as the younger and brightest. He never tired of grasping a nettle or new idea and his contribution will prove irreplaceable. We shall truly miss him...

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OUR THANKS

The Society is grateful to the Parish Council for supporting publication of the Bulletin and a subscription to the New History of Thaxted.

We thank County Cllr Simon Walsh for his continued support.

We thank Sir Alan Haselhurst MP for his continued care and concern for Thaxted.

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AGM 2017

Our work with the Parish Council and the steering group of the Neighbourhood Plan continues as do several of our campaigns the latest of which will raise the demon of Thaxted's growing traffic problem.

Whether we like it or not, and whether we agreed to it or not, Thaxted is bisected by a main road. B in name only! This causes damage in many ways.

- To the integrity of the 'centre'.
- To the wellbeing of all who live here.
- To our health inevitably.
- To our 'quiet enjoyment' of our town!

Your Society has commissioned two reports. One, from traffic professionals, Idem, the other via our members and our Facebook page, asking one simple question: are the lights Green Amber or Red?

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 public subscription. We have welcomed Lucy Brown to Thaxted twice to update us on her progress.

As we approach the 100th edition of the Thaxted Bulletin, I am aware of our responsibility in protecting, not only Thaxted's legacy, but that of the Society itself. For a small town it is a laudable record of service and publication.

What I wrote last year remains true today, the Thaxted archives, the artefacts and collections, all deserve professional care and a home, where they can be studied and viewed. Thaxted deserves a museum & archive!

Sadly in the weeks before this AGM the death of our President and energetic supporter, Angus MacDonald, was announced. We owe Angus a huge debt without him we would not be the vibrant and effective Society we are today.

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

Separately, but especially, may I thank Toby Briant who is stepping down as Treasurer. He has always been an adroit officer and contributor to our fiscally sound position.



Chairman.

Another busy year:

- We spoke at the UDC extraordinary Council meeting regarding the emerging Local Plan.
- We met with the new leader at UDC and agreed to advance communication and cooperation.
- We reviewed the Housing & Planning Bill, and contacted our MP.
- We continued our campaign to lobby for 'traffic relief'.
- We continue to work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan with the Parish Council as lead.
- We obtained assurances from the new Minister at DCLG that his predecessor's guidance to PINS remained Government policy.
- We launched the Thaxted Front Garden Competition with the support of Lowes. We awarded prizes at a ceremony in August.
- We lobbied ECC for improvements to the B1051 at Haigh's.
- Work on the New History of Thaxted continues and we were pleased to appoint Lucy Brown the Studentship at Leicester University.
- We launched The Thaxted Society Facebook page.
- We responded to the consultation on Stansted night flights.
- We produced a detailed critique on the UDC officers report to the Planning Committee ref Rescu site at Little Maypole.
- We will consult with the DCLG on their recent white paper ref the "Broken Housing Market".



The Thaxted Society's Christmas Tree at the Church Christmas Tree Festival

MEMBERSHIP

The Society has a current membership of 230 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.

Though our ranks have grown again this year, we have lost friends of the Society whom we remember fondly: especially our village bobby, Barry Kaufmann-Wright BSc. (Hons) a friend of nature and the Society, who sadly died during the year. Also the passing of our President and longstanding supporter Angus McDonald.

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

Single £10.00 per year - Couple £15.00 per year

*It is possible to contribute more if you wish and your gift's use and an acknowledgement can be agreed.
(Subscriptions to *The New History of Thaxted* will close in June).*



Thaxted welcome signs cleaned by The Thaxted Society

TREASURERS 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 Thaxted Building Design Guide 2017. *(Chairman's fund)*
- AGM hospitality fund, *(Committee Members)*
- 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 tireless work gathering in the annual dues and attracting new members has been remarkable.

Subscriptions for the New History project at Leicester University stand at in excess of 75% of the total required. *(These funds are ring fenced in the Society's general account)*

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

As this is my last Annual Report as Treasurer can I thank my fellow Executive members and indeed the wider Membership for their support, and wish my successor ongoing success.

Toby Briant

Hon Treasurer



... a days cycling pauses in the shade of Thaxted Church.

BULLETIN EDITORS REPORT

The Winter Edition 2017 of your Thaxted Bulletin will be Issue no 100.

This is a testament to fifty years of uninterrupted publishing rain or shine. Even with new houses the Bulletin is still delivered free to every home in Thaxted. Again the Parish Council has supported the publication of the Bulletin with a grant, my thanks to them.

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, particularly of the 100th Edition.

I would like to thank all the contributors to the Bulletin and importantly the volunteers who deliver it twice a year. We try to deliver on a local basis and if you think you might help in your street, lane, or road kindly let me know.

Issue number 100 will be a collector's item with some exciting features so please join us in the celebrations.

Brian Smith

Editor



... waiting for the train at Cutlers Green.

WAY FORWARD

We remain committed to '**raising our town's '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.
- 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
- Publication of a '**Vision of Thaxted**' to mark the 100th Bulletin 2017
- Supporting plans to develop the URC as a community amenity.
- Supporting emerging plans for a Museum & Archive for Thaxted.
- Developing proposals for 'Thaxted traffic relief'.

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.



...one reason Thaxted needs traffic relief.

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.

Executive Officers

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Angus McDonald | Hon. President. RIP |
|----------------|---------------------|

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Michael Culkin | Chairman 2013 |
| Brian Smith | Vice Chairman 2013 |
| STANDING DOWN | Treasurer 2013 |
| Maggie Catterall | Secretary 2014 |

Executive Committee Members

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Peter King | |
| Philip Leeder | |
| Angela Clarson | Membership Sec 2013 |
| Brian Phillips | Surveyor 2013 |
| Richard Till | New Thaxted History 2015 |
| Toby Briant | |
| Ben O'Donell | |
| Rachel Wicks | Society online |

Co Opted Member-Advisors

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| John Arkwright | estates and buildings |
| Michael Turner | legal advice |

MINUTES OF LAST AGM 2016

Held at the United Reform Church on Tuesday 21st April

1. Welcome and Introduction

- The Chairman gave a warm welcome to all in attendance and promised to keep his remarks brief in order to ensure that our meeting has concluded in time for the lighting of the beacon in honour of Her Majesty's 90th birthday.
- Apologies received from Father Richard, Mr & Mrs Woods, Marion Prior, Sheryl Doyle, Cllr Simon Walsh, Jo Legge, Bernard & Debbie Clark, Mr & Mrs Milnes, Gill & Richard Heath, Cllr Finch, Lord Petre, Richard Harborough, Barbara Bosworth, Mike & Patricia McCook Weir, Jan Gowlett, John Arkwright, Mr Greenwood.

2. Minutes of last meeting were approved and duly signed. No matters arising.

3. Appointment of President

Angus McDonald was unanimously re-elected as President of the Society.

4. Appointment of Trustees.

The members of the Committee were duly re-elected. Richard Till formerly co-opted has now been elected to the Committee

5. Chairman's Report

- We learned that the Society has grown in both stature and membership in the past year.
- The Society was recently invited to attend House of Lords Committee stage of scrutiny of amendments to the Housing and Planning 2016 bill and it was gratifying that both Thaxted and its Society were known.
- Our publication of the slim but insightful Building Design Guide was greeted with universal plaudits.
- We continue to work with PC and HOT to develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan and this work is progressing well. Whilst it is not a panacea for planning it will demonstrate our commitment to a planned sustainable and acceptable future for our town. Broadest level of consultation is important.
- Equally work to develop our New History of Thaxted moves ahead and we are truly grateful to those who have subscribed to this prestigious project in conjunction with Leicester University.
- As you will have seen in our Easter edition of the Award-winning Bulletin our Front Garden Competition has been launched and applications are flooding in. We have additional forms available here this evening.
- Further objectives and indeed achievements are listed in the Annual Report.
- The Chairman concluded by thanking members for their continued interest and participation, the Committee and the Society's Officers for their tireless work and support and our sponsors and donors for supporting projects and outreach work which forms an important part of what we do.

6. Treasurer's Report

- Toby explained that our main expenditures have been on Bulletin, Welcome Pack and Building Design Guide and day to day running costs. Some of our income is ring-fenced for specific projects.

7. Thaxted Bulletin Editor's Report.

- Brian expressed his thanks to his many contributors including Bruce Munro, Richard Till, Roger Burgess, Barry Kaufman-Wright. He thanked Michael Goacher for his work behind the scenes and Sybil King for her introduction to Richard Hunter. He thanked the volunteers who deliver the Bulletin and the Chairman for his insights and vision.
- Enlarged advertising has covered increased costs of production of a more comprehensive publication and increased number of copies to cope with increased population of the town. This has avoided additional drain on the Society's resources. A slight increase is being made to advertising costs for next year especially with our Centenary Edition to consider.

8. Questions

- **BF** Is Quiet Lanes initiative down to PC or to whom?
- It is an Essex initiative that has not moved on. Thatcher's Grange has a 20mph speed limit but it's a private estate. Chairman has undertaken that Society will find out how we can apply for this.
- **Mr Fox** expressed view that New History of Thaxted needs to be robust and academically sound as Thaxted deserves. This is what is being planned.
- **Paul** queried why income from Advertising for bulletin is not shown in a/c's. He was told that these accounts are kept separately as the Society only pays £500 towards the production of the bulletin.

9. AOB,

- Thanks to Ian Barnard and his team, to Will Brazier, Bob Caton, and Simon Latham for somewhere to stand. Memorial Board is now at stage for Planning permission to have it mounted on undercroft of Guildhall, It will be constructed of 5 oak panels. Leaflet should be circulated to Thaxted.
- Business part of meeting closed at 8.10pm. Some members lingered to chat and enjoy canapés and Prosecco. Others drifted over to watch lighting of the beacon.

REGISTER OF ATTENDEES AGM 2016

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Janie Stagg | Joan Howe | Heather Bull |
| Michael & Anne Beresford | Joan Holley | Tom & Suzanne |
| Ann Pickhaver | Paddy March | Sue & Rob Faulkner |
| Kate Parkyn | Stuart McDonald | Angus McDonald |
| Paul Meader | David & Elisabeth Morgan | Brian & Gwen Philips |
| Sir Alan Haslehurst | Philip & Hazel Leeder | Hilary Hardcastle |
| Joan Heard | Malcolm & June Linscott | Michael Culkin |
| Richard Till | Joyce Thomas | Malcolm & Margaret Legge |
| Tony & Gil Dixon | Ray Knight | Victoria Knight |
| Terry Frostick | Sybil & Peter King | Ray Williams |
| Angela Clarson | Ian Barnard | Brian Smith |
| Chris Brown | Mr & Mrs R Fox | Val & Bert Felgate |
| Yvonne Baccush | Joyce & Gus Thomas | Joy Green |
| Sheila | Toby Briant | Tracy Allbright |
| Edna Mardell | Ash Khunti | Tina Ford |
| J Farrant | D. Barrow | BM Charles |
| Joe Hobbs | Len & Shirley Farren | Ron English |
| Paul & Jean Lankester | Bruce Munro | Chris & Marilyn Pinchen |
| Martin Foley | Chris & Pam Gale | Angela Harbottle |
| Gwenda Hill | Richard & Gillian Hingston | Simon & Hazel Latham |
| Robin Lee | Judith Martin | John & Fran Morgan |
| Maggie Catterall | | |

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 2016-17

*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 only.

*The Society owns a computer used by the Chair for Society business. (£770)

* The Society has supplies of the Thaxted Welcome folder (780)

*The Society has supplies of the 2016 & 2017 BDG.

*The Society owns several gazebos and display stands.