



# Annual Report 2017-2018

## Thistles Market Garden Ltd

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[www.thistlesmarketgarden.net](http://www.thistlesmarketgarden.net)



### **A Charitable organisation**

Registered under the  
Co-operative and Benefit  
Societies Act 2014  
Reg. Company number: IP031461  
FCA Reference: 31461R



## **Management Committee:**

Chairman: Tony Clarke  
Treasurer: Sarah Nash *(co-opted Mar 2019)*  
Secretary: Debbie Broadley *(vacated May 2019)*  
Rita Barber *(vacated May 2019)*  
Gary Skipworth  
David Young,  
John Marshall *(co-opted Feb 2019)*  
Cheryl Gratton *(co-opted Feb 2019)*

## **Service Manager:**

Liz Judge

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## **Chairman's Report**

My second year as Chairman of Thistles, has been one of change and much hard work! Thank you to colleagues on the Management Committee for their support.

The completion of a project to replace our old portacabins with new purpose built premises has been a major successful development. The provision of office, community room, kitchen area and toilets under one roof, means comfortable and practical accommodation.

We are especially grateful to Greenio who secured the necessary grant funding and the various contractors who completed the necessary building works. Staff and service users can rightly be proud of their new green energy 'home'.

I would like to pay tribute to Liz and her team, who despite the disruption have kept 'the show on the road' by continuing to provide a high level of service to members of the group at Thistles.

We face further challenges as we move forward whilst always putting those we are here to serve - first.

Looking forward, we are seeking to raise funds to provide more access around the site, by the provision of increased paved areas for walking and wheelchair users.

Thank you to our members, service users, carers and all in the community who support Thistles.

*Tony Clarke*

## Manager's Report

### Activities:

Time goes so quickly when you are having fun! The year 2017-18 saw the fourth year of Thistles becoming a Community Benefit Society, since externalisation from Lincolnshire County Council in March 2015. It has been a year of change and achieving our vision of improving the service and facilities we provide here at Thistles for the people we support.

Our year begins in the Autumn, the group enjoyed harvesting apples, kindly donated by our neighbour in Sutterton, every season brings a busy time with plenty to do. It's time to take our final cuttings for the next year, lift our crops, which included sweetcorn, tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, runner beans and cucumbers. Outside the plots were dug over, borders weeded, grass weather approaching we spent time in the polytunnel painting up plant staging, and potting on root bound shrubs, all plants were moved inside for winter protection.



With Christmas getting closer our next project was the making of our Christmas wreaths. We had several health walks, gathering rose hips and trips out to purchase wreath decorations and foliage. This year we set up a cosy workshop in our old shop and our driver kindly fixed a donated video monitor on to the wall. The group all enjoyed the atmosphere of Christmas films and music, as well as participating in the production of rag, wooden and fresh wreaths, ready for our regular customers. This was a great success and the money raised paid for our yearly Christmas meal, enjoyed by all at the Rainbow Garden Centre.

Thistles would like to say "thank you " to Your Day Your Say, Scott House and The Wong for inviting us to their coffee mornings, which were enjoyed by all and gave the group the opportunity to meet old friends.

Whilst the daily activities of Thistles were ongoing, behind the scenes staff and the committee began to plan the project of the new building and removal of the old inherited portacabins.

In April Thistles joined the Borough and helped with the Big Boston Clean Up, which we participate in each year, this is a full day out starting at the Municipal Buildings in West Street, where we are kitted out with high visibility waistcoats and litter pickers. Lunch is provided and there is a great community spirit!

With Spring here, the seeds had germinated and the group were busy pricking out seedlings, making up hanging baskets ready for sale and preparing the land for planting out the vegetable crops.



In May we joined Boston in Bloom and planted up the front of Boston Police Station with a selection of bedding plants, this was in readiness for the Britain in Bloom judging. At Thistles the group were very busy planting a selection of salad and vegetables. We were in for a very hot Summer!!



The planning officer visited and Thistles received the plans from Urban Marque for our new building. In July we worked hard clearing the old portacabins and set up our Day Service in the old shop, gazebos were erected and the group enjoyed watching the old portacabins being lifted onto trailers and removed off site by Sam Gelthorpe. Heras fencing was erected by Mr. T. Clarke and Shane, to enable Thistles to continue to run safely whilst work commenced. The work began and the group welcomed many workmen to our site, including plumbers, electricians, ground workers, scaffolders, joiners and builders. Thistles made several trips out this

Summer and enjoyed days out at the beach, visited garden centres, Frampton Marsh and Jenny's Wood. In August we enjoyed a fun afternoon with a visit from Lincolnshire Police and the Chappell Centre in Spalding, great community engagement!

The building project continued through July, August and September and in October the solar panels were fitted. The group were very happy to move into their new, warm building in mid October, just before the cold weather started. It's great to have all facilities under one roof and have a fully fitted kitchen, we have achieved our aim of teaching from seed to the plate! Well done everyone.



### **Staff, Volunteers and People We Support:**

Throughout the year 2017 -2018 Thistles employed three permanent staff including, two Managers and a minibus driver. We also have six valuable relief staff and three volunteers Mr Martyn Bishop, Mr. Rowland Barber and Mrs. Maxine Mclean. Thistles has 6 members on the Management Committee who are all volunteers, and have worked hard to support Thistles and contribute to the safe daily running of the Day Service.

During 2017-2018 Thistles has supported 18 people who use the service, which covers 46 day places per week.

## Partnership Working:

We have had another successful year and continued to partnership work with other organisations, which has enhanced the service we have been able to provide.

Boston College - We have provided work experience to students from the Foundation section at Boston College, this partnership provides valuable experience for the students, friendship networking and increases our marketing tool. Thistles were invited to have a stand at Boston College Parents Evening, which was a successful evening.

Lincolnshire Police – In October 2017 we provided Lincolnshire Police with a 3 day Student Police Officer Placement. This partnership works well and in return we were invited to Lincolnshire Police Headquarters. The group had a great day out. A demonstration was given on how the Police drone is used, followed by a dressing up session in the uniform department, a tour of the police vehicle workshop and a free lunch.



A memorable day!

W.E.A. (Working Education Association)

Thistles continues a good relationship with the W.E.A. Don Jenkins visited Thistles throughout 2017-2018 each Tuesday to teach the Communication for Life Skills course, this session is enjoyed by the group who always look forward to seeing him and who have all progressed throughout the year. Thank you Don for all of your hard work it is appreciated. A second course has just started, "Hands on Clay" this is being taught by Felicity Davies, this is held on a Wednesday morning. Thank you Felicity for this wonderful pottery project.



Boston in Bloom

Thistles participated in the planting up of the front of Boston Police Station and the planting of bulbs outside the Boston Stump.

## Community Support:

Thistles are very grateful for the support we have received from our community, local businesses and individuals during 2017-2018, this funding has enabled us to achieve the completion of our new building.

We would like to thank all who have supported us financially or by giving their time.

Thank you to PCSO Esther Smyth from Lincolnshire Police for sourcing funding for security at Thistles and Michael Rimmer (Crime Prevention Officer) for his

expert advice and Inspector Andy Morris for his support. Thanks to P.C. Jon Thornton for visiting Thistles, donating a microwave oven and introducing Thistles to Staples, who kindly donated 2 portaloos for the Summer period whilst we were having our building work done. Thanks also to P.C. Dave Sharpe for introducing Thistles to Fountains.

**Thank you to so many organisations and individuals including the following:**

Fountains - who donate compost regularly to Thistles, we are extremely grateful for this valuable resource.

Jakemans - for their donation of Christmas presents to the group, sweets to sell at Thistles and the donation of new chairs.

Kier Services - for the kind donation of a joiner for the day and wood to build our new raised bed. (partnership working with Leanne Whalley from Longhurst Housing who set this up).

The "Crafty Ladies" - for the beautiful handmade goods they have made and donated to sell at Thistles.

Roythornes Solicitors - for work done to secure our lease.

Hutsons - for the work they have done on our road front sign and minibus. It looks good and provides great advertising of Thistles.

South Lincs Glass Shop - for the donation of a back door for our new cabin and Gratton Glazing for the office window.

Angie and Dave from Leverton for the new glasshouse.

Hanging baskets and plants were gratefully received from a business who wish to remain anonymous.

David Allen of The Black & White Coffee Company Sutterton - who donated a coffee machine and supplies of coffee and sugar.

Sam Gelthorpe - site clearance.

**Funding Support:**

Thistles has received financial support through several successful funding bids this year and donations. We won the Gosberton Co-op Community Challenge in January and collected a cheque for £250.

Thank you also to the following:

Mrs. Audrey Jullian - for the kind donation of £100

Mrs. Gratton - who wrote to the Chosen Charity in Holbeach on behalf of Thistles, raising £1,500.

Anna Wooster and Perdy from Greenio for the hard work they have done securing a British Airways and Pure Leapfrog Carbon fund grant for Thistles, which has given us our Green Energy home.

Ben Wooster for our amazing spotlights.

Sutterton Bingo Club for their kind donation of £200.

Sutterton Parish Council for their donation of £100 and removal of a wasp nest! Howdens and Mrs. McClean donations enabled us to purchase a lovely new fridge freezer - chosen by the group.

Paul Ford for repairing our burst pipe last winter at no charge.

Tony Bills and Tiny for the Landscape Gardening works done at no charge.

Contractors who worked on our new building.

## Conclusion:

I would also like to thank all members of the Committee who give their time voluntarily to support Thistles to move forward and meet future challenges. I would like to thank our Chair Mr. T. Clarke for all the work he has done managing the new build.

Last but not least all of us would like to say a special thank you to George and Jessie Scattergood who own the land and have made Thistles possible.



*Liz Judge*

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## Treasurer's Report

The year 2017 – 2018 has seen major changes taking place at Thistles in the form of a new building being installed to replace the old buildings which were becoming unusable and no longer viable to further repairs, this has obviously had an impact on the finances for this year.

The fees for providing the service at Thistles were up on the previous year, along with donations and other income, giving an overall increase of £12,000. Most areas of expenditure were also up on the prior year but within the range of expectation of year on year increase due to general price increases. The areas which showed a higher than expected increase from the previous year were repairs and maintenance which was due to planning fees and visits relating to the new building and also light and heat was much higher than the year before due to the deterioration in the old buildings which required much more heating as time went by. The overall increase in expenditure was £10000.

The amount spent on the new building for the 2017 – 2018 year was £60,169. This was funded from money already raised and held aside for the project from the prior year and further donations and money raised within the year.

Additional expenditure for the heating system, solar panels, flooring, kitchen, internal decorating, finishing and ramps, will be included in the following year's accounts.

So all in all a highly successful year in the achievements that have been reached and the services that have been provided.

*Sarah Nash*

## Statement of Accounts

### Section A Receipts and payments

THISTLES MARKET GARDEN LIMITED 31461R					
Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	01/10/2017	to	30/09/2018	
<b>Section A Receipts and payments</b>					
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	4,019	-	-	4,019	780
Fund raising activities	1,737	-	-	1,737	2,173
Fees for provision of services	104,190	-	-	104,190	101,540
Other	6,598	-	-	6,598	-
<i>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</i>	<b>116,544</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>116,544</b>	<b>104,493</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>116,544</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>116,544</b>	<b>104,493</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Salaries & national insurance	70,370	-	-	70,370	65,007
Vehicle & transport expenses	4,466	-	-	4,466	3,595
Repairs & maintenance	4,048	-	-	4,048	215
Light & Heat	1,296	-	-	1,296	760
Water rates	400	-	-	400	299
Premises Insurance	1,623	-	-	1,623	2,171
Telephone & internet	868	-	-	868	665
Stationery ,postage and carriage & advertising	162	-	-	162	279
Bookkeeping charges	2,222	-	-	2,222	1,617
Accountancy charges	360	-	-	360	360
Cleaning	-	-	-	-	137
Sundries	2,798	-	-	2,798	2,962
Training costs	36	-	-	36	126
<i>Sub total</i>	<b>88,649</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>88,649</b>	<b>78,193</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Property	60,169	-	-	60,169	-
<i>Sub total</i>	<b>60,169</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>60,169</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>148,818</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>148,818</b>	<b>78,193</b>
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	<b>- 32,274</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 32,274</b>	<b>26,300</b>
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end					
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	<b>- 32,274</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 32,274</b>	<b>26,300</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

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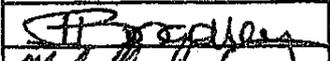
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash at bank	24,381	-	-
	Cash in hand	430	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b> <small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>	<b>24,811</b>	-	-

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Debtors	1,237	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Property	60169	-	-
	Motor vehicle	14940	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>				
	Creditors	£ 1,228	-	
	Accumulated fund	99,929	-	

Examined and approved on behalf of	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
the Socly Secretary		Deborah Broadley	26/3/19
Chairman		Anthony Michael Clarke	26/3/19
Treasurer		Sarah Nash	26/3/19